

# Keeping Watch Over Feeble-Minded Proves A Dreary Job

## Locking and Unlocking Of Doors Chief Chore During 14-Hour Tour

Ft. Wayne Inmates Appear Well-Fed; Repeat 'Lord's Prayer' Before Meals

(Third of a Series)

By DAVID WATSON

IT TOOK me a moment to realize where I was. My room was dark and it was dark outside.

I awoke when the nightwatchman shook my shoulder. It was 5 a.m.

I was starting my first dull day as an attendant in the Ft. Wayne School for Feeble Minded Youth to investigate reports to The Times of poor institutional conditions.

When the nightwatchman had roused me, I stumbled in the dark to the wall switch. The light which hung by its cord from the ceiling glowed.

Now I had but half an hour to wash, shave, dress and unlock my division's dormitory door.

This was to be but the first of a stultifying routine of locking, unlocking, locking, unlocking doors for the next 14 hours.

I HAD two rooms, the smallest of which had a dresser with two pitchers and a wash basin, a clothes rack, pot, bucket and a straight chair. The other contained a comfortable double bed, two dressers, bed stand and two rocking chairs.

There was no water, no bath, no lavatory. I had to go from the third floor to the basement for water or to bathe.

After unlocking the dormitory door, I did the same for the bake shop workers' quarters. Then I went to the basement to unlock day room doors and open the boiler house workers' door.

When everyone was out of the dorms, except night workers and cleaners, I locked the doors again.

Some days I ate at 5:20 a.m. and after a cigarette, returned to the dorms at 5:55 a.m. to release cleaning crews, relock the doors and send the boys to day rooms.

AT SIX the supervisor unlocked the exit door and I took workers to the hospital. Returning to my dorm, I generally had to restore order. I followed the example of other attendants and barked: "Keep quiet" and walked among them to see they did.

At 6:15 a small bell rang and I lined up my patients to take them to the dining room. Two by two they filed out, and I checked attendance as they went.

In the dining room, they took their places and stood until absolute silence prevailed. No talking was allowed except to ask for more food or permission to go to the bathroom.

A bell rang and the din was deafening as the patients pulled back their chairs to sit. Again there was silence and the bell rang. The inmates bowed their heads and repeated the Lord's Prayer.

Then they ate. It was my duty to care for three fables of 12. As fast as a bowl was emptied, I took it to the rear of the room where a supervisor ladled more food into it. I cut bread with a hand-operated slicer in the scullery.

THIS IS A typical breakfast: Corn flakes, raisins, milk, coffee, bread and water.

As each finished his meal, he pushed his plate to the center of the table. One boy stacked them up, another cleaned the table and the silverware was passed to boys at the end of the tables.

Again the bell rang and all stood up. Another ring and a division filed out. One division went with each ring. The patients then were taken to the day rooms and given time to use the bathroom.

At 6:45 a.m. the divisions again lined up, the exit door was



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Note: This is no mistake—the price really is 3.98!

(Fourth Floor)

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## Lightest Vote In 12 Years Expected Here

Registrations Falling Below 1940-44 Totals

By NOBLE REED

Early estimates indicated today that the turn-out at the polls here Nov. 2 may be the lightest in any Presidential election in 12 years.

Registration of voters during the drive here for the past six weeks fell short of the 1940 and 1944 voting lists by many thousands.

Following the close of registration this week, the Marion County Registration Board announced the number of eligible voters for the Nov. 2 election at 269,984 compared to a questionable 310,000 in 1940 and 300,000 on the poll books in 1944.

Thousands Ineligible

However, registration officials and leaders of both Republican and Democratic parties agreed that the 1940 and 1944 totals were not accurate and that many thousands on the books then were later found to be ineligible for one reason or another.

Despite the possible inaccuracies of the previous lists, political leaders are unanimous in their opinion that the total vote this year will not far exceed 200,000 out of the 270,000 voters registered.

The drop in registrations brought conflicting speculations as to its possible reflection of voting trends this year.

The Democrats said the change was in the failure of the Republican organization to get their voters registered due to GOP's lack of interest in the election.

