

## 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 \$600 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

## Dr. Abruzzo Answers

# Senators Hear Complaints About Lapeer State Home



OVER ONE-THIRD the way home Lapeer City Community Fund President Earl Smith points to the \$6,000 mark while Executive Secretary Bob Grazier points to the \$16,000 goal. Looking on, from left to right, are Drive Chairman Al DesJardins, Vice President R. C. Rasmussen, and Bill McDaniels, vice president of the Lapeer Optimist Club. The Optimists donated the Fund Thermometer which is on the Court House lawn.

The \$6,000 is mostly from residential collections. Still to come are most of the business and industry returns. Also, this week collections are being made at the State Home and the High School.

Anyone who wants to give but hasn't yet been contacted can contribute at either Lapeer bank or at the Red Cross office. The money goes to the Red Cross, the Scouts, and other local agencies to be used for charity and youth work.

A Royal Oak mother of five told a special Senate committee Friday in Pontiac that filth, disease and lack of proper care existed at the Lapeer State Home.

The charges were made by Mrs. Kermit Charron, who has an 8-year-old son in the institution. She said she visited the home once every two weeks for two years as a volunteer worker.

DR. ANTHONY ABRUZZO, superintendent of the Lapeer State Home, agreed there was room for improvement. He said more personnel and money were needed to correct some existing conditions. He disagreed with Mrs. Charron on several points, however.

She told the committee unsanitary conditions had led to epidemics of scabies and dysentery. "I have seen children so weakened by diarrhea that they looked like skeletons," she said.

Dr. Abruzzo, who was not present at the hearing, said there were occasional cases of dysentery but nothing of epidemic proportions. "You will find cases of diarrhea in your best homes in the city. We have a monthly weight check of each patient to make sure they are getting the proper diet."

MRS. CHARRON said attended children were existing in unsanitary conditions supervised only by older mentally retarded youngsters.

"It is not unusual to see children soiled," she said, walking around with fecal matter on their hands or feet and this situation breeds disease.

Dr. Abruzzo said it was quite possible the mother had seen children in this condition.

"We are so short on manpower it is impossible to keep on top of each of them 24 hours a day. The condition is not a permanent one and one has to remember the number and types of individuals we deal with," he said.

MRS. CHARRON strongly criticized the lack of trained personnel at Lapeer.

A few of the staff are well trained, she testified, "but most of the women are daughters or granddaughters of women who have worked without any special training, at the home before them."

Sen. Lodge called her testimony "STATE HOME Page 1"

## State Home

Continued from Page 1  
The problem is too large for them to be able to maintain it. We need to have a plan and a budget. We need to have a plan and a budget. We need to have a plan and a budget.

DR. ABRUZZO has accepted the problem. He has accepted the problem. He has accepted the problem. He has accepted the problem. He has accepted the problem.

WE KNOW conditions are not ideal. We know conditions are not ideal. We know conditions are not ideal. We know conditions are not ideal. We know conditions are not ideal.

It was pointed out that the Legislature has authorized the Lapeer Parents Association to raise money for the home. It was pointed out that the Legislature has authorized the Lapeer Parents Association to raise money for the home.

CHARLES F. WAGG, director of the State Department of Children, said he was not sure if the Legislature has authorized the Lapeer Parents Association to raise money for the home.

He said: "We have to do something about the Lapeer State Home. We have to do something about the Lapeer State Home. We have to do something about the Lapeer State Home."

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County Press, October 27, 1960 Front Page

## Witch-Hunt

# Dr. Abruzzo Defends Care Of Patients at the Home

By BILL SMALL

Halloween is a perfect time for a witch hunt.

Lapeer State Home and Training School seems to be the site for the five-man interim committee headed by Senator L. Harvey Lodge, Oakland County Republican.

Two hearings conducted by Senator Lodge's committee at Pontiac have dealt primarily with "disgraceful" conditions at the Lapeer institution.

Initial charges of filth, disease, and lack of proper care were made by Mrs. Kermit Charron of Royal Oak, two weeks ago. These were amplified at the second hearing last Thursday by Mrs. Charron.

DR. ANTHONY ABRUZZO, superintendent of Lapeer State Home, spent 90 minutes testifying in regard to the charges. He admitted there

were conditions that needed to be improved but said he felt Mrs. Charron had been emotionally carried away in her statements.

Mrs. Charron has a son in the building around which her charges were based. She did not emphasize she had reference only to one particular building. This made it appear neglect was rampant in all parts of the institution.

The County Press learned, however, that Mrs. Charron believes she is doing the Lapeer State Home a favor by painting such a bleak picture of the care given.

She hopes to shock the legislators loose of additional money next year which can be used in hiring more trained personnel.

SOME OF the leadership of the Lapeer Parents Association support her in this conviction although she has been

the sole witness to the "deplorable conditions" in Lapeer.

Charles F. Wagg, director of the State Department of Mental Health, said in the first hearing that "he did not disagree with her."

When asked about this by The County Press, Wagg said he did not want to get in a hassle with Mrs. Charron — that he knew the situation at Lapeer.

LAST THURSDAY he told the committee, "There are some conditions of patients we are extremely concerned about. But, in the main, we have a dedicated group of employees, doing the best they can, which is next to the impossible."

