

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



PENNHURST STATE SCHOOL SPRING CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

PENNHURST STATE SCHOOL

SPRING CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

operated by

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Governor

. HONORABLE JOHN S. FINE

Lieutenant Governor

HONORABLE LLOYD H. WOOD

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ALAN D. REYNOLDS

Deputy Secretaries of Welfare

EDWIN S. ERVIN

ISABELLA J. JONES

Commissioner Bureau of Mental Health

HILDING BENGS, M. D.

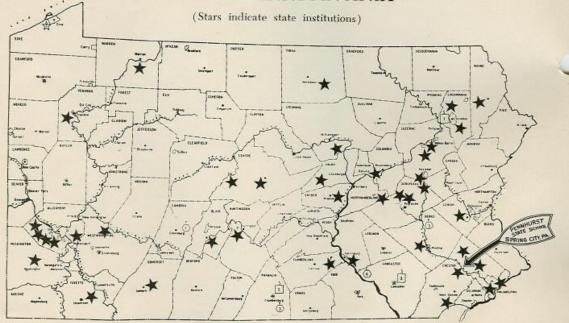
Deputy Commissioner Bureau of Mental Health ORVILLE M. FITZGERALD, M. D.

LOCATION

The School is a large 1400 acre, at present 3550 bed state-owned and state supported institution devoted to the study, care, treatment, education and vocational training of mentally retarded or defective boys and girls whose parents are legal residents of the eastern half of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The institution is simultaneously a hospital, a school and, in many respects, an almost completely self-operating community.

The property of the institution lies in both Chester and Montgomery Counties, but the main body of the institution is situated in Chester County about one mile northwest of Spring City, Pa., being just north of Pennsylvania Highway Route 83. The institution may be reached by the Reading Railroad (Philadelphia-Reading-Harrisburg branch), getting off at Royersford, Pa., and taxi service is available from Royersford or Spring City to the institution.

MAP OF PENNSYLVANIA



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Standing, left to right: Atty. F. J. Anastasio, Mrs. M. W. Latshaw, D. R. Goodwin, Mrs. A. R. Post, R. W. Ralston, Sr., Secretary; E. W. Bowman, Treasurer; I. D. Chrisman, Vice-President; F.W. Shalkop. Seated, left to right: William A. Phillips, Superintendent; Edwin S. Ervin, Deputy Secretary of Welfare; Atty. Guy W. Knauer, President, Board of Trustees.

In the above picture, represented also, is the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Welfare and the Superintendent of the Pennhurst State School.

The Trustees of the School, appointed by the Governor, serve without compensations of any kind in an executive capacity, and pass by vote on all major issues affecting the management and operation of the school in all its functions. Monthly reports relative to all phases of the institution are reviewed at a monthly meeting held at the school, and by devoting their valuable time, these civic servants safeguard the interests of the taxpayers and the welfare of the patients.



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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

With the sincere cooperation of the elected officers of the Common-wealth, their duly appointed secretaries of the various State Departments, the Board of Trustees, the Department Heads and the employees of this school, the main objective is to further improve conditions and treatments in all of our functions for the better care and treatment of the patient placed in our charge. In the past few years we have witnessed a great transformation in attitude in the patient groups and we have accomplished great things in the improvement of the entire overall picture at this school. We believe that with proper follow through many additional conveniences for the care and treatment of our charges will be forthcoming.

The parents and others who are vitally interested, should have a real understanding of the problems that must be met when placement of their child is necessary in an institution. Proper orientation is perhaps vitally necessary and by consulting with the Medical Staff, Psychologists, etc. on our staff, before application for admission is made many problems and questions can be answered that otherwise remain in doubt. Avoiding of difficulties and misunderstandings is most important. Not infrequently, the grief of the parent is greater than the unhappiness of the mentally defective child. Every doctor on our staff understands and appreciates the

degree of affection which a parent naturally develops for the unfortunate child, and it is our wish to cooperate with parents in the same personal manner as would your private family physician. Furthermore, our extensive experience has taught us to share with you the personal sensitivity you most likely have been caused to feel, due to misunderstanding of the nature and causes of mental deficiency and the wagging tongues of misunderstanding neighbors or both.

This booklet I have prepared to assist you in understanding numerous matters relating to the Pennhurst State School, and by photographs in the following pages to acquaint you with our organization and other functions necessary in its operation. Detail, as much as possible will be omitted because I believe the photographs will tell their own story. Important to all is the everyday life of our charges and benefits that can be derived, with a successful organized group of physicians, and all other personnel deemed necessary to operate such a school in all its departments.

