

Oakdale in the Newspapers

Date Unknown 1951 or later

The Smallpox Rebellion 19

By MIL THOM
of the County Press Staff

Can you recall when armed soldiers stood guard at the Lapeer State Home's gates and along its fences?

A smallpox epidemic hit the Home in 1910 and 1911 and the soldiers were posted with orders to shoot anyone trying to leave the grounds. It has ever since been called the Smallpox Rebellion.

Those trying days still stand out strongly in the memories of old-timer employees at the Home.

Everyone at the Home was put on quarantine, in the fear that they might communicate the disease to outsiders, recalls Arthur Clarke, who went to work at the Home in 1905.

For many years a general supervisor of patient attendants, Clarke retired Oct. 1, 1951.

A FEW HOME employees were inclined to "go over the fence" and make off down the railway tracks on dark nights during those days of strife, he remembers with a smile.

During the small pox siege, Clarke relates, a few patients and some of the employees died of the disease.

The soldiers camped across the road. Several employees were forced for leaving the grounds.

Storekeeper Ray Spears, who came to the Home in 1910, relates that food supplies were hauled to the Home and left on a dock at the edge of the grounds.

"The Pontiac 'Blues' and the Flint Regiment stood guard. The drays from town would leave the food and go away. Then we would go and bring the food into the buildings."

ANOTHER employee to come in that hectic year of 1910 was Lorenzo "Bud" Bradshaw, now in charge of the power plant.

"I arrived in the middle of the smallpox months. But I didn't care; I'd had smallpox," he comments.

"The powerhouse was hand-operated then. Boiler capacity was 900 horsepower. Now it's 2,000."

Ruddy, white-haired Clarke remembers when the business office docked him a day's pay for serving as pall-bearer at a funeral on the request of the superintendent.

When he came to the Home, the Home's only doctor was Superintendent William A. Potlatch. Now there are 11 doctors on the staff.

"Public attitude in the early years was that if you worked at the Home, you didn't belong in town. Patients never went to town."

"I FIRST CAME to the Home in 1905 to work as an attendant for \$18 a month and my keep. I had my choice of working here or on a farm, so I came here."

"We worked 24 hours a day for that \$18, on 365 days in the year except for half a day off every two weeks."

"If we wanted to go to town, we walked."

"There were about 900 patients at the Home then."

"TWO MEN handled the entire care of a building contain-



The portrait of Dr. H. A. Haynes, former superintendent of Lapeer State Home, recalls old times to these three veteran employees.

Left to right are Lorenzo Bradshaw and Ray Spears, both of whom started work at the Home in 1910; and Arthur Clarke, who came in 1905 and retired this past winter.

ing 100 patients. (Now there is one employee to about every four and one-half patients.)

Only entertainment the boys and girls had came from the victrola owned by a private patient, Albert Root, and from ball games. The patients would get together once a week to hear a concert on Root's victrola.

"Up to 1920 the main job here was to feed and clothe the patients."

He recalls one feeble-minded baby that was found on the lawn. The mother simply left the child and went away.

"ONE INCIDENT I'll never forget," says Clarke, "happened when Dr. G. L. Chamberlain arrived as Superintendent in 1906. There was a hulking German boy named Otto who always was asking people for a penny."

"Otto approached Dr. Chamberlain on the playground and asked 'Penny? Penny?'. The doctor was wearing a high silk hat. When he didn't answer Otto right away, Otto smashed the silk hat down over his eyes."

"It was very comical and there was considerable discussion around the Home over the incident."

"THE FIRST escapee I remember was Bill Fletcher. He was carrying a tray to a work crew when he got the idea of leaving and simply ran off through the woods."

"Later he joined the Army and was killed in World War I."

"A recently discharged patient, Dave Truman, won the Purple Heart in Korea and has a star for his second wound."

LAPEER INSURANCE man Red Rasmussen has another story to tell about a Home boy who made good in the Army. Red set up the Home's physical education and recreation program in 1932 before he went into business.

During World War II he reported in Detroit for preliminary

examinations to enter the Army. Red found that the buck sergeant in charge of keeping the line of inductees in order was one of his former Home athletes.

RAY SPEARS calls to mind one patient who is married now and in the Air Corps.

"I came here in 1910 to work on the paint gang. I came back in 1913 to care for patients as an attendant."

Now Ray directs the State Store at the Home that carries 4,000 items in inventory, absolutely everything used at the Home. A state central purchasing department in Lansing stocks the store with groceries, clothing, food, hardware, fuel, farm supplies, medical supplies and a multitude of miscellaneous items.

"In 1910 all purchasing was done by the Home's steward; there was no central state buying."

CLARKE, who worked under eight superintendents, took the first patients from Lapeer to Coldwater when Michigan's second institution for the mentally deficient was built there.

Despite the many thousands of boys and girls that he knew, Clarke's memory of faces seldom failed.

Clarke recognized one runaway patient, Harrison Simpson, in a northern Michigan railway depot 10 years after he had run away.

"HE PULLED his hat down over his eyes when I came in but

I knew who he was. 'Don't you speak to your old friends?' I asked him. We got to talking and I found out he was working on a farm."

Clarke spotted another ex-patient working in a road construction crew up-state.

Still another, Bert Wright, ran away and went to work on a farm at Durand.

"When he died," Clarke says, "he owned a farm and a big dairy."

MR CLARKE and his late wife supervised Cottage 2 for a number of years. In those days supervisors who wanted to decorate their cottages or fix up something special for the patients or holidays, had to do so out of their own pockets.

Now the Lapeer Parents Association has taken over a large share of this burden.

As years passed, the public gradually became more enlightened about the nature of mental deficiency. Parents of boys and girls at the Home banded together to try to make the lives of patients more happy through small personal gifts, pictures to hang in the dormitories, radio and now television sets.

"The biggest thing that happened here for the happiness of the patients, was the introduction of radio," Clarke summarizes.

"And now the patients play baseball every night in summer. They're even trying to get lights so they can play after dark."

Oakdale in the Newspapers

Dec. 27, 1951

1951 SUCCUMBS



DR. ROBERT L. DIXON

Death came Sunday to one of the Nation's most eminent doctors, **Robert L. Dixon of Caro**. The 74-year-old physician suffered a heart attack in May, and had been in hospitals most of the time since he became ill. He had been in the University of Michigan hospitals the last six weeks.

Dr. Dixon was medical superintendent of the Lapeer State Home from 1930 to 1949, and was known and admired by countless residents of this area.

A high school graduate at 14, Dr. Dixon received degrees from Tri-State College, Angola, Ind., and the University of Michigan Medical School.

He was the first head of what was then called the **Michigan Farm Colony for Epileptics, at Wahjamega**, beginning his duties in 1914. Except for his seven-year superintendency at Lapeer, he was at Wahjamega (now Caro State Hospital), until he retired in 1949.

UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, the institution at Wahjamega was expanded, until in 1949 when he retired there were 1,500 patients, and 480 employees.

Dr. Dixon was recognized as a national authority on epilepsy. He served as president of the National Association for the Study of Epilepsy, and had also been on the council of the American Psychiatric Association. He was a charter member of the American Epileptic League, a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, a Diplomate of the American Board of Neurology and Psychiatry, and also had served as acting state mental health director.

HE WAS A charter member of the Caro Rotary club, and served two years as its first president. He was president of the State Savings Bank of Caro.

Last August 11 Dr. and Mrs. Dixon celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Besides his widow, the doctor is survived by a sister, Olive, of Angola, Ind., a son, Robert, Jr., a professor at the University of Michigan, and a daughter, Mrs. Richard Stamberger of Grosse Pointe.

Funeral services are this afternoon at 2 o'clock from Murray Hall at Caro State Hospital. The Rev. Albert C. Kuntz, pastor of the Presbyterian church in Caro, will officiate, and burial will be in the Caro cemetery.

Services Are Held For Mrs William Kay

Funeral services for Mrs William J. Kay, 88, 307 Washington St., were held Wednesday at 2 p. m. at the Presbyterian Church. The Rev Stephen Crowell officiated and burial was made in Mt Hope cemetery.

Members of the County Medical Society were pallbearers.

Mrs Kay died suddenly Sunday night from a heart attack. She had visited with friends only two hours before and seemed in fairly good health. The end came quickly and was unexpected. Although Mrs Kay was quite feeble the last few years her general condition this winter had been somewhat improved.

She was the widow of that eminent country doctor and leading citizen of Lapeer, the late Dr W. J. Kay.

