

Ward Meeting Breaks Hospital Silence

Continued From Page One
...and one patient of another.
"HE NEVER helps with the mopping," said another. When it came Mike's turn he said to me, "Who did you call me stupid?"
Because you are a smart guy, quick to laugh but you don't take advantage of it and behave stupidly at times," I said. He said that, "I'm not. He's quiet and is friendly. He did not get angry."

FINALLY, THE law is broken. The game has succeeded. We start talking. The social workers seem to brighten. Some of the talk gets irrational. Some of it is reasonable and intelligent. The patients listen intently to each other. Some begin to tell about themselves. One describes his childhood in a broken home and how it affected him. Another admits his poor relationship with his wife and tells me how he would like to kill himself. (This reminded me that I had posed as a man bent on suicide when I managed to get admitted. The man was accused of spitting on the floor but he had been in the hospital 21 years. He tells us now he is sorry he spit.)

"I CAN'T help it," he said. There is sympathy for him, too. "Then Max, the man with the deep fascination with God and religion, begins to talk about creation. He turns to the man on his left and says, "You're Adam, Adam," he accents the second syllable. Then he says, "I'm a damn." He begins to curse. Jimmy Jennings interrupts him. "I don't want to hear that in front of these ladies," he said. One of the social workers says softly, "He doesn't bother me." But the game breaks up. The meeting is over.

As the day wore on my mind went back over that game. Suddenly, I realized something that had escaped me during my first seven days at Central State. These patients, sick as they were, had a bond between them. They fell equally for one another.

OF ALL MY experiences during the 21 days I stayed at the hospital pretending I was a mental patient named "Ernest Franklin" the relationships that I developed with my fellow patients were the most meaningful to me. And the relationships that I developed with each other were the nearest thing I saw that resembled sincere concern for them as individuals. While I was impressed with the work of the social workers — such as Ann Tucker and the others, who held "meetings" — I found no pattern of treatment at Central State that I thought was directed toward "helping" any of my "sick" friends. The patients had each other. That was about all most of them had. The group sessions were a treat. They were a break from the continuing boredom on the ward.

WHEN THE patients were not talking in group meetings, we spent hours talking in the halls or our small kitchen. There was little else to do.

One patient, Mike Massey, a teenager from a broken home, would talk with anyone who would give him attention. Once Massey became angered with an aide and pushed his hand through a window pane in his room. He suffered some cuts that were not serious, and his hand was bandaged immediately. Violence like this, among patients or between patients and staff, was rare. Those patients who the staff thought might be violent or disruptive were kept under sedation.

"OTHER PATIENTS did different things to get attention. The patient I have called Roger Robinson was constantly stopping up the toilets with tissue, towels and anything else he could find. For the first days he was in our ward, he rarely wore clothes. One day when Tennessee reporter Alice Alexander was visiting me in the hallway of the ward, a male nurse walked Roger down the hall. Roger was nude.

I DON'T know who was more shocked, Alice or I, but I asked the nurse why he allowed that with a female visitor on the ward. He said he did not realize Alice was a girl. Many men wear their hair down to their wrists, he said. It was condescending to me. And he was dishonest.

...ater for support. When he first went to the dining room on weekdays, he murmured, "Help me, help me. It was the most pathetic cry I had ever heard. I gave him my arm, and he held on with a death grip.

...I was afraid to sleep alone in a room at night and always wadded the door open. The day after I was reassigned to a new open ward, Ned was assigned to the new ward as my roommate. Ned asked me several times when I was coming to bed because he would not sleep without me there.

...I saw him looking across the room at me from his bed. He continued to stare at me. I went to sleep, but he kept saying that I was asleep and would have the door to the right before he would go to sleep. The second day I was on that new ward I was in the bathroom when I heard a deep-throated groan that I would never forget. It had been a lion. The hush and intensity of that deep groan shook me with fear but a comfort.

...I looked outside the door, and there was a man I call Adam Anderson because he told me he was the "first man on earth." His hair was graying. Anderson told me he had been recommended several times, as Moses, a hero, a saint and other people in history.