On the pages following are brief histories of the various functions which are self explanatory and tend to inform all parents of our daily operations in the care of our charges. We trust that in presenting this booklet to the public we have been of a service and by noting all of its contents carefully it will give the parent and others a true picture of our facilities. Books have been published on "The Mentally Retarded Child," a guide for parents, one recently published by the John Day Co., New York City, which was prepared by Abraham Levinson, M. D. which is very informative. I believe it would be advantageous for each parent to send for a copy.

In the years ahead there will be many obstacles to be overcome, as the demand for institutionalization for defective children is on the increase. Larger facilities and additional training schools will be erected and the subject itself through means of research, etc. will be broader and challenges in this field will undoubtedly be met.

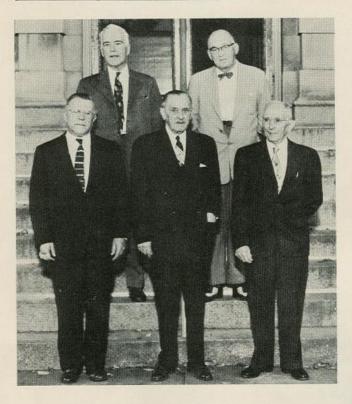
Rules and Regulations governing all phases of the institution such as visiting, vacations, etc. are given to the parent at the time of admission of a child.

In conclusion, the cooperation of all parents, admitting agencies and others who may be vitally interested is earnestly solicited, which will ultimately result for the better care and treatment of the child placed in our charge. Your views and suggestions are at all times welcome.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM A. PHILLIPS Superintendent

MEDICAL STAFF



The presence of a staff physician on duty at all times assures the prompt attention to any ailment or accident that presents itself, while regular clinical treatments are administered daily to any complaining patient. Constant contact with the Hospital insures the care and attention necessary to keep 3550 people alive and well.

MEDICAL STAFF

DR. E. L. DAVID
DR. W. E. GESREGEN
DR. W. R. WILKINS
DR. W. S. HITCHINGS

MEDICAL CONSULTANTS

DR. J. E. GOTWALS
DR. P. A. THEODOS
DR. C. F. HALL
DR. J. R. SCHMIDT
DR. T. BUTTERWORTH
DR. J. A. PRICKETT





DENTAL STAFF

The Dental Department is a separate function, but in close relationship with the Nursing and Medical Department. The equipment in the four Dental Sections, the X-ray, Oral Hygiene, Dental Clinics, and Offices, is the most modern.

The staff consists of two registered Dentists, one Dental Interne and one Oral Hygienist. Four trained female patients act as Dental Assistants.

Yearly Dental Services Approximate:

5030 Fillings

942 Extractions

7612 Treatments

4210 Prophylaxias 106 Prosthesics

MALE CLINIC

100 Trosuica

102 X-rays





The Hospital, which is recognized by the American Hospital Association, has a capacity of 300 beds. Separate male and female medical-surgical wards are maintained. A modern, especially designed wing for the segregation of tubercular patients was added in 1951.

A newly admitted patient spends the first two weeks in the Hospital under constant supervision of a nurse. During this time, observations of the patient's health, behavior, abilities, habits are made and noted. A series of examinations follow, that comprise physical, neurological, psychiatric, psychological, laboratory, den-

tal, and x-ray tests.

The child is vaccinated and innoculated at spacings throughout the first two months. A chart is started that follows the patient wherever it is assigned, recording any change in weight or condition relative to its health and welfare. The initial orientation occurs in the Hospital. The association with other children is studied. Simple but satisfying answers are given to their many questions. The nurse and her associates who are trained to provide emotional

security for the child, create an atmosphere wherein the patient receives tender, kindly care which substitutes for the absence of parental love so essential to effect a successful adjustment to institutional life.

For placement in the proper cottage of the School, the child is presented and reviewed by the institutional staff which consists of Executive, Medical, Nursing, Psychological and Social Service representatives. A diagnosis is made for classification. Observations of behavior, reactions, capabilities precede discussions that result in the evaluation of the child's potentialities.

The Head Nurse's daily visits usually determine if a child is properly placed. The conduct, ability to socialize with others is noted. The prevalent mood is observed. Oftentimes transfer to another ward or

cottage will greatly aid adjustment.

All patients, new or otherwise, are promptly transferred to the Hospital if there are signs of illness or

maladjustment. Parents are kept informed of serious maladjustment.

The Hospital is furnished with proficient equipment and facilities, such as, an operating room with two consultant surgeons on call.

Periodic lectures relative to mental deficiency, communicable diseases, nursing care, new procedures and medication are given by members of

the staff consultants or other qualified specialists.

