

REHABILITATION THERAPIES DEPARTMENT  
December, 1961, Monthly Report

During the month of December the Rehabilitation Therapies department continued to serve the patients of Faribault State School and Hospital through various activities programs. These programs, aimed at furthering the patients' social adjustment and development, are provided through central and dormitory activities schedules.

The recreation staff conducted or assisted at the following large group auditorium programs:

- 4 Protestant and 4 Catholic church services
- 4 community sings
- 4 social dances
- 2 wheel chair activities
- 11 play party programs
- 2 square dances
- 3 social grace and skill program parties
- 4 modified sports programs for boys
- 2 modified sports periods for adult males
- 3 modified sports sessions for girls
- 3 modified sports programs for adult females
- 4 - 35 mm auditorium movies
- 36 - 16 mm dormitory movies

The month of December has once again witnessed the usual hustle and expectancy characteristic of the yuletide. Patient and employe alike through concentrated effort contributed towards making Christmas of 1960 truly a joyous occasion.

Apart from the conducting of a somewhat reduced recreation activities schedule, efforts of the entire recreation therapies staff focused upon the various phases of receiving and distributing Christmas gifts for our patients.

Preparation of the receiving and distributing rooms was completed in November and more than 25,000 gift items were processed through the Cedric Adams gift center here at the institution from December 1 through December 24. Charge aides from each of the thirty-five residences within this period made a personalized selection of eight gift items for each individual in their care. A complete itemized account of the gifts distributed to each patient was made and is on file with the Rehab. Supervisor, division supervisors, and charge aides. Due to the sustained interest of numerous volunteer groups, the greater majority of this year's gifts were gift wrapped before delivery. Special items of demand were purchased locally with the \$300.00 budgeted for this purpose.

Arriving principally after December 10, about 11,900 gifts estimated at a value of \$5,755.00 were received either by mail or personal delivery from more than 575 individual and group donors. To each donor was sent a card expressing acknowledgment of gratitude.

The receiving room was a busy place indeed receiving, sorting, and evaluating the packages as they were delivered. However the room was in temporary bedlam on December 22 and later on January 3, after the arrival of the greatly welcomed van load of gifts collected at various stations in the Twin Cities. The estimated value of the approximate 11,800 items received on the vans was placed at \$8,750.80.

Other articles delivered to us on the van were 4 television sets, 3 portable stereo phonographs, 24 table model radios, 1 tape recorder, and 37 LP and record albums. In addition, we received \$1,196.31 in cash donations to either the Chaplain's Fund or the Christmas Fund.

Our preparations for the Christmas celebration were given a pleasant start on December 4 when members of the Bloomington Theatrical Guild entertained at our institution. They presented two clever skits, with Christmas theme, to our patient groups, each followed with the singing of favorite Christmas songs.

The evening of December 6 staff members volunteered their time to decorate large Christmas trees which were placed outside at various places on our campus. In all 103 trees were purchased so that each dormitory had a decorated tree. However the outside trees were the only ones with lights. Other campus decorations included a nativity scene, Santa Claus with sleigh and reindeer, carolers and snow men figures, and a season's greeting sign. To further help get the Christmas spirit, Christmas carols were played by two patient helpers from a tape recorder and speakers placed on top of the hospital building.

Patient helpers assigned to various industrial shoos enjoyed parties on December 9. Cottages and other work areas also had parties for their groups during the month.

Volunteers sacked 2,600 pounds of peanuts and 2,500 pounds of hard and soft Christmas candy on December 14. The peanuts and candy were purchased with State funds and were distributed to the buildings by members of the recreation staff.

The regularly scheduled community sing for Sunday afternoon, December 18, incorporated a stage program of impromptu Christmas carol singing in lieu of the traditional Christmas play which had of necessity been cancelled. The spontaneity of the unrehearsed program compensated for a possible lack of polish; the audience was greatly pleased at being participant and spectator simultaneously.

Santa Claus and patient carolers visited every building housing patients on December 19, 20, and 21.

The week of December 19-23 a special Christmas movie was shown on the wards housing severely retarded or infirm patients.

The third annual Christmas decorating contest this year evoked much interest and enthusiasm, as clearly demonstrated by the 22 entries submitted. The recreation therapies staff gave suggestions and provided art materials and Christmas decorations to all resident areas of the institution. Residents of all buildings decorated their day rooms in varying degrees of artistry. This year there were three categories within the Christmas decorating contest, with each category to be awarded a first, second, and honorable mention prize. First prize, an after-Christmas party, was presented to Oaks, Daisy, and Pine cottages. The second place winners were Sioux, Fern A, and Cedar; each merited a candy treat. Runner-ups Dairy, Poppy, and Spruce were recognized with an honorable mention. The contest was judged on December 23 by Mr. Krafve, Mr. Thurber, Mr. Saufferer, Miss Boyes, and Mrs. Stabbert.

Mr. Dwayne Force of Minneapolis showed an hour of colored slides of Alaska Tuesday evening, December 6. Mr. Force's engagingly descriptive presentation ably served

to both educate and entertain the audience. The program was arranged through the thoughtful interest of Mr. Quigley, Superintendent of the School for the Deaf.

On December 11 the Man-Tonka Dancers, a group of Campfire Girls and Boy Scouts under the direction of Mr. Bill Bulls of Minneapolis, presented two very colorful Sunday afternoon performances depicting an arrangement of animated Indian dances.

The evening of December 18 the Variety Kings of Minneapolis visited with their merry music making at the Hospital for half an hour prior to playing for two dances. This program was arranged by Mr. Charles Koch and sponsored by the Harry C. Molm American Legion Post 611 and the Teamsters Joint Council #32 of Minneapolis.

Eight floral arrangements received from the Kohl Funeral Home were distributed to four infirmary residences on December 28.

Each of the 300 residents observing birthdays in December was honored on the 13th with a birthday card, a dixie cup of ice cream, and a decorated cake square.

Mr. Gerald Johnson, Patient Activities Leader I assigned to Sunnyside division, has been out sick with hepatitis since November 14.

The handicraft department gave some time to Christmas activities. Patients enrolled in the general crafts classes spent time making decorations which were used in their building and in the lobby of Rogers Memorial. Some girls in sewing made aprons, place mats, and luncheon sets with Christmas designs stamped on them. These items were sold during a special Christmas sale on Friday, December 17.

Cooking classes learned to bake cakes, cookies, bars, and candy. Each of the craft classes received a treat in December made by those enrolled in Activities of Daily Living. The girls in these classes served the treats and coffee as part of the instruction they are receiving in being hostesses.

Items completed in sewing classes include blouses, housecoats, and skirts.

Favorite projects in general crafts continue to be vinyl tile mats, Walco beadwork, leather craft, and freehand drawing. Whenever possible the finished articles are displayed to give recognition to the patients.

Several extra patients were brought in to the weaving program to tear old bedspreads into strips for use in weaving. Twenty-six rugs were turned over to the warehouse personnel for use in the institution.

Fourteen patients are enrolled in Mr. Kroska's ceramics classes on Thursday evenings. Although there are many more who want to participate in this program, presently fourteen is considered the maximum number. They have progressed from closely guided projects to processes requiring greater creative ability.

Handicraft instructors were on vacation the week of December 25-30,

Eighteen patients are now being seen in Occupational Therapy. Three of these were referred by Dr. McGee, the orthopedic consultant from Rochester, for modified physical therapy programs.