

December 6, 1949

February 9, 1950

February 22, 1950

Heat at Halloran Conservation

A concerted program to conserve fuel oil continued at Halloran VA Hospital today, although officials there said "measures have been taken" to assure the facility adequate supplies for the future.

Oil deliveries, it was disclosed, began yesterday after a lull which brought the hospital's reserve supply to the three-day mark.

Dr. Frank B. Glasser, state Department of Mental Hygiene physician, who is responsible through the state agency to supply the facility with heat, said conservation measures will continue at Halloran until "further notice."

Willowbrook Patients Now Number 934

School for Mentally Defective Children Is Nearing Capacity

The Willowbrook State School for mentally defective children has more than doubled its patient population in the past nine months and at the present rate of increase the capacity of its present facilities will be reached within a few months.

This was reported yesterday by Dr. Harold Berman, director of the institution, which occupies eight buildings which during the war were included in Halloran VA Hospital.

The Department of Mental Hygiene leases the rest of the hospital buildings to the Veterans Administration for operation as a veterans facility.

934 Patients

Dr. Berman said that the school now has 934 patients. Of these comparatively few are adults, transferred from other state institutions.

The great majority of the patients are children, divided into two groups, those under 5 years of age, who are admitted after investigation by social service groups, and those ranging from 5 to 16 years, who are admitted directly to the school.

The employe personnel of the school also has increased considerably since last summer, approximately by 35 per cent, Dr. Berman said. The staff now consists of 319 employes. Of these 177 are on ward duty. The staff also includes 24 registered nurses, dentist and dental assistants, two resident psychiatrists, a senior psychiatrist, the supervising psychiatrist, Dr. Milton Jacobs, and the assistant director, Frank B. Glasser.

A mental health clinic on Staten Island. That was the suggestion the other day by Dr. Harold H. Berman, director of the Willowbrook State School. It's part of the concern for treatment of the whole being.

Still persisting is the old theory that anyone who visits a mental health clinic does so because he's either "batty" or fears becoming that way. Ignorance of the real and logical reasons for such treatment is as widespread as psychological disorders.

Dr. Berman pressed his point by showing that symptoms of physical ailments may be caused by emotional disturbances. That pain in the chest may not have anything at all to do with that part of the body; it may be traced to the mind.

Failure to recognize that emotional upsets can cause physical symptoms as real as any familiar disease is to miss a path toward greater community well-being.

Youngster Missing from Willowbrook

A 15-year-old boy, missing since yesterday from Willowbrook State School.

Hospital authorities believe the youngster, who recently returned from his home after attending his father's funeral, left the school to go home. He lives in another borough.

Opened in 1947

The school was opened on a limited scale in 1947 but did not begin operating on a large scale until last year. Its present facilities could probably handle about 1,250 patients, according to Dr. Berman, who said that at the present rate of increase the school should be filled to its capacity in a few months.

The school program for the children includes occupational therapy, recreational therapy, training and teaching program and many other activities.

Mostly all of the patients come from the metropolitan area, Dr. Berman said, and are permitted to have their families and friends visit them on Wednesday afternoons.

An indication as to the growth of the school is indicated in its expense budget for the new fiscal year beginning April 1. The institution has been allowed \$1,300,000 for operating expenses and an additional \$180,000 for new equipment. This amounts to an increase of \$459,500 over its current budget.

December 6, 1949

Hospital Runaway

A 15-year-old boy, missing since yesterday from Willowbrook State School.

The sergeant, James Donovan of 1 Forest Hill road, said he saw a man, dressed in the gray school uniform, come out of the bushes opposite his house. When he called to him the man started to run through the fields. Donovan and Bernard Mullen, who was working on the roof, took up the chase and caught up with the man after running almost a mile.

The man lashed out at Donovan and knocked him to the ground but the two finally succeeded in subduing the school inmate.

The inmate later was turned over to hospital authorities by a police radio car team.