The hearings are not without political overtones. Senator Lodge, who by his own admission has passed more legislation for the County of Oakland than anyone, is a candidate for Probate Judge Nov. 8. A third hearing will be conducted Nov. 3 in Pontiac.

DR. ABRUZZO explained the size and workings of Lapeer State Home for the committee, citing the need for additional help. Lapeer has only 18 registered nurses for the 3,700-patient home. He said a volunteer program is underway but will not solve the help problem.

Lodge read Mrs. Charron's previous testimony of filth, disease, and improper care and then said, "We give the animals in our zoo better care than that, don't we Doctor?"

The superintendent again said while some conditions were not desirable he felt the

charges had been dramatized.

AN UNIDENTIFIED woman told Dr. Abruzzo that on a visit to her son at the State Home she discovered dust "an inch thick" and cockroaches in clothes lockers. She said she washed out 25 closets and exhibited calloused fingers to prove it.

Mrs. Rita Mason of Allen Park, a member of the Lapeer Parents Association, replied, "The attendants are so few and so busy with patients they do not have time to do house-keeping chores."

Dr. Abruzzo said a plan had just been adopted whereby an insecticide company would spray all buildings at regular intervals. He also told of automatic dishwashers and new plumbing being installed in the building where Mrs. Charron had leveled her criticism.

"We are not stopping dead and throwing up our hands saying nothing can be done. We are doing all we can with the funds available," said Dr. Abruzzo.

MRS. CHARRON took the stand a second time to add more criticism of practices at the Lapeer institution.

She said many of the parents in her association were "incensed by the large amount of patient help used in caring for other patients."

She charged that regular attendants made patient workers clean up soiled children instead of doing it themselves.

DR. ABRUZZO said one attendant could not care for

See STATE HOME Page 1

## State Home

(Continued from Page 1)

four or five children at the same time and that it was necessary to rely on patient help. He said he was sure the attendants did not abuse the privilege of patient workers, but would check into it.

The red-headed Mrs. Charron flatly contradicted him saying she had been present when this was practiced. "The attendants openly admit the children are repulsive to them," she said.

She remarked about the lack of Negro help among the personnel. Dr. Abruzzo told her employees were taken from the Michigan Civil Service employment lists and that no discrimination was practiced.

"Perhaps the City of Lapeer rejects Negroes," commented Mrs. Charron.

SHE SAID a long range program was needed and urged a special committee be set up to study the needs and placement of the mentally retarded.

Dr. Abruzzo suggested foregoing the long range program in favor of action now.

Mrs. Louis J. Colombo Jr., of Bloomfield Hills, representing the Foundation for Emotionally Disturbed Children, said the Pontiac State Hospital needs a 90-bed unit for children.

Senator Lodge complimented her on the report and for presenting him concrete facts.

"Now that I have read this, what are you going to do about it?" asked Mrs. Colombo.

LODGE SAID the information would be combined into a special report to the 1961 Legislature. "People are always pressuring the Legislature for money but never

give any facts to substantiate their requests," said the senator. "We want information on a sound basis for legislation."

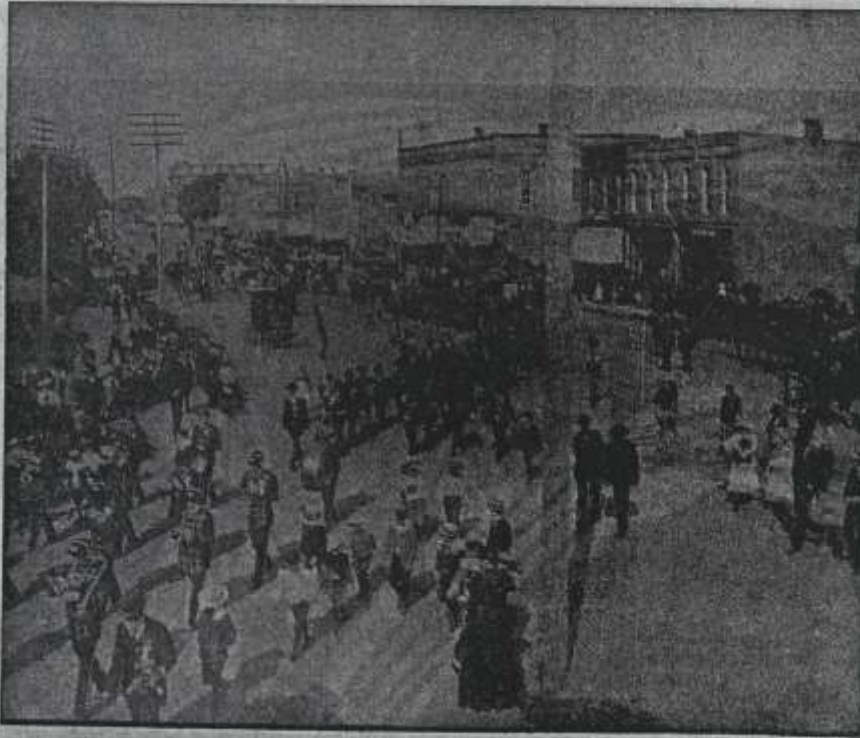
Dr. Abruzzo did not remind Lodge of the 36-page Blue Report submitted to all legislators by the Mental Health Department last January. This report indicated a number one priority — the need to bring nursing care up to at least minimal levels.

