St. Vincent Hospital. 1902, later became St. Vincent Rest Home. This building had many changes since 1902 and this fall, 1976, a new facility will be built and the building will be vacated.

Mary's Church in Crookston, was influential in interesting the Duluth Benedictines in the Crookston area. For two years, the sick were cared for in a frame building known as the Riverside Hospital.

Saint Vincent's Hospital was erected in 1902 by Mother M. Scholastica Kirst, O.S.B. Superior of the Villa Saint Scholastica in Duluth.

The original building was erected at a cost of $50,000.00.

Sister M. Boniface Fischer, who died September 24, 1973, was a member of the group of Sisters who came to staff the Hospital. When the Benedictine Sisters established a new community in Crookston in 1919, Saint Vincent's Hospital served as the first Mother House.

At that time with the encouragement and support of the Most Reverend Bishop Timothy Corbett, the Sisters built a $10,000 wing on the Hospital. This made Saint Vincent's practical a new hospital. The hospital was a two-story brick building equipped with up-to-date operating and dressing rooms, X-Ray and laboratory facilities and was modern in every respect. It accommodated fifty patients and was approved by the American College of Surgeons. The hospital treated an average of nine hundred patients yearly with an average of eighty-five newborns. These patients came not only from Crookston, but from a wide territory around.

This building continued to serve Crookston and the surrounding area as a hospital until the new Saint Francis Hospital was opened in 1950. That year the original structure was remodeled, redecorated and equipped with an automatic fire fighting system and converted into a Rest Home. Sister M. Clare Duffy served as the first administrator of the Rest Home.

With the completion of Saint Francis Hospital in the summer of 1950, patients from Saint Vincent's were taken over to the new hospital and the old Saint Vincent's became a home for elderly needy people. The first guest, as the people were to be known, was Mr. Frank Tereau who was admitted June 19, 1950. The first out of town guest received was Miss Susan Wilschusen, a retired nurse from Saint Paul. On August 15 of that year, an Open House for Sisters was held. Fifty four attended. An Open House for the public was held in the fall.

Every available space was occupied and there was a waiting list of twenty. At this time, according to Sister M. Clare, O.S.B. Administrator, six Sisters and twelve lay people made up the staff of the Rest Home. The rates were eighty dollars a month for the best private rooms, seventy dollars a month for private rooms on the north, sixty dollars monthly for all double rooms and fifty dollars a month for all ward accommodations. No bed patients or senior citizens could be taken in the first few months because of lack of equipment.

During the years, Saint Vincent's Rest Home has progressed remarkably and ranks today among the eight top Nursing Homes in the State of Minnesota. As an Extended Care Facility, it is: Licensed by the Minnesota Health Department, Certified for Medicare, Accredited by Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, it is a member of Nursing Home Association, American Nursing Home Association, American Association of Home for the Aging, Catholic Association of Services for the Aging, Type VIII Minnesota Hospital Association and Minnesota Care Home Association.

Sister Beata Barnes serves as administrator of the Home. Unlike most Nursing Homes, Saint Vincent's Rest Home has a House Physician, Doctor Mercil, on the staff. Father Edward McMenamin is the current resident chaplain and attends to the spiritual needs of the guests.

Sister Imelda Esser is the superior of the community. While Sister Borgia Hoffman, with the capable assistance of Mrs. Leora Frazer, conducts the occupational therapy department. Sister Borgia also acts as Sacristian. Sister Koska Pulczinski operates the Laundry. Students from Mount Saint Benedict's Academy assist at serving trays and letter writing for the residents.

The Home has a Food Supervisor, Mrs. Marie Johnson and each floor has a diet kitchen where the residents are free to help themselves.

Several "day" rooms and a large recreation room provide considerable lounge area where the residents find their own pastime in making such things as rugs and quilts and playing cards. Frequent movies and television sets are also a popular source of entertainment.

The spacious, beautiful grounds surrounding the Home, provide Summer and Fall recreational area. Donors supplied the material and talent for erecting a Lourdes Shrine on the front lawn of the Home in 1954. Picnic meals are often served on the lawns in the summertime. Various local groups provide entertainment at various times during the year. At present, the goal is to coordinate the activities of the Rest Home so that they may fit more easily into the activities of the community. One such endeavor is the weekly prayer meeting of the Crookston Ministerial Association. In this Bicentennial Year, the motto is "Greater service for the Guests."

CROOKSTON AGSCO

Crookston AGSCO had its beginning in 1950. The purpose of establishing this outlet in Crookston was to make available to the many users of AGSCO products in the Crookston area a closer contact and better service. The products offered were much the same then as they are now; fertilizer, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, treating materials, seed corn, grasses, legumes and new grain varieties.

The first manager of the Crookston AGSCO was Tom Hanson, who was assisted in the office by his wife, Agnes, and in the sales and service work by Walt Holm, who became a part of the business in 1956. Tom Hanson left Crookston AGSCO in 1959 and was replaced by Einar Scholin, who was transferred from St. Hilaire AGSCO to Crookston.

During the grain storage years, AGSCO sold and erected what became known as the "AGSCO Steel Building." Hundreds of these buildings can be found on farms in the Crookston area. This year Crookston AGSCO will have a new home, located one mile south of Crookston on Highway 75. In addition to a new office and warehouse, a large scale has been provided for weighing trucks. Also at this location are the anhydrous, dry and liquid, fertilizer facilities. The present staff of Crookston AGSCO is Einar Scholin, Manager. He is assisted in sales and service work by Walt Holm and in the office by Lorraine Holm.