



This place used
to be a WHAT ???

What do the following places have in common? – a military academy, a mud bath resort, a place called “The National Swine Palace,” Gridley Dairy, an army barracks, “Sunset Ranch - the Buffalo Farm,” a lumberjacks’ hotel, and a haunted mansion that once was part of the “Underground Railroad” ?

Answer: They all were bought by our Salvatorian community during the 20th century and were turned into religious institutions!

These unlikely real estate offerings were purchased, renovated, and completely re-purposed by our Society several decades ago – for schools, a parish, our community’s Novitiate, and our Mission House. A few of the expansion-minded leaders of our USA Province in those days were viewed either as forward-looking visionaries or crazy men who were trying to knit a silk purse out of a sow’s ear!

But they made it work!



JORDAN SEMINARY in Menominee, Michigan, was first opened as a small community college when the Society took over the property in the early 1930's. But prior to that, it had been a military academy, and a school of agriculture even before that. Later, for our own community’s purposes, it was a seminary for belated vocations – educating men for a year or two with Latin and religious studies before they were ready to move on to full-time seminary courses. The campus also was our community’s Novitiate for several years, the Provincial’s residence, and in its last years it was the Brothers’ Juniorate before it closed in the latter part of the 1960's.



MOUNT ST. PAUL COLLEGE in Waukesha, Wisconsin, had been the Moor Mud Baths Hotel! That was before being remodeled into our seminary college which operated from 1962 to 1970. People came from all over the country to sit in tubs of heated mud which was said to be quite therapeutic. Under the leadership of the Salvatorians, however, the place educated religious and diocesan seminarians for service in the Church.



HOW TO GET HERE

AUTOMOBILE: Go north on Highway 100 from 43 to Highway 39. Turn left on 39 to Waukesha. Waukesha is located approximately 90 miles north of Chicago and 18 miles west of Milwaukee. Moor's is just 1/2 mile north of the downtown section of Waukesha on East Fremont Avenue. Unlimited free parking space on premises.

RAILROAD: North Western, Milwaukee Road or Chicago and North Shore & Milwaukee Railroad to Milwaukee, then bus to Waukesha, or take Sea Line direct to Waukesha.

We suggest you consult the Chicago office of the Chicago Lines for correct schedules.

MOOR MUD BATHS HOTEL
Waukesha, Wisconsin

CHICAGO OFFICE
Hotel Gayon
Phone VAN Buren 6-8900

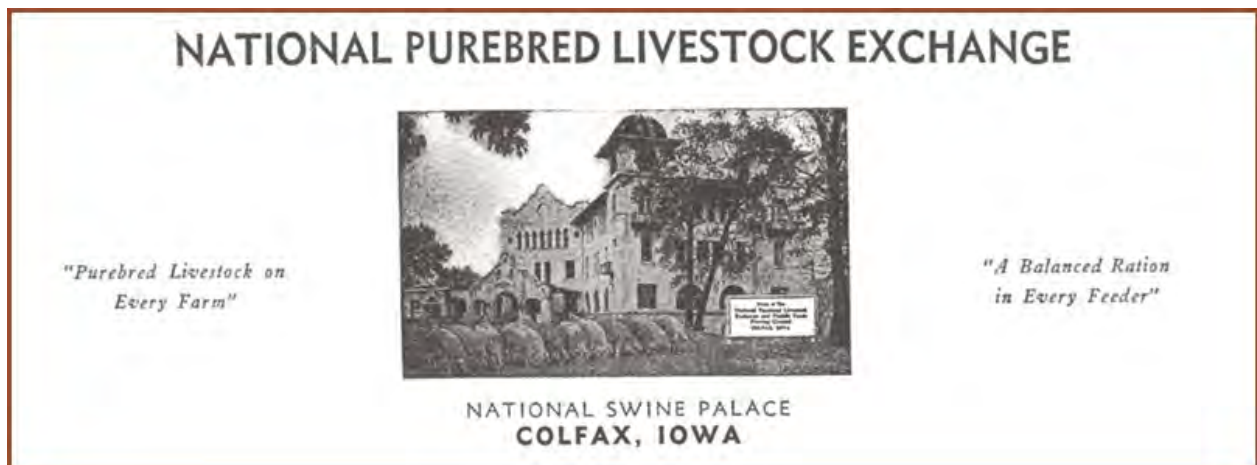
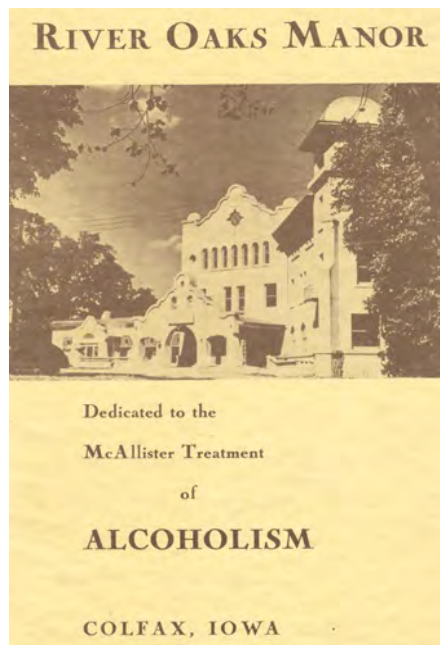
MOOR MUD BATHS HOTEL
Waukesha, Wisconsin
Phone Liberty 2-4661