Wagg, author of the report, said he felt the legislature had made a sincere effort to provide facilities and staff but was held down in light of the state's dwindling treasury.



April 20, 1961

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.

PRESS . . . Lapeer, Michigan

# "Forgotten Child" at State Home Now a Forgotten Phrase

The "forgotten child" at Christmas time is an obsolete phrase at Lapeer State Home and Training School.

Gifts for the 3,000 patients began arriving even before December did, according to Gail Smith, community relations director of the home.

Patients are forgotten children to the extent that because of callousness, death, or the throw of the dice they have no kin to care for them. And they will never reach maturity.

**BUT NO LONGER** are they "forgotten." Last year was the first in the memory of many employees that every patient had a gift under the Christmas tree. And it didn't cost the state a single penny out of its already overburdened budget.

Gifts for patients have poured in like a tidal wave that starts small at first and then builds up until it becomes overwhelming. It's a far cry from only a little more than a decade ago when a comb or a package of cigarettes or a pair of slippers was all that Christmas could mean to the patients.

**JUST WHAT** has brought about the change cannot be explained for certain by Smith and Miss Alice Wilson, administrative assistant to the superintendent of nurses, who share the pleasant duty of bringing Christmas to the patients.

Part of the answer, they say, is in the exertions of the Lapeer Parents Assn., which has through the years interested more and more people in the problems of the Home. Part of it is in the greater understanding of the public in the problems of the mentally ill. Some of it, possibly, is in a return to the deeper meaning of Christmas.

The gifts have a spontaneity that particularly pleases the officials. Some come from such varied organizations as the North Flint Kiwanis Club, employees of the AC Spark Plug Division in Flint and church groups. And the return address of some of the packages are such things as the "Jones Children" of Pontiac and Cub Scout Pack 170 and a Sunday School

There are some special groups which have gone beyond the normal response. A good example is the em-

ployees of Ordnance Tank Automotive Command of Detroit. Last year they became interested in the problem and went all out to provide

Christmas for the patients. The small group of military and civilian employees obtained the names of 400 patients and provided boxes for each. These amounted to two Army-truck loads of gifts. In 1924 Louis A. Werbe, who See CHILD on page 1-C

Dec. 15, 1960

## Child

Continued from page 1-B

later became Flint's first parking-lot operator, decided he could live by the tenets of his religion by sending, from Detroit, to the Home the few

gifts he could. In 1927 he moved to Flint and continued the practice, insisting only that his name be kept secret.

A little later he was joined by a friend, Louis Rudner, of Reed's Furniture store in Flint, and between them they interested a bakery, several merchants and others until auto loads became pickup-truck loads and the latter became tractor-trailer loads. Even that effort, which has been carried on by others since the death of the two pioneer givers, has provided only a small amount to spread among thousands.

Gradually in the last 11 years, the giving has grown, until this year every patient will be remembered. There even have been donations of \$300 to cover patients whose desires have not been met, for example, the simple request of one elderly man for "just a little snuff." (He'll get more than just a little, thanks to the Christmas

spirit of anonymous givers.)

Supervisors of each of the cottages have seen that the Christmas spirit at the Home has been augmented by decorations, many of them created by patients. All the supervisors agree that even the least understanding of the patients have been moved by the spirit of the season in one way or another.

One of the more "solid" reminders of the season will be special menus, featuring turkey.

Ten Santa Clauses will be busy bringing cheer to those whose cheer comes infrequently and in small amounts.

It will take that many Santas to distribute the gifts to the 3,000 patients who will not be among the approximately 1,000 home on "Christmas leave" with their families.

The Santas will visit the 40 cottages, each decorated and housing a decorated Christmas tree.

**THE GIFTS** will range from handkerchiefs to such things as a radio for a patient who serves as a watchman in the railroad shanty. There will be dime-store perfume and even a dozen bottles of Arpege. There will be cigarettes and candy, dresses, used bicycles, slippers and mechanical toys. Somewhere in the multitude of gifts there will be something to please everybody.

But most of all there will be the spirit of the Christ child brought to Earth and a fulfillment of the philosophy of such people as Mr. Werbe, who believed:

"Charity done in secret is an act of loving kindness."

## Official Opening

Mrs Celine Antonelli's  
**Beauty Shop**

located at  
3189 Bohman Road  
north of Dryden

**Thursday, Dec. 15**

★ Well equipped  
★ 12 years experience  
Free gifts thru December

51-1

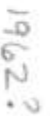


The exciting gift  
that opens every  
home to music!