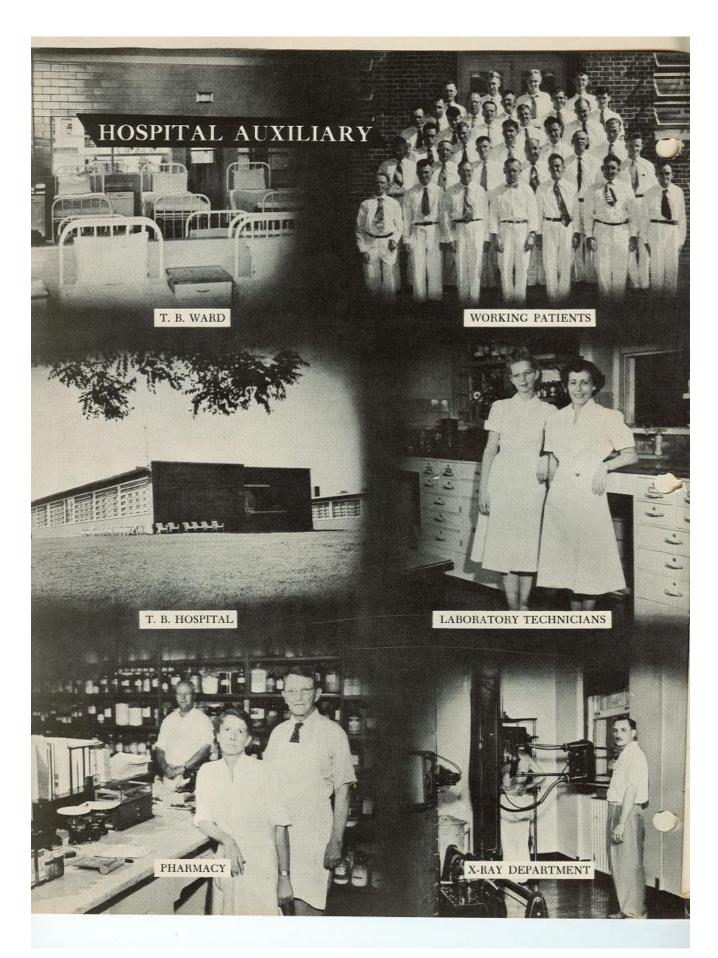
The Directress of Nurses with the cooperation of the Assistant Directress of Nurses, three head nurses, thirty-eight graduate nurses, two supervisors, six assistant supervisors, forty-three charge attendants and two hundred forty-two attendants, keep a twenty-four hour vigil over the 3550 patients that are entrusted to the care of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, through the Welfare Department.

A pharmacy, capable of supplying any required type of medication, and dental offices, are located in the hospital building. Two technicians operate a Pathological Laboratory under the direction of a part-time Pathologist.

Dispensary treatments are available at all times in the immediate location. Male and Female Clinics are regularly and separately operated to check, diagnose and prescribe continued treatment for the improvement or care of the individual patient.







PSYCHOLOGY

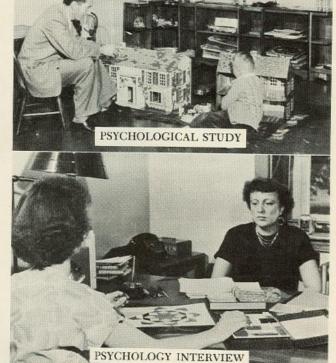


Pennhurst has a modern up-to-date Psychology Department comprised of four Psychologists. Every patient in the institution is thoroughly studied by this Department and recommendations are made in accordance with the abilities and personality of each patient. A battery of standardized tests, selected to meet the needs of each patient, is used in the study.

About 15 to 20 percent of the Psychology Department's time is spent in therapy, in an effort to help those patients who are emotionally disturbed make a better adjustment. Play therapy with all of its facilities is a part of this program.

Research also plays a part in this Department's program and is constantly on the alert for the newest theories and methods of evaluation and treatment. At present the department is working on the construction of a new type of intelligence test for all ages and all mental levels.

The Psychology Department has close contact with all other departments and can be called upon for help in any phase of adjustment within the Institution. Personal interviews with parents regarding their children can be arranged.





REVENUE

The Department of Revenue of the Commonwealth maintains an Agent at the Institution whose duty it is to investigate the ability of parents to contribute to the child's support. The amount they are to pay is determined from this investigation. All money for maintenance is received in the office of the Revenue Agent and transferred to the Department of Revenue, Harrisburg.

