

The St. Cloud section for Mental Defectives is housed in the reformatory of that name.

One enters through the various gates and is immediately impressed by the cleanliness and the freshly painted surface of all walls and bars. A novelty was the fact that men were allowed to pick the colors of their cell walls. It is a great improvement over the sameness of color one usually sees in an institution of this type.

The mentally defectives, sixty in number, are cared for in one large combined dormitory and dayroom. They sleep in two tiered beds, and each has an ear phone and they may select by vote one of three stations to listen to. There is a television set that is greatly appreciated.

They were all neatly dressed in khaki uniforms.

Two guards, or aides, are on duty at all times, one at each end of the hall.

I talked with the Business Manager, with Mr. Carl Jackson, the Superintendent of the Reformatory, and Mr. Ralph Rosenberg, the man in direct charge of the educational program. It is a well run unit in a well run reformatory.

There is a very active Directive Program with Mr. Rosenberg in charge, and it is a practical course in social living with the aim of pointing the way they must go if they are ever to take their place in the community. It does not stress the three R's, but is a very sensible program with all education directed toward realistic living, holding before the boy all the time that he must learn how to live decently and honestly with people, and when he does then he may leave the institution.

They are taught that the employer is always right and that when he tells them to do it his way, then that is the way to do it. There is a great deal of work that they can do better than a brighter person, and that is what they are trained to do.

They are taught to be truthful, dependable, and responsible; also to read and write since they must understand and fill out applications when applying for a job.

Lives of great men are analyzed to show why they were great, that they possessed honesty, etc. The Chaplain points out the virtues of religion and prayer.

Many are discharged to take jobs as farm hands, dishwashers, etc. The proof of the good job they are doing is shown by the fact that 75% of the Defective Delinquents are returned to the Community, and of the fifty who were originally transferred here in 1946 because they were so bad they could not be successfully cared for at Faribault School where it had been necessary to seclude and restrain them, only four are still here, four died, and eight were transferred to other institutions. These were the men who came here in chains and strait jackets.

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Harlan Paine