She was born September 25, 1866 at Clinton, Ontario, Canada, the daughter of Mr and Mrs John Gibbings. She married Dr William J. Kay November 6, 1890 and they lived at Clinton until his graduation from Detroit College of Medicine in 1897. They moved to Attica, Lapeer County, later moving to Lapeer in 1903. Dr Kay died April 16, 1930, while serving as superintendent of the Lapeer State Home and Training School.

Mrs Kay was a member of First Presbyterian Church, Lapeer; Friendship Chapter Order of Eastern Star, Attica, and of the Lapeer Tuesday Club.

Surviving are her daughter, Mrs G. W. DesJardins; two grandsons, Major William Kay White, USMC, and Dr B. K. White of Ann Arbor, and seven grandchildren; also a brother, B. J. Gibbings, and two sisters, Mrs J. W. Treleven and Miss Elizabeth Gibbings, all of Clinton, Ontario.

July 23, 1953

DR. LEON BORTON of the State Home staff has been assigned I-A in the staff. One by one the staff doctors have gone on short-term. An appeal has gone to Governor Williams for help in meeting the emergency.

Laundry Major Project at Home

With its new \$400,000 laundry in the completion stage, Lapeer State Home and Training School has lots of possible building in the offing for 1952.

To handle 40 tons of laundry a week, the new 200 by 70 foot brick laundry is being outfitted with modern labor-saving equipment.

Legislators in Lansing have appropriated money for planning a 300-bed tuberculosis hospital at the Home during 1952.

This unit would require 125 extra employees and would care for TB cases from other state hospitals.

Now underway is a new powerhouse. In the unofficial discussion stages are another general hospital building, an employees' residence, and a superintendent's residence.

Art Clarke Honored for 43 Years of Service at Home

Arthur G. Clarke, head supervisor at the State Home, was honored at a dinner given by the Home Employees Club last Thursday night. Mr Clarke is retiring after 43 years of service at the Home.

Tribute was paid Mr Clarke by Dr. Rehn, Home Superintendent, and Lee Waterbury, Personnel Officer. The guest speaker was Ernest Huff, Personnel Director of the Department of Mental Health.

A poem, written in honor of Mr Clarke by Charlotte Holcomb, was read by Fred Wilder.

A set of power tools, a gift from the Employees Club, was presented to Mr Clarke by Creighton Broecker, club president. Carlos Hancock gave Mr Clarke an easy chair on behalf of the general supervisors.



ART CLARKE

664/51

Do You Know Your State Home?

Parole System Brought Hope to Home Boys and Girls

By MILNER THOM

Establishment of a new plan at Lapeer State Home in 1923 brought hope to the hearts of hundreds of patients that they might live relatively free and useful lives.

It was the parole system, now accepted as a valuable training ground for mental deficient.

Before the 1920's patients remained at the Home until they ran away or died.

NOW THE more capable can support themselves by outside jobs and live in private homes.

Those who can overcome their tragic handicap and learn to get along with all kinds of people can hope for discharge.

For a few years before 1923 a handful of patients had been paroled informally by Superintendent H. A. Haynes. But parole was established officially in 1923 with the coming of Mrs. T. G. Caley as the institution's first psychiatric social worker.

MRS. CALEY describes those early days:

"When I arrived at the Home most of the patients then on parole were here in Lapeer. Dr. Haynes was much beloved. His wife's friends would telephone him, find me a girl to work in the house for me."

"Farmers would stop him on the street downtown and ask the doctor for farm boys. He'd come back to the Home and look over his lists and send a boy or girl out."

"There was no discharge at that time. The patients who went to work were told that if they made good they could remain out indefinitely. But on the books they would remain Home patients forever."

"MORE AND MORE folks asked the doctor for help until by 1923 there was need for some kind of a system. Up to that time investigations of families and checks on patients working for them was most informal."

"Inquiries were made about the families from any source, official or unofficial, that seemed handy. There were about 2,100 patients at the Home at that time."

"Still if the employer didn't pay up the wages he owed or didn't properly supervise the patient, Dr. Haynes brought the 'child' back to the Home, friends or no friends."

"There also were patients who went out as day workers like today."

The increase in the number

working is demonstrated by the bus that the Home uses today to transport them back and forth from town. Then a Model 'T' served this purpose.

"THE SOCIAL worker's job involved various tasks. I investigated patients' homes before they returned to their families for vacations."

"Investigations had to be made before paroles to their own families or to jobs, too, and I stopped with all the patients in Lapeer."

"By the time I left in 1927, 125 patients were working out."

Mrs. Caley's job in 1923 made her the sole psychiatric social worker in Michigan's lower peninsula. She traveled over all lower Michigan by train, staying several days in each place checking up on jobs, patients and their families.

Mrs. Caley also made trips about the state to bring back boys or girls who had run away from their jobs or families.

SHE REMEMBERS once going after and getting a possibly dangerous male patient who had retreated into an attic.

"The police were close behind me," she remembers. "How I happened to get in front of them I've never been able to understand. I went after girls alone, but usually Arthur Clarke accompanied me when a boy had to be brought back."

"Dr. Haynes' idea," she continues, "was to train patients if possible so that they could lead productive lives."

"LAPEER was considered a proving ground for the boys and girls. They worked here first so that we could be sure they would not abuse children, steal or behave in an anti-social way."

"A girl was practically never sent far away until she had worked at least a year downtown."

"As a reward for their help in training the girl, an attempt was made to leave the girl in this first job as long as she was satisfied."

"It seems to me that wages then were \$1.25 a week, but later became \$3 a week and \$5 in the larger cities."

"AMONG THE first families to employ boys and girls, I recall Judge W. B. Williams, the Ronald Rhoads, the Tom Whites and the Harry Myers."

"Many amusing things happened. Mrs. Williams held a grand party one night. Just as



The establishment of the parole system was a turning point in the lives of both State Home patients and employees, these three women recall.

Miss Lottie Holcomb (center) reminisces with Mrs. Julia Yaeger (right) and Mrs. Edith Burke (left). Between them, they have served the State Home more than 100 years.

dinner ended and the guests were seating themselves for cards, the girl working for her conscientiously reported rather loudly.

"Two of the teaspoons are missing."

"Mrs. Williams rose to the crisis by saying, 'Lock the doors, Jess and we'll search everybody.' And all the guests laughed."

BY 1927 TWO assistants, the present Mrs. Lee Waterbury and Mrs. Elizabeth Kearney, were helping Mrs. Caley. When the latter left, Mrs. Waterbury became social worker.

The parole system was not an absolutely new idea, Mrs. Waterbury says. A few institutions in the east including one at Rome, N. Y., had experimented with the idea.

Its inauguration here, however, was sensational enough to bring considerable publicity.

INTELLIGENCE testing and psychology began to be used along with social work during the 1920's, Mrs. Waterbury explains.

"There is more of an effort made now to follow the patient's progress and to get him outside work if he is qualified. When I started there was great demand for patient workers, more

than the supply. Approximately 100 jobs grew to 300 and wages for parolees rose to \$10 a week plus board and room in the cities."

A large number of discharged patients married successfully, some with no little embarrassment about having been at the Home that they'd bring their husbands to the Home to introduce them to us. The men usually knew about their backgrounds and seldom objected.

"ONE IMPORTANT thing to keep in mind about the mentally deficient is their inability to plan and organize. They must be treated like children in this respect as in many others."

"One girl got in trouble in Detroit and ended up in the police station. The police were having great trouble handling her because they expected her to respond like an adult."

"I went to Detroit for her, walked into the police station and said 'Come along, Mable.' She came, the police were dumbfounded."

"Year by year there has been increasing liberalization in the program of parole and training for parole."

"DON'T FORGET that there are 20 times as many morons outside of mental institutions as

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there are inside."

State law now gives the Home's superintendent power to discharge patients competent to care for themselves.

Mrs. Julia Yaeger, Miss Charlotte Holcomb and Mrs. Edith Burke are three employees still at the Home who remember when parole got under way.

MRS. YAEGER, secretary to present superintendent Dr. A. T. Rehn, went to work at the Home some 30 years ago as Dr. Haynes' secretary.

Miss Holcomb of the book-keeping department started working at the Home in 1914. She was the only girl in the late Steward Harry S. Evans department. Her father was farm manager at the Home.

Bookkeeper Clara Pacey was the department's only other employee. Now Miss Holcomb's fellow-workers number 15.

Mrs. Burke, now employed at the Home laundry, first came to the Home in 1913. In 1918 she became secretary to Supt. Haynes.

