

# Staten Island Advance

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## 3,000-Bed Mental Hospital to Go Up

**By S. S. McSHEEHY**

A \$32,000,000, 3,000-bed mental hospital will be constructed on a reclaimed marshland in South Beach by the State of New York. It was disclosed officially today by Borough President Kanasz.

The borough president said he had received word from Mayor Averell Harriman that the Department of Mental Hygiene and will be turned over to the state. Proceedings to acquire the balance of the land are not expected to be initiated by the state until late this fall.

"THE GOVERNOR'S office today advised that no building in the project had been started immediately," the borough president said. "I have also been advised that all provisions I requested as a condition for my approval of the project have been accepted by the state."

"These include that no building in the project be higher than two in the center of the project. The other structures will be generally two stories in height. The entire site will be enclosed by an ornamental fence instead of a chain-link fence as proposed by the state, and shrubbery and trees will be planted inside the fence to give the project the appearance of a private estate."

The project will be developed by the State Department of Mental Hygiene. The first step, after acquisition of the land, will be to have the entire 232 acres brought up to grade by sand-fill pumped from the Lower Bay.

The borough president said that the reclamation work is expected to get under way in the summer or fall of next year and that actual construction should begin in the spring of 1939.

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"AMONG OTHER things this hospital will provide modern psychiatric treatment for outpatients," Mandelstam said. "In other words, Islanders needing medical treatment will be able to come to this institution."

"Also, all Islanders who are now patients in other mental hospitals, regardless of where these hospitals are located, will be transferred to the island institution so that friends and relatives who wish to visit them will find it much more convenient to do so."

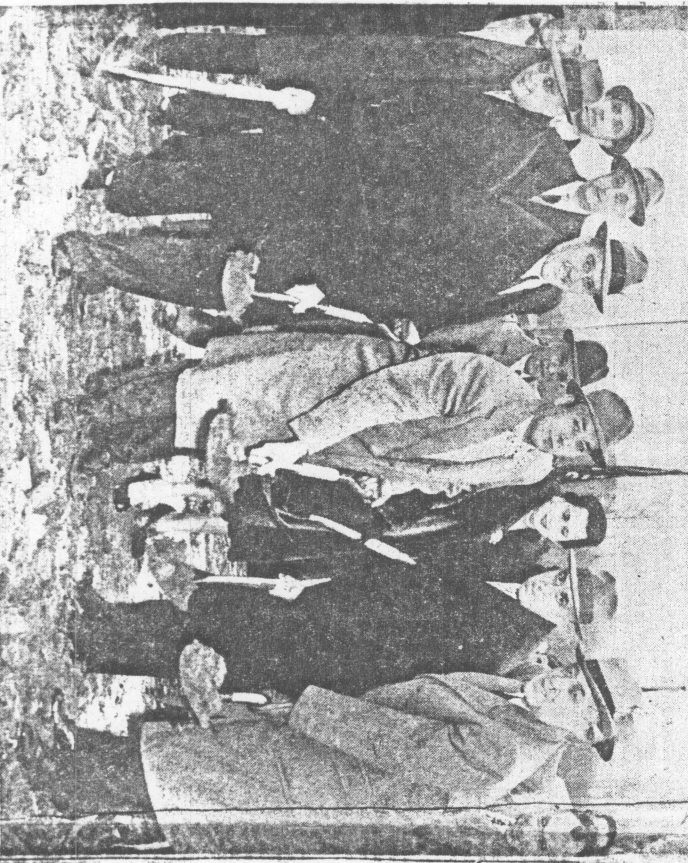
The state officials have cooperated wholeheartedly."

The borough president estimated that the project, when completed, will provide employment for several hundred Islanders.

Reclamation of the marsh area, which is now of little value, should encourage private interests to reclaim adjoining marshlands for development.

It added, which must be acquired by the state to include a section west of Seaside boulevard, between Xenia street and Seaside avenue, now occupied by acres of bare ground. The building is to be demolished and the land filled by hydraulic methods to meet the new grade of the beach-improvement program now under development.

The main entrance to the hospital, the borough president said, will be on Seaside street, which is being reconstructed as a broad dual-lane highway with landscaped center mall. The project will also be accessible from Hyman boulevard via Seaside street, which runs parallel to the project, and to Marine street, which runs parallel to the hospital site.



**AND AT WILLOWBROOK SCHOOL...** There's no scarcity of shovels as ground is broken for the \$7,000,000 building program at Willowbrook State School. In foreground, left to right, are Albert J. Bernam, director of the T. H. Construction Corporation; Samuel A. Terry and Edward Gidson of the school's Board of Visitors; Mrs. Mary Boyle, vice president, and Max Gordon, treasurer, of the Parent Society for Retarded Children, and Dr. Harold K.