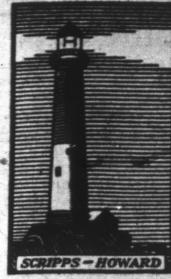


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The Indianapolis Times

FORECAST: Cloudy and somewhat colder tonight. Tomorrow cloudy, no decided change in temperature.

58th YEAR—NUMBER 307

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1948

Entered as Second-Class Matter at Postoffice
Indianapolis, Ind. Issued daily except Sunday

FINAL
HOME

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Home for Aged Urged to House Mental Cases

1000 Beds Needed, Psychiatrists Say

By ROBERT BLOOM

A state home for aged and infirm persons could give Indians the equivalent of a badly needed 1000-bed mental hospital, Indianapolis psychiatrists agreed today.

Just how badly the state needs those beds for mental cases who are virtually "locked out" as far as treatment is concerned, is pointed out by Dr. Norman Beatty, president of the state Council for Mental Health.

"If Indiana is typical of the national picture," Dr. Beatty said, "we need 16,000 beds for mental patients alone. At best we haven't more than 10,000."

That's why there are an estimated 500 or more mental cases in Marion County alone that can't be cared for. It is one of the reasons why Monday's hatchet murder may be repeated here almost any time.

Insufficient Money

Indiana already is building a new mental hospital at Westville, but only the administration unit and the power plant can be finished with the money available. The next legislature must appropriate more for the rest of the hospital.

Building 95 at Ft. Harrison is being prepared to take some of the patients who are just old and only need custodial care out of Central Hospital for the Insane. But it will provide only slight relief for the overcrowding which has forced many Hoosier families to care for their own victims of mental illness.

One of the basic problems is the fact that many old persons are committed to insane hospitals for want of a better place to put them. Dr. David Boyd, General Hospital psychiatrist, estimates that each of the state's five mental hospitals could be relieved of 200 patients if Indiana had an adequate, decent home for the aged.

Supports Camp Atterbury

"Camp Atterbury, for example," Dr. Boyd said, "could be converted into a three-unit home for the aged where old folks who are unable to provide for themselves could live out their days in peace and dignity."

What happens instead is that the aged mental cases cause the worst drain on mental hospital facilities. Because their mental troubles are primarily a matter of age, there is little chance to cure them, move them back into society to make way for new and more acute mental cases.

"We just can't make people young again," says Dr. Max Bahr, superintendent of Central Hospital.

Dr. Boyd's suggestion would be to make one unit of such a home as Camp Atterbury into a colony for married couples, avoiding the tragedy of separation in their last years. Another section could provide for aged, feeble men, and still another for women, instead of committing them to insane hospitals.

Hospital Emergency Unit

"Unless something like this is done," Dr. Boyd said, "we here in Indianapolis will be less and less able to serve our purpose as more and more patients who should be sent to mental institutions back up in our psychiatric department."

"General Hospital's first function is to serve as an emergency unit, to take care of emergency mental cases and get these people out of their homes and off the streets where they constitute a constant danger."

"Some we can cure without sending them to an institution. Some we actually do cure while they're waiting here to be sent to an institution. But that function should be secondary."

Increase During 1947 State Tax Collections

Hoosiers reached farther down in their pockets to pay taxes in 1947 than in the previous year, F. Shirley Wilcox, collector of internal revenue for Indiana, said today.

He explained internal revenue collections from all sources in Indiana in the calendar year 1947 were \$937,934,345.58, compared to \$882,402,322.18 in 1946.



CAPTURED BY CUPID —

Jane Froman, radio and night club singer, arrived in Miami, Fla., last night and was greeted by her fiancee, John C. Burn, PAA pilot who saved her life. They will wed Mar. 12.

Circle Bakery

Robbed of \$900

Enter Shop Through Delivery Chute

Burglars invaded Monument Circle last night, smashing a steel cabinet at the Renee Bakery and escaped with nearly \$900.

The downtown burglars apparently were surprised at their work about 11 o'clock when a night employee of the bakery, Ben Glitner, arrived for work.

He said he heard a noise at the rear and then discovered the thief as he walked to the front of the store, located at No. 114.

Cash Drawer Also Looted

The cash drawer on the first floor also was looted. Police said the burglars pried open a delivery chute in the rear of the bakery to gain entrance.

The loot represented part of two days' receipts, police were told.

Five recent holdups were solved, detectives said, in the arrest of three young men during the last week.

Finnish Reds Demand Helsinki Pact at Once

HELSINKI, Mar. 3 (UP)—Finnish Communist leaders called on President Juho K. Paasikivi today and demanded that negotiations for a treaty of friendship and military alliance with Russia be started immediately.

The demand was made after reports that President Paasikivi had informed Russian Minister Lt. Gen. G. M. Savonenkov that Finland cannot sign any treaty giving Russia the power to use the Finnish army anywhere in

case of war.

Two of them, Joseph Jerome Callahan, 21, and Michael T. Callahan, brothers, of 1310 Nordyke St., confessed to participation in the holdups.

Detectives Charles Haine and Forest McKeighan said the youths were implicated in the holdups by Edward Irwin Gardner, 24, of 1229 Kendey Ave., arrested last week in connection with the robberies.

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