

Weatherman Says:
 Tonight: Rain, low near 40.
 Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, 50's.

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Willowbrook to Get Center for Mental Health Studies

A new institute for basic research in mental retardation, believed to be the first of its kind, will be erected on a portion of the Willowbrook State School grounds bordering on Willowbrook and Forest Hill Rds., Gov. Rockefeller announced today.

Rockefeller said the research center will be known as the New York State Institute for Research in Mental Deficiency.

While operating as an entirely independent facility with its own director and staff, the institute will make wide use of medical and scientific facilities

of the adjacent Willowbrook State School, an institution for the mentally retarded.

"The institute," the governor said, "will be a unique undertaking in a field where research has been scant, and where progress has been extremely slow. The tragedy of this handicap

touches countless families, since three children in every 100 born are retarded in some degree.

"OUR knowledge is so limited regarding the nature and causes of mental deficiency that at the present time only a fraction of these cases can be prevented by

measures now known to us. We look forward to this modern facility as a major stepping stone to prevention."

He said the Department of Mental Hygiene selected the Island site after intensive study showed that "for a number of reasons, the site is ideally suited

to this purpose." State sources indicated that the new research center will have no immediate effect on the work of research teams of doctors, pathologists, chemists and biochemists, under way at Willowbrook State School since 1956.

The governor said that in selecting the Island site, state officials recognized that it lies within the metropolitan area "with its concentration of medical and other scientific resources, and will be easily accessible when (Continued on Page 11)

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State to Set Up Mental Center

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availability of Willowbrook's facilities will make it possible to devote all construction funds to the research facility proper."

It is believed the new center will make use of Willowbrook's laundry, bakery, storehouse and other facilities.

The erection of the institution at Willowbrook will comprise the second major construction program on the institution's grounds in recent years. Only recently a \$7-million program of infirmary construction and enlargement of the facility's cafeteria was completed. Work on a \$700,000 expansion of Willow-

brook's laundry plant still is recreation and classroom instruction.

In a comment on Gov. Rockefeller's announcement, Dr. Paul H. Hoch, commissioner of mental hygiene, described the outlook for research in the field as "bright."

Scientific instrumentation," the commissioner said, "has recently developed to an unprecedented degree and many delicate techniques wait to be applied to this problem. Furthermore, advanced observation vance in mental deficiency research has shown signs of acceleration. Other facilities will proliferate and new leads have been multiplied."

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