

The Clohessys maintained close contact with the Pennsylvania state agency in charge of interstate transfers. They say they completed the necessary paperwork, but still Eddie remained at Willowbrook.

"We pleaded with them to help us, told them we did all that they asked us to do," Mrs. Clohessy remembers of the Pennsylvania agency. But still Eddie was on Staten Island while the family was in Allentown.

Even though one of two sisters still here visited occasionally, the family felt the separation to be detrimental to Eddie. He couldn't understand why his parents didn't come by the three or four times a week they used to before moving. And, the charge that since they didn't, his quality of care deteriorated.

At wit's end, and in Pennsylvania less than a year, they decided to do what one is taught to do in civic books at times like these: Write your congressman.

They dropped a line to Rep. Fred B. Rooney, Democrat from the 15th Congressional District, explaining their frustration at getting Edwin into their home state.

"He felt they were a very worthy family," an aide said, so he contacted the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and asked if they could offer any assistance.

"It was a very sad case and he tried to do his best from Washington," the aide added.

That was Feb. 7. Within two days, the aide estimated, Rooney was notified that Whitehaven would work it out. And while the congressman's office said no trade of patients will be necessary, a spokesman for the New York Department of Mental Hygiene said a trade is being worked out.

The Clohessys credit Rooney with being the catalyst that led their son to their new home state.

"We had tried everything else. We felt we were against a brick wall, but he said he'd do everything to help us and he did," Mrs. Clohessy said of the congressman.

The timing couldn't have been better.

While the final details were being completed, Eddie was in the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, Clifton, recuperating from wounds above his eye that reportedly he received in a fight at Willowbrook.

But when the parents of Eddie Clohessy picked him up Wednesday at the hospital, instead of returning to Willowbrook, he rode across state lines to his new home.