...I remarked to aide Bill Locke that Bruce was perhaps not as sick as he had appeared to be when he did things like stopping up the toilet and banging up windows. "If he won't speak, he would just 'lie' acting," said Locke. Locke was right.

...ANOTHER P A T I E N T, whom I call Ned Nelson, was an extremely frightened man. He was terrified of being alone, and he would not go anywhere without me. Everywhere he would walk, he would follow and would hang on to me all or a hand.

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...what pain that man was going through. These patients I have just described were among those whom I believed to be the most severely psychotic patients I met and were not the rule in the hospital.

...MANY OF the patients I met there behaved "appropriately" to one 80% of the time but were usually very cooperative. Other patients appeared to control all the time within the hospital environment but were unable to cope with the outside world. Other patients just repressed their problems.

...One of the better moments on my locked ward occurred when a new patient, Billy Bradley, and I sat down in the hall and began talking about songs. Bradley borrowed another patient's guitar and began to pick country and western songs with such an aplomb that he took me by surprise. Soon, as Billy played and sang, other patients began to join our little group. One of the patients, who seemed to be in his late 50s or early 60s — began to dance to the tune of "Wildwood Flower."

...WITHIN AN hour, most of the patients were listening. We were then joined by the head nurse for the night, Ivan Bailey, who could really sing. Not only country and western songs, but hymns that many of the other patients there. It was the best night I had on that crazy locked ward.

...AN AMERICAN born told me that Anderson had an idea to go on "open" ward, various patients, most of them young, would visit and we would sing. Anderson was refused. Anderson told me that many of the other patients there. It was the best night I had on that crazy locked ward.

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Bandits Use Wreck Ruse To Gain Entry

(Continued From Page One)
...telephone. To first help the young man with the tricking blood, Pettie reached around for a nearby towel in his kitchen.

...AS PETTIE turned back around, he was startled when the young man slammed open the storm door and pushed him to the kitchen floor. Another man then appeared, according to detective M. Smith, and "either a shotgun or rifle" was pointed at Pettie. The psychologist's hands and legs were then held with tape the pair apparently had brought with them, and he was wrapped in a bedspread and then placed on the bed in his bedroom.

...Then, the detective said, the intruders ransacked Pettie's small duplex, pulling out drawers and looking under rugs for money.

...SMITH SAID the intruders repeatedly asked Pettie where he kept his money, and, at one point, discovered some pills.

...When they saw the pills they asked him (Pettie) if they were for his heart and he told them they were, so they left them on his dresser," said Smith.

...The Tennessee Publishing Co. is seeking a publisher for Nashville, Tennessee. The publisher should be a resident of Nashville, Tennessee. The publisher should be a resident of Nashville, Tennessee. The publisher should be a resident of Nashville, Tennessee.

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Publishing Rejects Prop Book by Ag

By BOB MONROE
...NEW YORK (AP) — Former Vice President offered the outline of a novel he was writing but the proposed book was rejected, the publishing firm said yesterday.

...It is absolutely and totally untrue that I will publish a novel written by Agnew, Stein, the president said.

...BREINSTEIN SAID the outline of the "roughly" concerned a future vice president who turns out to have been propped up by Chinese Communists.

...Breinstein said Joseph Fox, a senior editor, was contacted by a mutual friend about Agnew's former vice president at the Park over a week ago.

...Fox was given an outline one chapter for sketches of a proposed novel which was written, Breinstein said.

...Fox took the material back to Random House and showed it to James Silberman, vice president. The novel then was rejected by House editors, Breinstein said.

...HE SAID the firm had agreed to keep it confidential. We were distressed to have leaked."

...Maxine Cheshire broke the story in Washington Post yesterday. She quoted the "The only reason to publish it would be curiosity value, and that was not enough to identify the publishing firm."

...Fox declined to accept a telephone call checking a telephone meeting. But later the firm who asked not to be identified had approached Random House.

...But it's getting bigger," the spokesman said. House editors believed it was not suitable. "We have no contract with Mr. Agnew. Any intention of signing one with him,"

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Suit Seeks Welfare Roundup Halt

(Continued From Page One)
...with the county advisory committee, a meeting called by Friend, the commissioner said the administration of the AFDC benefits is so complex, even emergency and virtually impossible.

