



...ls cottage-plan institution.

... makes St. Joseph's Villa a

... fallen leaves, one sees the chil-
... ng football during the lunch
... d recreation or just cavorting

... ave heard of St. Joseph's (or
... assume that it is an orphanage,
... who come to live in the cot-
... r families because of a multi-

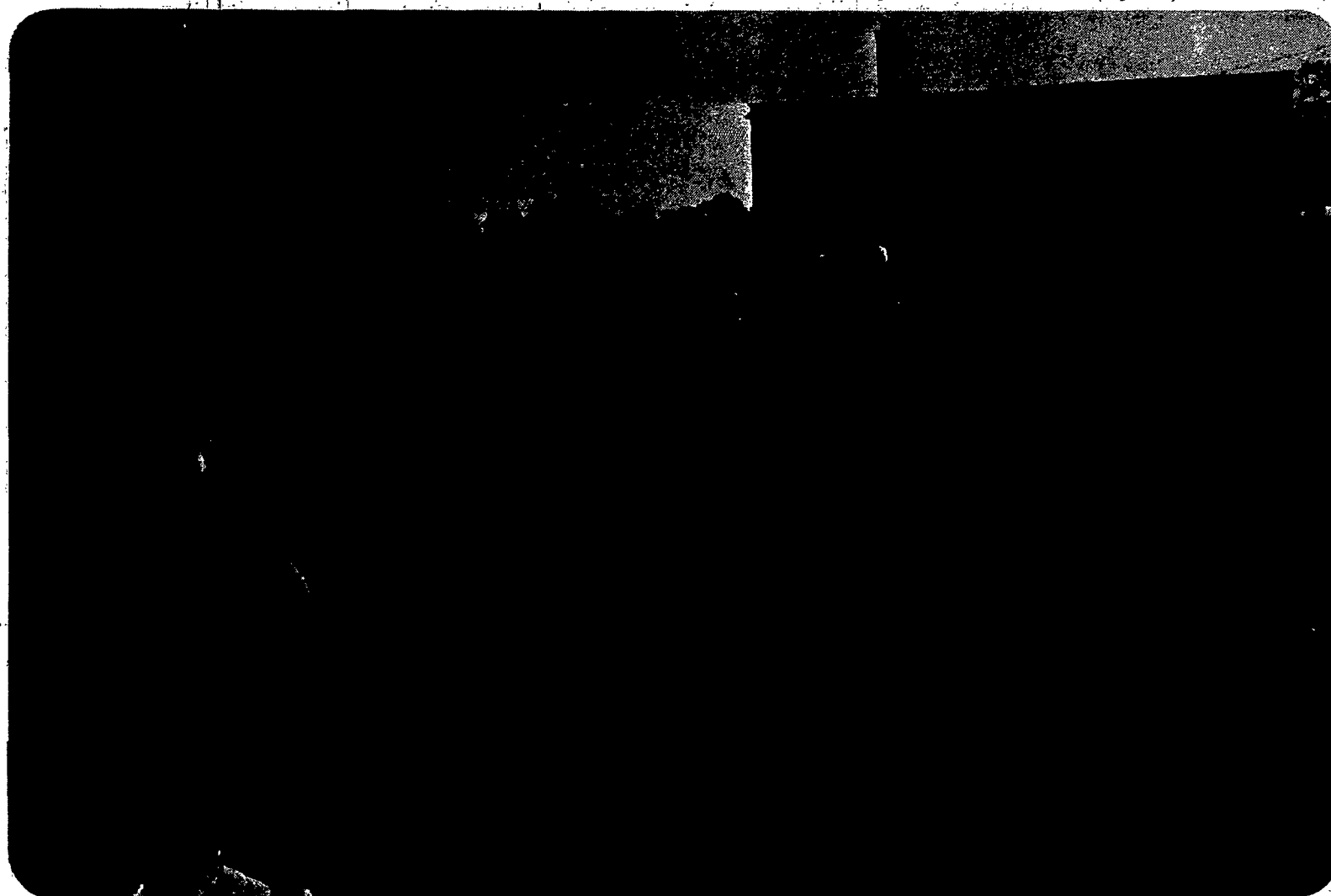
... e Villa has been placed there
... nn Vincent De Ditis, SSJ, di-
... n by his parents, or because
... problems of their own. Some-
... nt gives the parents a chance
... her."

... to 12 years old, and suffer
... and school problems, which
... ry of resources.

... unding.



... orker Robert Werth does personal counseling
... ie boy, using plastic models for therapy.



Behind these children on their way to lunch is the old temporary school building the Villa hopes to replace.