The Republicans explained that the drop in registrations was the result of a lack of interest among thousands of "disengaged Democrats" who do not intend to come out and vote for their ticket.

The evening meal was a repetition of breakfast and lunch. This was held at 5 p.m. and followed by a smoke at 5:45. The patients then remained outside until dark.

When darkness fell, I took my division to the day room until 8 p.m. When the patients returned to the dorm doors and returned the bed. After bed check, I locked the doors again.

The day nearly was over. I closed all the windows, locked all doors, made out reports and turned them in to my supervisor.

Fourteen and a half hours after the nightwatchman shook my shoulder I had locked and unlocked my last door for the day.

My time now was my own.

## IN INDIANAPOLIS

### EVENTS TODAY

James Whitcomb Riley Anniversary—10:30 a.m. 52nd Lockerbie St. Frank Bell Display—Evening, 7:24 Pleasant Run Parkway, North Drive. Independent Petroleum Association Convention—Severin Hotel. Dell Collection Display—Tonight, 7:30 Pleasant Run Parkway, North Drive.

EVENTS TOMORROW

Dell Collection Display—All evening, 7:30 Pleasant Run Parkway, North Drive. American Legion Convention—Garrison Inn, 2 p.m. Lincoln Hotel. Butler U. Forum Club—7:30 p.m., Butler.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

John E. Wayne, 26, of 807 N. Rural; Ruth Helen Lankford, 24, of 535 Middle Drive.

Albert L. Raimondi, 33, of 602 Stevens;

Catherine Ann Mascari, 28, of 518 Noble.

Ray E. Mize, 30, of Shesbilly;

Hans R. Olson, 59, of Morris, Ill.; Mrs. Lucy Seeger, 56, of Morris, Ill.

Harold C. Phillips, 42, of 1428 E. New York;

John Ford, 29, of 1277 Kentucky; Julia Faye Johnson, 20, of 2411 S. Marion;

Joseph R. Middle, 23, of 1201 Talbot;

Marie M. Weller, 20, of 1470 W. Carroll;

Lots L. McCallie, 26, of 1521 Arrow;

Floyd Keith Leon Jones, 34, of 802 Hosche;

Marion Amelia Blaylock, 24, of 113 W. 26th.

Edwin Luedeman, 21, of 1814 Calhoun;

Mildred Strough, 20, of 2323 N. Wallace;

William L. Riddle, 20, of 1470 Carroll;

Churchman; Sheila Joanne Stevenson, 22, of 1226 Churchman;

Kenneth G. Foster, 27, of 324 Kenmore;

Sizes 4 to 12.

Fourth Floor

### DIVORCE SUITS FILED

John E. Wayne vs. Wanda Arnett;

Midwest M. vs. Ruth G. White; Ethel

A. Thread vs. Mary A. vs. Edward

D. Lincoln; Olean vs. Charles Wayne; Pauline L. vs. Evelyn Stephenson; Ethel J. vs. Harry McIntire.

### BIRTHS

Boys

At St. Vincent's—Othonel; Pauline

Stroud; Herlen; Louise Payne; Roy

Edward; Elizabeth; Fred; Evelyn Den

Ralph; Ruth Burns; William; Nancy

Kelly; 26, of 3543 Washington Blvd.

Chesler Allen Whitaker, 48, of 302 W.

New York; Doris M. Buzard, 35, of

Anderson.

### DEATHS

At St. Vincent's—Oliver; Wanda Arnett;

At General—Frank; Nannie Randall; Cleve

Loretta; Bottoms.

At General—Howard; Gertrude; Pauline

Rhoda; Rosalie; Moon; Ethel

Dorothy; Gerald; Judith; Lanta; Ben

David; Vaughn; Thomas; Mary Mc

Gaffey; Herman; Betty; Fred; Mary

Lloyd; Natalie; Gibson; Maynard; John

Marshall; Leonard; Lucille; Teepe; Robert; Marian; Smith; Julia; Leavitt.

### WEDDINGS

At St. Francis—John; Maynell; Nelson

At St. Francis—John