There is no frustration like the sneeze that fails to come off.

Do You Know Your State Home?

Insanity and Mental Deficiency

Are Opposites

The Lapeer County Press

ESTABLISHED 1839 — 114TH YEAR LAPEER, MICHIGAN — Thurs., June 5, 1932 — Sec. B 1

By MILNER THOM
of The County Press

What is mental deficiency?

Is it insanity? Is it neurotic behavior? Is it an anti-social point of view? Is it inability to get along in school or a job?

No.

But it can cause all these things. This is why the 2% of the nation's population that is mentally defective creates a problem of almost importance.

Nine-tenths of these 3 million mental deficients are not in institutions like Lapeer State Home. Thus understanding their plight is doubly important to each of us.

We rub shoulders every day with individuals who seem dull, child-like or odd. Actually many of them are handicapped by abnormally low intelligence.

A mentally deficient individual thinks less efficiently than a normal person of the same age. He lacks normal thinking speed and ability to solve complex problems. He cannot plan or organize ideas like a normal person.

His or her mentality is a child's rather than an adult's.

THE RESULT is that a mental defective will tend to behave as a child.

Despite his physical age and appearance, he is being treated unfairly unless he is treated with the same patience and tolerance we give our children.

Mental deficiency exists from birth or a very early age. It results from incomplete brain development or central nervous system damage.

Mental growth is retarded; the boy or girl may "grow up" but actually keeps the mind of a child.

THEREFORE mental deficiency is opposite to insanity or mental disease. They differ in the same way that a midget differs from a tuberculosis victim.

In mental deficiency the mind does not achieve full growth. In insanity a usually intelligent mind deteriorates because of disease.

THE ONLY LINK is that insanity results from overpowering emotional stresses, frustration and insecurity. Mental deficiency can contribute to these stresses.

The mentally deficient person is burdened with extraordinary problems in making a living and in getting along with people.



As with individuals of normal intelligence, these problems can produce nervous disorders, maladjustment, anti-social acts and difficulty at school and work.

INSTITUTIONS like the State Home try to help mentally deficient people overcome these handicaps so they can lead useful lives to the best of their abilities.

If a patient is not mentally up to this, they provide as happy an environment as possible for him.

The essential thing to remember, Lapeer State Home attendants say, is that dull "boys" and "girls" think like children. The only successful method is to treat them as such.

THE STATE HOME staff determines each patient's handicap by considering:

1. His physical condition and defects.
2. His intelligence level, and
3. His emotional reactions and general adjustment.

Psychologists have established three general ranges of mental age. We use the names attached to these mental ages with little

understanding of what they mean.

The classifications are:

Mental Age	Grade
0 to 3 years	Idiot
3 to 7½ years	Imbecile
7½ to 10½ years	Moron

THE IDIOT can scarcely speak. He understands little that is said to him and cannot find his way about. He can do no work and requires infant care.

The imbecile can be taught to understand and carry out simple tasks. But he requires supervision in washing and dressing.

The moron may reach the fifth or sixth grade in school. He can learn skills which will make him useful in or outside the Home. Some can be paroled and eventually discharged.

NOT ALL PATIENTS at the Home have mental levels in the defective range. Still they are so harassed with physical and emotional disorders that they

cannot use their minds in a normal way.

These boys and girls are classified as borderline, dull normal and normal. They stand excellent chances of learning to lead useful lives.

WHAT RETARDS the mental development of a deficient person?

56% of the Home's patients appear to have inherited defects. Their family histories reveal relatives with low intelligence or anti-social and criminal records.

The other 44% of the boys and girls suffer from brain or nervous system damage. Injuries, disease or infection can cause this damage even before birth.

Many come from the finest homes where everything possible has been done for their care and training.

Ordinarily the "inheritance" patient has good chances of earning to fend for himself. Chances are poor for the average patient with a "damaged" mind.

PHYSICAL characteristics of the deficient vary widely.

Some appear normal. Others have distorted faces, skulls and noses, strange skin color and lank tone, short stature, or lack of muscular coordination.

However, not all persons with these traits are mentally deficient.

There are numerous kinds of behavior that bring mentally deficient children or adults to the attention of doctors and social workers. These simply may accompany or may result from mental defects.

Habits like nail biting, thumb sucking, enuresis, masturbation and tantrums are frequent.

Trajectory, quarreling, disobedience, untruthfulness, stealing, property destruction of property, alcoholism, drug addiction, cruelty, sex offenses, vagrancy and fire setting are common.

tics and habit spasms, sleep walking, stammering, over-activity and irrational fears may be other signs.

BUT THESE acts mean nothing by themselves, doctors stress. They must be considered together with mental age, personal history and physical condition before a verdict of mental deficiency can be reached.

Many persons of normal intelligence have these traits.

"How many can you cure?" is a question visitors often ask attendants.

There is no such thing as a cure for mental deficiency. There is only training and adjustment towards the outside world.

Do You Know Your State Home?

Happy Babies Play in Lapeer State Home Nursery

It is the babies at Lapeer State Home and Training School that first win over a visitor.

They have all the charm of normal children. The fact that they are mentally retarded does not seem important.

As you enter the Home's spacious nursery building you hear the familiar wails and gurgles that you hear in any nursery.

You see the children, many pretty and openly affectionate, each in his crib involved in his own infant world.

YOUR INSTANT reaction is: "There is nothing the matter with these children, why are they here?"

You imagine the feelings of parents who must leave their babies here.

But the sad fact is that these children, despite appearances, are not normal.

"The minds of most of my children won't ever develop any more," Mrs Cleo Dennis, nursery supervisor, explains. "The only way in which most will grow is physically."

THE BUILDING'S 190 little boys and girls all require infant care. Their ages normally vary from 1 to 12 years. Most are committed to the Home by parents who realize that institutional care is the best solution to a family tragedy.

Mrs Dennis, a registered nurse who formerly took private patients of Lapeer doctors, has directed their care for four years.

Helping her is a staff of 72 employees. Because care is on a 24 hour basis, each attendant may care for as many as 15 babies while on duty.

Thus there is more than one employee for every three patients. In addition some 50 older working girl patients help out.

THOUGH SOME patients are actually 12 years old, all are crib cases because of their low intelligence and performance ability. A toddlers group of about 20 youngsters are toilet trained and can feed themselves.

All follow a regular infant schedule with 3 major meals a day, though the smaller still are bottle fed. The nursery has its own kitchen and does some of its own laundry. Dieticians plan the meals. A separate unit of the Home's hospital cares for the children medically.

THE STAFF doctor assigned exclusively to the nursery is Dr.



Priscilla, 2, (left), Mary and Janie, both 1½, are typical of the 190 youngsters in Lapeer State Home's nursery.

Lively and affectionate they watch a nurse as their picture is taken. Though pretty the tots probably have reached their maximum mental growth.

Laworaki, a European displaced person. He makes regular morning visits to the nursery and special visits when called.

Most wards on the building's three floors contain 20 to 25 children apiece.

LITTLE KATHLEEN, a favorite with the nurses, is exceptional. She has surprised the doctors by her progress. They had expected that she would not learn to talk. Yet she is now putting words together to express thoughts.

A calcium deficiency that cannot be corrected keeps her in constant danger of fractured bones just turning in her crib. The breaks heal quickly but snap again under slight pressure.

Beneath her curly blond hair her skull is elongated from months and months of lying on her back. For a long time when they picked her up, nurses picked up the pillow beneath her.

Her vivid blue eyes are always open. Her skull has stretched her fragile skin so that her eyelids cannot close.

NOT ALL the nursery's charges are in Kathleen's precarious condition however.

About 50 robust youngsters play in the nursery's outdoor playground, riding the hobby-horses and digging in the sand.

Two new television sets break the monotony of routine for the boys and girls. Though they may not understand what the picture means it holds their interest, Mrs Dennis says. Music is especially helpful in quieting the children. Nearly all wards have a radio or record player.

The nice dresses and suits which the children wear come from outside sources, some from parents, some from anonymous donors.

BECAUSE the nursery children are so young, their parents "cling to them closely," Mrs Dennis relates. Some come and hold birthday parties in the nursery for their own boy or girl and his or her wardmates.

If they progress enough so as not to need nursery care as they grow older, the children are transferred to other buildings where they will fit in.

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Work Training is Patient's Passport to Society

At Lapeer State Home as elsewhere, success is a passport to better things.

For the 1,700 boys and girls in the Home's work training program success means the chance to work for a private employer and prove they are ready for discharge.