While those responsible pay only according to ability, the State Law requires that when possible to do so they must pay the difference between what they have paid and the full per capita, if there is any.

ACCOUNTING

The Accounting Department is responsible for the budget control of the funds allocated by legislative appropriation for the economical operation of the Institution for two years and for the proper monthly accounting of the expenditures by Function and Object Coding to the Board of Trustees, the Superintendent and the

Rules must be complied with that govern the purchase of anything. Purchase requests are submitted to



Purchase requests are submitted to tife Department of Property and Supplies. Bids are sought, awarded, and purchases made under stipulated State-Procedure. Requisitions for payment are prepared and forwarded to the Department of Welfare and the Auditor General's Office. All records of procurement are kept in the Accounting Department. Vendor checks are recorded and mailed from Pennhurst State School, although all checks emit from the Treasury Department at Harrisburg.

Harrisburg.
Patients' Personal Accounts, Savings Funds, Amusement Funds, Canteen Funds are kept by a bonded Principal Clerk.

Perpetual Inventory, records of items received, withdrawn, and remaining in stock are posted daily. The personnel of the Accounting Department includes an Accountant, a Principal Clerk and four Steno-Clerks.

PERSONNEL-PAYROLL

It is the duty of the Personnel Department to interview applicants for positions, to ascertain their qualifications, to accept applications and then submit same with recommendations to the Superintendent, who gives personal consideration to every applicant, and either approves or rejects the application on the basis of information supplied to him. Needed personnel is employed on a Per Diem basis until an official appointment is made. After an application is accepted, it is still subject to the approval of the Department of Welfare.

Payrolls are prepared every half month and forwarded to the Department of Welfare, where, if found correct, checks are drawn on the Treasury and mailed to Pennhurst State School for distribution. Regular salaries are paid on the 10th, and 25th of each month.



Five hundred seventy-five employees on salary and eighteen on Per Diem constitute the Personnel of the Institution. Records of wages paid, tax withheld, deductions for meals, rooms, house rents, bonds and retirement contributions, as well as the employment records, are entrusted to the Personnel Director and a Clerk-Stenographer as his Secretary.

PURCHASING

The Purchasing Agent handles all requisitions for supplies, contacts vendors, processes all purchase requests.





INSTITUTIONAL SECRETARIES

In the Medical Department, the Institution Secretary and three secretaries are engaged in maintaining the individual record of each patient. Upon admission, a folder is prepared containing the complete commitment, any pre-admission information, etc. The patient's history comprises identification record (residence of parents, date of admission, birthdate of child, description, race, nationality, religion, education); diagnosis, classification, and mental status, determined by staff doctors, psychology and social service departments; clinical record

and history (information on the child's health prior to admission, family history): physical and neurological examination on admission; immunization record; and finally, clinical progress notes which record such matters as transfer to hospital, vacation, etc. The folder also includes complete hospital record while patient is being treated in the hospital, temperature, diet, physician's notes and medication prescribed, examinations by consultants and dental examination. There is also a section for social service reports, psychological examinations, and finally, the filing of all correspondence concerning the patient.

Letters from families receive immediate attention, and an average of thirty letters a day are written to families who have requested information on the physical condition of their child, vacation arrangements, clothing needs, etc.

This department also maintains visiting files, an individual card for each patient, on which is listed the date, names of persons visiting, and their relationship to the child.

Reports of X-ray examinations are transcribed from dictaphone records following dictation by Roentgenologists.





INFORMATION

Five operators maintain 24-hour telephone service for the entire institution.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Occupational Therapy is a treatment directed towards the needs and interests of the individual child. It attempts to create a sense of satisfaction and pleasure in accomplishment, and to create habits of industry, all, factors in good social adjustment.

The Department is directed by the Chief Occupational Therapist, who is assisted by eleven other employes. One hundred and fifty-two boys and girls are employed in the var-

ious functions.

The sewing section is made up of three activities, and they are operated by three employes, who are assisted by 55 girls. The cutting and supply room fabricates all new material used in much of the Institutional clothing. The mending room repairs all of the garments of the patient population. The sewing room makes many new garments of various designs.

Two shops are operated by the Department. The mattress shop makes and

repairs many of those needed. The upholstery shop recovers all of the furniture, as needed by the School. One employe supervises this work, and is aided by nine boys.

Auxiliary activities of the Occupational Therapy Department are the print shop, tailor shop, and the shoe shop. Three employes and nine boys are employed in these three branches.

STAFF



UPHOLSTERING

SCHOOL





The various and many activities of the School are directed by the Education Director, who is assisted by fourteen teachers certified in public instruction.