Date Unknown, Probably 1962

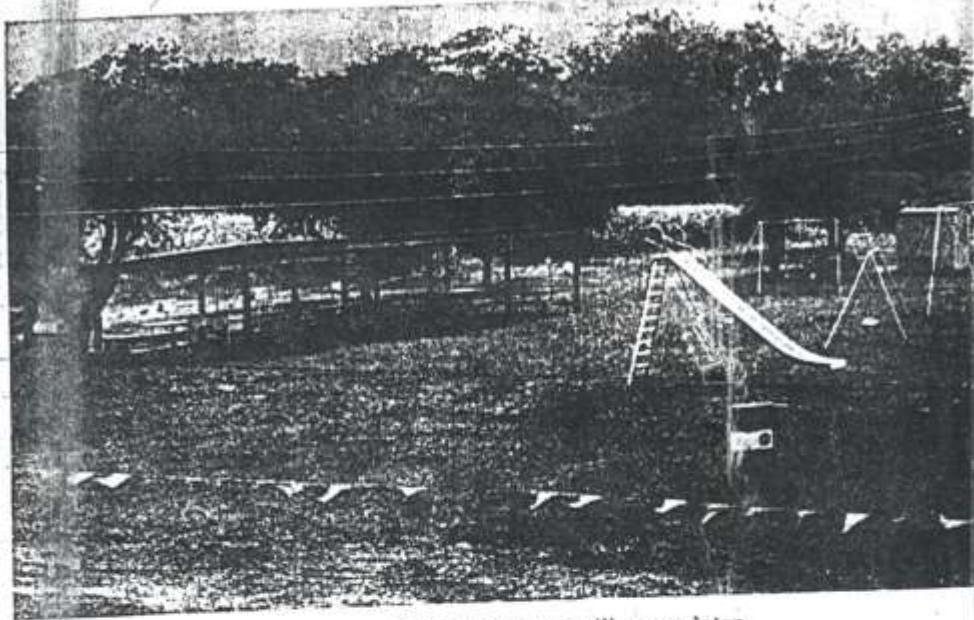
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LAPR



Picnic shelters will come later.

**\$25,000 Needed**

## Develop Recreation Area at State Home

In the past years summer dropped, in terms of picnics, recreational events for the playground activities and patients at Lapeer State Home took place in community parks, summer day camps and public beaches. In 1963 over 900 patients participated in this program off the grounds.

This developed into a gigantic problem for the recreation staff and limited transportation facilities. In 1961 the idea of developing private facilities began. It is felt that these facilities will better serve all the patients, especially the more severely han-

The park is being developed near the field house and a live stream.

A service building (toilets, etc.) is currently under construction. It is which is part of a complex of picnic pavilions. Mer-J Construction Company of Lapeer is the general contractor. The picnic shelter will not be completed this year, as available funds will only cover construction of the service building.

The money for this project does not come from regular State funds but from patient benefit funds, much of which is gifts and donations. The Lapeer Parents Association contributed over \$2,000 worth of playground equipment. Other groups have been equally generous.

Even though this area is in its preliminary stages of development, patients are beginning to use the facility and are expressing satisfaction with it.

The total project, when completed, will cost over \$50,000. It is estimated. Just a little more than half of this is currently available. Donations are gratefully accepted.

County Press, January 30, 1964

## \$7,000 Damage

# State Home Escapee Sets House on Fire

A run-away youth from the Lapeer State Home admitted starting a house fire Sunday night, causing an estimated \$7,000 damage.

Ross Vandevoorde, 17, was caught in a field at the rear of the home at 1514 Imlay City Rd. He was carrying a portable radio which he had taken from the house.

The boy told deputies he walked out the main gate of the State Home Sunday, and was going to Port Huron to see his parents. Instead, he stopped at the home of Jerry Giers. He said he walked in the back door, which was open. No one was home at the time.

Vandevoorde said he watched television for a while, and then set the bed on fire. He also set the living room couch on fire.

The flames were spotted by a deputy from the Wayne County Sheriff's Department who was driving by. The Lapeer Safety Department extinguished the blaze, which gut-

ted the inside of the house.

The boy was returned to the State Home.



AUTOMATION came to the State Home this week with installation of IBM data processing equipment. Its first use will be to handle book-keeping for individual patient accounts. Later it will keep track of patient movement such as admissions, transfers, discharges and leaves of absence.

Future applications are expected

to be made in keeping track of employees' time, warehouse inventories, and patient statistics. In the picture, from the left, are Mrs Virginia Carpenter, operator; George Roth, project coordinator; Robert Whitman, IBM supervisor; Mrs Iris Carl, operator and Mrs Elizabeth Huelga, operator.

1964



STATE FAIR? Barnum and Bailey circus? No. Lapeer State Home. Installed at the Recreation Park, this 40 ft. merry-go-round, with 20 moving horses, is complete with a band organ. The merry-go-round was purchased partly from donations and the balance from the Resident Benefit Fund. Many State

Home residents go on trips outside the institution; however, they seldom get to ride on a merry-go-round or similar ride. It's the hope of Home officials that eventually a complete amusement park can be built to go along with the lake recreation facilities they already have.

# Oakdale in the Newspapers

The Flint Journal, October 1, 1967

## Lapeer's Recreational Facilities Reflect Home's Bright Atmosphere

This is the first in a series on new attitudes and opportunities in the care of the mentally retarded.

By ALICE LEITCHBRIDGE  
Journal Staff Writer

In 1951, when the Michigan Home for the Feebleminded and Epileptic opened its doors, the thought of the place was akin to being with its forbidding, towering walls. High walls and locked gates stood in its way.

The name was changed some years later to Lapeer State Home and Training School, but the impression of it as a place for unfortunate who had been "put away" remained.

