

Sunday News, 7/23/67

State Lauds School Boss

The director of Willowbrook State School, Dr. Jack Hammond, was awarded a distinguished service citation by the State Department of Mental Hygiene recently at a Long Island conference of state mental institution directors. Hammond was honored for "major improvements" in solving the problems of overcrowding and understaffing at the school for mental defectives, and for his innovation in the education of retarded children.

S.I. Advance 7/21/67



Zoo Visit Educational

Miss Louise Cognata, a teacher at Willowbrook State School, and Joshua Carlo, coordinating educational supervisor, show mentally retarded children a corn snake from North Carolina. The children visited the Staten Island Zoo yesterday as part of an expanded summer educational program which exposes the children to real life experiences through field trips.

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE, THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1967

It's Your Opinion

Enlightening Trip To Willowbrook

My church handbell choir and I recently had the honor of performing at the Protestant church services at Willowbrook State School.

So much criticism has been made of the school and its staff that I would like to just say how impressed we all were with the school, the grounds, and most of all, with the behavior of the children. They were quiet, respectful, exceptionally polite, and gave us such a warm welcome we were immediately at ease and felt completely at home. . .

We all came away much enlightened and very impressed with the good work the people are doing at the school.

JANET A. SIGEL,

Director,
Handbell Choir
First Presbyterian Church,
Stapleton

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE, MONDAY, JULY 24, 1967

State Mental Projects Reach Halfway Mark

Preparation of the Ocean Breeze site for the Staten Island Institute for Research in Mental Retardation next month opens the second half of the state's \$600-million mental health construction program.

The \$6.5-million, 1,000-bed buildings is one of two mental facilities in construction stages in the state. The other is a \$16.5-million addition to the Suffolk State School in Dix Hills.

The state today announced it has reached the halfway

mark in its mental health construction program. Included in design plans is a \$900,000 intensive therapy center at Willowbrook State School.

The completed buildings in the state, including medical-surgical units at Central Islip and Kings Park and 12 buildings at Suffolk School, will accommodate 5,406 resident patients.

Buildings under construction and design, including the Island once will serve another 977 patients.