

Walks through History
Shriners Country Club/Brinkley Hospital/Marylake Monastery
5151 Marylake Drive, Little Rock (in the East End community)
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By: Rachel Silva



Intro

Hi, my name is Rachel Silva, and I work for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, which is one of 7 agencies in the Department of Arkansas Heritage. Thank you for coming, and welcome to the “Walks through History” tour of Marylake Monastery. I’d like to thank the Carmelite Friars for allowing us to tour the property today and introduce Father Sam Anthony Morello and Father John Suenrum (Sin-rum). Thank the Saline County Library for co-sponsoring the tour.

Get comfortable because I’m going to tell you about the property’s history, then we’ll tour a few rooms in this building, and then we’ll go outside and walk around the grounds to talk about the cemetery and a few more resources.

History of Marylake Monastery

East End

The Saline County community of East End was originally known as Slate or Craig's Mill. A post office was established in 1879 at Craig's Mill and in 1888 at Slate. The Slate post office closed in 1916, slightly before the Craig's Mill post office later that year. Beginning in 1916, mail was sent to Hensley. East End was so named because the community is located in the eastern end of Saline County. About 1928 a new school was built on Arch Street Pike (AR Hwy. 367), and a local storeowner, Mr. Walter Ball, held a contest to name the new school. People submitted names, and "East End School" was chosen, further reinforcing the "East End" name. Several small schools, including East Union, Duck Creek, Lone Star, Blunt, and Fairview consolidated to attend the East End School.

Early History of Property

By the mid-1890s, the Tull brothers—Thomas M., Samuel B., and William H.—owned 460 acres near the present-day community of East End. In 1895 the brothers erected a dam across Clear Creek to form a 50-acre, spring-fed lake. By 1902 the Tull brothers operated a cotton gin, which ran on hydropower from the dam and lake. The Tulls sold the property in 1906 to William Baxley, who built a gristmill near the dam. Baxley ground corn into meal for area farmers. However, in 1912 a portion of the dam broke, allowing the lake to drain and making it impossible to operate the gristmill. For reasons unknown, Baxley did not repair the dam. Instead, he abandoned the property, and in 1923 Circuit Judge Richard M. Mann bought the acreage for \$2,300. Judge Mann repaired the dam, delineated an area in the lake for swimming, and built a small clubhouse. In 1925 he turned around and sold the property for \$23,000 to the Al Amin Shrine Temple of Little Rock (Al Amin officially became the Scimitar Shrine Temple in 1938 and operates today in a facility on the I-30 Frontage Road near I-30 and University Avenue in LR).

Shrine Country Club

The Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, commonly known as Shriners, was established in 1870 as an offshoot of Freemasonry (or the Masonic Lodge). The Shrine is a fraternity based on fun, fellowship, and Masonic principles. You have to be a Mason in order to join the Shrine. The organization is best known for its Shriners Hospitals for Children and the red fezzes that members wear.

In 1926 the Shriners built a fence to enclose 300 acres and the lake, which was then known as Pine Lake. The Shrine intended to turn the property into a country club for members and guests. Construction soon began on the country club building. Stone from Pinnacle Mountain was brought to the site via trucks and wagons for the building's construction. Shriner G. G. Wood served as construction foreman. The roof was completed by October 1926, and the crew started working on an 18-hole golf course in the area west of (behind) the country club. The Shriners financed the whole project by selling bonds to wealthy members and prominent local businessmen, and the Shrine promised the bondholders that the golf course would be ready to play by July 4, 1927.

William Baxley set up a sawmill adjacent to the dam in order to process the timber that was cut to make room for the golf course. Local farmer Jess Spann got a job working at the sawmill and soon became friends with the Shriners. In October 1926 Spann approached the foreman, Mr. Wood, and asked for a job. Mr. Wood had already employed Jess Spann's 16-year-old brother, Charlie (or Garland?), to catch and kill gophers that were wreaking havoc on the golf course. Wood hired Jess Spann and gave him five different jobs on his first day. Spann, a devout Christian, prayed that if there was a sixth task, it would be to go home. 😊 Mr. Wood quickly made Jess Spann the construction foreman and gave him a crew of forty men and eight mules. Spann's crew built the circular drive and parking lot behind the country club and then started on the golf course. But it wasn't completed until the first of September 1927, about two months after the July 4th deadline. When the golf course opened, it was the second largest course

in the state, after a very well-manicured course in Texarkana. Jess Spann worked on the property as groundskeeper/caretaker from 1926 until his death in 1981. His wife, Bertie Ball Spann, and their children—Bill, Wallace, Coy “Cotton,” Troy, and Louise—also worked on the property.