The School course extends from kindergarten to seventh grade inclusive, and all students complete the course as long as satisfactory progress is maintained. A full schedule of academic training is given, which is equivalent to comparable grades of public school.

Upon completion of the elementary course, and having attained the age of fifteen, all male students attend the Manual Training Shops. Here the boys are taught painting, caning, furniture refinishing, and many useful projects.

At the age of fourteen the female students attend the Home Economic Department. At the completion of this course each girl should be capable of preparing and serving a complete meal. Much beneficial training such as pressing, mending, and sewing is given.

MUSIC'

Music has grown in importance during recent years in Institutions, not only for educational and recreational value, but also therapeutic. Guidance is provided at Pennhurst State School for vocal and instructional music. The interest shown by patients in music has been constant and remarkable.

A female Music Instructor is in charge of vocal music. A mixed choir of twenty-six boys and girls, and a colored choir of sixteen boys and girls sing regularly for church service. In addition, there is a chorus of twenty-two boys and girls who sing for the various entertainment programs.

Instrumental music is under the supervision of a Bandmaster. In the past several years, lessons and reading music to many classes has resulted in a Military Band of twenty-eight members, and which will be increased to fifty in the near future. In addition to this organization, a Western Band composed of string bass, guitars, accordions, saxophones and vocalists has been maintained. Both of the bands are popular throughout the Institution and nearby communities playing many engagements for events and holiday celebrations.



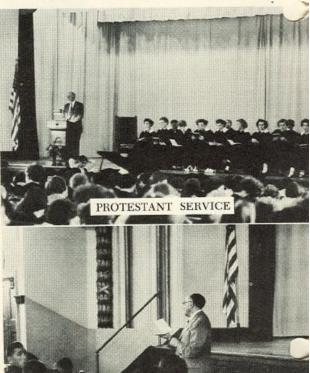
RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Adequate provision for the religious life of the patients is arranged at Pennhurst State School. The Auditorium is used for a meeting place for all denominations.

A resident Chaplain provides for the spiritual needs of the the Protestant patients. Services are held each Sunday afternoon, which is attended by a choir directed by an Instructor of Music.

Arrangements are made with a Jewish Rabbi to visit the School to conduct such services as he may deem necessary, and to administer to the religious life of the Jewish worshippers.

A Catholic Priest celebrates Mass every Sunday morning, and such auxiliary services as may be required periodically by the Catholic Religion.



JEWISH SERVICE



This department plays an important part in institutional life. Its activities are supervised by a trained Physical Director who is aided by an assistant and four additional personnel during the summer months.

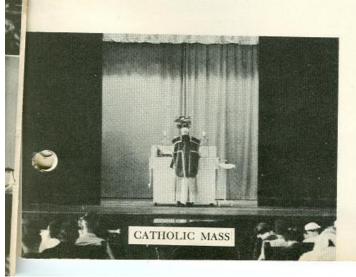
A program is conducted during the summer season which operates morning, afternoon, and evening, each day of the week. A softball team represents the School in outside competition. Many inter-mural sports, such as, tennis, volley

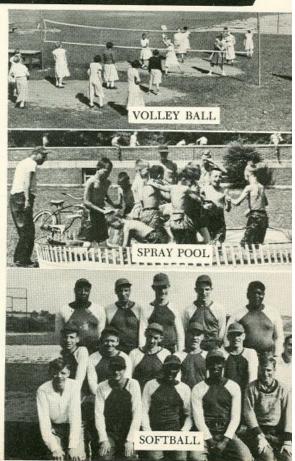


PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION

ball, badminton and horseshoes are planned and supervised. Complete playground equipment is available for the smaller children.

During the school year, the department conducts hourly classes at the gym in recreation for the patients attending school. Many parties are arranged during each holiday season for the patient population. Special emphasis is placed on a May Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day celebration for the entire school.







DIETARY

The Dietary Department is operated by the Dietitian, assisted by forty employees and approximately working patients, which includes both male and female.

This function prepares specific and balanced diets for 3550 patients.

Approximately 500 patients are served special diets in bed; 1000 are accommodated in their respective wards. The remainder of the patient population, fluctuating about 2000, enjoy their meals in normal customary cafeteria fashion. The average daily consumption per patient is 83 ounces.

An additional 195 meals are catered daily to the institutional employees in three separate dining

rooms of different maintenance classifications.

Most of the meals are cooked in two main kitchens. These facilities are augmented by four auxiliary



kitchens, conveniently located at the places of consumption. Heated food trucks are used to convey the food-stuffs to the wards. In one year 1,221,775 meals were served, totaling over 3000 tons of foods.

