

## Hearing exams for all residents

# Willowbrook gets new 'audio van'

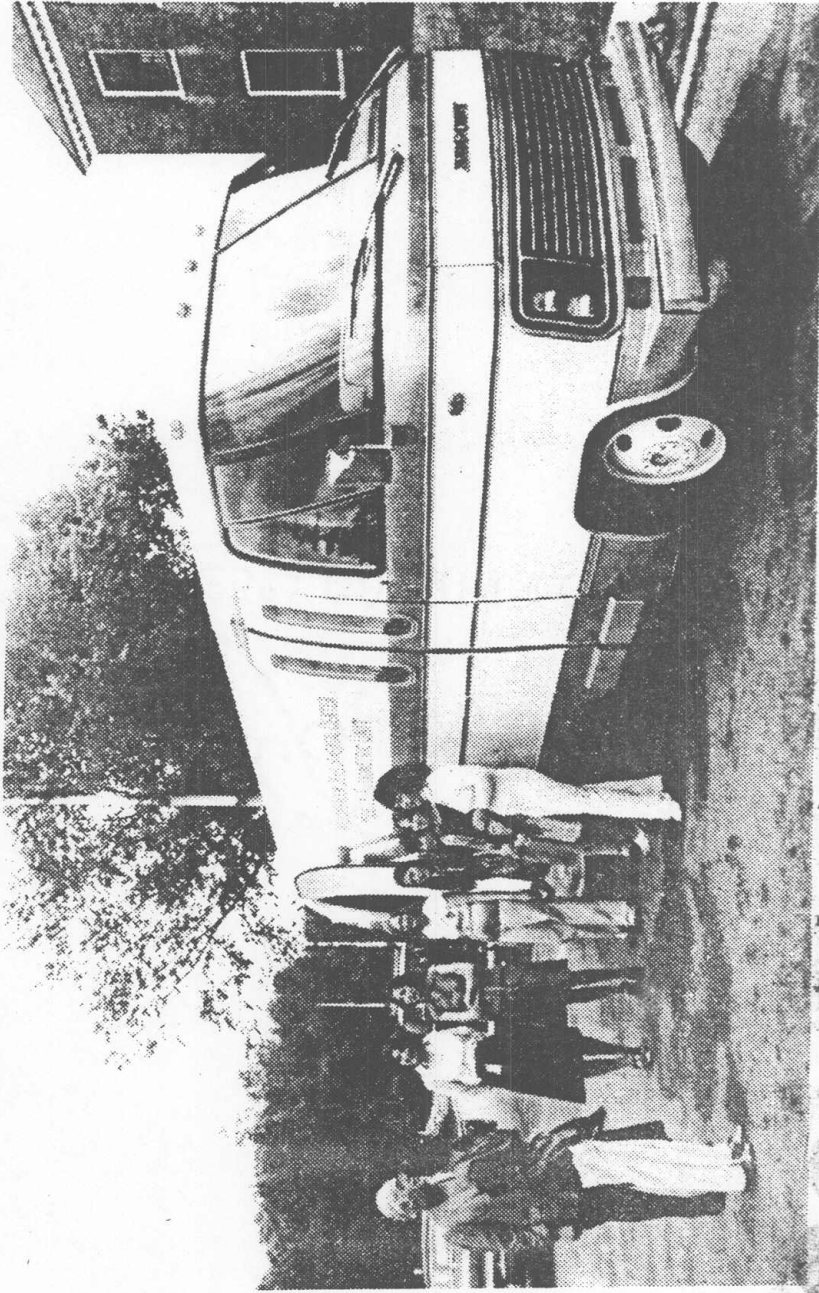
Willowbrook Developmental Center yesterday received a \$44,000 audiometric van which will enable the state center for the retarded to provide for the first time complete hearing examinations for its 2,500 residents.

The van's major attraction is that it will allow testing at convenient sites on the 387-acre campus which has almost 40 buildings. The van was presented to officials in a ceremony outside the center's administration building.

The van will also be used for follow-up care of the 200 former Willowbrook residents who have been placed in community facilities on Staten Island.

The van, the first purchased by the state mental hygiene department, is one of five in New York State. It is equipped with a hydraulic lift that will enable therapists to handle non-ambulatory, wheelchair-bound residents with ease.

Willowbrook is under a federal court order to reduce its population and improve services. The hearing services are mandated by the federal court.



Willowbrook Developmental Center staff members stand near the new audiometric van as they greet visitors.



Arlene Smith demonstrates some of the equipment in the center's new \$44,000 audiometric van which will service the 200 former Willowbrook residents in the community as well as the center's residents.