

June 30, 1950

July 5, 1950

Flag for Willowbrook



Mrs. Margaret Warren, district deputy of District 15, Daughters of America, presents Flag on behalf of Vanderbilt Council to Willowbrook State School. Flag is accepted by Dr. Frank Glasser, assistant director, at ceremony yesterday at school grounds.

Cerebral Palsy Clinic Opens at Willowbrook

To Aid Patients So Afflicted; Census Now 1,138

A cerebral palsy treatment center, soon to be the largest operated for the mentally retarded in New York State, is in operation in Willowbrook State School, Dr. Harold Berman, director, announced today.

Dr. Berman said the clinic has been set up in Building 15 on the school grounds for care and treatment of 200 cerebral palsy cases among the mentally retarded, now at the school.

While the clinic is not yet complete in all its functions, it has been furnished with special equipment. It is operated by physiotherapists, psychologists and others specially trained for work with such cases.

The clinic offers speech correction programs, occupational and physical therapy, massage and other special treatments. It is being developed in conjunction with the expansion of the Willowbrook School by the state Department of Mental Hygiene.

The total of patients at Willowbrook, 1,138, now far surpasses the number of veteran-patients being treated in the adjoining Halloran VA Hospital.

443 at Halloran

Halloran officials said the patient-census there shows 443 of an allowable 692 patients are being treated there. Additional patients will be received as renovation work now under way is completed, they said.

Dr Berman said there are 349 employees at Willowbrook School, but that many new employees are needed there. The school needs occupational therapists, attendants, painters, plumbers and steamfitters, electricians and groundsmen.

At Halloran, the number of employees has been reduced from a peak of 1,562 to 902 today. Officials said 660 employees have been "separated" since the agreement last April between the state and the Veterans Administration to return part of the Halloran area to the Department of Mental Hygiene.

Of the 660, 550 have been transferred to other VA or federal facilities, officials at Halloran said. About 60 employees are listed on "furlough" status and may be called back as vacancies occur at Halloran.

Building 3 Quit

Building 3, Halloran's former auditorium building, has been vacated by the VA and is now being renovated for use by the Willowbrook School.

Dr. Berman said the auditorium will be used for assembly purposes, but the building will also contain Willowbrook School's administrative offices, as well as classrooms and a kindergarten.

The VA has also vacated buildings 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23, and these, too, are being renovated for use by Willowbrook School.

Halloran officials said they had transferred their tuberculosis center to Building 29, a former temporary War Department building. The tuberculosis center, formerly one of the largest operated by the VA, has been drastically cut in size. It was formerly housed in three buildings that are now under jurisdiction of the Mental Hygiene Department.