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Hospital Section

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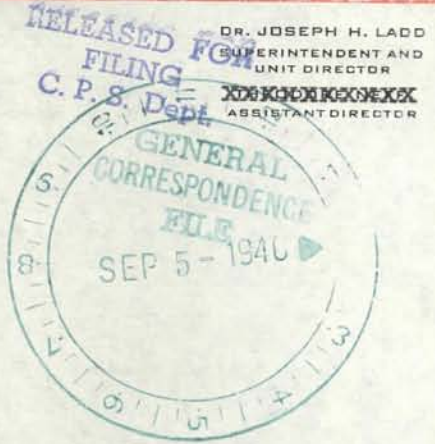
AKRON, PENNSYLVANIA
PHONE: EPHRATA 646

UNIT No. 117 *5 6 7*



ADDRESS
EXETER SCHOOL
LAFAYETTE, RHODE ISLAND

August 30, 1946



DR. JOSEPH H. LADD
SUPERINTENDENT AND
UNIT DIRECTOR
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Mr. Warren Leatherman
Hospital Section
Mennonite Central Committee

Dear Warren;

Some time ago this unit was asked to write a summary statement of the history of the unit. Following is the summary as it was written by Leroy Zimmerman and Ivan Moon.

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Summary Statement *(of)* History
(of) C.P.S. Unit # 117
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In April of 1943 Dr. Ladd requested a C. P. S. Unit, but it wasn't until November 9th that the first man, Ted Neff, arrived. He was followed shortly after by nine others from Camp # 45, with the addition of five others from Unit # 85, Howard, R. I. Within the next year we had an addition of five men, bringing the unit up to its top strength of 20 men.

Ted Neff served as unit leader from the time of the units' beginning until January 18, 1946. He was a member of the United Brethren Church, a man with a college background and with abilities to associate and work with those outside the unit in a way that was a valuable help to the unit's welfare.

Leroy Zimmerman was elected unit leader at the time of Neff's leaving and served the unit until his discharge May 19. He was a very capable leader, and a credit to the unit.

Ernest Goertz was the third man elected unit leader. He served in that capacity until the unit closed September 1, when the four remaining unit members transferred to Howard, R.I.

Dr. Ladd had requested a unit for this institution to meet the serious employee shortage. Employees were beginning to come in during the spring and summer of 1946, and he said that by Sept. 1 there would be a sufficient number of employees so that the institution could operate successfully without the aid of the shrinking unit.

The unit has had no formal educational activities. We have had a reading room which in the last months of the units life at Exeter was in the same room with the C.P.S. office. It has been a comfortable and attractive place for the members to associate at all hours of the day and has become the "nerve-center" for our life. The long hours of work prevent much formal group activity.

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C. P. S. Dept.

We have always had our Sunday evening worship. In August 1944 we began holding Wednesday Evening Bible Study meetings. Our Sunday evening meetings were various in nature. We had Sunday School lesson discussions, sometimes led by Rev. Friend, A Baptist minister and School chaplain who has been much interested in our group. He has also presented sermons in more recent meetings. Some of the meetings were short devotional meetings led by the unit members. And ministers visited from the home churches, many of them coming from the Franconian Conference.

Several contacts have been made in surrounding communities in church groups and interested families, but these contacts have been few because the school is so isolated geographically.

The work here has prompted almost half the men to write articles and other materials for the M. H. P. concerning life and conditions within this institution.

The institution was founded in 1907 by Dr. Joseph H. Ladd and he has continued to this day as its guiding genius. The patient population is approximately 950, covering an age range from two to 75 years, but the greatest average age is 8 to 18.

Through the various channels of commitment come mentally deficient boys and girls exhibiting a cross section of moral and social depravity; they have been sent here by the courts because they have become a problem in either their home, school or community.

The buildings are crowded, not suitable for this type of person. They seemed to be better equipped than the buildings of many state training schools, but still sadly below ideal conditions. The recreational facilities are practically nil. The recreational activities beyond those sponsored by the unit have been limited to base-ball games and occasional holiday dances.

The patients here are treated with a favorable degree of kindness and concern. The administration is very mindful of the children's needs and their care and do all that they can do in the face of such handicaps as low state appropriations and the uncooperative attitude of some of the attendants.

The greatest changes were made in meeting the patients' recreational needs. The unit, with the faithful encouragement of Dr. Goldstein, established a club-room in one of the two boys' buildings, built a recreation field by filling a swamp behind the building, rented motion picture films bi-weekly for eight months, and have recently completed a set of swings for the boys.

In-so-far as increasing staff makes it possible we believe that in the work with the high-grade defectives a shifting of the emphasis should be from custodial care to guidance in social adjustment.

In the event that the doctors find that the Psychiatric Aid be inspirational and practical the general reading of it be given administrative encouragement.

Sincerely yours,



Ernest A. Goertz
Assist. Director