PROGRESS REPORT ON MENTALLY RETARDED HOME
APRIL, 1965

We decided to check into the possibility of building a nursing home. Told Milt and Mary Bartsh about our idea and we decided it would be a good idea if the four of us would do it together.

Began by going through several homes such as "The Willows" and one over in St. Paul. Sent for literature, got plans, blueprints, etc. Looked at several pieces of land - applied for a loan through Prudential Inc. Company but in April they returned the blueprints and refused us the loan.

Decided we must try something else so instead of a nursing home we thought maybe a home for retarded would be a good idea so started checking on that. We talked with Jerry Van Slyk who has the Greenbriar Home over in St. Paul. This home is for retarded men only. After talking with Jerry we decided this is what we wanted to build too. We would build a home for retarded men from age 18 and up - just for trainable men. Jerry agreed to help us in any way he could.

MAY, 1965

Started looking for a site suitable to build this building. Thought St. Louis Park or Golden Valley would be the best area. After many days of looking for property we found 12 acres of land in Golden Valley, near shopping center, with gas, sewer and water. Proceeded to find out how we could purchase this land and found out it belonged to the Chicago Northwestern Railway Company. We made them an offer of $28,000 for this property. Mr. Frank Murphy of Chicago N.W. Railway Co. was in charge for this land. Sent cashier's check for $2,800 as a down payment. Didn't know if they would accept this offer or not.

JULY, 1965

We opened a bank account at Citizens State Bank in the amount of $3,400.00 under M. A. Bartsh and Robert E. Miller. Received a letter from the Railway Company that they were considering our offer. Decided to hire an attorney to handle things so contacted Ronald Swanson and he agreed to help us.

Called Ken DeMar who was the contractor for the Greenbriar Home. Decided to meet with Ron Swanson, Milt and Bob to look at the property in Golden Valley. Mr. DeMar thought this land suitable for the home.

In the meantime Milt had several meetings with the Welfare Board. A letter dated Sept. 29 was received from Mrs. Ames who is supervisor of the Dept. of Welfare of the State of Minnesota. Her letter stated that a home of this type is greatly needed in the state. Mr. Gruber was also contacted.

Had several meetings at the lake discussing our project. Decided to form a Corporation. All agreed that we would call this the Robert Milton Home, Inc. Bob was elected President, Milt Vice-President, Mary Treasurer and Vergene Secretary.

AUGUST, 1965

Not much progress was made on our project in August as we were waiting to hear from the railroad company, etc. Finally did accept our offer so that was another step forward.
SEPTEMBER 1965

Had meeting at Bartsh's with Ron Swanson. Discussed how a corporation was formed and how we should proceed to have the Golden Valley Council approve our plans and issue us a permit so we could build in the spring.

Attended the Golden Valley Council meeting and explained what we wanted to build and our program. Talked with the Planning committee and several of the members were not too keen on this project. Property has to be re-zoned before we can build.

Milt contacted Hal Greenwood of the Minneapolis Federal Savings & Loan Company about a loan. Seems probable that they will approve of this project. Sent letter to Mr. Greenwood on September 22, 1965 explaining what we intended to do and sent him a copy of our proposal.

Had another meeting with Ron Swanson at the Millers. Found out from Helen that Rolling Acres was to be taken over by Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church. Thought it would be a good idea if we could get in on this somehow.

Took trip down to Redwood Falls with Milt and Mary. Wanted to talk to Mr. & Mrs. Warner about Rolling Acres as he was president of this organization and also they have a retarded son. We were very impressed with the Warners and spent most of the afternoon talking with them. Mr. Warner said he would submit our proposal to the board meeting which was to be the 17th of October.

On October 14, 1965 we sent the balance of payment to the Chicago Northwestern Railway Company for the 12 acres of land in Golden Valley.

Sunday, October 17, Mr. & Mrs. Warner came to Minneapolis and we gave him the proposal he was to read to the Rolling Acre people. Bob and I took the Warners out to dinner. After the meeting they returned to our house and said it was just too late to do anything about Rolling Acres as they had their attorney there and everything was all set for Mt. Olivet church to take over.

ROLLING ACRES OUT -------

Asked Mr. & Mrs. Warner if they would consider working if our project went through and they said this is the kind of work they would like to do. Will let them know if we get approval from Golden Valley Council.

OCTOBER 1965

On October 21, 1965 notice of incorporation was published in the St. Louis Park Despatch as follows:

[Image of notice of incorporation]

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Regular or Dek Coffee
Hils Bros.

Com $3.89
Careful Study

The institution—first of its kind in the area—may be established in Redwood if the committee interested believes that the care for others would be paid for by the community, and the care for others would be paid for by a resident assistant, their 13 other employees, all or most of whom would be welfare.

admissible, a man would be past age, with an intelligence quotient of 130, the group known as 'trainables'.

ably are docile, unemployable, rarely leave the home premises, and they would be accompanied by a resident assistant.

rivate-owners. It would be staffed by a resident assistant, their 13 other employees, all or most of whom would be hired locally.

Probable procedure will be to apply to the council for a building permit after the site for a two-story modern home is selected. Council may wish to hold a public hearing and possibly appoint a committee to determine whether information on the proposed residents is accurate.

ly, this is not the type of "industry" the chamber group is seeking, but it would be an asset to the community, and would appear to have no objection.

understanding about the proposal, could result in opposition which is heartless and unreasonable.

statement on the matter is unpublished, and hope that residents will remain optimistic until every facet of the plan has been studied.