

## State School Presents Diplomas

Sixty-nine pupils were awarded diplomas yesterday at graduation exercises at Willowbrook State School.

James E. Hannon, a member of the institution's Board of Visitors, was the principal speaker.

Diplomas and prizes were presented by Mrs. Shirley Epstein, president of the Benevolent Society for Retarded Children, and Mrs. Berdie Gordon, a society member.

Dr. Jack Hammond, director at Willowbrook, presided over the ceremonies.

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# Staten Island Advance

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## State School Called Most Likely Soot Source; Denied by Director

By VICTORIA FLANDERS

Willowbrook State School was named the most likely source of the large-scale soot fallout which blanketed four North Shore communities yesterday morning, according to Donald P. Horan, of Eltingville, chief inspector of the City Air Pollution Control Department.

After an on-the-scene inspection of the affected areas of Port Richmond, Randall Manor, West Brighton and New Brighton, air pollution officials determined that with the light winds, ranging from three to seven miles per hour yesterday morning in a south to south-westerly direction, the source of the soot could be narrowed down to three possibilities: Sea View Hospital and Home; Consolidated Edison's plant in Travis and Willowbrook State School.

Because of the highly oily nature of the soot, the coal-burning power plants at Sea View and Con Ed were ruled out as the culprit by the air pollution officials, Horan explained.

The officials moved on to Willowbrook where they found that institution's charts to show a heavy demand for steam at 6:30 a.m., according to Horan. A sooty residue from the combustion of fuel oil in Willowbrook's power plant resulted, Horan said.

"We don't have definite proof that this was the case, but circumstantial evidence would seem to indicate it," Horan explained. The sooty samples the officials gathered are being analyzed at a laboratory.

The test results will be forwarded to the State Air Pollution Control Board which must handle the matter because Willowbrook is a state institution.

"The findings aren't conclusive enough to take legal action," Horan explained, adding he is awaiting the results of the soot analysis. The state will conduct its own investigation. One mitigating factor for Willowbrook will be that it is currently undergoing a \$170,000 renovation of its boiler plant, Horan added.

The preliminary conclu-

sions of the City Air Pollution Control Department drew a flat denial from Dr. Jack Hammond, Willowbrook's administrator. "There was no unusual fuel consumption or unusual emission from our stacks. I would have to say that this appears to be an assumption on the part of the Air Pollution Department," he said.

Hammond pointed out that officials who operate mobile air sampling station on the Willowbrook grounds on a 24-hour-a-day basis "have yet to advise me that we are contributing to air pollution on Staten Island.

"In fact, they have advised me that most of the pollutants

they are picking up are coming from the state of New Jersey," he added.

"We do not rule out the possibility of Jersey, but it's highly unlikely in this case," Horan said. "We do not have any proof—we did not see any emissions," he added.

It has been estimated by City Air Pollution Control Department officials that 60 to 70 per cent of the air pollution over Staten Island blows in from the Garden State on prevailing westerly winds.

Federal abatement action is being taken in cooperation with the state, interstate and local agencies under provisions of the Clean Air Act of 1963, which authorized the Division of Air Pollution of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to call a conference when the pollution of one state poses a threat to the residents of another.

On the basis of evidence presented at the conference which will be held in the fall the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare can issue recommendations for abatement within six months. If progress is not made in that period he can call a public hearing and then may ask for federal legal action.