

Delayed Construction 4/11/54

Appropriations for new buildings at Willowbrook State School have come much more easily than the actual construction.

Two years ago, the state Legislature voted \$5,000,000 for six modern infirmatory-type buildings at Willowbrook.

Final plans for those structures have yet to be approved.

And the Legislature this year appropriated \$740,000 for an expanded laundry and another \$27,000 for increased power facilities at the school.

Thus, the state has earmarked nearly \$6,000,000 for Willowbrook, but not a spade has been turned to provide those facilities.

Of course a building for the state's Mental Hygiene Department can't be thrown up as quickly as a warehouse. Special facilities have to be included for the care of the mentally retarded. But progress has been painfully slow.

Staten Island's building industry can use the prosperity this big construction program would bring.

And the need for expanded facilities at Willowbrook definitely exists. Most admissions these days are based on hardship cases, so that we may assume large numbers of mentally retarded persons are not receiving the care they should be.

The state should put this building program in high gear immediately.

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Willowbrook Teachers View Public School Class Methods 4/19/54

Six special classes in P.S. 13, Rosebank, were visited yesterday by a group of Willowbrook State School teachers to view the public schools' methods of teaching mentally retarded children.

The visitors, led by Kenneth Clark, educational supervisor at Willowbrook, saw actual classes in session. Younger girls entertained with rhythm band selections, while boys showed coloring work, basketry and weaving. Vocal solos were sung by Gordon Manee, P.S. 13 pupil.

Older girls prepared a display of dresses, aprons and blouses they had made in class, and older boys showed their workbooks and handcraft.

Nearly 125 boys and girls with intelligence quotients of 50 to 75, far below normal, attend the classes at P.S. 13 and another group of CRMD (children of retarded mental development) attend similar classes in P.S. 20, Port Richmond.

The children who attend P.S. 13 range in age from 6 to 16 and live in several communities on East and South Shores. Their school day extends from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. They are recommended for the special classes from schools in their own communities and sometimes progress enough to be returned to regular classes.

Most of the children are interested in working, after they are past school age, in manual trades

like carpentry, electrical trades, dressmaking and homemaking.

The group of visitors yesterday was greeted by Mrs. Hazel M. Saunders, principal, and the six CRMD teachers.

After the tour, a group of regular pupils from P.S. 13 served a hot luncheon in the homemaking room, under direction of Miss Mary Boylan, teacher of homemaking. Among the hostesses were Rose Polimino, Dorothy Magri, Dorothy Schmidt, Marcia Simmons, Viola Abbruzzi, Edith Uggiano, Frances Dubrowski and Catherine Rivers.

Willowbrook Teachers to Tour P.S. 13 4/19/54

The way public schools teach mentally-retarded children, and results they get from their teaching, will be shown a group of Willowbrook State School teachers tomorrow morning in P.S. 13, Rosebank.

Nearly 125 boys and girls, with intelligence quotients of 50 to 75, far below normal, attend P.S. 13 in six classes. Another similar unit of CRMD (children of retarded mental development) classes is conducted in P.S. 20, Port Richmond.

Tomorrow's visitors to Rosebank will tour the six classes in session. They will watch the boys in shop classes, the girls in homemaking and all the pupils, who range in age from six to 16, in classes for reading, arithmetic and a certain amount of social studies.

The pupils arrive in buses from several different communities on the East and South Shores, chiefly Richmond, New Dorp, Dongan Hills, South Beach, Midland Beach, Tompkinsville, Stapleton and Rosebank. Their school day extends from 10 A.M. until nearly 4 P.M.

Teachers of the special classes, who, with Mrs. Hazel M. Saunders, principal, will guide the Willowbrook visitors, are Miss Ann DiCrocco, Miss Marie Woefling, Mrs. Madeline Wintonick, Mrs. Rae Kahn, Mrs. Olive Egbert and Thomas Quinn.

After the classroom tour, the guests will remain for lunch, specially prepared by the CRMD girls under direction of Miss Mary Boylan, teacher of homemaking.

Accompanying the nine Willowbrook academic division's nine teachers will be Charles I. McAllister, educational supervisor of the state Department of Mental Hygiene; and Mrs. Irene Pollard, supervisor of CRMD classes in Queens and Staten Island public schools; and Kenneth Scott, educational supervisor at Willowbrook.