

Some Vols Look and Leave

The recent rash of adverse publicity on the "snake-pit" conditions at Willowbrook State School has stirred the conscience of many would-be volunteers, but not to the point where they can ignore the everyday facts of life at the institution.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hammond, wife of the school's director, Dr. Jack Hammond, and coordinator of volunteer services at Willowbrook, said that since television and the papers have been dramatizing conditions at the school, offers of volunteer aid have inundated her office to the point where she can't get her normal work done.

But many of the would-be volunteers come to the school, go through the process of interviews and screening and then fail to return, once they have taken a tour of the buildings.

Mrs. Hammond cited a group of 100 student nurses from New Jersey who came to Willowbrook with a petition seeking to act as volunteers. The petition read:

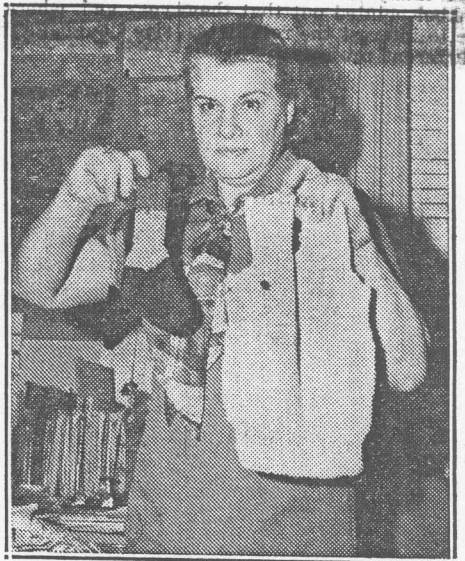
"We the undersigned, as members of the medical profession, feel that individuals are entitled to the fulfillment of certain needs which are basic to all human beings.

"These include adequate food, shelter, clothing, health facilities, and stimulation, both environmental and emotional."

The girls had brought gift items for the residents at Willowbrook, but that was as far as their volunteer service went. Once they found what normal conditions were, the student nurses never returned to Willowbrook, Mrs. Hammond said.

"We need and want all the volunteers we can get," Mrs. Hammond said, "but we need persons who are really motivated to help. People can't just walk in off the street and say they want to offer their assistance."

The wife of the director asked those who would like to help to write the school and determine in what



Mrs. Elizabeth Hammond shows items made by resident of Egger Lutheran Home.