But at the Home there's a difference in the struggle for success. In addition to all the difficulties of the working world, patients have the handicap of limited intelligence. Only the most intelligent are able to enter the training program.

Their training is the final step before parole. More important, it is the patient's personal adjustment to work and his ability to get on with others.

SOME COME to the Home from outside jobs where they've already learned semi-skilled jobs, or those the problem is almost entirely one of emotional attitudes.

There are nearly 800 girls and 900 boys in the training program. It makes a total of about four times out of every 10 patients.

This figure includes a large number who work on the Home grounds at more simple maintenance and housekeeping tasks. Only one out of every 10 patients at the Home succeeds in qualifying for outside work.

Thus of the 1,700 trainees only about 400 will eventually go on work-parole. This requires a division of training into two types: that aiming at rehabilitation of the patient to society and that which acts as therapy for those who will stay.

THE ACTUAL JOBS to which patients are suited are many: farming, house-work, baking, carpentry, janitor work, gas station tending, gardening, kitchen work, the simpler printing operations, painting, transmuting, etc. Their mental defect limits them mostly as helpers and apprentice jobs.

Frequently they prove successful in factory jobs, sweeping or performing simple duties that might be monotonous to others. However one boy got a tinsmith job in a factory paying \$100 a week.

Most come to the training program from the Home's school where in addition to reading and writing they get basic training in some occupations. For example the Home's print shop is a joint project, conducted by the training department and the school.

AS IN ALL training activities at the Home, the student printers learn as they work. There is no set rule as to the length of time a patient will train or stay on parole before discharge. The entire process may take only six months, or it may take 20 years, according to Louis L. Secson, patient training supervisor. It is Secson who decides what work will best suit a patient.

Though each case is individual, on the average a trainee may work on the grounds and on day work about a year. Day work is the plan that allows patients to work in Lapeer or nearby while still living at the Home.

Then a boy or girl who shows good ability to get along may work from one to three years or more on parole to an employer or relative.

SECSON AND the patient's social worker try to judge when a patient is ready for parole. The final decision is made by the Home's general staff.

"The outstanding successes are not so important," Secson feels. "I like to see kids get out of here and make good. At what level? That doesn't matter much as long as they're happy."

Independence and self-reliance are the big things these boys and girls must learn as they get ready for parole. To avoid too close an attachment, the people who teach and advise them find it better to remain a little remote.

THE PATIENT trainees have proved to the community that they can be good workers in the proper jobs and with understanding direction.

Secson's office gets more requests for day work help than it can fill. It tries to keep the demand high so that every patient who is qualified for day work will have an opportunity.

To do this the Home asks low pay for them: \$1.25 per half-day, \$2 per full day, or 40 cents per hour.

All day workers get the same pay although their abilities vary. It is undesirable and difficult to rate them differently.

The important thing is that they get work experience, be able to earn money for small personal luxuries that the Home can't supply and save money to help them get started in the outside world if they are discharged.

SECSON INVESTIGATES every employer before he lets a patient go to work for him. He makes sure the patient workers will be treated fairly and kindly and have satisfactory supervision on the job.

When patients finally go on parole, they may fail. They come back to the Home. When they appear ready they get another chance.

A special danger with the mentally defective is sex. Many of the boys and girls appear normal and are physically attractive. They may be taken advantage of. When a harmful situation arises the paroled patient is brought back to the Home and the offender is prosecuted in court.

IN THE HOME'S early years no one realized that patients could help in work about the institution. They were considered helpless, people who had to be cared for. Employees did all the work on the grounds and cared for the patients.

Now patients help on the grounds and in the buildings, the less-helpless assisting the helpless. In cottage 20 a blind boy pushes a crippled boy's wheel chair, one the legs, the other the eyes.

It was discovered that brighter patients could do semi-skilled work and even imbeciles, with help, could learn simpler tasks. Soon patients were helping in all but highly skilled jobs about the institution.

In 1906 two employees were chosen to help in placing patients with work units requesting help.

THE PLAN at first was a selfish one, but in time Home officials came to realize that work was beneficial to the patients. When they worked they were happy. When they were idle they were restless and discontented.

Patient work became a training medium. Though the Home had been called a training school, "training" before had always meant reading and writing and arithmetic. Patients worked at the Home, but those who were the best workers had the least chance of discharge because they were not easily replaced.

The attitude towards patients changed. It was realized that work can rehabilitate the patient for a self-supporting life outside.



THE WORK Training Department was set up. Its director is responsible for seeing that patients get a chance to work outside the Home as soon as they qualify.

To rehabilitate patients, speeds up the rate at which room for new patients becomes available.

The Home has a long waiting list for new admissions due to its crowded conditions. Thus work training program has become important to many patients and future patients who may never themselves earn discharge through its aid.

Do You Know Your State Home?

Crippled Girls

Care for Themselves at

Cripples at Lapeer State Home aren't helpless if they can avoid it.

Despite their mental deficiency 11 spastic school girls of the Home's building 30 are fighting to learn the three R's and to take care of themselves.

They are confined to wheelchairs or walkers, wheeled frames that support them as they walk. Their nerve condition makes them unable to coordinate and control their muscular movements, even their speech, as you and I can.

YET THEY ATTEND school classes in their dayroom. All feed themselves and move about under their own power. All but two dress themselves without help, make their beds and dust their rooms.

These girls and the 108 others in the building are school girls, learning reading, writing and arithmetic. But while the others go to the Home's White School, school comes to these 11 in the person of teacher, Mrs. John Roberts.

The school program for crippled patients is only a few years old. Previously, though a crippled girl may have had high enough intelligence, there was no school for her because of her specific handicap.

SCHOOL PATIENTS differ greatly from custodial who make up a large part of the Home's population. They are the patients of higher intelligence. They can care for themselves better and do not need to be watched to prevent their harming themselves or others.

The girls in building 30 range in age from 6 to 17. Most live in dormitories. However, there are some rooms for four girls. Being placed in one of these rooms is a reward for progress and good behavior.

THE PROBLEMS with which these girls struggle seem simple, unless one remembers that their mental ages are below normal. One of the crippled girls barely was able to print when she started going to the dayroom classes. She worked hard and now is writing her own letters, despite her physical handicap. Another crippled girl has learned to do beautiful needlework, using only her feet.

Mrs. Roberts arranges dayroom



Attendant Mrs. Alee Kalar helps spastic girls of Lapeer State Home's building 30 get arranged to watch a television program in their dayroom.

The television set is one of many donated by Lapeer Parents Association. This group of parents and volunteer "friends" of patients has become the model for similar groups all over Michigan.

parties for them with crippled boys and girls together. Some of the girls have "boy friends" whom they look forward to seeing. Like the other school children they go to school entertainments.

Mrs. Hazel Bratz, a Home employee since 1933, is supervisor of building 30. Seven regular employees and three relief employees care for the building's 119 girls.

MOST OF THESE patients come to building 30 when they no longer need infant care in the Home nursery.

They play in the building's yard and watch television in its two day rooms. They eat in the building's dining room where food is brought from the institution's kitchen.

When the Home's school let out for the summer, June 13, about 30 girls in the building went home to their families for vacations. Some are staying only a few weeks, others for the entire summer.

AFTER SCHOOL GIRLS and boys have learned as much in their academic courses as they're able, they move to adult buildings. There they adjust better to getting along with older people.

Work training is the next step for them. In work training they get experience and working skills that may lead to work outside the institution.

County Press, May 28, 1953

Releases of Patients Stir Home Medics

Two Were Insane,
Now at Large,
Says Doctor

Continued releases of State Home patients through the legal maneuver of habeas corpus writs brought sharp criticism from officials of the Lapeer State Home this week.

Four men were released from the Home last week because their original commitments to the institution had been technically incorrect.

ONE OF THESE MEN found his new freedom short-lived, however. Authorities promptly arranged for him to be returned to the Boys Vocational School at Lansing, where he had been before he was sent to the Lapeer State Home.

Medical records at the Home show that two of the other three men were insane.

"These insane men now at large in the community are dangerous," said a doctor at the Home. "One of these men had only recently been arrested in Detroit for attacking a male policeman."

HOME OFFICIALS admit that the releases are according to law. Many probate judges have been careless in committing patients to institutions and do not comply with the law. Once the commitments are found invalid, then a writ of habeas corpus permits them to be released at once. The judges and other public officials don't bother to re-commit these patients and they remain at large.

It was learned unofficially that two cases now pending for releases of Home patients involve one who is a convicted violent and dangerous insane man and another who is a violent and dangerous type.

