

REPORT

Documents Department
JAN 14 1971
Dallas Public Library



to employees concerning people, programs and progress
of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation

Vol. 2

December, 1970

No. 12

New Superintendents Named to Direct 3 TDMHMR Facilities

The Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation has confirmed the appointments of new superintendents at three TDMHMR facilities.

The appointments are:

--Bill R. Walker, Ph.D., of San Angelo, has been appointed superintendent of Austin State School, effective December 16. Dr. Walker, who has been superintendent of San Angelo Center since September, 1969, succeeds Larry W. Talkington, who resigned.

--J.W. (Bill) Irwin, business manager at the Denton State School, will assume the San Angelo Center superintendent's post on December 16.

--Arch M. Connolly, M.D., of Austin, is appointed superintendent of

(Continued on Page 4)

Board Approves Plan For Childrens' Hospital

The Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation has approved a plan to build an adolescent psychiatric facility incorporating major philosophic changes for TDMHMR.

The plan calls for construction of a childrens' psychiatric hospital in Austin to serve primarily community MH/MR centers. The hospital, while administered by Austin State Hospital, would serve as an integral part of the total comprehensive childrens' services provided by the Austin/Travis County and Bell County Community MH/MR Centers.

Under the plan, application for about \$450,000 in federal funds would be made to partially finance the 60-bed, \$1.2 million unit.

Ward Burke, Board Chairman, said the plan is an opportunity to provide

childrens' services more closely related to community centers. According to Board member Robert S. Tate, Jr., D.D., the plan "is a milestone in the history of this department--a new era of cooperation between state, federal and locally funded agencies."

The new childrens' hospital would be built north of the present Austin State Hospital grounds, across 45th Street from TDMHMR Central Office.

In other action at its October 23 meeting, the Board authorized the Commissioner to designate Kerrville State Hospital as a medical treatment facility if it would increase the possibility of participation in federal financed programs; authorized renovation of the gas and steam distribution at Mexia State School; and appointed Bell County Judge William C. Black to the Texas State Construction Advisory Council.

A Christmas Greeting . . .

To My Friends ... Old and New:

Christmas is not something that happened ... it is happening.

What is the real business of Christmas?

Christmas brings a little heaven into our daily lives. God made it possible for us to exchange our fears for faith, our weaknesses for strength, and hatred for love, our aimlessness for purpose, and our physical deaths for eternal life.

The joy of brightening other lives, bearing others' burdens, easing others' loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of Christmas.

Richly celebrated, not in money, but in the pleasure of giving and receiving, it can supply memories for a lifetime. May we seize every opportunity for assistance to our fellow man and thereby keep Christmas alive all through the year.

It is in this true Spirit of Christmas that I greet you ... and wish you a Merry Christmas. May its laughter and friendship and good cheer be yours in abundance this Joyous Season. May you see the star and hear the song of glorious promise.

May you not spend Christmas but keep it, that you may be kept in its hope.

David Wade, M.D.

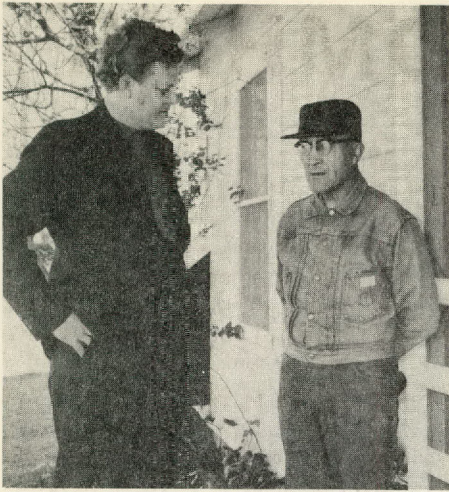
Christmas, New Year Holiday Schedule

Employees of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation will observe the following Christmas vacation schedule:

Wednesday, December 23
Thursday, December 24
Friday, December 25

Those employees who will not be able to take the designated three-day vacation will be entitled to take one of the days designated as Christmas holidays and will be allowed two other days off.

Another official holiday for TDMHMR employees will be New Year's Day, January 1, 1971.



TAD CORBETT, I., director of the Work Village, visits with one of the residents on the front porch of a typical cottage.



SOME VILLAGE residents have installed cooking appliances in cottages they rent from the hospital.

Big Spring Work Village Is Haven for Ex-Patients

Big Spring State Hospital's Work Village, a unique experiment in community living, is offering new hope for discharged patients.

The Work Village is a totally structured and supervised living situation for former patients who have not adjusted fully outside the hospital environs but are able to lead productive lives in a sheltered "colony."

The program was originated in April, 1969, by Big Spring State Hospital superintendent Preston Harrison, M.D., Ph.D., to provide for needs of chronic patients. Living in the village instead of the hospital allows former patients a measure of independence and personal dignity they could not otherwise enjoy.

A group of 20 patients presently live in the village and work in the hospital. They are paid for their work and in turn must pay for rental of their cabin and most of the things they need.