During the latter part of the 1920s, the Shriners Country Club was extremely popular with wealthy Little Rock residents, who drove down to attend dances in the ballroom (where we are now) with music from the orchestra (which played up on the balcony). Tables were set up on the veranda, which wrapped around three sides of the building and offered views of the lake through its arched, casement windows (which were probably opened up to provide “air conditioning” during such an event). The golf course was also quite popular. You could get a caddy for 50 cents per round (no golf carts!). The lake provided the “water hazards” on the course. The western end of the lake (farthest from the highway) had two holes in the lake itself, so golfers had to hit the ball from somewhere on the bank into the hole out on the water. On July 4, 1928, (the first Fourth of July after the course was completed) the Shriners put on a huge fireworks display. They shot the fireworks off from an island in the middle of the lake. Somehow, their stash of fireworks caught on fire, causing several men to jump in the lake to escape.

Everything was going fine until the stock market crashed in 1929. During the Great Depression, the Shriners struggled to make payments on their construction loan. The organization eventually defaulted on the \$99,000 loan, and in 1937 the country club property was sold under foreclosure to eight businessmen for \$24,000. The new owners made a few repairs and in the fall of 1937 sold the property to Dr. John R. Brinkley for \$50,000.

Dr. John R. Brinkley and the Brinkley Hospital

Dr. John Brinkley was an extremely interesting character, and his early life merits discussion. Dr. Brinkley’s father, John Richard Brinkley, Sr., was a mountain doctor (no formal training) and fundamentalist in the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina. The Brinkley home was located near Sylva, North Carolina, and they

were very poor. John Brinkley, Sr., was married five times. After his first four wives died, he married Sarah Mingus. When Sarah's attractive 24-year-old niece, Sarah Candace Burnett, came to live with them, Brinkley, Sr., took a liking to her. On July 8, 1885, John Romulus Brinkley was born to parents John Brinkley, Sr., and his niece, Sarah Burnett. From this point on, they called Brinkley, Sr.'s wife "Aunt Sally" so as not to confuse the two Sarahs.

When he was young, John Romulus Brinkley, was teased unmercifully because he was a "love child" and because his middle name was Romulus. He would later change his middle name to Richard, after his father/uncle. In 1891 Brinkley's mother, Sarah Candace Burnett, died of tuberculosis, when Brinkley was just five years old. He was raised by John Brinkley, Sr., and Aunt Sally. Brinkley always wanted to be a doctor like his father. Sadly, when Johnnie Brinkley was 10 years old his father died while on a medical call. As a boy, Brinkley's heroes were Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Edison, and William McKinley. He fantasized about freeing the slaves, facing an assassin's bullet, illuminating the world, and becoming president. He also wanted to heal the sick and be rich. Brinkley was very smart. He read a lot, was good at math, and had a photographic memory.

Aunt Sally died on Christmas in 1906. At her funeral, Sally Wike, a neighbor girl who had gone to school with Brinkley and teased him in the past, apologized to him. He began courting her, and they were married a month later (1/27/1907). John Brinkley and his wife, Sally, had a traveling medicine show, where they hawked a variety of patent medicines. They capitalized on people's fears, quoted passages from the Bible, and constantly reminded people of their credentials and success stories. It was during this time that Brinkley perfected the routine he had seen his whole life in the mountains. His medicine show was successful because of the prevailing attitude, especially among rural people, that formally trained doctors did more harm than good. In their way of thinking, you'd be better off with a home remedy because doctors overcharged for services and wanted to operate before exploring other alternatives.

When it came to medicine, Brinkley subscribed to the eclectic school of thought, meaning that he favored the use of herbal medicines and tailored treatments to meet individual needs. Eclectics also stressed scientific training for doctors. But, eclectics were not considered “main stream” by some professionals in the field and the American Medical Association. So in 1908 Brinkley enrolled in Chicago’s Bennett Medical College, which was an eclectic school. Brinkley attended Bennett for three years. These were tough times, as Brinkley attended school during the day and worked as a Western Union telegraph operator at night. Plus, he was married and had a daughter. His wife eventually left him and took their daughter back to North Carolina. After a custody dispute, Brinkley followed Sally to North Carolina, where in 1911 he wrote the North Carolina State Board of Medical Examiners, explained his three years of medical training, and was able to obtain permission to work as an “undergraduate physician.” During this time, Brinkley and Sally moved constantly from place to place. They had a crazy relationship, in which they would break up, reunite, and have another child (repeat—had 3 daughters and one son—son only lived 3 days).

