

Willowbrook: For the 'mayor,' it's his past, present and future

(Today's story on the former Willowbrook State School, the nationally known center for the retarded, is the fifth wonder in the Advance's series. "The Seven Wonders of Staten Island.")

By SYDNEY FREEDBERG

Anthony Menella is crisscrossing the lawns of the Staten Island Developmental Center clutching a peaked gray cap in one hand and an attache case in the

other. This is not a businessman's case, just an old vinyl lugabout with cracks and sags and about 45,000 miles of handling time.

It contains nearly all of Anthony Menella's worldly possessions: a few shirts, some trousers, a tie, things he has managed to collect since arriving at the Willowbrook institution May 27, 1958, his 20th birthday. And this little crown Anthony wears, it's not a formal derby but rather like the two-bit pieces worn
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"Mayor" Anthony Menella visits the institution's commissary in Building 3 often, sometimes advising visitors what to buy there. Rabbi Goldberg is with him at right.

S.I. Advance Photos by Frank J. Johns