

# Center 'country club' reopens

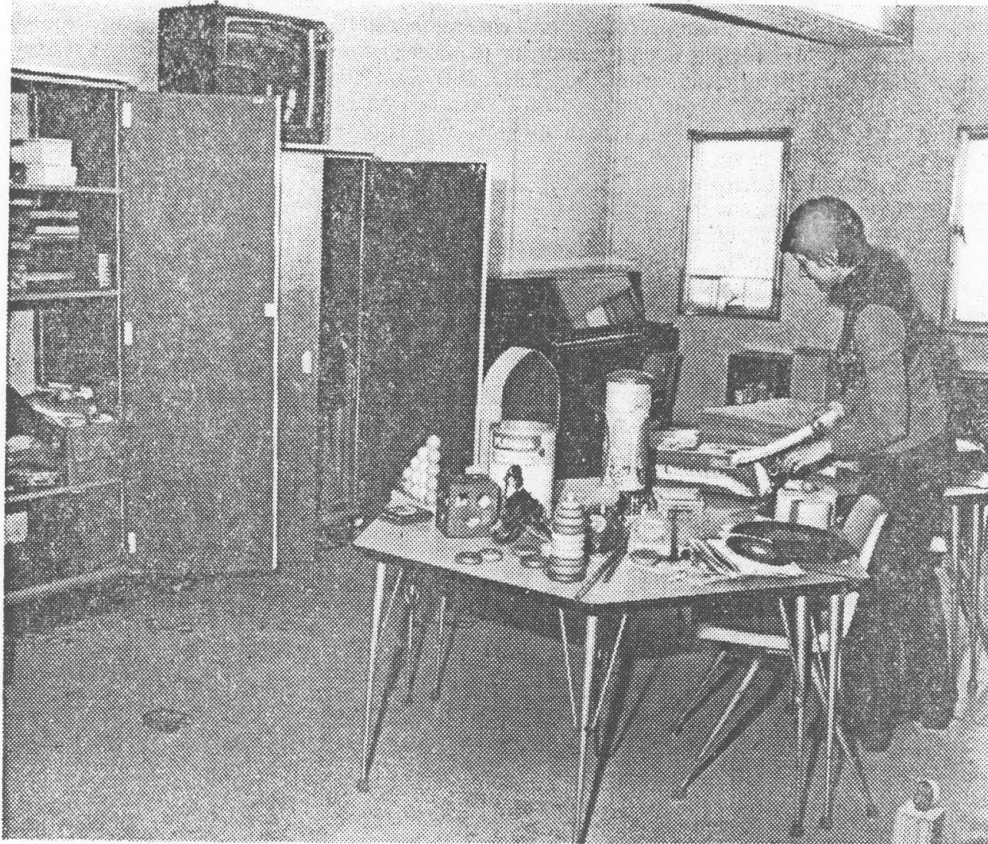
Building 78, a temporary pre-fabricated facility known as the "country club" of Willowbrook Developmental Center because of its superior interior design, was reopened

yesterday after being closed since January last year.

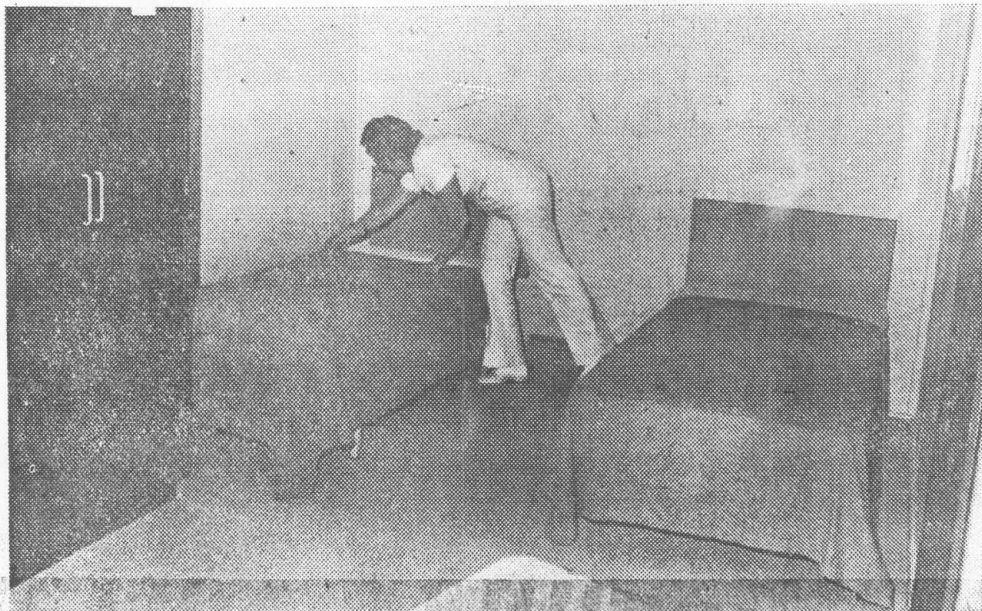
Constructed in 1968 to relieve overcrowding, it was evacuated in 1974 because of damaged heating units and

roof deterioration, which have since been repaired for \$42,000.