Within the last few years, thanks to studies of education, it has been determined that the mentally retarded are like normal persons in their varying abilities and special needs. As a result, the goals in caring for them have been raised. They are no longer categorized as "patients." They are treated as individuals toward the development of their individual potential.

Gone are the high walls and locked gates of Lapeer. New buildings have been erected, so different in purpose as they are in appearance from the antiquated structures of the beginning years.

High and enthusiasm have brightened the entire atmosphere.

Teachers do new things and methods find clearer expression than in the area of recreation. Until a few years ago, most residents never left the grounds of the institution. And there was little of a recreational nature on the grounds.

The thinking today is that residents are human beings with various types of needs, most of whom respond well to a generous dose of fun and frolic.

As a result, Lapeer State Home today houses recreational facilities not to be matched by any similar institution in Michigan and by few throughout the nation.

It is informative and fascinating to visit the play area of Lapeer State Home. The picnic grounds are located in the center of the regular complex of buildings, remote enough to offer a change of scenery but close enough to be readily available. A nearby lake, stocked with fish by the State Commission



All aboard for a train ride up and down the rails around the lake and farm at Lapeer State Home and Training School, and then a marshmallow roast at the end of the line!

The Flint Journal

ACCENT ON THE

\* Family

Sunday,

October 1, 1967

Section Four

Pages 51 to 66

Journal Photos  
by Dante Levi

Up the slope from the lake is a new acquisition and a great feature in grounds everywhere merry-go-round with authentic college style. It is a second-hand model, purchased this year.

Intimately is associated in some features of the recreational group, headed by Robert Powell, 35, and his staff, including two teachers from the state school who are used by the state to carry on conditioning drills. One sign has the appropriate name of "Simpson's School," the other is known as simply "The Blue House." Hundreds of residents have had fun in one or the other.

What is a park without a basketball? Lapeer has one, and there's a "basketball" that translates during summer to basketball for tennis, basketball, and other sports.

Every August, the picnic area becomes a carnival for two weeks. Thanks to the professional appearance of real midway attractions are visited from year to year. Every resident is sure to see at least one of the 100 or so prizes offered during the festival.

A huge place to picnic, whether in the summer kitchen, where about 1,000 hot dogs and hamburgers are served during an average season. For each week, the 300,000 tons are taken from Lapeer's own fields and stored in grain.

Every bit of space connected with recreation is run by thousands of buildings and equipment represent a total of \$10,000—all accumulated through gifts by patients, friends and interested groups in the community. There are no funds for this program from the state.

The Lapeer State Home for the Feebleminded and Epileptic is a place where the mentally retarded are given the opportunity to enjoy life. It is a place where they can learn to live with their disabilities and where they can find a sense of purpose and achievement. The home is a place where they can find a sense of community and where they can find a sense of belonging.

Recreation means more than simply fun to the residents. It is a way of life. It is a way of living that is based on the principles of self-respect, self-reliance, and self-discipline. It is a way of living that is based on the principles of honesty, integrity, and responsibility. It is a way of living that is based on the principles of love, compassion, and understanding.

Frederick J. Campbell, executive director of the home, expressed it this way: "Most of these people have known nothing but failure in their lives. They will go out of their way to fail, because of their inability to succeed. They need to succeed, but recreation brings them together."

The list of activities planned for winter months is long. It includes volleyball and basketball, wheelchair games, dancing, card games, and more. The idea is to keep the residents busy and happy throughout the year. The home is a place where they can find a sense of purpose and achievement. It is a place where they can find a sense of community and where they can find a sense of belonging.

There are undoubtedly many and aspects to the care of the mentally retarded, but it is a heartening discovery to learn that such has been done at Lapeer for the residents' pleasure.

Next: Modern education of the mentally retarded is devoted to living out the individual's abilities. Many children thus enabled to become more self-sufficient than would be normal people a decade or more ago.



In the land of perpetual childhood, a merry-go-round is great for a day's fun.



## Oakdale in the Newspapers

The Flint Journal, October 1, 1967 (Continued)



# Supt's return prevents walkout at State Home

by DON PONIATOWSKI

State Home employees were 8 hours from striking Monday.

But accord was reached at 9 p.m. between Home administrators and members of Local 567, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO.

About 600 union members had threatened to strike at 5 a.m. Tuesday. They claimed Medical Supt Anthony Abruzzo disappeared last week to avoid signing an agreement.

Dr Abruzzo returned from Illinois Monday morning. He signed the agreement in a special meeting with union officials. It

provides space for union meetings at the Home, and outlines procedures for meetings between union and management.

A second agreement, governing working conditions, is slated to be signed Oct 16.

Union members had authorized a strike Friday, and began picketing the Home Monday morning. The informational packet was the second within 2 weeks.

The first picket also was prompted by an unsigned agreement. A possible strike was averted at that time when union and management renewed negotiations.

Union officials said they believed Dr Abruzzo was to join in the talks. When he didn't show up, the strike vote was taken.

Dr Abruzzo said his trip to Illinois had

been planned months in advance. He was a member of a mental evaluation team. He claimed the union was aware he'd be away.

Pickets were marching when he returned. Dr Abruzzo said he was prepared to suspend employees who went on strike. The suspension would have been followed by dismissal.