Brinkley obtained a similar license to practice in Tennessee, and in 1912, he practiced in Knoxville with a Dr. Burke, who specialized in the treatment of syphilis and gonorrhea. His wife, Sally, left him for good in 1913, but the couple did not officially get divorced. Later that year (1913), Brinkley partnered with fellow huckster, James E. Crawford, to run a scam in Greenville, South Carolina. They called themselves the “Greenville Electro Medic Doctors” and injected colored distilled water into patients to increase their sexual vigor. After two months, Brinkley and Crawford skipped town, leaving their rent and bills unpaid. The men went to Memphis, where Crawford introduced Brinkley to Minerva “Minnie” Telitha Jones, the 21-year-old daughter of respected Memphis physician Tiberius G. Jones. It was love at first sight. Even though Brinkley was still technically married to Sally Wike, he and Minnie were married on August 23, 1913, at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis.

Brinkley practiced in Arkansas before he bought the Marylake property. In 1914 he practiced in Judsonia (White County), specializing in “diseases of women and

children.” However, he didn’t get much business, so in order to look busy, every day he rented a horse from the livery stable and rode out of town for about a mile. Then he would turn around and walk the horse back to town (appeared as if he had been on a call). A few months later, Brinkley took over the practice of a Dr. White in Earle, Arkansas (Crittenden County). While he was there, he received a brochure in the mail from the Eclectic Medical University in Kansas City, Missouri, the alma mater of Dr. White. Brinkley paid to get his records sent from Bennett College to the Kansas City school, and paid \$100 for one year of tuition. In October 1914, he and Minnie moved to KC. He graduated in 1915, specializing in the treatment of enlarged prostate in elderly men.

Because the Missouri Board of Health would not allow eclectics to take the licensing exam unless they paid \$500 each, the graduates were bused to Little Rock, where they took the exams and received licenses to practice medicine. Brinkley also passed the Tennessee exam, and was licensed in Kansas through reciprocity. He later obtained licenses in Missouri, Texas, and Connecticut. Certain schools, known as “diploma mills,” offered medical school diplomas for a price. And it was easy to get your license to practice, especially in Arkansas.

While searching for a good location in which to practice in Kansas (because regulation was almost nonexistent there), Brinkley took a job at the Swift Packing Plant in Kansas City. This is where he discovered goats—he studied the animals and their glands as part of his job. U.S. meat inspectors told him to examine the glands of every carcass to determine if it was healthy and fit for human consumption. In the inspectors’ opinion, goats were consistently the healthiest and were immune to diseases communicable to humans.

In 1916 Brinkley officially got divorced from his first wife, Sally, and remarried Minnie (2/25/1916). In 1917 Brinkley answered an ad for a physician in Milford, Kansas (about 80 miles west of Topeka, KS). At that time, Milford had less than 200 people, no paved roads or sidewalks, no electricity, and no water/sewer systems. It was the perfect place for Brinkley to start his practice. He and Minnie

(she had obtained a “nursing degree” by that time) rented two rooms in the back of a drug store for an office and their apartment.

Brinkley had been toying around with the idea of transplanting animal glands into a human for a while, but he attempted it for the first time in 1917 in Milford. Supposedly, a farmer came to him complaining of impotence and prostate trouble. Brinkley suggested the surgery, and the farmer supplied the goat. The rest is history. Brinkley’s second patient, William Stittsworth, would prove to be his poster child. Stittsworth had the goat gland operation, in which a portion of a goat testicle was grafted to one of his own, and then his wife had a goat ovary put into her body. A year later, the “rejuvenated” couple had a healthy baby boy. Word spread around town, and Brinkley completed several more successful operations. Then he started advertising in newspapers, using testimonials from his patients. In 1918 Brinkley built the Brinkley-Jones Hospital and Training School for Nurses in Milford. The 3-story building could accommodate 16 patients, and nurses lived on the top floor. There were pens in the back yard for the goats, which were shipped in from Arkansas (Horatio Dwight Osborn, MD, another doctor at the Brinkley-Jones Hospital, was from Harrison, AR).

