

4/16/54 **Coloring Eggs for Easter**

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

State School Aims Outlined By Director

4/13/54

Willowbrook State School is not a custodian institution but a means for helping mentally retarded children find their way back to society, Dr. Harold H. Berman, director of the school, said last night.

Speaking at a meeting of the 3rd Ward Republican Club in Republican headquarters, Stapleton, Dr. Berman reported: "Two per cent of babies born are potential candidates for schools like Willowbrook."

He called for preventive and research programs to reduce maternal difficulties which often contribute to such births.

Outlines Programs

Among the Willowbrook programs, the speaker said, are a rehabilitation center now teaching 100 children to walk; a school for children too mentally deficient to be accepted by public schools, and a parents' association which raises about \$15,000 annually to provide additional equipment for the school.

A resolution was passed by the club condemning the city's proposed 3 per cent sales tax on services. Letters will be sent to Mayor Wagner and Borough President Baker.

The tax, Daniel Smith, president, said, would place Island ship repairing facilities at a disadvantage in competition with other ports. Ship mobility would allow owners to put in at other ports for repairs, he said.



Getting ready for a big day, two youngsters in Willowbrook State School color some of 1,000 eggs to be distributed Easter Sunday morning. They are under the supervision of instructor in occupational therapy class where children are also making baskets and cut-outs to decorate the classrooms. When Easter arrives, they'll receive decorated baskets filled with traditional Easter gifts.

4/19/54 **Willowbrook Director To Address Rotarians**

The work of Willowbrook State School will be outlined by Dr. Harold H. Berman, the school's director, when he addresses the Staten Island Rotary Club at its meeting tomorrow noon in the Neurot Club.

A leading scientist in the field of the mentally retarded, Dr. Berman has directed Willowbrook, a facility of the state Department of Mental Hygiene, since February, 1949. He will be presented by Charles J. Bartels, Rotary's program chairman for April. Philip J. Brown, a past president of the club, will preside.

4/22/54 **Two Patients Missing From State School**

Police this morning launched a hunt for two youthful patients missing from their rooms at Willowbrook State School.

The pair, Robert Victoria, 22, and Frank Vinci, 18, were discovered missing at 6 A.M. by school officials. Both are of medium height and weight, and clad in blue dungarees. Victoria was wearing a blue jacket with a fur collar and Vinci a white shirt.