...SERVICES' welfare director said that the AFDC benefits are so complex, even emergency and virtually impossible.

...The controversial 10-person eligibility check continued to draw reaction yesterday.

...The State House failed to pass a resolution directing Friend to halt the "policy change," said his sponsor, Rep. Harold Ford, D-Memphis, said he has introduced a bill to pass it when it comes to the floor again Wednesday.

...Members of the Davidson County Welfare Office Citizens' Advisory Committee met with Friend to protest the procedure as ineffective and undignified.

...During the stormy meeting, Friend told the group, "Friends, I'm telling you the pickup's going on."

...Asked by the committee how many of the "roundup" would "weed out," the commissioner replied, "I don't know."

...But in New York, Friend added, "a large percentage didn't show up to get the checks because they didn't want to expose the fraud they were perpetrating."

...Friend maintained the procedure is necessary to reduce the 2 1/2% rate of welfare in the state with loss \$28,000 in federal funds for that period.

Senate Approves Primary Repealer

(Continued From Page One)
...Alabama Gov. George Wallace ran away with the too party primaries in May of 1972. Despite predictions of nationwide interest in the primary, only Wallace campaigned in the state.

...Delegates were selected in a separate process from the primary, and some of the Democrats ignored state law and refused to vote for Wallace in the convention at Miami Beach.

...One of the delegates who passed at Miami Beach rather than vote for Wallace was Sen. Avon Williams, D-Nashville, who voted for repeal of the primary yesterday.

...STUDIOUSLY avoiding looking in Williams' direction, Sen. William Blair, D-Lebanon, said any system which permits delegates to skirt the requirements of state law is "a mockery."

...Sen. Gabe Tarleton, D-Memphis, said the bill is a goal of taxpayers over a half million dollars and provided no benefits.

...The Senate later voted 20-4 in favor of the bill by Williams advocating the hiring of members of minority groups by state government, sending the measure to the House.

...The bill originally set a quota of 16% — the percentage of black in Tennessee's population — for state agencies. An amendment, however, took that provision and most of the teeth out of the bill.

...THE BILL now provides that "each department or agency of state government shall fill existing and future job and position openings so as to achieve as soon as practicable a goal of employment for minority racial groups in all job classifications and positions, which closely approximates the percentage of those minority racial groups in the State of Tennessee."

...The bill also must be qualified, according to existing Department of Personnel standards for such jobs. There shall be no discrimination by age, sex, race, religion, or national origin with respect to promotion, advancement, and job transfers to higher job classifications or levels, without any department or agency of state government. Williams told the Senate the bill merely puts into statutory language an executive order issued earlier by Dunn.

Yes... We'll Have No Tax Cut, Senate Decides

(Continued From Page One)
...\$700. He did pay on a taxable income of \$112,000 between 1969 and 1972.

...Key members of the House Ways and Means Committee, where all tax legislation must originate, expressed opposition to Kennedy's tax cut amendment. Its likelihood of enactment over their opposition was slim.

...THE NO. 2 Democrat on the committee, Rep. Al Ullman, D-Ore., said the panel would take up the issue of recession tax exemptions later this year when it goes into the overall issue of tax reform, but "at the moment we are not in a responsible action."

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Tex Ritter's Widow Gets State Post

(Continued From Page One)
..."full of gratitude" for the opportunity to serve the state.

...Tex and I wanted to do all we could in a volunteer way for the state. I hope I will be able to make a contribution," she said.

...I FEEL IT IS exciting and stimulating to know what is going on in the state for the industry and native Tennesseans and people who have come here," she added.

...When asked if the position was created for Mrs. Ritter, Dunn said:

...There is a great need for the position, and she's a heaven sent as far as we're concerned."

...The former Dorothy Southworth, she and Tex Ritter were married in 1941. Ritter died in 1967.

...IN AN INTERVIEW shortly after her husband's death Mrs. Ritter said she needed a "keep" busy and have an income.

...I think there is a place in Nashville for me to work, and I shall find it, she said.

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