The village experience is made as similar to life in a community as possible. Village Director Tad Corbett says, "The emphasis is on community, not psychology." While hospital life may promote a patient attitude of "give me," the village program attempts to teach each resident that he must do many things for himself and make many of his own decisions.

The village has a mayor and city council, elected from the residents, with village meetings held weekly for voicing grievances. The director and assistant director, who are the only staff members,

help the residents determine what their needs are and decide how they can be met.

The Work Village was originally conceived as a place where former patients might spend the remainder of their lives if they failed to adjust in the community. These expectations have been surpassed, Corbett said. Four village residents who previously could not adjust are now living and working successfully in the community. Another village, located in the community, is planned.

Whether residents are ever able to leave the village or not, Dr. Harrison says, "The Work Village provides hope for some of our socially disadvantaged and disabled patients."



A WORK VILLAGE resident, r., employed by the hospital, assists a patient in the occupational therapy department.

Doggett Named MR Deputy By TDMHMR Trustees

The Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation has approved the appointment of Bill J. Doggett as deputy commissioner for Mental Retardation, effective December 31.

Doggett, a long time state employee, will fill the position formerly held by Charles Martin, who has resigned.



DOGGETT

In announcing Doggett's appointment, David Wade, M.D., Commissioner, TDMHMR, said, "Mr. Doggett will have full program responsibility for mental retardation services."

Doggett is currently superintendent of Brownwood State Home and School for Girls, a statewide reception center operated by the Texas Youth Council.

The new deputy commissioner has served as superintendent of both the Austin and Travis State Schools for the mentally retarded. He has also been business manager and personnel manager of the Travis State School. From 1959 through 1964, Doggett was employed by the Texas Education Agency in the Disability Determination and Vocational Rehabilitation Divisions.

Doggett is a graduate of Howard Payne College, Brownwood, and holds a Master of Education degree from the University of Texas.

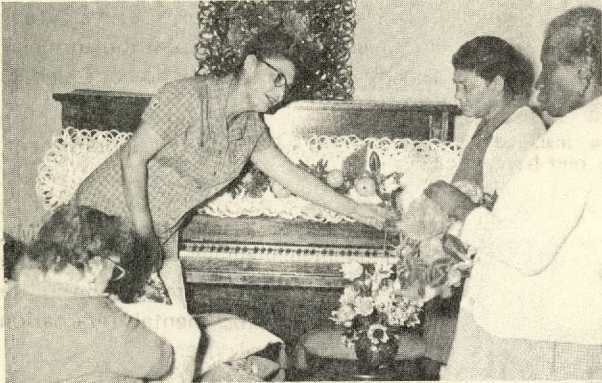
3,500 Guests Attend Lufkin Open House

Approximately 3,500 persons, including parents and friends of residents, attended open house at Lufkin State School on October 25. The event was sponsored by the school's Volunteer Services Council.

Tour guides were provided, with all facilities open for inspection. Visitors saw residents at work and in the classroom, arts and craft shop, recreation center, and demonstrations of speech and hearing equipment were presented.

Christmas Comes to TDMHMR

(Editor's note: This special holiday feature is by Paula Womack, Information Coordinator, Austin State Hospital.)



MRS. DOROTHY LEWIS, (standing, l.), occupational therapist at Austin State Hospital, and patients from the Central Brazos Valley Unit put finishing touches on Christmas decorations.

Throughout TDMHMR, attendants, occupational therapists, nurses, patients, and volunteers work together a hundred ways to bring the spirit of the holiday season into our schools and hospitals for thousands who cannot go home or who have no home.

Planning starts weeks before the day. For patients and residents with families, caseworkers call families and write numerous letters trying to encourage them to take their patient home for the season.

For each student and patient well enough to go, shopping trips to town provide an opportunity to look, wish and finally choose that special gift for a loved one.

Busy hands make thousands of unbelievably beautiful ornaments and decorations to brighten day rooms and dormitories. Competition runs high between classrooms and treatment areas. Working with plastic throw-aways like bleach bottles, egg cartons and scraps of every description, groups compete for prizes in Volunteer Council decorating contests.

Napkin snowflakes float from ceilings, Gingerbread angels fly on crooked wings. Black faces, white faces, tan faces with twinkling eyes and "Ho-Ho-Ho's" smile through cotton beards of Santa costumes.

Community groups join staff and residents in singing favorite carols to shut-ins. Adolescents hospitalized for drug abuse reach beyond themselves to sponsor parties and make gifts for retarded children in neighboring institutions.

Calls from teachers, church service chairmen, scout group leaders and students flood switchboards and finally reach coordinators with the warm, concerned question, "What can we do to help?"

Attendants, mental health workers, dormitory and house parents compile endless lists of needs, wants and Christmas dreams to be passed on to luckier citizens who can meet the needs and provide gifts, toys and

outings synonymous with yuletide joys. Popcorn strings and paper chains share spotlights with fancier ornaments on sometimes lop-sided trees.

Homes of employees are opened to thousands of children and patients. Warmth and love no state appropriation can purchase are given freely, joyfully and without reservation by underpaid, overworked and over-productive staff people.

