

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE, Thursday, February 15, 1979

News report for youngsters

By JANE MILZA

Respite home

A judge refused yesterday to issue an order that would stop the state from converting a house it owns on Emerson Hill into a home offering temporary care for Staten Island residents who are mentally retarded.

Supreme Court Justice Charles Rubin said the case can only be settled at a trial because many legal questions must first be answered.

The case was brought to court by seven Emerson Hill residents who live near the house on Diana Trail. They say the facility would interfere with their privacy and lower the value of their property.

Handicapped let in, theater manager says

In my three years as manager of the Island Theater, I have never banned entry of any handicapped child, for any movie.

The incident about which letters have been written happened about three weeks ago. I was in the lobby at the time, standing right next to the doorman when the attendants brought the children in. There were about seven children in wheelchairs, and an attendant for each child.

After bringing the children in, one attendant went to the cashier to purchase tickets for "Superman" and was informed by the cashier that we were not giving discounts for this movie. "Superman" is the first movie for which I have ever received instructions that no passes or discounts were to be allowed at any time, not even for employees.

One of the attendants, to whom we normally sell tickets at the children's price, then approached me and I also informed her that we were not allowed to give discounts for "Superman." I told her if she wanted to see "The Wiz" it would be OK.

She was a bit annoyed but eventually bought tickets and went to see "The Wiz." If, as her letter stated, I wanted to ban wheelchairs from the theater, I would not have allowed them to see "The Wiz" either.

Since this incident happened, children on wheelchairs have been allowed into the theater on several occasions. The letter from the two attendants was published on Jan. 31; on the evening of Jan. 30, three children from Willowbrook were allowed into the theater on wheelchairs!

Last Saturday, I granted permission for 17 more children in wheelchairs to see "Superman."

CARL ALLI,

New Springville