Additional terms of the strike-ending agreement were released Tuesday by Dr Abruzzo.

The terms are that documents previously drafted by the institution and Local 567 will be published and distributed to all employees for their comments and reaction. These comments and reactions will be reviewed. Following final

agreement, this document will be issued on Oct 16 as institution policy by the medical superintendent.

"On the same day, the superintendent will sign a memorandum of understanding which shall incorporate identical language of the policy, if the director of the Department of Mental Health approves of this action," said Abruzzo.

"The document and policy basically refer to working conditions for resident care personnel. These are shift and transfer assignments, coffee breaks, overtime, scheduling, annual leave, sick time and tardiness," Abruzzo said.

Local 567 represents about 600 of the Home's 1,000 employees.

County Press, October 10, 1968

Front Page

## Labor peace remains shaky at State Home

The State Home truce between union and management will be tested within 6 days.

Permanent peace may be riding on a decision now being pondered by the Department of Mental Health.

Medical Supt Anthony Abruzzo has requested state permission to sign a "memorandum of understanding" with employees. If he gets it, the union will be satisfied. If not, the dispute which nearly became a strike may be renewed.

It's been 3 weeks since union officers demanded that Dr Abruzzo sign an agreement on working conditions. He's twice been accused of trying to slip out of it. Each time the union picketed and threatened to strike. Each time they were reassured by Abruzzo and withdrew. Last week, Abruzzo said the "understanding" would be signed - "if the director of the Department of Mental Health approves of this action." The document is scheduled to be signed next Wednesday.

It governs shift and transfer assignments, coffee breaks, overtime, scheduling, annual leave, sick time and tardiness.

Dr Abruzzo will meet Monday with members of Local 567. He said this week he hoped to have the state's answer by that time.

Lon Dodge, union president, said he's confident the union will be successful. It represents 600 of the Home's 1,000 employees.

Dodge and union officials were accused last week of duping the local's membership.

A union member, who said he spoke for the majority, said another Abruzzo promise was not what the union had sought.

The local withdrew its pickets last Tuesday after reaching one agreement with Dr Abruzzo. It provided space for union meetings and procedures for discussions between union and management.

Russell McDonald, a Home attendant and union member, said the union didn't achieve its goal. He said members were tricked into thinking the strike threat was over working conditions. Instead, he said, the union settled for office space, and a promise.

Dodge Monday said McDonald was talking for himself, not the union majority.

He also said McDonald was being unrealistic. Dodge said the union decision on strike and picket issues received unanimous consent from members. McDonald was the only member abstaining from the vote, Dodge said.

FOUNDED 1889 NUMBER 43

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1968

15 CENTS

# State Home strikers win promise — no agreement

The State Home received postal permits this week after being crippled by a 10-day strike. Workers of the department refused to work. The union struck to get a working agreement signed by management. It was not signed.

However, the union did win a promise that the state attorney general would rule on who could sign an agreement with those workers. Those employees have a 10-year term local management, the Mental Health Dept. in Lansing, and the State Civil Service Commission. This allows a lot of back-peddling. Union leaders want to find out where the back stops and the signing starts. Union members also succeeded in breaking the law without being punished. State law says workers who strike must be suspended or fired. All of the striking workers were allowed to return to their jobs, with a guarantee there will be no further trouble for the time being.

No patients suffered greatly during the strike, but it was necessary to suspend school, health and recreation classes.

About 100 of the Home's 1,240 employees failed to report to work during the strike. The 2-day absence average was about 20% of the total work force.

THE STRIKE, first in State Home history, was called by the 600-member local of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO. The union represents about half of the Home's employees.

The strike did not affect a very large number of employees. But it threatened enough to disrupt our programs," said Dr. Anthony Abruzzo, medical superintendent. Employees who normally handled education were forced into general care, according to Abruzzo. They lacked training for the task.

The strike was called last Wednesday. Union employees, some wearing picket lines, picketed through the night. They were watched by a 14-member riot control squad from the Lansing State Police. State police from the Lansing post also stood by.

Settlement was reached Friday after a series of negotiations between union and state attorneys.

TRUCE BEGAN and ended in the way.

The union had expected Abruzzo to sign an agreement on working conditions. He agreed to sign if he received permission from the Mental Health Department.

A deadline of Oct. 16 had been set. When it arrived, Abruzzo said the union that the health department had refused permission. Civil Service also had refused permission. The state would not make any more concessions.

"The union knew Abruzzo wouldn't be allowed to sign anything. But it was after a contract. They would have accepted his signature on a blank piece of paper if the state had allowed it," said a Home employee.

"We were calling the document a memorandum of understanding. But the union would have called it a contract. After it had been signed, there would have been an attempt to negotiate additional terms into it," the employee said.

The union claimed Abruzzo, as head of the institution, had the authority to sign.

About 300 pickets began marching in front of the Home, as the third shift arrived for work.

Pickets, armed with riot batons and tear gas, cleared an avenue for traffic to enter the main gate. Pickets blocked both police and workers, but caused no trouble. No weapons were used.

State police stationed in Bay City had been put on alert in case striking pickets became unruly and local police couldn't handle things.

"When we asked state police to let them march, but the governor's office changed their mind," said a Home official.

