

## Staten Island Advance

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## Three Years Long Enough

If a former resident returned to the Island, he'd probably be surprised to learn that the building program at Willowbrook State School is barely under way.

"Why," we're certain he'd say, "that was planned years ago!"

That may be stretching the point a bit, but state officials have been going over the plans for the new Willowbrook buildings for more than three years . . . They have been restudying the situation and shuffling the blueprints.

The total expansion is to cost in the neighborhood of \$7,000,000. And it's said the buildings will be the most modern in their field by the time the last brick is laid. But thus far work has been started on only an infirmary-dormitory, costing \$800,000.

In Albany, the Department of Mental Hygiene repeatedly notes the need for additional structures throughout the state. Why, then, isn't there a speedup in construction to meet the need?

Willowbrook certainly reflects the need. Enrollment has been climbing steadily until now it's at 4,300, the highest in its history.

The delay in construction clearly hasn't cut costs. As in most other fields, building costs have continued to go up.

By their own dalliance, state officials are balking efforts to solve a knotty problem.

After more than three years, officials should know what they want . . . and should be able to get the construction program in full swing. Just how much time do they need?

DAILY NEWS.

OCTOBER 19, 1955

## Husband Guilty Of Prostitution

(Special to THE NEWS)

Buffalo, Oct. 18.—Arthur Devole, 30, was found guilty in City Court here today on a prostitution charge. His wife, Rita, 28, booked on a similar charge, was released. The couple last May charged that their 5-year-old daughter, Catherine, was abused at Willowbrook State School. Retarded children on Staten Island. The charges were declared unfounded after an investigation.

## Study Clears School Of Abusing Patients

By the Associated Press.

ALBANY, Oct. 27.—The state mental hygiene commissioner said today a investigation at the Wassaic State School had uncovered "a hard core of aggressive, resentful, criminally disposed patients." He declared the staff and employees were "doing a good job."

Dr. Paul Hoch's finding was contained in a report to Gov. Averell Harriman. The inquiry was launched at Gov. Harriman's request after a series of newspaper stories appeared dealing with alleged mistreatment of children who are patients at the Dutchess County institution.

"When patients become violent some controls are necessary," Dr. Hoch asserted in his report.

Other allegations of mistreatment were made by Mark Lane, a New York City lawyer who, Dr. Hoch said, had indicated he represented several former patients at Wassaic.

Dr. Hoch said the investigation, carried out by himself and assistant commissioner Richard V. Foster, had disclosed "no substantial evidence of . . . abuse by personnel presently employed at the school."