THE SALVATORIAN NOVITIATE in Colfax, Iowa, had a long history before it belonged to the Salvatorians. In the 1910's and 1920's, "The Colfax" was a resort hotel. Later, as "River Oaks Manor," it was a treatment center for alcoholism. Then it was the "National Auction Institute" where one could learn to become an auctioneer. But its most unique story was when it had been known as "The National Swine Palace!" (Talk about a sow's ear!) It was a showplace for prize-winning pigs and annually held one of the largest pig-selling fairs in the Midwest. But for many Salvatorians alive today, it was the place where they were

first introduced to the daily life, the history and the mission of the Society of the Divine Savior. In a year-long experience called the Novitiate, men got their first taste of living religious life. If they completed the year successfully, they became vowed members of the Society.



ST. PIUS X CHURCH in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, opened in 1953 as a Salvatorian parish. But prior to the celebrations of the Eucharist being offered there, the sounds of cows, milking machines and milk bottles echoed within these walls. Gridley Dairy had operated in these buildings since the 1920's, supplying local stores with milk, cheese, and other dairy products. The current parish parking lot was once a field for cows. Today, this active Salvatorian parish is also home to our *Salvatorian Archives* – up in the tall tower.



FRANCIS JORDAN HIGH SCHOOL in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, ran from 1957 to 1969 as a Catholic boys' high school on the northwest side of the city. Salvatorian priests, brothers, and seminarians taught in the crowded school, which also used several rooms, the gymnasium, and the chapel of the Salvatorian parish grade school across the street – Mother of Good Counsel. The main high school buildings, however, had once been used as army barracks during World War II, and they were moved onto the school property and joined together. The

buildings were intended to be temporary structures until a more permanent campus was found. This “temporary campus” lasted, however, for the entire time of the school’s existence.



MOTHER OF THE SAVIOR SEMINARY in Blackwood, New Jersey, which was open from 1947 to 1967, stood on the site of a famous family-friendly farm – known as “Sunset Ranch” officially, though everyone referred to it as “The Buffalo Farm.” Some of the Ranch’s buildings were refurbished for use in the Salvatorian minor seminary. The “museum” was the school’s first gymnasium, and the “monkey house” was converted into the school’s first chapel! Houses on the property were used for the first dorm rooms, and a large mansion was used for classrooms and faculty quarters. As the years progressed, newer school buildings replaced the original structures, but the school could always boast of very interesting origins.



Sunset Ranch's "Monkey House"



Sunset Ranch - Monkey House
(inside)

Quite a change in purpose!



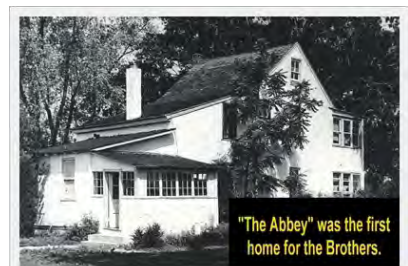
The "Museum" became a half-court gymnasium.



The family home housed the faculty and some of the classrooms.



Another house on the property housed the first seminarians.





ST. PIUS X SEMINARY in Rio Dell, California, was once a hotel for lumberjacks during the days when foresting the trees in northern California was very profitable. In 1955, this became the seminary for the Diocese of Sacramento, but it was staffed by Salvatorians. The campus in Rio Dell was intended to be temporary, and a few years later (1961) the newer campus opened in Galt, just south of Sacramento. But this was not before Rio Dell suffered a great flood at the end of the seminary's first semester, which put the property nearly underwater on Christmas Day.



THE SALVATORIAN MISSION HOUSE in Elkton, Maryland, had a rather colorful history long before the Salvatorians purchased the property in the mid-1920's. The land was very close to the Maryland-Pennsylvania border, and in the Civil War days, as part of what was known as "The Underground Railroad," the main house was used as a hiding place for freed slaves before they were transferred north over the border for their safety. It was rumored that several people were killed in a raid on the house after its true purpose was discovered. During the time the Salvatorians lived there, stories circulated in the community about the house – noises, footsteps and voices were sometimes heard in the middle of the night; doors opened and closed apparently on their own; and some members felt a 'presence' in the room with them at times. Some community members around the country, having heard these stories, refused to spend a night in that house!

