

1965
Ceremony

S. I. Rockefeller
Hails New
Girls' Center

By MARK WIESNER

Crediting the work done in state programs for enabling New York to "turn the corner in the fight against delinquency," Gov. Rockefeller yesterday dedicated the Willowbrook START Center for delinquent girls as part of the approach that will meet the challenge of delinquency.

The governor, speaking to more than 300 persons on hand for the ceremony, said that youth crime in the state is currently leveling off, while elsewhere in the nation it is on the rise.

He hailed the "bold and imaginative" program the Youth Division has undertaken to rehabilitate delinquent or near-delinquent youngsters.

The START Center, a \$275,000 structure located on Forest Hill Rd., Willowbrook, seeks to retrain 20 girls at a time in 18 to 24 months.

ROCKEFELLER said citizens "do care" and are interested in "giving others a chance to come back and find the way."

He said the Willowbrook center is the 16th set up by the



Gov. Rockefeller greets Snowball, Kim McFarland's pet rabbit. Kim's mother, Mrs. Gloria McFarland, right, is director of the START Center.

State School Sisters and to Mrs. Gloria McFarland, center director, and frees employees at the school for patient care and allows the Dr. Jack Hammond, director of Willowbrook State School, for girls to do "meaningful work" that overcomes the alienation they feel, he stated.

"It give delinquent young people a chance to prove they have the potential for service to society and themselves."

THE GOVERNOR paid tribute to the division's execu-

rehabilitating near delinquent or troubled youngsters.

The Willowbrook center had already accepted nine girls prior to its formal dedication yesterday, and they are working on their assignments at Willowbrook State School.

The governor met briefly with persons in the social field and was off to his next stop after a flurry of handshakes and autograph signings.