

tinued immaturity, the request was postponed until the following year, when suddenly Willie found himself on the outside looking in.

It was felt by the processing committee, which reviews the pending discharge of a patient, that Willie was basically "a good boy" and that since he was not retarded, he should be discharged and placed with the Bureau of Child Welfare and the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation for evaluation and job training.

Willie had never received any visitors while a patient, except once when his mother came and wanted to take him home for the weekend. When permission was denied because she was living in a furnished room and not her own apartment, Willie's mother never returned to visit her son.

When Willie was released from Willowbrook, a family type atmosphere was recommended. Willie was placed on "family care." He was to reside in a private home with four other boys, and a married couple to supervise. When plans were underway for Willie to be trained as a key punch operator, things seemed to be taking a turn for the better.

Placed on Family Care on August 7th, 1970, a program which lasts for usually 2-3 years, Willie was suddenly discharged from the program

on August 20th of that year. Amidst reports that he had stolen a record player and had been uncooperative while in the care of the family, Willowbrook completely washed its hands of Willie Summers.

Willie is understandably bitter, and he views his sudden discharge as a deliberate attempt on the part of the administration to rid themselves of the boy they could not force to submit to the system.

"There was no problem living in the group home," says Willie. "I was just discharged too fast. I hadn't even begun to adjust to living in the community. You start to see new faces, different places. It's hard to adjust to certain things."

Faced with no income and no home, Willie was put on public assistance and placed in the Christmas Tree Inn, a South Shore rooming house noted for its hazardous conditions and equally hazardous clientele.

Willie received welfare intermittently and managed to hold down a job as a short order cook and a porter. Asked why he did not remain in either of those positions, Willie explained that everytime he secured a job, and then came back to visit friends at Willowbrook, he would be arrested for an assortment of crimes.

Willie feels that he is being unduly persecuted by the security guards at the institu-

tion. "Why can't I come up here? All the other ex-patients come, but they restrict me. They know I'm a troublemaker. They could see me sitting here doing nothing and they'll come and say they saw me doing such and such."

Numerous run-ins with the law have caused Willie to be incarcerated seven times since his release from Willowbrook in late 1970. "Every single arrest for me was at Willowbrook. Out in the community, I don't get arrested because I don't get into trouble. I've developed a reputation so that every time something happens around here (Willowbrook), they come looking for me."

Willie was recently released from the Riker's Island prison. "They said I robbed a truck of \$180 worth of stuff. I just happened to be standing near it...I did four months for that."

In another instance, Willie was accused of arson at the facility. "That wasn't arson," he states. "I broke into the kitchen to get somewhere to sleep because it was raining and I had nowhere to go. I looked around to see if there was anything to eat, and I happened to put a paper in a garbage can, and it must have caught fire."

These acts and others are flatly denied by Willie who says simply, "I'm not going to admit that I did it."

In any event, those who have worked with Willie put aside the question of his guilt or innocence and argue that it is the responsibility of the institution to see to it that Willie is psychologically treated before release. If the institution fails to provide this service, they argue, the individual should not be held responsible.

"I don't want the patients who are getting out now to go through the same thing I did," says Willie. "To me, it seemed that they just threw me out. They said, 'Do this on your own, we don't want you

here.' When they put you out they don't give you any knowledge about what it's going to be like and what you have to do to survive. So you learn to survive any way you can. But you can't survive without money. And if you don't have money you're going to rip off anybody in order to survive."

Willie's latest return to Willowbrook last week brought the usual reception of security guards with clubs ordering Willie off the premises.

"I was sitting in the gym listening to records, and they came in and told me that I was going out to the stationhouse," Willie says. "I told them they had to be crazy. I saw them coming at me with clubs so I got a pipe for defense."

When asked why he returns to a place he knows will bring only trouble, Willie said, "I was here for seven years, I grew up here. I don't know anyone on the outside."

Mrs. Thompson claims that because Willie has just been released from prison and since he has no family and no skill, "he has to come back here. The patients here sneak him food or they manage to get him into the dormitories to sleep for the night."

"Getting him a home is the first order of business," said one social worker who has taken up Willie's cause. "We're going to try and get

him a temporary address so that he can qualify for emergency public assistance while we're trying to get him job training."

Attempts to find Willie a job ended last year when the Job Corps rejected Willie's application for training -- despite the fact that he passed the exam.

"At the Job Corps," says Willie, "they're supposed to rehabilitate you and give you a trade. You get a diploma and you come out with a certain amount of learning. They shouldn't be worried about whether you've been in jail or not. People look at me like I'm a menace to society. Like I'm a criminal or an ex-con. I know I'm going to have to face this for the rest of my life."

On his own, Willie tried the Manpower Offices in St. George, to no avail, and was even hoping to get a job on the grounds of Willowbrook.

"There was an application in to have me reinstated at Willowbrook as a resident," he says, "but it was denied. They even told me not to bother applying