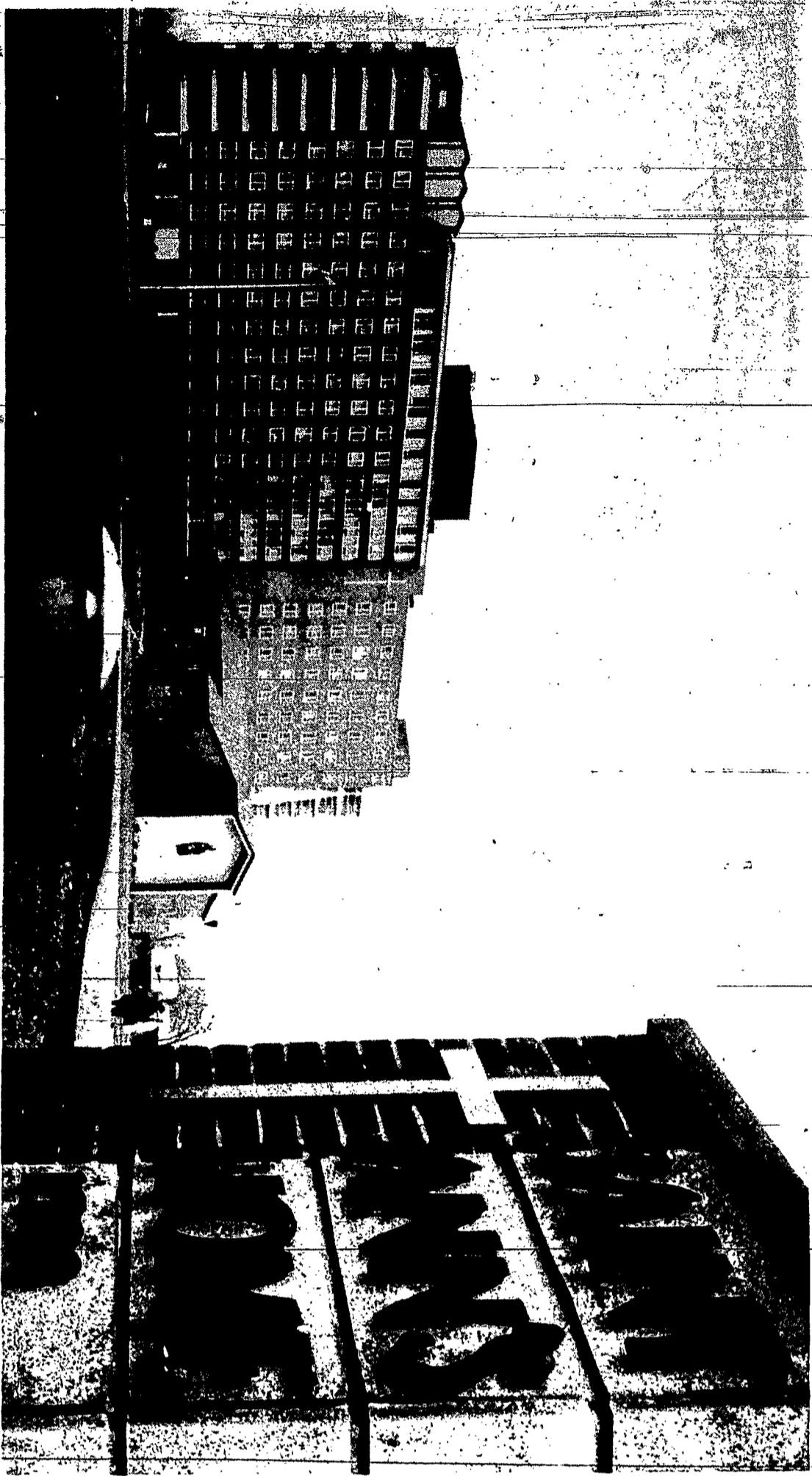


participation in St. Ann's program. This is accomplished through the use of all the services of St. Ann's, with special emphasis on physical, occupational and recreational therapy. Evidence of the fruits of therapy is seen in the fact that in 1965, 65 patients recovered sufficiently to return to the community. The emphasis

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St. Ann's Home Where The Aging Have A Future

"So this is St. Ann's," exclaimed one of our visitors as he saw the brightly carpeted hallways, the spacious private rooms, the brilliant and comfortable furniture, and the well-maintained kitchen. Although St. Ann's realizes the importance of a pleasant and clear environment for one's spirit, the staff at St. Ann's also stresses the vital need for a "homey" feeling — a feeling of friendship, of love, and of togetherness. This is evidenced in St. Ann's major goal to care for the total person: his physical, spiritual, social, and emotional needs.

Realizing the various physical disabilities older people have, St. Ann's has three levels of care—the infirmary, intermediate, and well halls. The Home's

two Medical Directors and their battery of consultants offer aid in the following areas: internal medicine, physical therapy, ophthalmology, dentistry, dermatology, and also other specialties, such as neurology, which is needed.

Spiritual needs are met by the opportunity of attending daily Mass and Communion, by the distribution of the Holy Eucharist on the floors to those who are unable to attend Mass, and by the phone talks, Holy Hour and retreats arranged by the full-time Chaplain. Many of our people find such solace in a visit to the Chapel — prayer helps them with their aches and pains. It was truly an experience to see the face of one of

the wheelchair patients who had just come from a prolonged stay in a hospital when she heard she could attend Mass for the first time in months.