The Brinkleys then set out to improve Milford. They pushed for the incorporation of the town, which happened in 1920. Brinkley rebuilt a commercial block that had been destroyed by fire. But then he was out of money. After Brinkley’s initial success, he struggled to get patients. Brinkley went into debt to build electrical, water, and sewage systems for his hospital, and then for Milford. Sidewalks were built, and a section of road was paved. In 1927 Brinkley built a Methodist church and parsonage and recruited Charles Everett Draper of Fort Worth, TX, to serve as minister. Then came tennis courts, a swimming pool, and a band shell. The Brinkley Hospital in Milford didn’t just do goat gland operations. Brinkley performed all types of surgeries there, including appendectomies and tonsillectomies. His goat gland operation really took off in the early 1920s, when many doctors in the U.S. and Europe were experimenting with glandular treatments and “rejuvenation” operations.

After seeing an early radio station in Los Angeles, Brinkley built his own radio station, KFKB, in Milford in 1923. KFKB was the fourth commercial radio station in the U.S., and would soon become the most popular in the nation among listeners. Brinkley had programming from 5 a.m. until 7 p.m., including live country music (never any recorded music, always live), health lectures, market news, weather reports, poetry readings, comedy, and gospel preaching. People would write letters to Brinkley asking for medical advice, and he would respond on the radio. He started the Brinkley Pharmaceutical Company, so listeners could mail-order their prescriptions from him. Brinkley had a very good radio voice, contributing to his popularity. He later extended the hours of his radio broadcast, and increased the station's capacity to 5,000 watts, so he could be heard anywhere in the U.S.

But the harsh reality was this—Brinkley was probably better trained than many practicing physicians during the early 20th century, and his interest in glands was legitimate. But his tactics were deceptive, and he ran people through his hospital like cattle. Men would come in on Sunday afternoon for consultation, get the goat gland operation, and recuperate until Friday, when they were discharged to make way for the next batch. At first, Brinkley charged \$500 for the operation, but later went up to \$750. The main problem with Brinkley's goat gland operation was the high risk of infection; in fact, only in rare cases did people NOT get an infection of some sort. And the surgery did nothing to increase sexual vitality; it was all a mental thing for his success stories. This soon caught up to him. In the late 1920s, the *Kansas City Star* began running stories from Brinkley's detractors, saying he was a quack and "cold-blooded." The American Medical Association was after Brinkley, calling him a charlatan, and the Federal Radio Commission, then in its infancy, eventually came after Brinkley because his programs were "obscene" and self-serving, instead of benefiting the general public.

After the Federal Radio Commission revoked Brinkley's radio license in Kansas in 1931, he immediately flew to Mexico and signed an agreement to operate a 50,000-watt radio station from Villa Acuna, just across the border from Del Rio, Texas. He was pretty much chased out of Kansas. In 1933 John and Minnie Brinkley and their son, Johnny Boy (born 1927), moved to Del Rio and opened a

hospital in the Roswell Hotel. Brinkley offered injections as an alternative for the goat gland operation, and he rarely used the old technique unless the patient absolutely insisted on it. He turned his focus to prostate operations at this point. Brinkley was still very well off—had a mansion in Del Rio, as well as a private plane and a yacht.

But in the late 1930s, another doctor in Del Rio started competing with Brinkley for patients. He offered the prostate operation at a cheaper rate and even met Brinkley's patients at the train station to persuade them to choose his clinic. In response to this competition, Brinkley announced that he had purchased the Shriners Country Club, about 17 miles south of Little Rock on the Arch Street Pike, and that he was relocating his practice. Brinkley purchased the country club property in 1937 and moved to Little Rock early in 1938. He also purchased the old St. Luke's Hospital at the northwest corner of 20th and Schiller in Little Rock and renamed it the Brinkley Hospital. Most surgeries were done at this location in town, and then patients were sent to the former country club, then called the Brinkley Country Club Hospital, for recovery (still a strict 6-day period). Brinkley also opened the Romulus Drug Store at the corner of Schiller and Wright Avenue in Little Rock.

The 1940 Census listed Dr. John Brinkley as a resident of the Albert Pike Hotel at 7th and Scott streets in Little Rock. Brinkley performed fewer and fewer of the actual operations, relying on his surgical staff and nurses to do the bulk of the work. Brinkley, himself, stayed extremely busy flying back and forth between Little Rock and Del Rio in order to be on the radio and promote his businesses.