Subsidiaries to the Dietary Department comprise the Bake Shop, Bread Slicing Room, Butcher Shop, Freezing Lockers and Vegetable Preparation Room, and Ice Cream Department.

The bakery produces 2000 loaves of bread daily plus rolls and pastry, as required.

A total of over 128,000 pounds of home produced veal, ham, pork, beef and poultry are processed yearly by the Butcher Shop.

Fresh fruits and vegetables from our own farm and truck garden are frozen and stored during the Spring and Summer for offseason consumption.

PLANT OPERATION

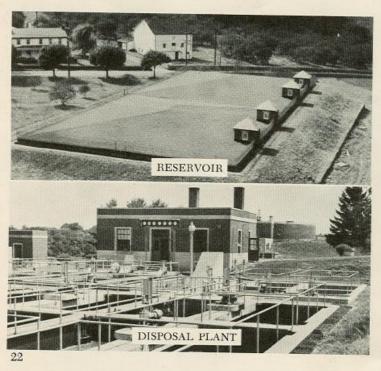
The new Power Plant completed in 1950, at a cost of approximately \$1,250,000, produces about 800,000 pounds of steam in 24 hours; generated from three 500 H.P. boilers.

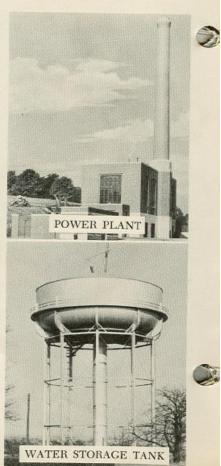
Approximately 18,000 tons of coal are used yearly. Over 168 million gallons of water are consumed annually. Purchased electric kilowat hours approach 3½ millions. Yearly gas consumption exceeds 4 million cubic feet, half of which is produced at our Sewage Disposal Plant where 350,000 gallons of sewage are treated every 24 hours.

Seven deep water wells produce 500,000 gallons of water daily, which is pumped into the reservoirs from depth down to 900 feet. Two booster pumps fill an elevated water tower tank, 110 feet high, to a capacity of 750,000 gallons increasing the water pressure 100%.



Ten employees and seventeen working male patients make up the operating crew under the Construction & Maintenance Engineer.





MAINTENANCE



The Maintenance Department is responsible for the up-keep of the Grounds and Buildings. Operates and maintains the water supply system from artesian wells, steam distribution system, sewage lines, electrical power and lighting systems, maintains road surfaces, grounds drainage and storm sewer system, and maintains all machinery, ventilating, refrigerating, television and radio equipment.

The activities of this Department are supervised by an Assistant Construction & Maintenance Engineer, who is assisted with the help of 35 technicians and 36 working patient boys.



HOUSEKEEPING

The activities of the Housekeeping Department are supervised by the Housekeeper. She is assisted by

seven other employes, fourteen male patients, and thirteen female patients.

This department is charged with the cleanliness of 122 rooms, and fifteen apartments that are the quarters of personnel living at the School. There are also twenty-one offices, the school building, the auditorium, and various other public buildings that must be cleaned daily.

Many auxiliary duties are the responsibility of this department. The Housekeeper assigns living quarters to employes, cares for all linens, furnishes supplies, and reports conditions of living quarters.



GARAGE

Eighteen vehicles make up the fleet of automotive equipment of the Institution. Six sedans, two pickup trucks, seven heavy trucks, one station wagon, one ambulance and one school bus supply the necessary transportation of personnel and provisions. Five employees and fifteen non-operating patients, under the supervision of the Garage Manager, man the commercial trucks, while the passenger cars are at the disposal of the administrative personnel and the Social Service investigators.

In the fiscal year ending May 31, 1953 over 105,000 miles of travel were covered by the combined fleet and all equipment is kept in 100% working order.





Two employees, and a Stores Manager, with the help of six male patients receive, store and dispense commodities on written, approved, requisitions, to conveniently supply canned and packaged foods, shoes, clothing, toilet articles, bed linens, hardware, dietary and household utensils, office and miscellaneous supplies. An inventory approaching \$300,000 in value safeguards the Institution from any emergency shortage or calamity.





Recent improvements made to the Laundry enable the processing of approximately ten tons of clothing and linens every day. Eight automatic washers complete

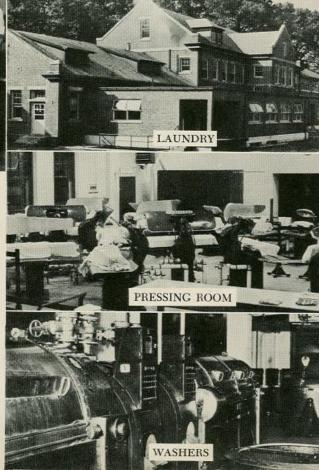
a 325 pound wash every 56 minutes.