Attorney General Frank Kelly stayed in the following day. He sent 2 attorneys to Lansing to file suit for temporary and permanent injunction against the union. The state was prepared to ask circuit court to order the strikers back to work. But a compromise was reached.

The union agreed to provide adequate staffing of the Home in exchange for a delay on the injunction.

The compromise stemmed from a conference among Circuit Judge James Churchill, union officials, Home officials and state attorneys.

Picketing continued through Friday when the parties returned to court. Judge Churchill had planned to rule on the permanent injunction. He waited 4 hours while attorneys attempted to write the law without a hearing.

Union attorneys met in the jury room. State attorneys met with Abruzzo in the judge's chambers. About 30 union members filed the suit.



The riot squad was ready.

Moore joined as a young Detroit attorney representing the union began bargaining with state attorneys for a compromise. He'd make an offer, state attorneys would reply it by phone to Lansing, and then make a counter offer.

About 3 p.m., Jerry Stone of the Civil Service Department circulated a news release. It explained why Abruzzo wasn't allowed to sign an agreement.

An administrator cannot sign an agreement with a union which would also apply to non-union employees. Such an agreement would amount to recognition of the union as sole bargaining agent for all employees. The practice would be unfair, according to Civil Service.

Agreements can be signed only when they apply exclusively to the union which negotiates it.

Thirty minutes after the release had been circulated, Stone asked for them back. He said they would jeopardize negotiations if published at that time.

The strike ended as how long.

THE UNION agreed to return to work if state attorneys agreed to seek an opinion from the attorney general. Union members want to know who has the authority to sign an agreement with them.

"It has taken us 20 years to find out who has the authority to give us an answer. Finally we are going to get it," said Lon Dodge, local president.

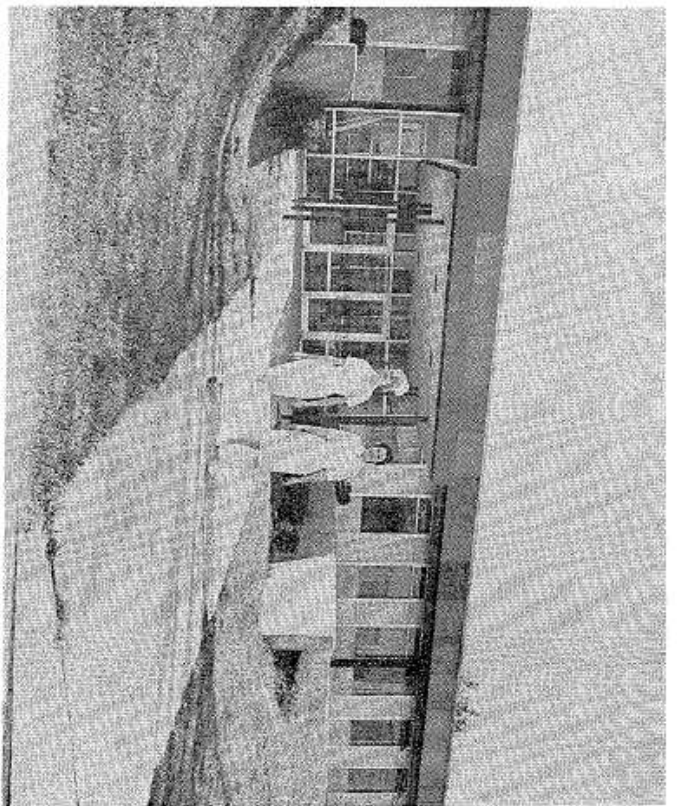
It's not known when the attorney general will issue an opinion. But authority to sign agreements is expected to remain with Civil Service and the Department of Mental Health. If it does, the union will have an understanding but not a contract with the Home.

Abruzzo, meanwhile, is expected to issue the working agreement as policy of the home but not signed. He made the same offer weeks ago.

The agreement covers shift and transfer assignments, coffee breaks, smoking, scheduling, annual leave, sick time and tardiness.



**NEW, BRIGHT LOOK** is visible both in the personnel and in the latest of the structures at Laport State Home, the nursery. Mrs. Lynn Law (right) is supervisor, and Judy Groom is one of her assistants.



**NEW, BRIGHT LOOK** is visible both in the personnel and in the latest of the structures at Laport State Home, the nursery. Mrs. Lynn Law (right) is supervisor, and Judy Groom is one of her assistants.

NEW, BRIGHT LOOK is visible both home, the nursery, Mrs. Lynn Lowe (right) is supervisor, and Judy Groom is one of her assistants.

mother or father best to guard. This is comparatively new other agency in the community, but only to supplement the many people may be by, but only to supplement the services offered to families in

[illegible]

With the correct combination of the child's personality, the parent's attitude, and the child's own motivation, the child can be taught to play independently. This may be done by encouraging the child to play with toys that are not easily broken, such as blocks, and by providing a safe environment in which the child can explore and experiment. The parent should also be aware of the child's own interests and abilities, and should provide appropriate challenges and encouragement. The parent should also be aware of the child's own needs and desires, and should provide a safe and secure environment in which the child can explore and experiment. The parent should also be aware of the child's own interests and abilities, and should provide appropriate challenges and encouragement. The parent should also be aware of the child's own needs and desires, and should provide a safe and secure environment in which the child can explore and experiment.