The social workers at St. Ann's concentrate on the residents' emotional aspect. They offer their service to discuss with the residents and their families any problems which may be disturbing to them, such as family discord, feelings of rejection, misunderstandings, financial difficulties, and adjustment to group living, and acceptance of illnesses.

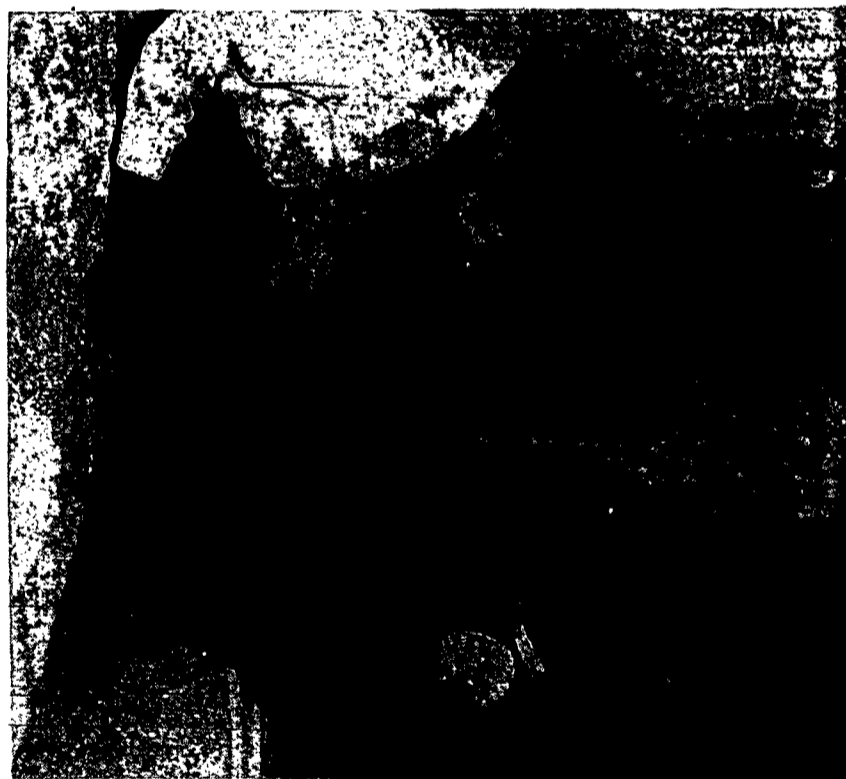
In contrast to former times, the emphasis today is on rehabilitation, understood either in terms of returning to a useful life in the community or to full

dances, movies, parties, and games etc. And Wednesday is a special day, since the cocktail lounge is open—everyone comes in wheelchairs, canes and all.

St. Ann's realizes these later years of life are not to be fruitless time, but a productive time — a time for thinking of others and helping the community. This is carried out in various projects such as folding bandages for the Red Cross and knitting mittens for the inner city children.



If they're not able to walk, they ride. The residents at St. Ann's Home, regardless of age, are encouraged to get out in the open air. Even those who are confined to wheel chairs are able to take a "stroll" when the weather permits. As is quite evident, each patient is treated individually and the dedicated staff tries to meet the needs of each and every person.



During the past year 107 children have been cared for at St. Joseph's Villa. They range in age from seven to sixteen and live in five cottages. The children are supervised by eighteen Sisters and assisted by a staff of thirty lay help including trained social workers, a part-time psychiatrist and psychologist, Recreation Director, Group Worker, housekeepers, cooks and sewing ladies.

Father always has a joke or a story to tell them to bring a smile to their faces.

It is not easy for the child to accept this change from home to group living, but when he becomes aware that he is being accepted with a few demands being made upon him, he, in turn, begins to accept others, to become more trusting and to take an interest in things outside himself. Progress is often slow, therefore, the average time of placement is at least a year, but is extended or shortened when necessary. During his placement at the Villa, frequent opportunities are afforded him to participate in Community activities. This is part of the preparation for his return to the Community.

For this reason also, the social workers meet with the parents frequently and help to maintain the bonds between the child and his family. When possible the family is permitted to visit at the Villa or the child is allowed to visit at home.

There is also a Volunteer program whereby families or individuals may take a particular child on a regular basis. This represents another tie with the Community and another opportunity for the child to see that adults do care.

During his stay at the Villa the child is seen regularly by his social worker and there are frequent consultations with those members of the staff directly connected with him. It is not only his stay at the Villa that is the concern of this team but also his return to the Community. The day of his admission begins the day of his adjustment, but as discharge day approaches there is more immediate planning. This after-care planning is essential and in the best interest of the child. Whether the child returns to his family or is placed in a foster home or another setting is determined according to the child's individual needs.

Although you would be impressed with the tour of the Villa grounds you would be more impressed with the atmosphere of striving for the betterment of the child. While it is not a theatrical work it is a gratifying experience.

There are no worse adequate to describe the "smiling" of a first smile or a look that says "thanks" or "you really do care" from a small child who has had little reason until now to express these sentiments. This is the reward of being a member of the dedicated team that cares and strives for the betterment of the children at St. Joseph's Villa.

'Comment'

Four times a year Catholic Charities issues a no cost, to the reader, "Comment," the part of "Comment" is to acquaint people of the Community with the various programs being conducted by the Charities and also some of the current happenings in the agencies. If you are not already receiving a copy and you would like to, please send your name and address to: Community, c/o Catholic Charities, 30 West Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14601.

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