

Institution

MINNESOTA STATE HOSPITALS RAYMOND C. ROACH, ACTING PATIENT PROGRAM SUPERVISOR  
Compiled by (Name and title )per order of  
For period DECEMBER 1, 1953 through DECEMBER 31 1953 Superintendent  
Month Year Month Year

Instructions: Indicate number of full-time employed Patient Activities Staff members. Briefly describe the Patient Activities program for the above period\* This should include new and important phases as relating to program, supervision, facilities, equipment and personnel in the total activities offerings for patients. Major future events may also be described. Other events or improvements regarding patients' progress, individual therapy, and group activities may be itemized.

Number of full-time employed Patients Activities staff members on last day of above specified period 13

The month of December was a very busy month for the Activities Department with a program consisting of the Institution choir singing on the local radio station, Santa Clans making his rounds accompanied by the institution carolers, distribution of donated gifts received through the efforts of Cedric Adams' column in the Minneapolis paper, the Christmas Play, a volunteer variety show, and ending with patient New Year's dances.

Our institution choir was again asked to sing on a fifteen minute program over K D H L, the radio station serving Faribault and surrounding communities. A tape recording was cut at the institution and later played by the radio station engineers over the air. The children were allowed to star up late the evening of the broadcast to hear the program. Our choir adequately matched the singing of other choirs in the community that also sang on this series of programs.

The 21st, 22nd, and 23rd of December, Santa Clans and the patient choir who acted as carolers visited every cottage and ward on the campus. His visits included shaking hands with the children, wishing them a Merry Christmas, and listening to the request for gifts from the smaller children. Fortunately we have a gentleman on the Patient Activities Staff that meets all the requirements of Santa Clans and plays the part excellently. The younger children were very excited and thrilled by his visit. The older patients, of course, knew who Santa was and still received a certain amount of thrill and enjoyment out of his visit.

Of course everyone is acquainted with the gift donation project, for the Mentally Retarded, which Cedric Adams started several years ago. This year we have enlarged upon the working program which we have followed in the past years for the distribution of these gifts. All donated gifts were put into a central room called the Cedric Adams room at our institution. In this room they were then sorted into boxes for the various types of children in the different buildings. In previous years the children were sometimes disappointed because they did not receive the gifts they had requested and gifts were sent to them unwrapped because Aide Personnel were too busy with other duties.

This year when boxes for the various varus were filled, a telephone call was placed to each building and a Psychiatric Aide would then come to the Cedric Adams Room with a list of the patients in his or her building. The list of names also included the choice of gifts each patient preferred for Christmas. First of all we would fill the desires of the forgotten children of the institution. By forgotten children we mean these without relatives. After their needs were fulfilled, we would go through the list filling the requests of children that do receive boxes from home. After gifts were picked and tagged for the patients, they were wrapped individually with the aid of activities people and patient helpers. The plan of having Aide Personnel helping to select the gifts for patients in their ear\* worked very well because it created a feeling of their being a part of the program. Reports from supervisors of all divisions indicated that the employees were acre impressed and satisfied with the gift\* that the children in their buildings received than they had been in the past.

The Christmas Play was again under the direction of Mr. Roewer, the school principal, and Mrs. Kuhlman, a Leader I in Music, with the Chaplain advising on the religious aspects of the play. This year the Christmas Flay again ran in conjunction with the regularly scheduled auditorium movies. A suggestion for next year has been made to run the play independent of the movie and to enlarge upon the play and the patient participation, with possible plans of having a couple of evenings set aside with the public invited to attend. Considering the mental handicaps of our children, they did an outstanding job of portraying their part\* while a narrator spoke which was all tied together with Christmas carols sung by our patient choir.

The 29th Of December, Mr. Charlie Koch of the Teamsters Union of Minneapolis brought a variety show to our institution. Shis special program was very wall received by our patient. Mr. Koch spoke of bringing the Dick Finch Orchestra to our institution sometime in February. Mr. Koch also said the Dick Finch Orchestra ha\* cut their first records and the first series of records are labeled for our institution. \*a are in contact with other volunteer programs and Mrs. Karlins is now making arrangements for the\*\* groups to visit our institution.

The week of December 20th naturally was the busiest week of the month; therefore, we cancelled our regularly scheduled dances of the 22nd and 23rd. We held these dances on the 29th and 30th and called them ear New Year's Eve Dances. The dances started at their regular 6.30 P.M. starting time but we asked the patients to move their watches to li:30 P.M. and whan the hour hand reached 12:00 midnight, we marched in the New Year with the throwing Of confetti, noise makers, etc.

For all Christmas activities, the dormitories in general were nicely decorated\* were provided with 106 Christmas trees from the Moose lake State Hospital. This was ample quantity to cover all patient living quarters with some bough\* left over for outside decorations. We again had our tape recorder and a public address system set up in the tower of the administration building and two patient helpers played Christmas carols and chime\* over the campus throughout the Christmas period.

A Girl Scout Troop from the city of Faribault visited our institution one evening and sang Christmas carols to some of our children. In the past they had toured the residential area of Faribault but this year decided they would do something for the children of our institution.

In some of the dormitories Aide Personnel handled Christmas parties at which the children enjoyed themselves to the fullest degree.

All in all, we think this was a most happy Christmas.

At the suggestion of Mrs. Miriam Karlins, we sent thank you letters to the volunteer\* that had served our institution during the past year. Now that the holiday season is over. We are making plans for a social adjustment program for some of the highly disturbed patients. In the Handicraft Department, a class for girls has been started for the higher intelligent groups to teach them useful things such as home economics. There has been a discussion between the beautician of this institution and myself regarding classes in personal appearance for female patients.

We are attempting to give the patients that are eligible for rehabilitation a general knowledge of things that would be useful to them in earning a living if returned to society.

Mr. Jerry Johnson joined the Patient Activities Staff December 14th. His appointment filled the position vacated by Mr. H. K. Rinsem's resignation in November. Miss Helen Tousignant was pressed into service in the institution for five days of the Christmas rush.

rintendent

Acting Patient Program Supervisor I