

As a result, camp directors throughout the state visited Willowbrook to help choose those children who could adjust best to camp life.

Now, thanks to the Benevolent Society's determination to break down the confining walls of the grim institution, the residents are discovering another world outside.

In addition to the 45 campers at Camp Catskill, three are at Camp Lawton, a camp for the deaf in the Catskills; 44 are living at Camp Cummings in Brewster; 24 are enrolled in Camp Leah, also Brewster; and 12 are at Camp Jenet, an ARC camp in Hunter, N. Y.

The biggest breakthrough in terms of placing retarded patients has come with the acceptance of six Willowbrook residents at a camp for normal children run by the Knights of Pythias in Glenspey, N.Y.

Locally, 25 residents are at Camp Pogo, sponsored by the Downs Syndrome Foundation in Totenville; 10 are part of the Staten Island Aid to Retarded Children day camp program in West Brighton; 12 are day campers at the United Cerebral Palsy center in Port Richmond; 90 travel daily to Brooklyn for the Catholic Charities program in Bishop Ford High School; and 40 are or will be frolicking on the Camp Kaufmann grounds with an Educational Alliance day camp.

But while the sun shines brightly on Willowbrook this summer, the Benevolent Society is prepared for rain.

"This money is going to dry up eventually," Mr. Gavin said. "It's really only a one-shot deal. Next year, we want to send more children. We'd like to set up a continuing program for blind, deaf and other handicapped children. There should also be more camps for adult patients."

But the 311 campers who are playing ball, swimming, hiking, boating and roasting marshmallows care nothing about the future. They know only that something rare and wonderful happened in the summer of '73.



Jeffrey Gavrich, a counselor at the United Cerebral Palsy Center in Port Richmond, shows these Willowbrook residents what a wide, wide world it is.



Mrs. Herman Battle, at the UCP center, provides milk and fruit for a refreshments break between activities.