

Center for disabled has festival

third award in as many months for his work with the handicapped.

Pervall, a former mental hygiene therapist aide at the center, said she was proud to receive her award "for work I love doing."

An employee at the center for more than 23 years, Pervall said she has seen it "in the best of times, which is now, and the worst, when it was overflowing with clients by the thousands."

ALTHOUGH SAD at leaving the center, Pervall said she may return some day to do volunteer work.

It was not her first award from the state. She won one a few years ago for designing a safety vest for a client who kept injuring herself.

Lumetta, who also recalled the Willowbrook of old, said, "I am glad to see that the population is going down here. Activities like today's celebration are something very positive, something to be proud of."

The day, which began at 9 a.m. and continued into early afternoon, included music, games, clowns, refreshments, and a wheelchair parade. And all agreed they couldn't have had a better day weatherwise.

Acting center director James Walsh said he hoped the celebration would prove to be "the beginning of many more to come."

By MARY ENGELS

More than 600 clients and staff at the Staten Island Developmental Center yesterday joined in the first summer festival held on the grounds.

The very special celebration was organized by Fiorello Cicero, chief of services for the center, which houses the developmentally disabled.

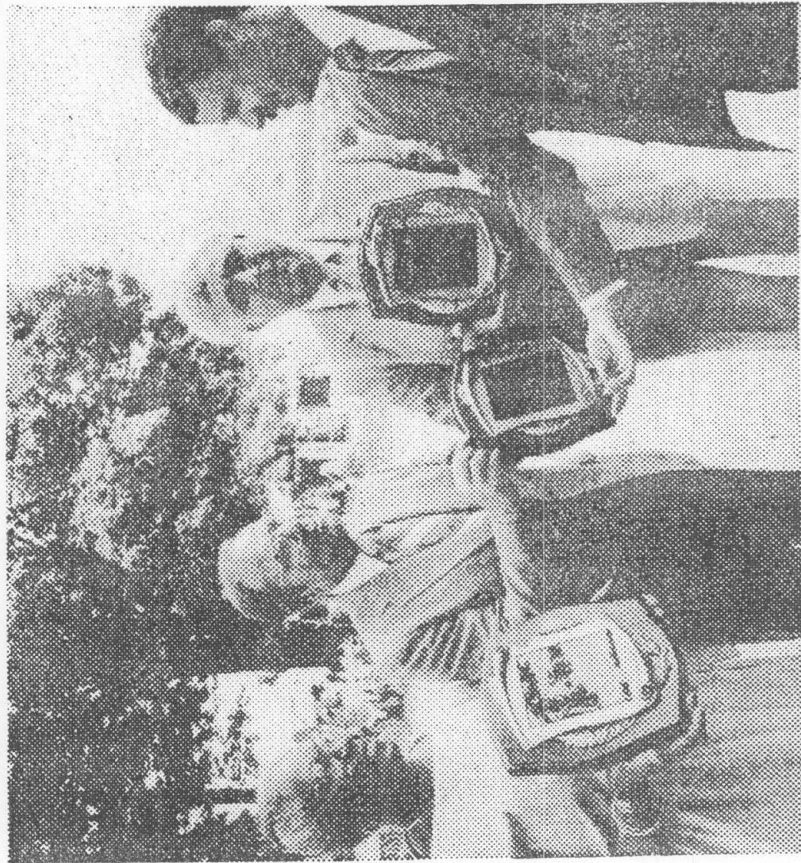
Cicero said he hoped it would be "an annual event that everyone can enjoy."

"I feel it's important for two special reasons. First, because it provides recreation and stimulation for our clients, and second because it honors those employees whose energy and dedication contribute so much to the care of our residents."

In addition, the center honored three persons from the community "who have shown deep concern and interest in the handicapped and disabled."

THEY WERE Deputy Borough President Ralph Lamberti, former Willowbrook employee Louise Pervall and Michael Lumetta, a member of the center's board of visitors.

In accepting the award, Lamberti said he was especially grateful "from the standpoint of fellowship from which it was given." This was his



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Receiving community service awards are (l. to r.) Louise Pervall, Ralph Lamberti, and Michael Lumetta. The awards were presented by James Walsh (r.), acting director of Willowbrook.