DOCTORS AT the Home strongly object to a statement of Carl Williams, Lapeer attorney, that "many of these released patients never should have been in the Home in the first place."

"Does Williams think he knows more about feeble-mindedness than we do as doctors?" asked one of the medics at the institution. "There are no children at the Home who are not feeble-minded. We train many of them to levels where they can earn their living and be self-supporting. And we release them when we feel they are ready to go."

"Nine out of ten of the patients released by lawyers through habeas corpus writs would soon get their freedom anyhow in the normal program at the institution. But there is one out of ten who should never be released. One of ten is either insane or has had a criminal record or is so feeble-minded that he will be a problem to society."

State Home To Get Road--Where They Don't Need It

8-20-53

The Lapeer State Home has long needed a new pavement into the institution. Finally they're going to get it.

It will be in the wrong place. But state "rules" say that's where it has to go.

The road at the west entrance of the Home is of course where the new road is needed. That's where all deliveries are made. That's where most employees drive in, so they can reach parking space in the west part of the grounds. That's the only direct route to the colonies south of the tracks, and to the institution farm.

The old road here has been so narrow that two trucks can't pass on it. Two passenger cars have to have steady drivers or they'll scrape fenders.

Everyone thought that a new road would go down this route. It won't.

State "rules" say improvements of roads from highways to institution grounds shall take the shortest route from the highway to the entrance of the administration building. This means at the Home a new road must enter at the east entrance, past the supt's new home, and skirt the edge of the pond to the Ad. building.

There is now a pretty, winding road on this route. Trees line the sides of it. Traffic is no problem on it. Trucks never use it. There is ample room for passenger cars to pass. It's rough, but a little grading and blacktop would fix it.

Down this attractive road the Highway Department will send its road crew. They'll rip out half the trees. They'll straighten the nice curves, and ram the new road straight to the Ad. building. All according to rules.

The other clogged up road at the west entrance will stay as is. The "rules" won't permit that to be fixed.

1954

Crowd of 700 Enjoys Annual Dinner Party of Home Staff

It was the biggest party the State Home employees ever had. And it was the biggest dinner ever served in the Legion Building.

Nearly 700 people of the State Home staff and their spouses had their annual dinner Friday night. In the past years it had always been at the institution. A crowd of 300 had been tops. The downtown affair more than doubled the attendance. A dance afterward was another attraction.

Mark Freeman, president of the Employees Club, was master of ceremonies.

The Rev. Horace White asked the invocation.

OFFICERS for next year were introduced.

President, Jay Carpenter.

Vice-President, Mrs Dorothy Strong.

Sec.-Treas., Larry Knutson.

Directors are: Dr. H. M. Dalehanty, Otto Green, Robert Powell, Mrs Alice Huckle, Mrs Alice Pearson, Mrs Cleo Dennis, and Vincent Parsch.

LARRY KNUTSON, the perennial secretary-treasurer, had his usual penny-accurate report of the club, and the club store. It showed sales of \$51,213.

Principal expenses after cost of goods were salaries, \$6147, Taxes, \$1661, Flowers for the sick, \$285, parties \$832. Net profit was \$340.

The club store is on sound financial footing with over \$7000 on hand, an inventory of \$5400, and equipment worth \$2500.

Mr. T. REHN, medical supt., presented the employees for the interest they've shown in the caring for the less fortunate. He credited this to the recognition that has given the task for helping mentally patients.

It resulted in keen competition among the cottages to see which can do the best job. "Your work has been appreciated, and I know it must be real satisfaction."

For retiring employees, he gave advice:

Stay active, stay interested, get out of your rocking

chairs. Look at Fred Culver over there—he retired a couple of years ago, and he's doing as much painting now as he ever did—and making more money than he did working for the Home. And he looks 29 years younger. I think he'll live to be 100."

EMPLOYEES who have retired in the past year are: Mrs Anna Arlosa, Mrs Lula Austin, Mrs John Parker, Mrs Nora Ryan, Miss Ida Aull, Mrs Anna Pearce, Mrs Annabelle Wilson and Mrs Merle Slater.

One, Mrs Mentha Eastman, has died since her retirement.

Mrs Dorothy Strong presented gifts from the employees club to those retiring.

DR LEON BOBACH of the medical staff addressed the graduates of the attendant nurses class, and complimented them for reaching this goal in their careers. In the group were:

GERTRUDE ALDERSON
ERMA ALLSPAUGH
ELVINA ATWOOD
ESTHER AYLING
HERMAN AYLING
DELLA BIBBER
CHARLES CARLOW
EILA CASTLE
ALBERTA COLLIER
LOTTIE DILLON
VIDA PILLEY
FANNIE GATKIE
MYRTLE GAYNOR
ARTHUR HARDIES
JO ANN JOHNSON
ALLIE KALAR
BETTY LAMBERT
VERNA J. LOCKREY
CATHERINE MOLOSKY
VINCENT PARSCH
ARCHIE PATRICK
JACQUELINE PATRICK
MARY ROACH
LELIA SCHIERLINGER
CHARLES SCHMIDT
THELMA SMITH
ZOLA STONE
ALTA SWAYZE
HAROLD SWAYZE
THOMAS TERRY
ELIZABETH WILSON
ANNA ZAHNISER
CHESTER LEE

Miss Thelma Smith, valedictorian for the group, responded.

60 Years Ago, They Laid the Cornerstone at State Home

Sixty years ago this month they laid the cornerstone for the first building at the Lapeer State Home. Then they called the place the Home for the Feeble-Minded and Epileptic. That was before they knew more about the nature of epilepsy and found that their care should be quite different from that of mentally retarded people.

Here are excerpts from the invitational folder. Dr. H. B. Zemmer found a copy and gave it to the Press:

"YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO BE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONIES OF THE LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE OF THE HOME FOR THE FEEBLE MINDED AND EPILEPTIC IN THE CITY OF LAPEER, JUNE 26 A.D. 1894, BY THE GRAND LODGE OF MASONS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, IN THE PRESENCE OF THE GOVERNOR AND STAFF, AND OTHER STATE OFFICERS."

Lansing, June 4, 1894

Executive Office,
Michigan

Hon. Wm. H. Phillips,
Grand Master of Masons,
Menominee, Mich.

Dear Sir: Knowing it to have been a custom from time immemorial for your ancient and honorable fraternity to lay the corner stone of public buildings, on behalf of the State I extend to your fraternity a cordial invitation to lay the corner stone for the Home for the Feeble Minded and Epileptic in the City of Lapeer, on the 26th day of June, 1894, with appropriate ceremonies, in connection with the state officials.

Sincerely Yours,

John T. Rich, Governor

Grand Lodge Free and
Accepted Masons
State of Michigan
Office of Grand Master,

Hon. J. Rich,
Governor of Michigan,
Lansing, Mich.

Dear Sir: I have the honor to

acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed favor of the 4th inst., extending to the Grand Lodge of Michigan a cordial invitation to lay the corner stone for the Home for the Feeble Minded and Epileptic, on the 26th inst., in the City of Lapeer.

It affords me great pleasure, Honorable Sir, to accept this invitation, and I will immediately notify all the grand officers and do all in my power to make the occasion a success. With high regards, I have the honor to subscribe myself.

Respectfully yours,

W. H. Phillips,

Grand Master

Compliments of Committee of
Lapeer Lodge No. 54, F. & A.M.
W. E. Brown J. Armstrong
F. Lincoln R. A. Hungerford
J. H. Eoff

1954

Patient Admits Murder; Mt Clemens Police Blush

A paroled State Home patient has confessed the rape and brutal assault of one Mt Clemens woman and the murder of another.

He is being questioned about the JoAnn Gillespie murder in Detroit two years ago. At the time he lived a few blocks from the Gillespie home.

Richard Dutton, 24, is in jail in Mt Clemens. He confessed the murder after questioning in Lapeer by Dr A. T. Rehn, State Home medical superintendent, and State Police detectives.

DUTTON WAS COMMITTED to the State Home from Detroit 12 years ago. In mentality he ranked among the higher patients.

At the Home he never exhibited criminal tendencies. He was meek and obedient but discontented. He ran away several times.

He was paroled to jobs in other cities three times but in each case soon left the job. In May he was placed on a job in Flint. He left two days later and the Home lost track of him.

A WEEK AGO he was arrested for the rape of a 21-year-old Mt Clemens woman. He dragged her off the street and savagely beat her. He admitted this crime when identified by witnesses.

