



Mrs. Gloria McFarland, director, conducts a group therapy session for girls referred to the Division for Youth's new START center in Willowbrook. Mrs. Marjorie Friars, assistant director, is at left.

*S. J. Advance
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Rocky to Dedicate New START Center

By MARK WIESNER

The State Division for Youth's START center for girls in Willowbrook—already in operation—will be dedicated Nov. 8 in a ceremony attended by Gov. Rockefeller.

The announcement was made by the division's director, Lawrence W. Pierce.

The START (Short Term Adolescent Rehabilitation Treatment) center, a \$275,000-facility for training girl delinquents, opened its doors a few weeks ago.

Eventually, the facility will retrain 20 girls at a time, Mrs. Gloria McFarland, director, explained yesterday.

Mrs. McFarland said the six girls already referred there and the next few admitted will form the "core" groups for the group therapy sessions she and her assistant director conduct. Both are psychologists.

brook State School in food services, payroll, personnel and laundry divisions and receive \$2.50 weekly. It is the hope that in time they will actually free personnel for other duties in the short-staffed institution for the retarded.

The center at 1133 Forest Hill Rd. is directly across the street from the home of Willowbrook's director. The

work experience the girls receive is an important part of the rehabilitation program, Mrs. McFarland said.

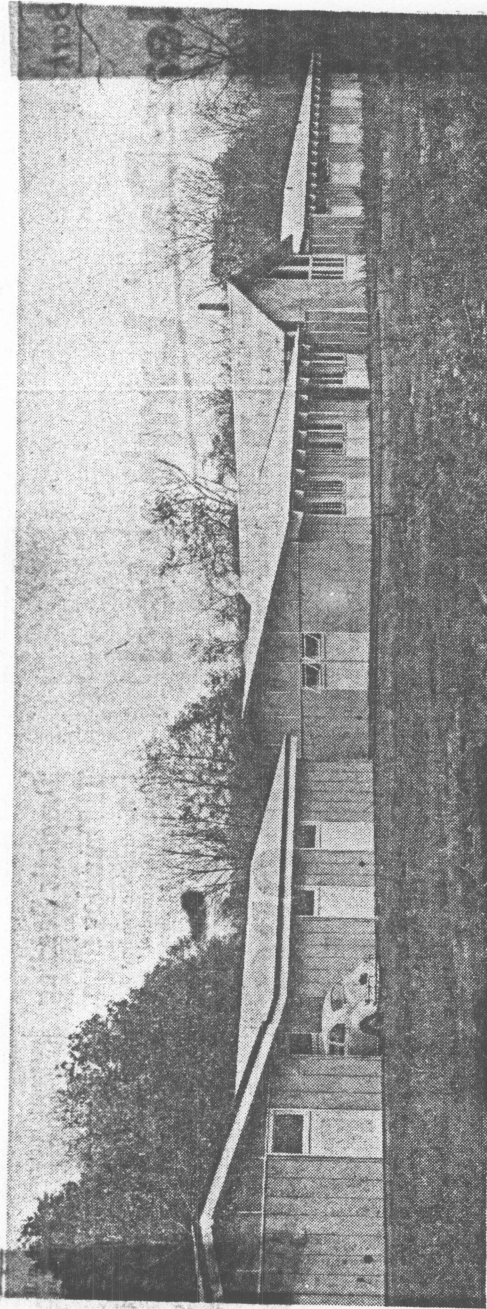
The girls are average intelligence or above and have no severe emotional problems.

They are considered able to benefit from a short (four-to-six-month) stay at the center and to develop sufficient self-

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THE GIRLS seem already at home in an environment that is as far from institutional as possible. They work daily at Willowbrook State School.



The strikingly-modern STAIRY center for girls in Willowbrook presents this appearance. Cottages for the director and assistant director are separate from the main facility.

Rocky Due To Dedicate Girls' Center

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knowledge to alter the delinquent pattern of behavior.

THE INTERACTION of group-therapy sessions and their work and living experience are counted on to produce the personality change.

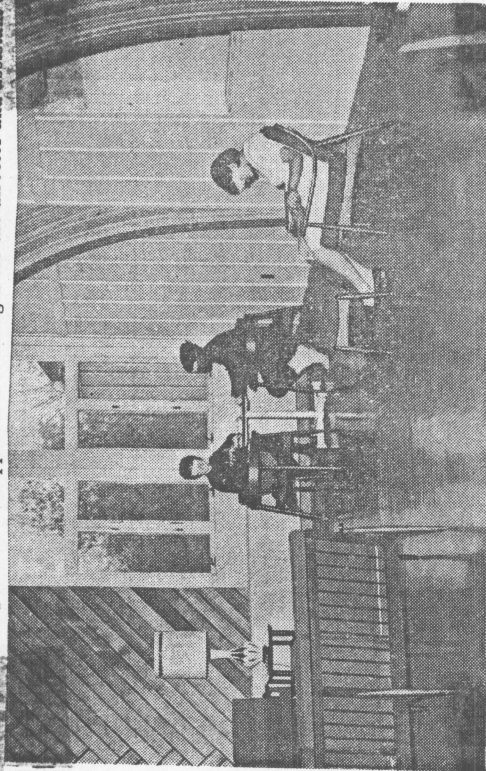
Mrs. McFarland said she is aiming at having the girls, who range in age from 14 to 18, stay the minimum length of time intended, four months.

"It's a big world out there and they belong in it," she said.

The facility is housed in a modern structure that features an arched recreation and dining area made of prestressed wood to produce a striated effect.

There are five dormitory rooms decorated in pastel colors and with pull-out sofa-beds. The kitchen is ultra-modern, and such touches as a vanity room for the girls have been incorporated.

The rapidly-expanding state agency operates other facilities for training boys and girls in upstate areas.



The Willowbrook girls lounge in the wood-paneled room that serves as a dining and recreation room. The training program is aimed at altering delinquent behavior patterns in four months to give them a new start and direction in life.