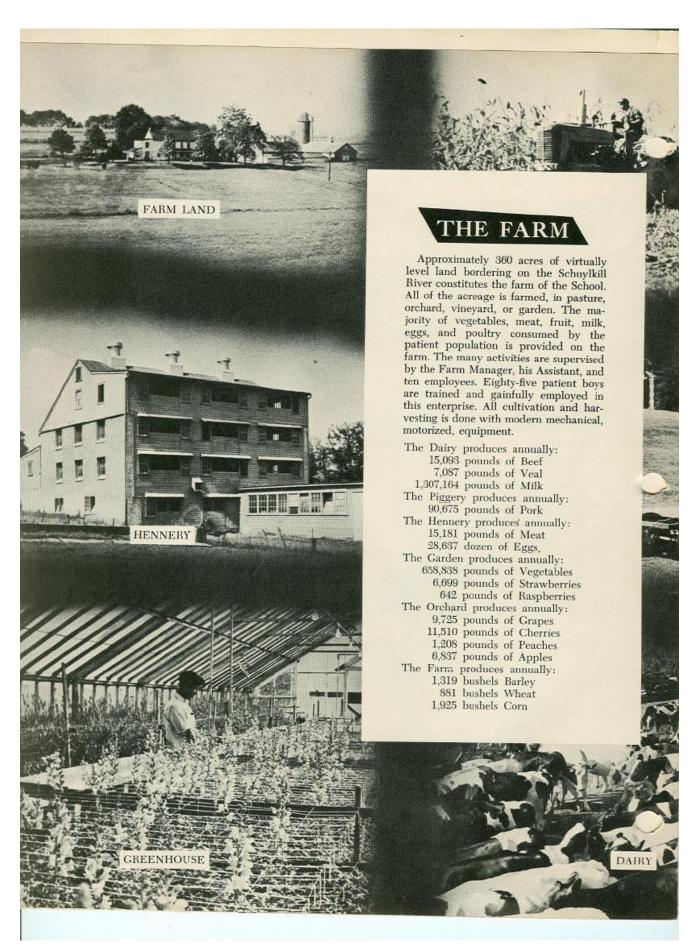
Three six-high-roll ironers complete over 4000 pieces of linen daily. In the pressing room approximately 2000 dresses, 1500 pairs of white trousers, 100 white uniforms and 1500 shirts are laundered weekly.

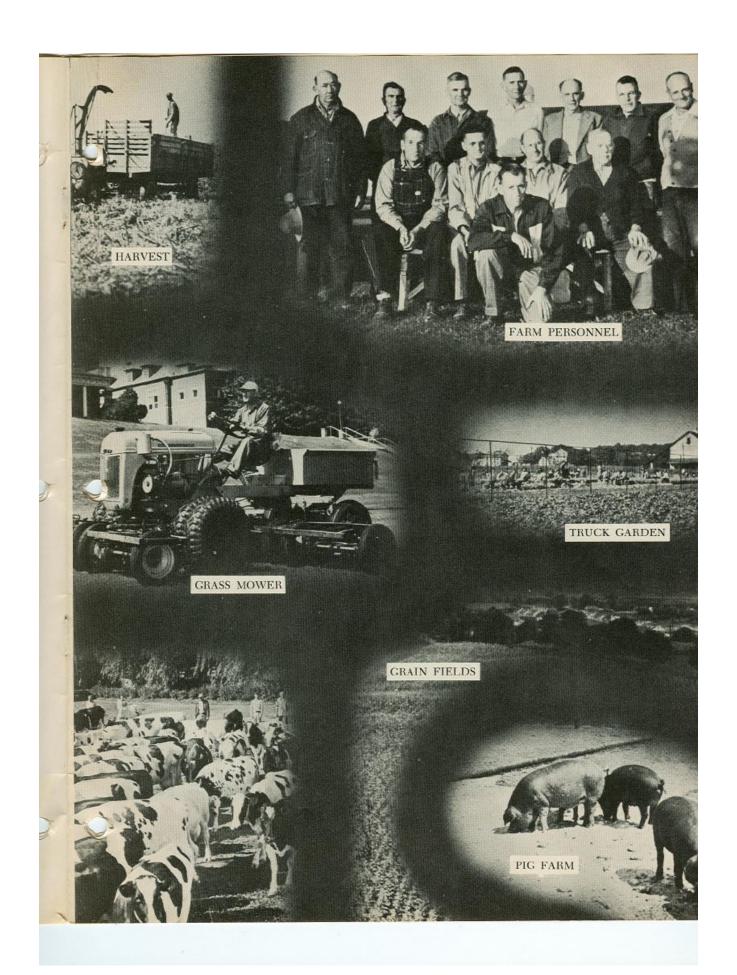
During the state year ending May 31, 1953 the poundage processed was 5,119,356.