State Police detectives then questioned Dutton about other recent crimes. They were particularly interested in the July 1 death of a Mt Clemens woman. She had been found dead in a hotel bed. The coroner listed the cause of death simply as "accidental suffocation." She had registered as Mrs Richard Dutton. State Police recalled this name when Dutton was arrested on the rape charge six weeks later. Her real name was Hornedis Dunn.

HERE HE ADMITTED that, after being with the woman in her room, he had suffocated her

by holding a pillow over her face until she stopped kicking.

"I got to drinking and then I get mad," he told Dr Rehn.

The psychiatrist said it was apparent that a hostility toward women had developed in Dutton. He would not venture a guess as to the cause. He said the drinking was a symptom, not a cause.

DUTTON DENIED knowing anything about the notorious murder of the Gillespie girl. He said he was never in that section of Detroit. Later he admitted this was a lie. He was living in that section at the time of the crime.

Mt Clemens police officials tried to suppress the whole story. Long-standing jealousy toward State Police cropped up and it was evident that the Mt Clemens police wanted to get confessions of their own from Dutton before they released any news. There is also embarrassment on the part of police officials for their failure to determine murder as the cause of the woman's death.

County Press, July 4, 1957

County Press, March 21, 1957

Home Employees Cleared Of Mistreatment Charge

An investigation last week cleared Lapeer State Home employees of mistreating a patient.

Sheriff Bill Porter, Prosecutor George Lutz and State Police Detective Ralph Baney concluded their investigation with the statement, "We could find no substantiation for the charges."

Porter said the patient had apparently hurt himself in order to get into the new hospital — viewed as a Shangri-La among many of the patients.

The patient, Billie Porter, 26, (no relation to the sheriff) had been in State institutions for the past 11 years. Records showed a history of self-inflicted injuries.

His sisters, Mrs George Shaw Flushing, and Mrs Bernard Kelly, Livonia, charged that Billie had told them he was beaten by three employees. Examination showed bruised buttocks and a scratched chest.

Two other patients said the bruises occurred when Billie ran backward against the wall, kicked his feet out, and slammed to the floor on the seat of his pants. One of the patients said he and Billie had plotted to get into the hospital. Billie didn't succeed but the other one did by smashing his fist through a window.

St Andrews Entertain State Home Patients

The second annual party for patients of the Lapeer State Home and Training School was given Tuesday, June 25, at the Grace Episcopal Church Parish House. These events were originated in 1956 by the Rev Canon Charles Braidwood. In the absence of Canon Braidwood, who is in Europe at the present time, the Rev Yung-Hsuan Chou officiated.

Sixty patients enjoyed dancing and entertainment after which lunch was served.

Nine members of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew furnished cars to transport the guests from the home to the Church Parish House and returned them after the party. The Brotherhood prepared and served the refreshments.

County Press July 25, 1957

Payroll at Home \$179,000

The first payroll carrying the new raises was made Thursday at the Lapeer State Home. Total for the two-weeks period was \$179,000.

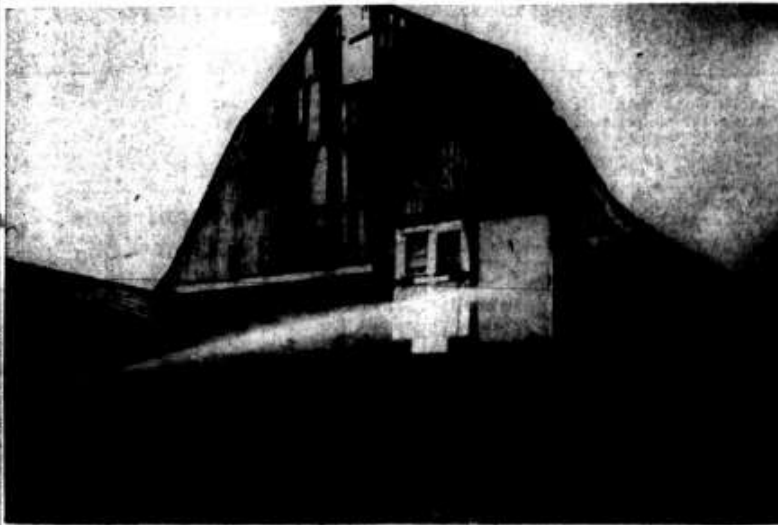
Figuring 26 pays for the year, the total will be \$4.65 million, up from \$4.24 million before the raise.

State Home officials had figured their payroll costs so closely that the \$179,000 pay left the institution in the black by only \$169.

That much balance will allow the Home to expand its payroll by one person, if the present division of personnel in the various pay classes holds.

The Home payroll continues by far the largest in Lapeer county. Only milk checks pour more money into the county from a single source.

LAPEER, MICHIGAN—Thursday, Aug. 29, 1957 1



62 Cattle Saved in \$90,000 Fire

Fire of unknown origin destroyed a \$90,000 dairy barn at the Lapeer State Home Wednesday at 9 a.m.

The flames were discovered in the east end of the loft, which had 75 tons of straw in it. James Sangster, supervisor for that barn, was just finishing milking the 62 Holsteins, and the animals were still in the stanchions. His crew quickly got all the animals out.

FRED BENTLEY, supt of animal husbandry at the institution, was on another part of the grounds and arrived about 10 minutes after the fire started.

"But by the time I got there, Sangster had all the cattle out," Fred said. "He did a fine job."

The barn was a cement block hip-roofed structure, built in 1931. It was about 100 x 40, and adjoined the dairy office.

"Cost the state \$90,000," said Fred. "And today it had 75 tons of straw and 100 tons of hay in it."

The hay and straw at \$16 a ton is worth \$2,800.

LAPEER CITY and State Home trucks kept the blaze from endangering other buildings. A metal shop was threatened briefly to the west.

The state insurance fund covers the loss. The Home is selling 130 head of cattle in October, but until then their remaining facilities will be taxed to care for the herd.



Art Conn Retires; Self-serve Presses At the Home Now

Art Conn, faithful County Press salesman at the Home, has made so much money that he's retiring. Poor health has something to do with it, but mainly Art is giving up the business because he has nearly \$500 in the bank.

Art had worried for years because he thought he'd die broke, and wouldn't have a nice funeral. His opportunities running errands and acting as guide at the institution didn't bring him much cash.

Then the Press gave Art the exclusive field of selling papers at the Home, and he did such a good job of it his burial fund soon reached the goal he had set.

Art has been at the Home for 52 years, coming there as a boy of 10. He has been a favorite of every superintendent, and has had hundreds of friends among the staff and patients.

The County Presses after this week will be left at self-serve newsstands in the Administration Building, the Hospital, the Employees Building and the Nursery, and also at the club store.

Seek Patients In Truck Theft

Two runaway State Home patients are suspected of a break-in and a truck theft Saturday night.

The Cascaddan gas station at Metamora was broken into Saturday night. Nothing was taken but an attempt was made to steal a car there. At the Stephen Knobloch nursery a short distance south, a panel truck was stolen the same night.

CRAMTON PROTESTS

State Refuses To Cut Price Of Home Land

Prospective buyers in Lapeer were dismayed this week when the State Tax Commission made only small changes in the price for 160 acres of State Home land. The land buyers protest that the price is too high.

A year ago, when it was decided to quit farming at the Home, the Legislature put up for sale the property north of M-21, east of Millville Road and south of Oregon Road — an area about one-half mile square.

State land cannot be sold for less than the appraised value so the State Tax Commission was asked for an appraisal. The Legislature agreed to sell various local groups the property they wanted at the appraised price. The balance was to be put up for bids, with the provision that no bid less than the appraised price would be accepted.

The appraised values ran from \$800 to over \$2,000 per acre.

The value set on the 62 acres the school wanted was \$55,000 — about \$880 per acre.

Value of the eight acres wanted by the City of Lapeer was \$17,000. The City had planned to buy this property and give it back to the State as a site for a National Guard armory. The Guard had no funds for a site.

Value of the six acres wanted by the Lutheran Church was set at \$6,000.

THE REMAINING 85 acres was to be sold to the highest bidder in one parcel, the minimum price to be \$85,000. This property was advertised but no bids were received. Nor did any of the Lapeer groups meet the price set on the property they wanted.

State Rep. Louis C. Cramton protested that the prices were far too high. He presented to the State Tax Commission the independent appraisals of four local real estate men. Their estimates of the land's value averaged about half of the State's estimate.

Cramton also submitted the actual sales price of several adjoining pieces of property that had recently been sold. These prices were all below the State asking price.

