



Army reservists, members of a transportation company stationed at Fort Totten, unload clothing at Willowbrook State School. The clothing was collected at firehouses in Brooklyn and Queens and transported to the Island facility as part of an Army civic action project.

St. Advance Photo by Frank J. Johns

Clothes, toys to Willowbrook

By FRANK HAGELBERG

The New York City Fire Department and the United States Army Reserve joined forces yesterday to deliver two truckloads of clothing, shoes and toys to Willowbrook State School.

by a Brooklyn fireman who also labors as a "week-end warrior" in a transportation unit, six reservists made stops at firehouses in Brooklyn and Queens, gathering clothing donated by residents of Corona, Sheephead Bay and Flushing.

Since the beginning of the year, city firehouses have served as collection points for the

Willowbrook clothing drive. Due to the large amount of clothing donated, problems arose in transporting the material to the Island facility.

Fireman Michael Donato of Ladder Co. 169 in Sheephead Bay, talked the problem over with a fellow fireman, Peter Viola, of Brooklyn. Viola, a Reserve sergeant, decided that the facilities of his unit could be put to good use in getting the clothing to Willowbrook.

With the approval of his commanding officer, Lt. Benjamin Cafero of Cromer St., Great Kills, the "mission" got under way yesterday, to the apparent benefit of all involved.

"My men really feel they did something useful today," Cafero said yesterday. "The Army has been trying to encourage civic action programs, in order to give the men something to do during their weekend meetings, and to help the community at the same time."

The Willowbrook mission was the first such project for the reservists, members of the 623rd Transportation Company at Fort Totten. But more projects are planned.

Cafero, who when not in uniform works as an accountant at the Eger Lutheran Nursing Home, Egbertville, said he's planning to have his unit clear an area for a picnic grounds for the nursing home. "We'd like to get involved," he said. "Why should we have a bunch of reservists sitting out here doing nothing?"

MORE AID TODAY

This afternoon, another group is planning to donate its time and services to the residents of Willowbrook. Edward Baggs of 29 Silvia St., Eltingville, said yesterday he and 30 other volunteers will sponsor a party for a group of Willowbrook residents expected to number about 350.

Baggs is the chairman of a group called the Hospital Entertaining Unit, formed last year at Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. in Manhattan, where Baggs works as an auditor. "This is the third show we're staging at Willowbrook," Baggs said. "We plan to have a five-piece band, including two guitars, drums, organ and a singer, as well as dancers and a clown."

The group also plans to serve some 30 cases of soda, as well as cake and ice cream. Money for the event was donated by employes at Morgan Guaranty, Sanitation Department Plant on Muldoon Ave., Greenridge, and from customers of a luncheonette in Annadale operated by Baggs' wife, Ruth.