Five employees assist the Laundry Manager to supervise and direct the work which is done by 58 female and 24 male patients in what is considered to be the most modern laundry in Pennsylvania.

LAUNDRY







BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop 61 is active in almost all phases of Scouting. Programs are planned several months in advance and feature such activities as knot tying, practice in first aid, cooking, handicraft, map and compass reading, signaling and, during the summer months, camping. At the time of writing, there are twenty-six Scouts and Explorers in the Troop.





SUMMER CAMP

CANTEENS

To provide snacks, ice cream, candy and beverages, primarily for the patients, and secondly for the employes and School visitors, a Canteen occupies two rooms adjoining the Male Colony visiting room. The income from the undertaking replenishes the Amusement Fund when its meagre source otherwise fails to provide movies, parties, television and radio sets, concerts, entertainment and delicacies.

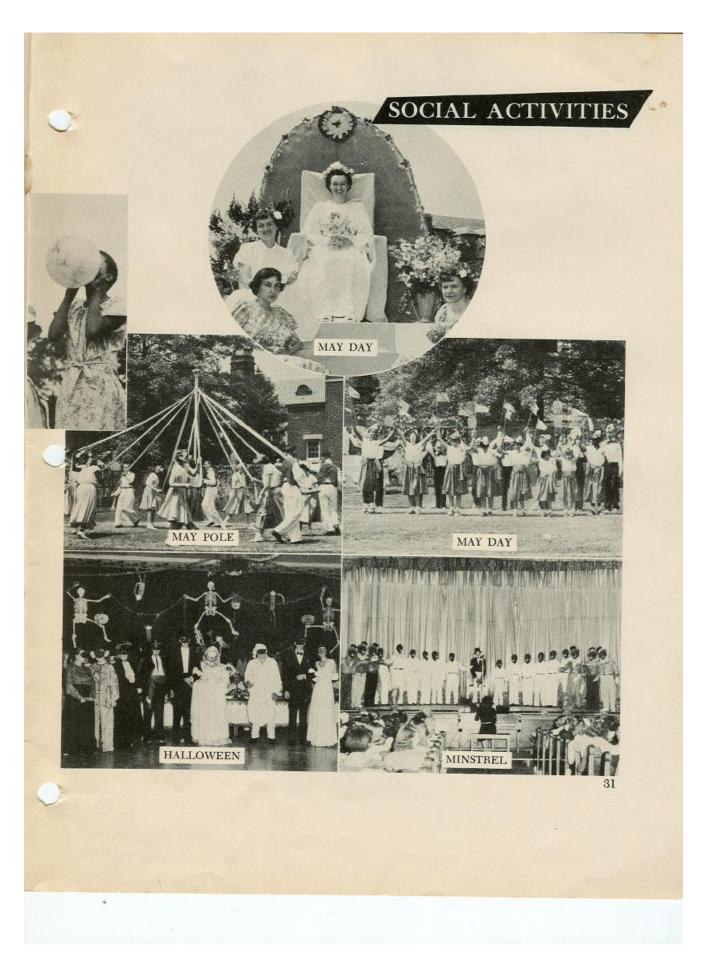
Patient help is trained to prepare soups, sandwiches, and wait on patrons.

The Canteen is open 8 AM to 4 PM every day, including Sunday, under the supervision of a state-paid Attendant as a bonded manager who handles all monies.









ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Members of the entire staff of the School have been a part of making this pamphlet possible, and particular mention is given to Mr. Harold W. Amster, Photographer, Mr. John D. Kane, Accountant, Mr. John C. Downey, Personnel Director, and Mr. Albert Millar, Jr., Assistant C. & M. Engineer, for their contribution and patience in obtaining the material and settings.

This pamphlet is paid from funds derived from our Canteen Fund and is on sale at twenty-five cents per copy, to reimburse the moneys expended from this fund which will ultimately be used for recreation purposes.

I trust that this booklet will be of some help.

W. A. Phillips, Superintendent

-10 THE TELEGRAPH PRESS, HARRISBURG, PA., U.S.A.