The State Tax Commission

agreed to make a second appraisal. This has just been completed and the results turned over to Rep. Cramton.

The price of the property the school wants remains the same at \$55,000.

The price of the property wanted for a new Lutheran Church also remains the same at \$6,000.

The National Guard decided it needed only six acres instead of eight, so the City asked for an appraisal on the smaller acreage. The local officials got quite a shock. The State had asked \$17,000 for eight acres. Now they ask \$20,000 for six acres.

In the first appraisal, the county had not asked for any land. Then the jail committee decided it might want 13 acres on M-21 for a new jail. For that, the State now asks \$30,000 — or about \$2,300 an acre.

REMAINING for open bidding is about 72 acres. For this the State now sets the minimum bid at \$82,000 — or about \$880 an acre. This compares to the earlier minimum of \$1,000 an acre for 85 acres. The new and smaller parcel, however, has less frontage on M-21, probably accounting for the lesser price.

This land will probably be advertised soon by the State Administration Dept.

Cramton said he intended to renew his protests of the "ridiculous high prices," and to attempt to get new appraisals.

"This land was advertised and never drew a bid," he said. "That should be good evidence that the price is too high. The Legislature wants this land sold but it won't be until a reasonable price is reached."

Cramton Fights for Land Price

"I'll Go To The Governor," He Threatens

Louis C. Cramton, state representative, will carry his fight to Governor Williams for a fair appraisal of the State Home acreage that has been offered for sale — with no takers.

A year ago the state authorized the sale of these 178 acres, bounded by Oregon, Millville and W. Genesee St. Set aside for possible purchase by public units were 62 acres for a school, 6 acres for a Lutheran church, and 8 acres for the city for a National Guard Armory.

That left about 102 acres for sale to the public. Minimum price on this was set at \$85,200.

Result: Nobody bid on it, and the state still holds the property.

The areas set aside for public use were appraised at that time, and these groups felt the price was too high. Rep. Cramton then arranged for a re-appraisal, which was done by the state tax commission this summer.

Result: The new figures were no lower — and in some cases higher than a year ago. Here are the two appraisals:

	1956	1957
62 a. for school	\$55,135	\$55,135
6 a. for church	6,080	6,080
8 a. for city	17,780	
6 a. for city		20,220
13 a. for county		30,350

Mr Cramton has been especially mad at the increase of the appraisal for an Armory site. For two less acres than requested before, the price has jumped \$2,500.

"The tax commission ignored appraisals made by three local realtors on this property," he said. "They ignored an appraisal made by local bankers. Their appraisals averaged less than half what the state set."

"Yet when their own sale flopped and not a single bid was received, they come back and raise their first figures even higher."

"I'll carry this to the Ways and Means Committee of the House next January, and I'll take it to the Governor himself if I have to," he said.

Tells Of Program At The State Home School

"An awful lot of effort going into the problem of 'programming for the trainable child' is going to waste by lack of direction," said Morvin Wirtz, Ed. D., director, Special Education, Eastern Michigan College of Education, Ypsilanti, in summarizing findings of a meeting of educators and parents recently in Lansing.

A major part of the problem was cited as the parents' need to know what is actually happening to themselves as they cope with the situation of a retarded child in the family. "Any school organized by parents of retarded children without a parental counseling service is missing the boat," commented Dr Wirtz.

DR WIRTZ was the final speaker at a meeting called by the Special Committee on Mental Deficiency sponsored by the Michigan Society for Mental Health, a Michigan United Fund Agency, and attended by parents and educators of Michigan's private, public and special state education programs.

GENEVA MCALLISTER also spoke for the training program at the Lapeer State Home and Training School

which recently opened its new Woodside School. Here, youngsters between six and 16 years of age chronologically, whose mental age range is between three and seven, receive training in several areas with the ultimate goal being good social adjustment.

The Lapeer youngsters now "come to school" like other youngsters. They learn self care for personal habits. After much repetition and patience from their teachers most of them learn to write their own name and to recognize key words for their own protection and safety. They learn domestic usefulness, simple music appreciation, said Miss McAllister, things that can mean a life with meaning and comfort to themselves and their family.

Lapeer County Press
Oct. 24, 1957—Page 7

2½ Million for 1957 New Construction At State Home

**200-bed Hospital Will Start This Year;
Funds also O.K.'d for New Building for
50 Employees; Jobs Ahead for Scores**

Michigan legislators have appropriated \$2,052,000 for construction of a new 200-bed general hospital at Lapeer State Home.

The hospital is biggest of three projects in a total allocation of \$2,643,000 for new construction at the Home.

Appropriations for other buildings are:

Quarters for 50 employees, \$405,000.

School building and vocational shop, \$36,000 for planning and specifications. Estimated total cost \$900,000.

In addition, \$150,000 was allotted for extension of utilities to the new buildings.

THIS PROGRAM plus work on Lapeer County's new general hospital should produce one of the greatest building booms in the county's history. Total amount being spent will exceed \$3 million.

The new sums for Home construction come on top of \$70,000 for planning. In 1951 the legislature set aside \$80,000 for hospital plans and \$10,000 for employees' building plans.

Home hospital plans are in the final drafting stage. After approval by the Home and the State, bids will be received. The hospital should be completed by fall of 1953, Superintendent A. T. Rehn estimates.

The hospital will be located opposite the administration building.

The Home's present general hospital will become a geriatrics unit for elderly patients.

THE EMPLOYEES' building is in the preliminary planning stages. But because of its smaller size it will probably be finished before the hospital. It will be located toward Lapeer near the present farm home on Genesee St.

The employees to occupy it now live in Staff Hall, North and South Halls and colony units.

THE NEW SCHOOL building receives only planning money at this time. It would replace present school space and consolidate it all in one place. Now the Home's school uses much basement space in various buildings.

When the new school is completed, the old White School will be torn down.

The request for a new superintendent's residence on East Drive is still to be approved.

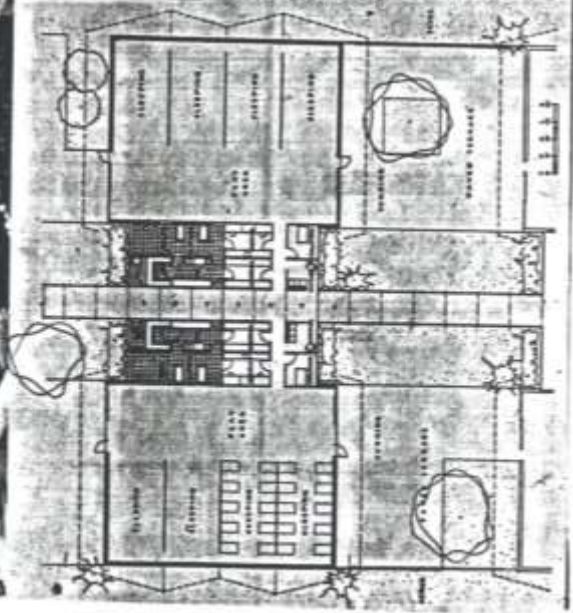
NOVEMBER 1, 1957

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PRESS

Proposed New Nursery At Lapeer



Nursery Building for State of Michigan, Lapeer, Michigan; Smith, Tarapata, MacMahon, Inc., Architects. With this building, to be erected on the grounds of a state mental institution, the architects have attempted to "provide an appropriately cheerful, low-scale, noninstitutional environment for very young children who are patients of the hospital." The 400 young patients will be housed in small cottages, arranged—due to the restricted site—in two rows. A cross corridor will connect with the administration, medical and service unit. "Each cottage," write the architects, "houses 40 patients in cribs, arranged in clusters, separated by low glass partitions. The radiantly heated play space can be easily supervised from the glass-enclosed nurse's station, as can the bathing, toilet, and isolation areas." Construction will be of steel, walls of brick, glass in aluminum frames. Heat is to be supplied to buildings from a central boiler plant.



Executive Board At Lapeer Local 567 Very Busy These Days

NOV-1967



Members of the Lapeer State Home and Training School Local 567 pose in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Thompson during an executive board meeting. From left to right: Carl F. Hagler, executive board; Theodore A. Richards, executive board; Elmer J. Bailey, treasurer; Earl E. Thompson, president; Marilyn Thompson, secretary; Fred Baxter, vice president. The remaining member of the board Winfred Baxter was not present due to flu.