First of all, the doctor can tell just how much spermatozoa the child really needs. Parents can receive his counsel and act upon it with confidence. The nurse may see things that could be improved; she

# Feather

...dances. They can save an un-  
 child examined by the staff of  
 the institution and find out if it  
 is to cope with the situation.  
 In important part of home  
 contacts is to help establish a  
 complete routine for the mother  
 and the child.

**THE FILM JOURNAL**

**ACCENT ON THE**

...to follow in coming years as well as placing her child as well as placing her other work. Here there is much emphasis on cleanliness and, again, on exercise for the child who is immobile.

**vision** The outpatient department of Lapeere Home offers services to families in their own home.

The outpatient department has no desire to replace any Page Forty-Eight

turned away. "I was not in advance of their decision."

The importance of the psychologist in today's work with the mentally retarded cannot be overstated. The problems of these individuals are complex and often intertwined with other institutions, for example, the school, the hospital, the family, and the community. The psychologist's role is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the individual's needs and to develop effective interventions. This often involves working in collaboration with other professionals, such as teachers, social workers, and medical staff. The psychologist must also be sensitive to the cultural and social context of the individual, as these factors can significantly influence their behavior and development. In addition, the psychologist must be able to communicate effectively with the individual and their family, providing clear and understandable information about the individual's condition and the recommended interventions. The psychologist's role is a challenging but rewarding one, and it is essential that they have the necessary training and experience to perform this role effectively.

They usually are limited according to their common needs. This is a more logical arrangement and use of personnel than in former times, and involved with the philosophy is being phrased by the author of *Bruck*, who is greatly in

It is also scrutinized for any evidence of physical abuse, as those with hearing, for example, in this way, they have more of a chance to communicate with others.

method while such an occurrence.

If medical problems warrant, the child may be admitted to the hospital rather than to a residence. In most

Ken Cragan, one of the staff psychologists, supervises generally, and this time it is to show upon children's never grow up, because

Most outpatient services is The Lapeere State Home and Training School, a community-based facility that treats children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral problems. The Lapeere State Home and Training School is a community-based facility that treats children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral problems. The Lapeere State Home and Training School is a community-based facility that treats children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral problems.

Friday, October 4, 1967 done on an appointment basis, by within itself, composed of less when they are negl

County Press, May 22, 1969

## State Home union's fate to be decided

A decision is expected June 19 on the fate of State Home Local 567. The union is accused of breaking its no-strike pledge to the state.

The State Civil Service Commission will decide if disciplinary action is warranted. The local could lose the right to represent its members in negotiations.

About 150 members of the union failed to report for work last October. The Home was picketed when Medical Supt Anthony Abruzzo refused to sign a working agreement.

The local has contended its pickets were not on strike. They were simply waiting at the main gate for Dr Abruzzo's signature.

A hearing into the matter was completed here last January. The local had been ordered to show cause why state recognition should not be withdrawn. †

2—THE OWOSSO (MICH.) ARGUS-PRESS, Thurs., July 31, 1969

## Ricky Hurt in Fall At Lapeer State Home

LAPEER (AP) —Ricky Thorne, a mentally retarded boy who was not capable of speaking when he was abandoned by his mother in Miami International Airport in 1965, was injured seriously Wednesday when he fell 25 feet.

The 17-year-old youth plummeted three stories from a bathroom window to the grass below at Lapeer State Home and Training School, institution officials reported. He was operated on for abdominal complications.

Scuff marks on a ledge showed the youth crept to the window sill of the dormitory where he has lived since October, 1967, reported Fred Campbell, director of community relations at the institution.

Campbell said it wasn't known why Ricky went to the window fully clothed in the pre-

dawn darkness. Some theories, he said, were that it was accidental, or that he may have been trying to run away or possibly harm himself.

Ricky—once thought a mute—has learned recently to say "yes" and "no". He was left at the Florida airport in 1965 by his mother, Mrs. Victor Thorne of Troy, Mich.

His mother later returned to Florida at the insistence of her husband and claimed the boy.

She was quoted as saying she left him there in an effort to focus attention on him in hopes someone would cure his mental retardation.

A Florida judge then allowed her request that Ricky be placed in a home in Florida if the Thornes paid the bill. The Thornes later sold their home and left Troy, cutting off further payments.

Florida authorities asked Michigan to take him in 1967.

The Thornes were last heard of somewhere in Canada, Campbell said. He said, however, two married sisters have been visiting him.

His mental age is less than eight years, Campbell said, adding he was a "model patient."

"He has shown no aggressive tendencies—if he is directed to do something, he does it." However, Campbell said, "His behavior does indicate that some type of psychosis is possible."

In addition to saying the the two words, Ricky "will laugh and holler very loud to get your attention," Campbell said.

## Hudson Fires Believed To Be Arson

DETROIT (AP) — Four fires, believed by police to have been set deliberately, broke out almost simultaneously Wednesday night on four floors of the downtown Detroit J.L. Hudson department store shortly before closing at 8:30 p.m.

Officers of the fire department Arson Bureau said three of the fires occurred in freight elevators while the fourth was in a small stockroom on the fifth floor.

A suspect who refuses to identify himself or make a state-