According to a spokesman at Willowbrook, the original intention was not to reopen the



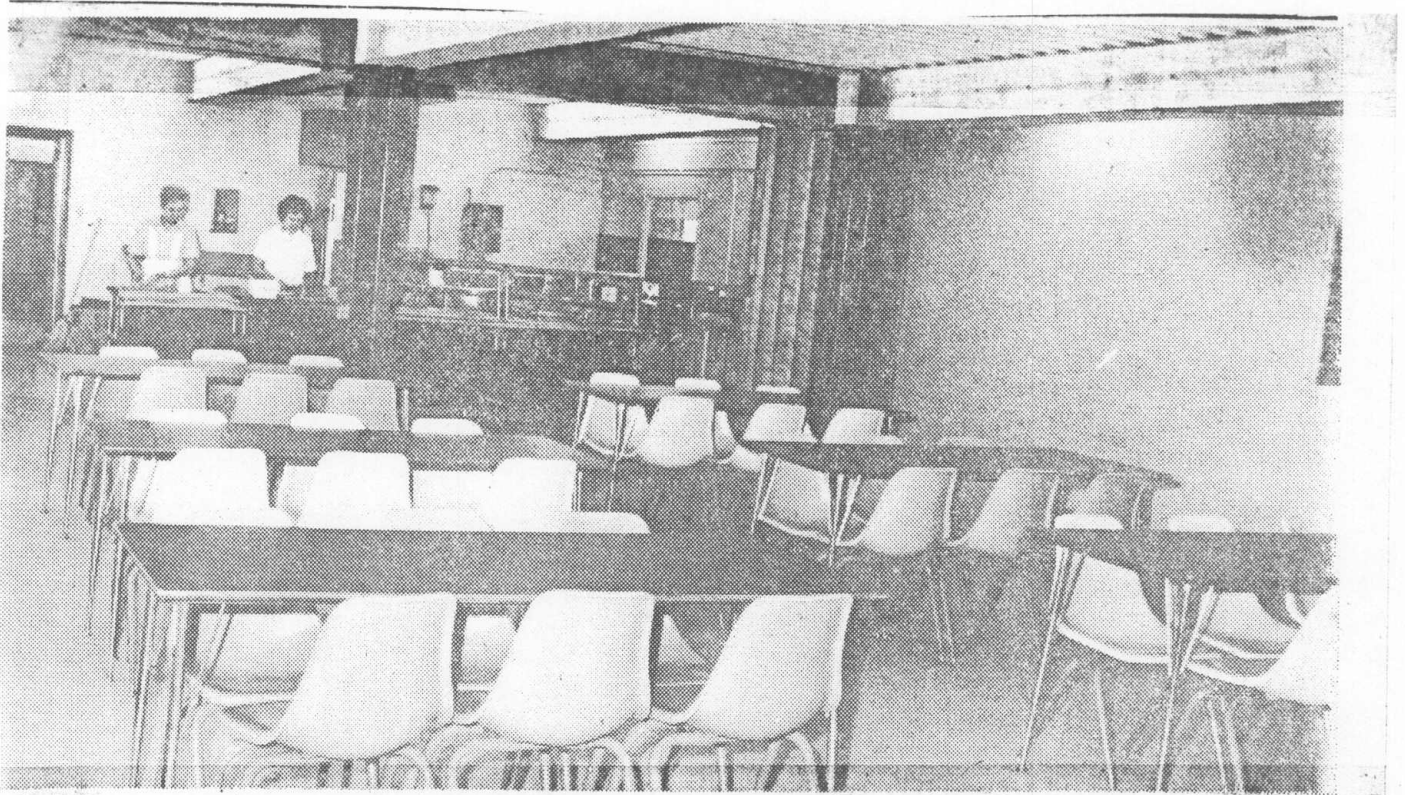
Miss Rene Sanmarco, a teacher at the center, gets things in order for her next class.



An attendant at Willowbrook Developmental Center prepares a bed in one of the rooms in Building 78.

S.I. Advance Photos by Robert Parsons

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Lunch is prepared for the residents of Building 78 in a modern cafeteria.

facility, but the space is now needed to remodel another building.

The spokesman indicated she did not know how long the temporary facility would remain open, but estimated it would be for several months, at least.

As part of the reshuffling due to a reported transfer of 800 residents to other state mental institutions within the next year, Building 27 will undergo a major remodeling in March. Residents of Building 27, most of whom are unable to walk, will be moved to nearby Building 25.

Sixty-five of the 117 residents of Building 25, which houses ambulatory and profoundly retarded children (IQ of 25 or less), will be moved to the reopened facility, the balance going to Building 75-76.

Building 78 will also receive this week 22 children from Building 75-76, who were among the original inhabitants of the "country club," the others already having been transferred to outside programs.

Building 78 offers an eight-classroom school, a cafeteria and small living units for two to eight children. Because of fluorescent lights, bright wall paint and floor tiles, the facility has a cheerful appearance.