

May 25, 1950

Into New Jobs AM Will

Looking at it coldly, from the viewpoint of employment, the gradual change over from Halloran VA Hospital to Willowbrook State School is not encouraging.

The current patient census at the state school is now slightly over 1,000 and the medical and work force is 331, a new peak. From that one can see that the ratio between patients and staff members may be, roughly, in the neighborhood of three to one.

As a veterans facility, Halloran employed about one person for every patient.

The difference in the size of the staffs can be found, principally, in the nature of the cases. The variety and the type cases at Halloran necessitated a much larger force.

Now with the VA hospital cutting back to a much smaller institution, the community will feel the blow. The shock won't be nearly as great as if Halloran had closed down but evidences will be found in various aspects of community life.

Many of the employes who are being forced to leave will find jobs in Peekskill and Brooklyn veterans facilities; others will have to enter new fields.

This means that scores of families will have to pull up their roots on the Island and move on. While there will be incomes waiting for them where they go, the individual employe and his family will rarely consider the change a happy one.

June 14, 1950

Smith Heads Willowbrook School Board

Former Judge Chosen President of Visitors Unit Named by Dewey

Former Municipal Court Justice C. Ernest Smith has been elected president of the first board of visitors of the Willowbrook State School, it was announced today.



C. E. Smith

Mr. Smith heads a seven-member board which reports monthly to Governor Dewey and to Commissioner Newton T. J. Bigelow of the state Department of Hygiene on the operation of the school, a facility for the mentally retarded.

Elected secretary was Mrs. Jacquelin S. Lyons, Brooklyn member of the board.

Smith, who lives at 1 Silver Beach road, Emerson Hill, was nominated to the school's board of visitors last March by Gov. Dewey. The governor's nominations were later confirmed by the State Senate.

Monthly Visit

In addition to reporting monthly to the governor and the Department of Mental Hygiene, the board makes monthly visits to the school, and receives a monthly report from the school's director, Dr. Harold H. Berman.

Other members of the board are Frank A. Pavis, J. Joyce Klinger, both Island residents, and Fareed N. Kiamie, John A. Warner and Mrs. Ogden L. Mills, all of Manhattan.

May 26, 1950

Willowbrook School Officials Praised

Following an inspection visit to Willowbrook State School yesterday, J. Joyce Klinger, a member of State Board of Visitors said that three things had impressed him most.

"The first thing I noticed was the complete absence of custodial atmosphere. Secondly the strong personal interest of Dr. Harold H. Berman, director, and his staff in each child in the school, and third, the general feeling of hope and optimism they have in regards to continued progress of the children.

This was the May visit of the group. Members are appointed by Governor Dewey. Their duties consist of regular visits to state schools and inspection of the facilities and management.