

It's good news!

Advance, editor to be cited

Because the Advance has continued to keep alive the Willowbrook story when other communications media seem to have lost interest, this newspaper and its managing editor, Les Trautmann, will be honored at the 23rd luncheon of the Willowbrook Chapter, Benevolent Society for Retarded Children.

Mrs. Jerome Isaacs of 224 Martin Ave., Willowbrook, chairman of the May 12 luncheon, which will be held in the grand ballroom of the New York Hilton, said that two separate awards will be given.

One is for the Advance, in appreciation for "the staff that writes the stories," and the other, to Trautmann, because "he is the one who decides what stories should be kept alive."

Mrs. Isaacs spoke for the Benevolent Society when she said, "We, as parents of those children, can see things that have happened as a result of the Advance's coverage, and we're grateful."

The almost daily coverage of some aspect of Willowbrook State School for the past year, which spotlighted the overcrowded conditions as well as

reforms undertaken by staff, parents, volunteers and the state Department of Mental Hygiene, has had a strong impact on public sentiment and on elected officials, Mrs. Isaacs said.

Proceeds from the luncheon, which last year totaled \$40,000, will be used to purchase equipment and provide special activities for Willowbrook patients.

In the past, the Benevolent Society, composed primarily of parents of retarded children, has furnished wheelchairs, hearing aids, band uniforms

and instruments, and has equipped a kitchen and a printing shop at the school for patient use.

This year the luncheon is expected to draw some 1,800 persons interested in Willowbrook, including numerous state officials. Entertainment will be provided by the school band and choral group, under the direction of Tony Bardolato.

The committee is still searching for a master of ceremonies to carry out the theme, "There's Much to be Done, and We've Only Just Begun."