The other shoe dropped for Brinkley in 1939, when he lost a libel suit against Morris Fishbein of the American Medical Association, exposing Brinkley's operation as little more than a partial vasectomy and his postoperative drug called Formula 1020 as colored water. A number of civil suits and judgments against Brinkley followed, and he declared bankruptcy on January 31, 1941. He sold the country club property to his associate, Dr. H. D. Osborn, and moved back to Del Rio. In September 1941, a federal grand jury indicted Brinkley, his wife, and

six former employees on charges of using the United States Postal Service for fraud. Brinkley died of complications from a blood clot on May 26, 1942, before he could be brought to trial. He was buried in the Jones family plot (his wife's family) at Forest Hills cemetery in Memphis.

Dr. Osborn did not keep the hospital going very long, and the Spann family moved into the main building in order to keep insurance on it. Through the efforts of the Spann family, the golf course remained open until 1943, when it was closed due to the rationing of gas during World War II (people from LR and surrounding areas couldn't afford to use their gas to drive to East End and play golf). During WWII, people rented apartments in the former country club and hospital. Many of the tenants worked for Alcoa in Bauxite.

The Battle of the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Steelworkers

In 1943 the property was rented out for a Jehovah's Witness convention. The Jehovah's Witnesses were a racially integrated group, and they would not salute the flag or serve in the armed forces. In 1943, during World War II, in Arkansas, all of these things were controversial. Violence erupted between the visiting religious group and a group of steelworkers from Little Rock. The following story was written in Dec. 2005 by the late Troy Spann.

"I remember this incident very well because I was on the front porch of the building, along with my buddy, when we noticed a line of automobiles along the Hwy. stretching ½ a mile, and [I] had [a] pencil-type flashlight and turned it out. Several men approached us and thought we [were] signaling someone and took the flashlight away from [us]. Then after dark, I noticed all these men in the boiler room come out the door with shirts removed and instruments in hand for a battle. They marched down the road like a bunch of soldiers going to battle. In the meantime, my dad and brothers were assisting my grandmother across the road to another house for [her] protection. Then the battle started. I heard gunshots, glass shattering, boards being knocked off the bridge, all sorts of noise, and I knew the

battle was on. My dad was not permitted to leave the property to call [the] sheriff, so he had to go out the back way to get to a phone and call [him]. When the sheriff and deputies finally arrived to restore order, the Jehovah's Witness organization was ordered to leave the next day—was we relieved! [sic] They had shot some of the Jehovah's Witnesses and cars were overturned and my dad and I found one of them up in a tree scared to death.”

Baptist Hospital

In 1944 the property was sold to Baptist Hospital for use as a convalescent home. The Jess Spann family farmed on the property to raise food for the patients. They raised 50 head of cattle, including some dairy cows, as well as chickens and turkeys. Vegetables were also grown on the grounds. The convalescent home closed in 1947.

LeTourneau and Pine Lake Camp

In September 1947 Baptist Hospital sold the property for \$85,000 to philanthropist and well-known engineer of earthmoving equipment R. G. LeTourneau of Longview, Texas, with the stipulation that it be used for “Christian purposes.” R. G. and Evelyn LeTourneau opened an interdenominational boys camp called Pine Lake Camp. Between 15 and 25 underprivileged boys were cared for by several counselors. However, Mrs. LeTourneau, who had been in charge, decided to close the camp in 1948 and relocated the juveniles to a youth camp in Longview, TX.

Marylake Monastery

The property lay idle for the next few years. Despite their initial reaction that it was “much too big and far too elegant” for them, on December 8, 1951, the Carmelite friars bought the property from the LeTourneau Foundation for \$60,000. Beginning in February 1952, the Carmelites worked to prepare the main

building for use as a monastery. The monastery was named “Marylake” to honor Jesus by naming the building after His mother, Mary. The former country club ballroom was converted into a chapel. A statue of Jesus in his mother’s lap was mounted on the fireplace, and a crucifix was placed on top of the circle that once held the Masonic emblem. During the Brinkley Hospital days, the veranda was divided up into patient rooms, which were converted to living quarters for the friars. The wooden refectory tables (in the dining area) and beds were constructed by Brother Gregory. The first official Mass was said on May 16, 1952, and Bishop Albert Fletcher formally dedicated the monastery on July 25, 1952. The first class of novices entered on July 19, 1952.

The Carmelites used to raise chickens, pigs, and dairy cattle. The children from St. Joseph’s Orphanage in North Little Rock made regular trips to Marylake to help the Carmelites with their work. However, this became too much of a burden and distracted the friars from their daily prayers, so it was discontinued.

In 1964 a stone buttress with an arched opening was added to the northeast corner of the main building in order to help support it. To celebrate their 25th year at Marylake, the living quarters in the main building were renovated in 1977. The old cells with thin walls were gutted. Insulated walls were installed and rooms were enlarged. Storm windows and central air were installed as well, making it much more comfortable for the Carmelites.

