

February 13, 1952

Six Buildings

Six infirmary buildings, included in the original plans, may now be constructed at Willowbrook State School because of a \$5,000,000 appropriation in the state budget.

The original purpose of the institution is not the same, however, for about half of the school's present population of more than 3,000 is made up of young people and adults. And when the state Mental Hygiene Department came here before the war, it was agreed that only mentally defective children were to be admitted.

Those days of objections seem to have passed. The community has many residents who aid the program at the Willowbrook school, which is creating a fine reputation.

That the six additional buildings are needed there can be no doubt. Mental facilities in the state are crowded, and so are those at Willowbrook. Admission of some in need of treatment is said to have been held back by the lack of space.

Necessity demands the construction of the buildings. Critical materials will be made available. There should be no delay in this program.

February 14, 1952

Dewey Nominates Two For Willowbrook Board

ALBANY — Two islanders were nominated by Governor Dewey for appointment to the board of visitors of Willowbrook State School yesterday. Their names were sent to the State Senate for confirmation.

They are Frank A. Pavis of 141 St. Mark's place, New Brighton, nominated for a seven-year term, and John H. Ray of 5 Buttonwood road, Dongan Hills, named for a four-year stint.

Pavis, county Republican treasurer, was appointed to the board for a two-year term in 1950. It will be the first appointment for Ray, former vice-president and general counsel of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and now associated with a Manhattan law firm.

March 12, 1952

State to Add 780 Beds at Willowbrook

(Advance Albany Bureau)

ALBANY — The state Mental Hygiene Department announced today that six new infirmary buildings, with a total capacity of 780 beds, have been made possible at the Willowbrook State School, Staten Island, through an additional \$5,000,000 appropriation in the state budget.

The new buildings are part of the original plan for the school, it was announced. The beds will take care of an anticipated expanding population for the newest of the state institutions for the mentally ill, the department stated.

3,000 There Now

The school's present population is in excess of 3,000, including 600 babies and 1,000 children. The remainder are young people and adults.

Plans call for construction, as soon as possible, although the department spokesman would not predict when the actual building would begin.

There will be no question of the availability of steel, it was pointed out, because the federal government has included mental institutions in the state among those getting priority.

The department stressed that the six buildings are not emergency structures; that they were included in the preliminary plans and that they undoubtedly will remain as now proposed in the completed plans, now that the additional money has been made available.