



Home For Orphan Boys

Mr. Hershey Establishes Unique Industrial School.
Sixteen Boys Now Enjoying Its Advantages.

ON the 15th of November, 1909, Milton S. Hershey and Catharine S. Hershey deeded to the Hershey Trust Company, as trustee, 486 acres of exceptionally fertile farm land together with all the buildings, stock, implements and appurtenances belonging thereto, for the purpose of founding and establishing an institution to be known as The Hershey Industrial School. The purpose of this school to be the furnishing of a home, clothing, boarding, education and training for poor, healthy, white, male orphans. The school was not opened for the admission of boys until September 1, 1910.

LOCATION

A more healthful location would be hard to find as there are babbling brooks, singing birds and green fields for miles. The school is about one mile from Hershey and the boys are in no wise cramped for space. As a testimony of the healthfulness of the place there has not been a sick boy in the school since it was opened.

CHILDREN IN THE SCHOOL

Since the school began we have had seventy-six applications for admission. As we take boys between four and eight years of age only, most applicants were refused on account of age; some on account of family history, and others because it was found that there were ample means to support the children at home. We now have sixteen boys in the school with four applications pending. The advantages for the good of the boys are quite apparent as they are seen to be rosy-cheeked, square-shouldered, straight-limbed little fellows who certainly will make efficient and desirable citizens for any community after they have finished here.

MORALS AND RELIGIOUS TRAINING

The school is non-sectarian but the moral and religious training of the pupils is properly looked after and cared for. No favoritism is shown to any particular sect or creed. Each boy is taught to speak the truth at all times, and every one is thoroughly trained in habits of economy and industry. Sunday School is held every Sunday afternoon and inter-denominational lesson leaves and literature used.

THE SCHOOL IS FREE

All the advantages and benefits to be derived by the pupils in this school are in every respect gratuitous and no fees, rewards or other compensations are accepted on account of any pupil.

THE SCHOOL WORK

The boys are too young at present to do any difficult or strenuous work but they had little gardens in the summer which they cared for and for 6, 7 and 8 year old boys they did very well. They raised beans, radishes, peas, potatoes and cabbage, and while they knew nothing whatever when they began they can now tell the names of the seeds and plants and know through experience what cultivation means.

A mechanical school has been equipped and the boys have two hours each day on the benches and lathes and it is the aim of the school that nothing useless shall be made and whatever the boy makes is his. All means and implements of recreation are made on the grounds with the boys' help as they then have a personal interest in them and seem to get more pleasure from them and take more care that they are not broken.

FARMS AND DAIRIES

The 486 acres are divided into two farms which are in charge of two farm foremen who have each a first, second

and third hired man, and during harvest and haymaking a number of extra day men. Each farmer has eight mules. The machinery is strictly up-to-date and has been carefully selected for utility.

Each farm has two dairies and the four dairies belonging to the school have 145 Holstein cows, each herd being headed by a registered sire. A cow that does not give 6,000 pounds of milk during the year goes to the block. The aim of the school is to teach the boys farming under the best paying conditions, and everything about the farms and dairies is kept strictly clean and sanitary. During the last year there has been erected a model chicken house 30 feet by 80 feet which is shown on the right hand side of the accompanying cut. This building is both ornamental and useful. The school now has 1,000 Barred Plymouth Rock and White Leghorn chickens. This is an interesting branch for some of the boys.

ANSWERS TO SOME QUESTIONS WHICH ARE FREQUENTLY ASKED

1. What are the conditions of entrance to The Hershey Industrial School?
The boy must be a white child between the ages of 4 and 8, and his father must be dead.
2. Do you take a boy whose mother is dead and father is living?
No, not at present.
3. Will you take a boy whose father is living but has deserted?
No. Although we realize that some of these cases are most destitute and for the boy's sake he should probably be taken, yet usually the mother takes up with the worthless deserter if he returns and he remains with his family long enough for another child to be born then leaves again. If institutions of this kind would take the children of such parents, these reprobate fathers would simply use the institutions for hooks upon which to hang their troubles.
4. Will you take my boy and return him at 15 if I pay his tuition?
No. You must indenture the boy to the school until he is 18 years old, as we do not wish to send a boy away from here only half prepared for the responsibilities of life; and furthermore,

if you can afford to pay his tuition here, you can afford to keep him at home with you which is his natural place.

5. Will my boy be allowed to come home on a vacation?

No. There are boys here who could go home without any harm being done them or any bad effect felt in the school after their return, but we also have a few boys whose home surroundings are such and whose companions would be such that a two weeks' vacation would bring back to the school and to the other boys such seeds of contamination that the authorities could never eradicate and a positive harm would come to the school. Besides some boys would have no homes to go to and vacation would be an empty mockery to them. In case of sickness or family reunion or other special occasions we would take the boys home, but the writer knows from experience that the parting after vacation is over is just as hard as the first parting.

6. Can I visit my boy?

Yes. The last Thursday of each month is mothers' and relatives' visiting day and that is always a happy day for all.

7. Can boys be admitted whose father and mother are not church members?

Yes. We do not ask any questions about religious beliefs.

8. Can a boy be admitted who will inherit a small amount of money when he becomes of age or whose mother owns a small home?

Yes. As long as there are not sufficient means at hand to properly clothe and educate the boy we will take him if he meets our other requirements.

9. Do you take boys who are born in Dauphin, Lancaster and Lebanon counties only?

No. While such boys have first chance to fill vacancies, yet we take them from anywhere in the United States when we have room. At present we have one boy who was born in Massachusetts and one in Michigan.

10. Do you give children out for adoption?

No. Our aim is to give the boys back to their mothers at the age of 18 prepared to provide for the mother and themselves.