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- State Int by Int - Parent

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STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE
OWATONNA STATE SCHOOL

OWATONNA, MINNESOTA

December 21, 1965

Dr. E. J. Engberg
Faribault State School and Hospital
Faribault, Minnesota

Dear Doctor Engberg:

Recently I had the opportunity to accompany several groups of houseparents from Owatonna State School on tours of Faribault State School and Hospital. On each of these occasions the houseparent group was given a pre-tour orientation discussion by Mr. Arnold Madow, Chief Psychologist, at your school. Mr. Madow was both thoughtful and thorough making his presentation pertinent by contrasting existing case loads and programs at both Owatonna and Faribault State Schools. Following this, we had a tour lasting several hours during which we were given the opportunity of viewing a cross-section of Faribault State School. This afforded our houseparents the opportunity of viewing clinical examples vastly different from the students they care for at Owatonna. We were all appreciative of the care and courtesy shown us by Mr. Madow.

Beyond expressing our appreciation, I would like to congratulate you, as Superintendent, on the cleanliness, the concern and effort toward patient care that was evident throughout our tour. The housecleaning in each building we toured was outstanding. Many efforts had gone into providing pictures for the wall, a light, airy atmosphere, and a multitude of toys and other artifacts conducive to patient leisure-time activities. I was particularly impressed with the swing and climbing toys, and the clothing and care received by the young boys in Pine Cottage; also, by the dolls and other decorations that were a part of every bed in the ladies' invalid ward in Birch Cottage.

During the past twenty years I have often heard Faribault State School discussed as an overcrowded, older institution providing only custodial services; yet we saw physical education, academic programming, musical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, crafts, hobby activities, and library services during each of these tours. During the past twenty years I have worked in and toured approximately 150 state and private institutions for the

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mentally ill and the mentally retarded; therefore, I feel some qualification for making comparisons. Although I realize the limitations of Faribault and other state institutions in terms of monies and personnel, I do think Faribault compares highly favorably with any of the institutions with which I have worked or toured in terms of cleanliness, efforts to make the patients feel comfortable, and in providing needed services.

In conclusion, I would like to again express our appreciation to Mr. Madow and to you for making these tours possible, and to reiterate the favorable impressions we carried away from your institution.

Sincerely,

C. M. Henderson, Superintendent
OWATONNA STATE SCHOOL


Kenneth Ray Russell, A.C.S.W.
Director, Inservice Training

KRR/djb

cc: Mr. Arnold A. Madow
Dr. Richard E. Bartman