

Fun and fashion star at Willowbrook

By SANDRA ZUMMO

There was a time when nostalgia was just for the old folks. But a quick look at today's fashion scene and a careful listen to the wonderful Cole Porter lyrics featured in Radio City Music Hall's current film attraction, should give credence to the fact that nostalgia is also for the "old" at heart.

For those among you requiring more proof than soft, flowing dresses and sophisticated love songs, consider the Spring Assembly.

Yes, the spring assembly. For even that most hallowed of traditions has become heady with the scent of cedar chests and camphor. And the result, as evidenced during yesterday's two spring assemblies in the Willowbrook Developmental Center, is a delight to audience and participants as well.

"Those Were the Days" was the theme of both programs which featured Willowbrook youngsters nowhere near old enough to remember them.

Their audience was comprised of fellow students, including those from the Intensive Therapy and Cerebral Palsy units and a sprinkling of parents and friends.

Clearly the highlights of the show, for the children, at any rate, were a visit to Mouseketeer-land and a rollicking pantomime to Beite Midler's recording of "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," replete with bugler and costumed dancers to put Maxene, Laverne and Patty to shame.

The kids in the audience had a ball, clapping their hands in time to the music and dancing to and fro in their seats.

A short intermission was followed by a fashion show, featuring the creations of some 25 students in Willowbrook's sewing classes, who also modelled their outfits — beautifully.

The model-designers were clearly pleased with their work, as evidenced by the broad smiles they wore as they struck model-like poses under a yello-and-white gazebo set center stage.

And theirs weren't the only smiles. If one took his eyes from the stage, with its parade of brightly colored and surprisingly well-tailored fashions, and looked out into the audience he would have seen the appreciative and satisfied smiles of parents and counsellors whose "kids" had done them proud.



Getting ready for the fashion show during yesterday's spring assemblies at Willowbrook Developmental Center are three residents pictured above with their instructor, Mrs. Bridget Menuey, adjusting a hat on the youngster in the wheelchair.