

NOV 3 REC'D

C. P. S. Camp No. 44  
Western State Hospital  
Staunton, Virginia  
November 2, 1942

Dr. Henry A. Fast  
Mennonite Central Committee  
Akron, Pennsylvania.

Dear Bro. Fast:

I want to assure you that I appreciate very much your prompt reply to my recent letter, and for the statement of your interest and plans for this Unit. We shall be grateful for all that you will be doing to solve our various problems. The enclosure for the Camp group should draw things together a bit, and I will feel more free to use my influence in promoting such things as will lead to the highest spiritual, educational, physical, and recreational attainments of the group. I think you can see how I was reluctant and careful to advise and direct the individual and group movements. If one of the boys should have gotten the idea that I was working without authorization, or of my own desire, it may have been hard to retain his confidence. I have found that in camp one cannot guard too closely the possibility of leaving the impression to the other campers that you have set yourself above them. We must all be on one level and work as a union with due respect and consideration to the group leader.

I shall endeavor to carry faithfully the responsibility of leading and working with this group. It shall be my desire to interpret carefully the interests and concerns of the MCC, and to present them to the group as they come to me from time to time. We shall have our first group meeting tomorrow evening. It will then be decided how often we can meet together as group to sing, pray, and enjoy Christian fellowship and discussion. We should be able to gather at least twice a week.

Enclosed I am sending you an excerpt from our superintendent, Dr. J. S. DeJarnette's report to the Mental Hygiene Survey issued monthly in the interest of an adequate mental health program by the Department of Mental Hygiene and Hospitals, Clinic Building, Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia. The Mental Hygiene Survey is received by the Doctors and Nurses of the State Hospitals. This morning Dr. Fulton, who inspects our ward daily, said Dr. DeJarnette had a nice report of our work in the Survey, and if I came to his office he would give me his copy of the magazine. I found the enclosed statement concerning us and our work.

We have been receiving favorable comments frequently on our work and cooperation from other of the doctors, nurses, and some of the attendants. I only hope this spirit will continue, and even increase if possible. There are still a few who seem to dread meeting us.

Thanking you again for what you have done, and will be doing for us, I remain

Very truly yours,

*Landis C. Martin*  
Landis C. Martin

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EXCERPTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Western State Hospital

By Dr. J. S. DeJarnette

"We now have 19 conscientious objectors from Camp No. 4 near Grottoes, Virginia. They are very cooperative, willing to work, intelligent, courteous, pleasant, and up to this time have been very satisfactory indeed. Many of them are high school graduates and some have college degrees. We would like very much to get 20 more.

"We are remodeling an old house on the grounds and in about two weeks we could take care of that number very nicely. Mr. Quesenbery stated he would try and get them for us. The conditions here are critical in regard to employees, especially attendants, and it is difficult to say how it will all end.

"We have been using patients as attendants, and their services mostly have been satisfactory, about the average of those employed from the outside world. Of course, we select our best patients to do this work and many of them are alcoholics. However, many of the alcoholics are being called into service and from now on we will have few from which to select.

"The conscientious objectors have been in the hospital service approximately one month. They have been a God send to us, and I have not had a bad report about any of them."

Note: This Article appeared in the September issue of the Mental Hygiene Survey, not last month's .

LCM