Oakdale in the Newspapers

County Press, November 7, 1957

Home Teachers in Lansing Program

Miss Geneva McAllister, supervisor of the program for trainable children at the Lapeer State Home and Training School, discussed this program and showed slides of typical activities for the Board of Directors of the Michigan Association for Retarded Children at their October 27 meeting in East Lansing. Also participating in the program was Miss Lenora Volkmer who discussed her work in religious education, initiated at the Training School in April, 1957.

MARC's Board of Directors had earlier planned to hold their October meeting at Lapeer in connection with the formal dedication of Lapeer's new Woodside School. Cancellation of the dedication was due to illness among Training School children and staff.

Union Classes At State Home

The first class in a new Union Leadership Development Program, sponsored by Lapeer State Home Employees Local 567 (AFL-CIO), was held Monday night, Oct. 28, at the Employees' Club Room at the Lapeer Home. Instructor for the course, which is expected to last for several months, is Robert C. Grosvenor from the Union's State Council offices in Lansing.

"The course," said Local 567 President Earl Thompson, "is designed to give our local union officers and stewards a better understanding of the history and structure of our union, and a thorough explanation of the civil service rules under which we operate."

At the local union's Executive Board meeting following the training session a program to be presented to Charles Wagg, Director of the Department of Mental Health was developed. The program is to be presented through the Union's State Council Mental Health Policy Committee representing all state mental hospitals which will be meeting with Mr Wagg in November.

County Press, November 21, 1957

School Staff of State Home Hear Dr. E. Doll

A workshop for teachers and parents of severely retarded children was held in Grand Rapids on Friday, Nov. 8 and 9. The workshop was sponsored by the Lincoln Foundation, Inc. and several other community agencies.

Dr Edgar Doll, consulting psychologist of the Bellingham Public Schools, Bellingham, Washington, spoke on the topics, "Beneath the Appearances," "After School, then What?" and "Why Testing." Dr Doll is a well known authority in the field of mental retardation and the originator of the widely known Vineland Social Maturity Scale.

Richard Prather, Mrs Chet Matheson, Miss Lenora Volkmer and Miss Geneva McAllister, members of the trainable staff at the Lapeer State Home and Training School attended the Friday meeting.

County Press, November 28, 1957

Turkey Day at The State Home

A ton and a half of turkey will headline the Thanksgiving menu at the State Home.

Charles Pearson, steward, says there'll be about 130 birds, weighing 22 to 25 lbs. apiece. At the non-custodial cottages the birds will be delivered whole and will be carved and served family style.

At the other cottages the kitchen will prepare the birds ready for serving.

County Press, December 1957

Home Workers Seek Lower Taxi Fares

A change in cab fares for State Home employees was asked Monday night by John Halpin, president of the Lapeer chapter of the Michigan State Home Employees Association.

City commissioners have set the rate at \$12 a month for rides to and from work at the Home. Halpin objected that this rate is charged even though the person may not be working part of the month due to sickness or vacation.

He wants the rate reduced to \$6 for a person riding one-half a month or less.

CITY ATTORNEY Richard Bahls explained that the \$12 rate is the contract price for group rides and the driver still makes the trip even though one person is not there.

"Since the driver is on the job and ready to take a person," said Bahls, "it seems to me the driver is penalized if the rider does not fulfill his contract to pay \$12 for a month's rides."

Ray Toole, operator of one of the two cab companies, said he thought Halpin had a legitimate squawk. "I'd like to go along with the lower rate," he said, "but Rossman won't even talk about it."

Cal Rossman is the operator of the other cab company and it was apparent that relations between Rossman and Toole are strained.

Commissioners felt it was a matter that should be threshed out in conference rather than before them. Attorney Bahls arranged a meeting for Friday afternoon with Rossman, Toole, Halpin and another employee representative to be selected by Halpin.

They will attempt to agree upon a recommendation to present the commission in January.

June 1959

Home To Send 50 Patients To TB San Beds

The state is making 300 beds available in TB san's for mental patients. Reduction in TB cases has accounted for many unused beds at the four san's in the state.

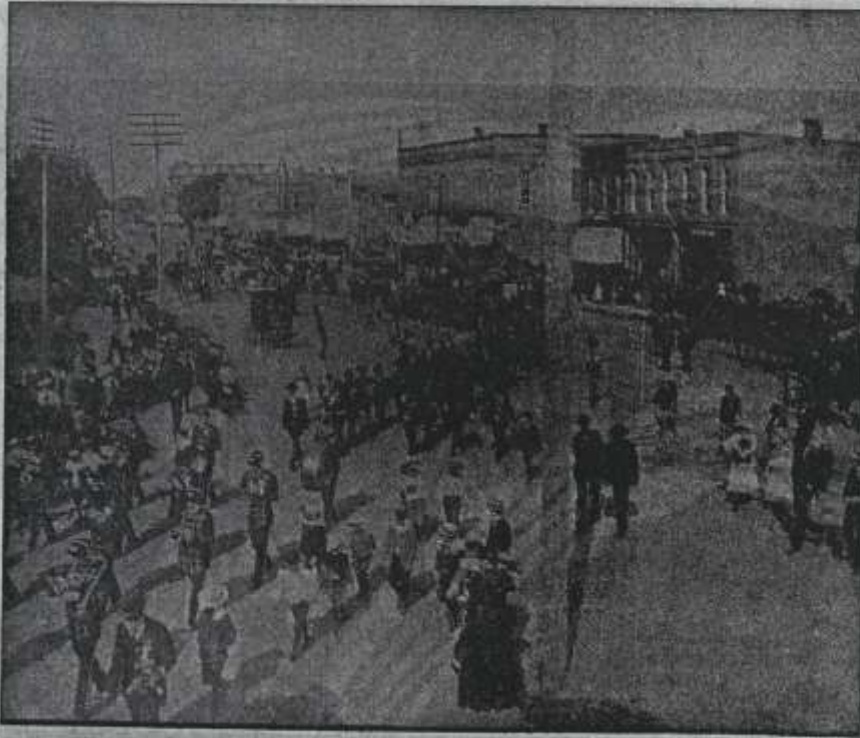
Lapeer State Home will send about 50 of its bed-fast patients, said Dr A. T. Rehn, medical sup't.

This will reduce the waiting list at the Home to 670. Each month about 60 patients are committed to the Home, and about 40 are admitted when space is made available by patients who die, or who are discharged or paroled.

April 20, 1961

June 16, 1960

ril 20, 1961



Big Day for Lapeer

JUST about the biggest thing that ever happened to Lapeer was when the Legislature decided in 1893 to locate the State Home at Lapeer. It was a decision that may have had something to do with a Lapeer man, John T. Rich, being governor at the time. But, politics or not, it was a happy decision. It still ranks as the biggest, steadiest and best-paying "industry" the town ever landed.

The cornerstone for the first building, No. 18, was laid in 1894. That was cause for the big parade pictured above. The Lapeer Dem-

ocrat, ancestor of The County Press, reported that the "huge parade of seven divisions" was under the command of Chief Marshal L. W. Hinman. It marched from downtown Lapeer to the State Home.

This picture was taken from the corner where the Cyclone Insurance building now stands. In the far background can be seen the White Block (Vincent's Drug Store). Nepessing Street was still unpaved. Why the parade seems to be turning north up Mason Street is not known.

County Sells Barns for \$500

The barns, silos and out-buildings of a former State Home farm were sold last week for bids totaling \$500.

Supervisors opened bids for the buildings at their session Thursday. When they bought 13 acres for a jail site, they got with it the buildings known as the Richardson Farm.

The buildings are to be torn down.

A bid of \$300 for the house was refused. The Board is going to look into the possibilities of remodeling the house and renting it, or selling it with a small plot of ground.

"It's an old junker," said Supervisor Tom Polk. "We ought to sell it now for \$300 and be rid of it."

Supervisor George Brigham agreed with him.

Supervisor George Donaldson wanted to rent it. Supervisor Harold Williams agreed.

"I checked with Earl Sugden a real estate man," Williams said. "He told me the place could be redecorated for \$800 and would rent for \$60 a month."

SUPERVISOR Lyle Ferrier thought the house and lot should be sold. He said it was at the corner of the property and there was plenty of land remaining for a jail.

Supervisor Clare Barrett thought it should be held for now and an investigation made of what to do with it. The Board approved that suggestion.

Those successful in bidding on the remainder of the buildings and equipment were: Mrs. Henry Heal, clothes posts, \$3; Walter Davis, east barn, \$100, silos, \$100, fence, \$50; George Toth, west barn, \$141; Leonard Currell, cow barn, \$100; Wilbur Olson, garage, \$25.

JUNE 16, 1960