Rickety pianos rock with sounds of "Silent Night, Jingle Bells, and Little Town of Bethlehem" sung slightly off-key but with enthusiasm seldom matched in other seasons.



MRS. WARD BURKE, (l), and Ward Burke, Chairman, Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation lead guests in sampling food prepared in TDMHMR's new test kitchen facility, which was dedicated October 23.

Within each facility --- unheralded and many times unappreciated --- superintendents, business managers, supply officers and department heads confer over conference tables checking Benefit Funds and resources available for outside lights. All extra things of beauty are used to welcome visitors and bid a "Merry Christmas" to all. For every tree lit with varied sparkling lights, some maintenance man has checked an outlet, strung the baubles and felt a twinge of satisfaction because he too has caught the Christmas virus.

The Eve arrives and candy stockings carefully selected by food service employees find their way to patient and student.

Gifts requested, gift surprises make Christmas parties happy parties for all who cannot leave.

Then comes the long awaited day. That day we celebrate the birth of Christ and those of all religions join to make the day complete.

Home, family, loved ones: these are our first choice for those within our schools and hospitals. But those who must stay provide us with a chance to share, to give, to love that turns our Christmas workdays into times of joy.

Texas Chaplains Meet At Big Spring Hospital

Big Spring State Hospital was host for the Texas State Chaplains Association annual meeting and workshop October 6-8.

Featured speakers included Ernest Bruder, D.D., director of Protestant chaplain activities at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Washington, D.C., and Preston Harrison, M.D., Ph.D., superintendent, Big Spring Hospital.

Officers of the State Chaplains Association are Lee Butler, Big Spring State Hospital, president; Mather Owen, Wichita Falls State Hospital, president-elect; Leroy Downum, San Antonio State TB Hospital, vice-president; and Bob Cullum, San Antonio State Hospital, secretary.

Big Spring State Hospital also offered a one-day-per-week introductory clinical pastoral education course for area ministers October 15-November 19.

WHO'S WHO IN TDMHMR

Chief of Purchasing and Supply Services T. T. (Ted) Nelson

The Purchasing and Supply Services Division is directed by T.T. (Ted) Nelson.

Responsible for establishing and maintaining a uniform supply procedure system throughout TDMHMR, the division coordinates purchasing and supply activities for the entire system.

The division also administers the Central Reproduction Services section which provides standard and special forms to all institutions and the Central Office.

An average of \$73,000 in bids are awarded monthly by the division for fresh eggs, produce and 12 frozen food items. Institutional participation in federal school lunch and milk programs is coordinated through the division with the State Welfare

(This is the fifteenth in a series of articles explaining the role of administrators in the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.)



Department and the Texas Education Agency.

Other activities include administering a policy and procedures manual which standardizes purchasing practices throughout the system; screening and approving all institutional requisitions before processing through the State Board of Control; and supervising the semi-annual sale of surplus institutional supplies and equipment.

A state employee since 1957, Nelson has over 23 years' experience in purchasing and supply including 10 years in Saudi Arabia with the Arabian American Oil Company. His professional affiliations include the National Association of Purchasing Management and the National Association of Hospital Purchasing Management.

SASH Receives Award

San Antonio State Hospital has received a certificate of appreciation from the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District for "exceptional volunteer services in the immunization campaign against diphtheria and polio."

During the recent diphtheria epidemic, nine nurses from the hospital assisted in the citywide mass immunizations conducted by the public health department and the Five C's Group.

Under the coordination of Mrs. Evelyn Allen, R.N., chief nurse of the Alamo Unit, the nurses contributed over 100 hours of volunteer professional service during September and October.

Registered Nurses assisting Mrs. Allen included Betty Davies, Mary Grimes, Evelyn Merrifield, Carol Sassmanshausen, Minnie Schmidzensky, Wallace Hunter, Frecia Kelly, Dorothea Poole, and Grace Stuart.

New Superintendents. . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Wichita Falls State Hospital, effective February 1, 1971. Dr. Connolly, acting assistant deputy commissioner of Mental Health Services, replaces Bernard A. Rappaport, M.D., who has resigned.

Dr. Walker has served as assistant superintendent and as clinical director at Abilene State School.

Irwin was business manager of both the State Orphan's Home and the Texas School for the Deaf prior to his ten-year affiliation with Denton State School.

Dr. Connolly was superintendent of Rusk State Hospital from 1967 until September, 1970, and previously served as the hospital's clinical director and staff psychiatrist.

Personnel Officers Discuss Policies At Austin Meet

Personnel officers from TDMHMR institutions met in Austin October 21-23 to discuss personnel policies and techniques.

Approximately 40 personnel employees attended the annual meeting.

Discussion topics included the personnel manual, training, payroll administration, recruiting, labor relations, unemployment compensation, equal employment opportunity, the Military Experience Directed into Health Careers program, and insurance.

David Wade, M.D., Commissioner, TDMHMR, and Bruce B. Conway, director, Manpower, Information and Training, were among the featured speakers.

Texas Department
of Mental Health
and Mental Retardation



David Wade, M.D.
Commissioner

Box 12668, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711
512 454-3761