One young boy who entered six months ago was so depressed when he came that he wouldn't talk to any of the staff. At the time these photos were taken, he was on the playground and was noticeably one of the most lively and affectionate of the children.

The Villa, founded in 1942, is unique because it was one of the first institutions in the country to adopt the "cottage plan," which means that instead of living in a large, impersonal hall, residents each have a home with a group of other children and house-parents.

Despite the high level of care it gives, the Villa still has one real lack, says Sister Ann Vincent. The nuns and lay teachers still hold school in some converted garages and in a temporary building put up during World War II.

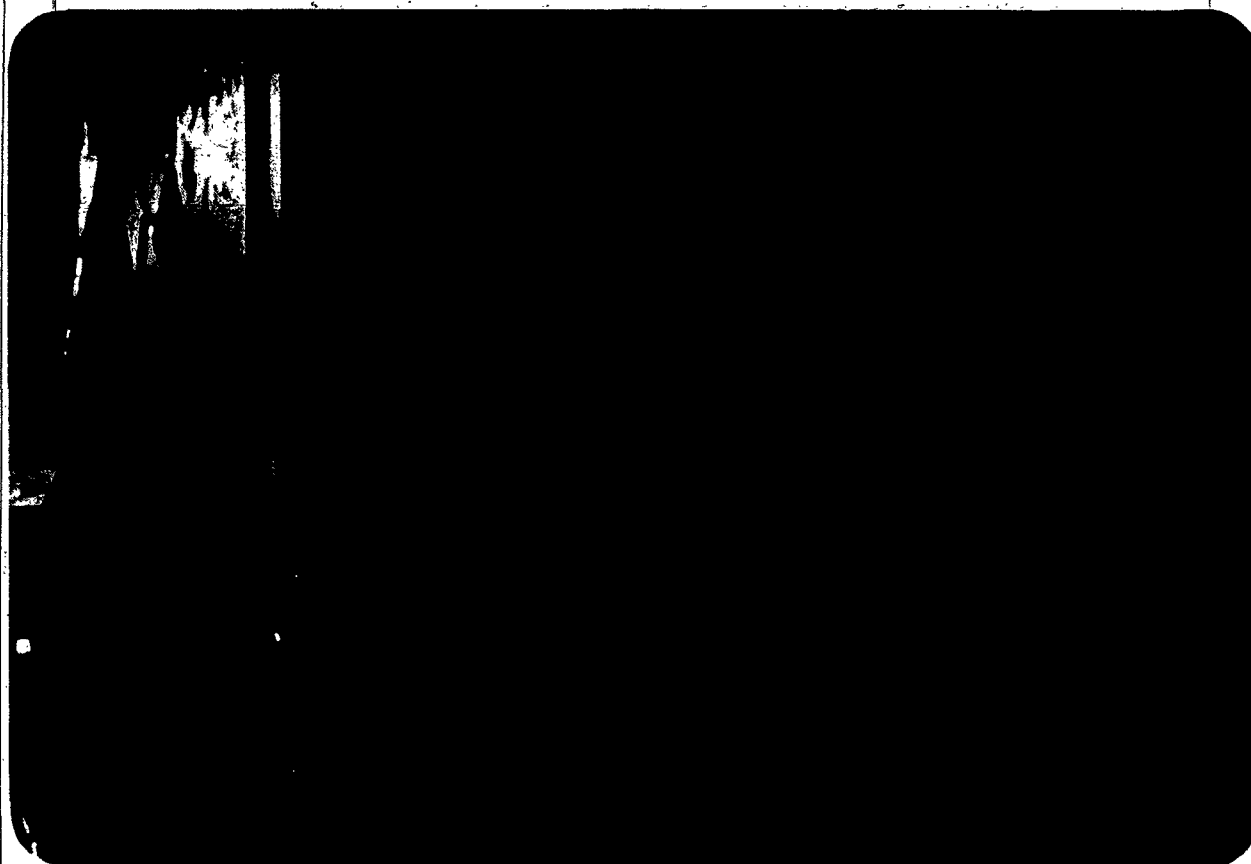
"It used to be passe," said Sister Ann Vincent, to educate children on the grounds; the idea was to send them into the community.

"Now it's impossible to insert them into the schools, because the severity of children's problems has increased, and because the schools have few or no special programs for them," Sister Ann Vincent said.

And since the Villa has no indoor recreational facilities, a lot of love may have to make up for the lack of a space to play.



Sister Ann Vincent De Ritis, SSJ



Totally individualized teaching in a special class run by Sister Theresa Collins gives each child a chance to proceed at his own pace in learning.