In 1966 26,000 pine trees were planted on the old golf course, providing a beautiful sanctuary.

The residents of Marylake Monastery are called friars, not monks. A monk stays at one particular monastery for life, while a friar moves from home to home every few years. The friars make three vows—poverty, obedience, and chastity. Some friars are also priests, but others are not. There are currently four friars at Marylake Monastery, and they spend most of their days in prayer and provide spiritual support to area Catholic churches. The typical daily routine goes like this...

6:30 a.m.—Morning prayer and Mass
Hour of private prayer
Mid-morning recitation of the Divine Office (Psalms)
8:30 a.m.—Breakfast
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.—work period
Noon—community lunch and recreation
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.—Quiet time to read, study, or work
5:00 p.m.—Evening prayer
Hour of contemplative prayer
7:00 p.m.—Dinner
7:30 p.m.—Night prayer
7:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.—Carmelite rule of silence

Main Building specs

Area for orchestra during the country club days—has been sealed off with Plexiglas and is now a private chapel where the friars hold daily Mass and recite the Divine Office.

Chapel chairs—the old hand-carved wooden chairs in the chapel are from the Marland Mansion in Ponca City, OK. E. W. Marland was a wealthy oil man. The mansion was sold in 1941 to another Carmelite order, and these chairs from the Marland House were sent here.

The back fireplace is still functional, but the front one is blocked off.

The Monastery is open to the public on Christmas Eve and the night before Easter (Easter Vigil).

Warn people about the stairs going up to the private chapel—very steep. If you are even the slightest bit concerned about doing the stairs, don't do it.

Private chapel (upstairs)

Parlor

Refectory (Dining Hall)

Kitchen

We will not enter the cloistered area, which includes the Carmelites' living quarters.

Downstairs:

Library--used to be the recreation room. Has material on the history of the church, scripture studies, novels, poetry, magazines, etc.

Do not enter area to right of stairs—offices and administrative rooms

Go outside through downstairs doors--

New roof on Main building about 2 years ago (after tornado damage).

Arched casement windows, buttresses, balconets...little bit of Gothic and Spanish Revival influence.

Lake/Dam—swimming area (see poles to delineate area and concrete bottom) and site of old diving board—in the inlet by the spillway there was a diving board

Grotto down the hill—built by the novitiate Class of 1960?

Go back up into the main building or walk around to the back to get the folks who couldn't walk downstairs.

In 1968 Jess and Troy Spann and Father Herman Estaun (Estau-hoon) found the Baxley gristmill stones when dredging the lake. They were placed below the monastic bell behind the main building.

Water tower/pump house— A 400-foot well was dug on the property in 1927 and provided water for many years. The water tower and pump house appear on the 1939 Sanborn map. Water tower tank had a capacity of 60,000 gallons. The pump had the ability to pump 400 gallons per minute.

Swinging bridge—In 1963 Father Herman Estuan (Estau-hoon) became prior at Marylake. He made many improvements, including this bridge. Father Herman studied the Golden Gate Bridge to get the proportions correct, and then he designed this suspension bridge, which leads over to the cemetery. Father John Michael Payne stated that the swinging bridge has been the delight of every kid who skipped across it, and the bane of every senior who held on for dear life until the swinging bridge settled down.

Cemetery—The cemetery was started in 1955, when Father Francis Bacon, who was stationed at Marylake, was tragically killed in an automobile accident. He was the first person buried on the peninsula (Feb. 20, 1955). In 1964 Father Herman decided to put a provincial cemetery on the former 9th hole of the golf course. He wanted it to be large enough to hold all the Carmelites who had died in the southwestern province. So Father Herman oversaw the reinterment of the friars. There is a memorial cross that reads “Carmelite Fathers. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.”

Guesthouse (Casa San Jose)—built ca. 1927. Nice Colonial Revival/Craftsman house.

Chimney and steps from Clubhouse—where players would go to get golf clubs. Destroyed by a tornado. There was also a small caddy house over here a little to the southeast of the clubhouse.

Green house (St. Teresa's Hermitage)—ca. 1970 or more recent?

Brinkley's Administration Building (Marion House)—built ca. 1938

Chapel of St. Paul—dedicated 4/29/1989

Jess Spann House—ca. 1930

Outbuildings—some Army surplus buildings used for chicken houses, pig houses.

Barns—hay barn and others. Dairy barn, which was fully automated in the 1950s.