HISTORY OF NEBRASKA INSTITUT. IS
by Carl Botsford, D.P.I. Engineering
at D.P.I. Management Institute, 11/3/76

Written History in quotation marks - other "history" by C.B.

First let me tell you how I happen to be here. You'll notice in the agenda of the institute that it states simply Guest Speaker - there is no name. I don't know how many persons may have turned down Jack Cleavenger before he called me yesterday. He called saying, "Can I see you a minute." I swished down. He started by saying, "I understand you're going to the banquet." I said, "Well, yes, I had planned to." He said, "You know I'm paying for your meal?" I said, "Yes, I'd heard that." Looking me in the eye he said, "What are you contributing?" I answered, "Well, I'm attending a couple of meetings, including your own session." That wasn't what he wanted - I quickly volunteered and here I am.

It all began in 1869 - I want to point out here that regardless of what you may think I have not been asked to talk about the history because I was there at the time.

"In 1869 the State of Nebraska established its first institutions, the State Penitentiary and the School for the Deaf. For many years the institutions were operated independently. Later they were placed under the supervision of the Nebraska Conference of Charities and Corrections, to be later placed under the supervision of the Board of Public Lands and Buildings.

November 5, 1912, a constitutional amendment placed the management and control of institutions under the Board of Commissioners of State Institutions effective July 1, 1913. By Constitutional Amendment of September 21, 1920, the name was changed to the Board of Control. And on January 1, 1962, the name was changed again to the Department of Public Institutions."
The Board of Control served, also, as the Board of Public Welfare. Therefore, both institutions and welfare operations were supervised by the same body until January, 1962, when the Department of Public Institutions and the Department of Public Welfare became separate entities.

"MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION FACILITIES"  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beatrice State Home, Beatrice</td>
<td>1875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hastings State Hospital, Ingleside</td>
<td>1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln State Hospital, Lincoln</td>
<td>1870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norfolk State Hospital, Norfolk</td>
<td>1885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska Psychiatric Institute, Omaha</td>
<td>1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Nebr. Mental Hygiene Clinic, Hastings</td>
<td>1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebr. Psychiatric Institute Outpatient Clinic, Omaha</td>
<td>1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Psychiatric Clinic, Norfolk</td>
<td>1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Platte Psychiatric Clinic, North Platte</td>
<td>1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Psychiatric Clinic, Lincoln</td>
<td>1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Nebraska Psychiatric Clinic, Scottsbluff</td>
<td>1952</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PENAL AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls' Training School, Geneva</td>
<td>1892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys' Training School, Kearney (Boys &amp; Girls till '92)</td>
<td>1881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska Penal and Correctional Complex, Lincoln</td>
<td>1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Nebraska State Penitentiary 1869)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Nebraska State Reformatory 1921)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Reformatory for Women, York</td>
<td>1920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OTHER HOSPITALS AND HOMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska Hospital for the Tuberculous, Kearney</td>
<td>1912 closed '72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska Orthopedic Hospital, Lincoln</td>
<td>1905 closed '71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska Soldiers and Sailors Home, Grand Island</td>
<td>1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska Soldiers and Sailors Home, Milford</td>
<td>1895 closed '40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SERVICES FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

(The name was changed from Services for the Blind in 1961.)

Although the following institutions are now under the Department of Education, the dates of their establishment are in our records:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska School for the Visually Handicapped, Nebraska City (All buildings replaced.)</td>
<td>1875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska School for the Deaf, Omaha (Original Building replaced, was oldest state building.)</td>
<td>1869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska Industrial Home, Milford</td>
<td>1887 closed '53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home for Dependent Children (Present location since 1927 and with a new name: Nebraska Center for Children and Youth)</td>
<td>1909 on Ortho grounds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I want you to notice as we go thru these histories how many times names of things have been changed.

Let me describe an early institution from things I've read and been told. Institutions were designed to be as self-supporting as possible.

The institution was located a mile or so from town on a dirt road - a muddy road at times - no snow removal.

Employees were housed at the institution - often right on the ward with the patients. Employees were given a bedroom and private bath.

The employees worked 60 hours a week - pay probably was near a dollar a day.

The superintendent was by law entitled to certain fringe benefits. He was given groceries, a surrey and horse, a cook and maid, and quarters rent free.

Elmer (Wyant) you remember that.

The institution by the labor of patients produced:

meat
milk and cream
poultry and eggs
feed for stock
garden vegetables

The patients work in:

kitchens
laundries
power and heat plant (shoveling coal and ashes)
repair works
janitor works

The institution produced:

electric power - as no commercial power was available - heated buildings in some instances using exhaust steam from steam engines driving the generators

water - waste water was drained to cess pools

The Penitentiary shops produced:

clothing - for all state institution inmates and patients
furniture
canned goods
mattresses
The following institutions have thru the years been terminated.

"Institutions Terminated"
July 1, 1953, the Nebraska Maternity Home at Milford, Nebraska which cared for unwed mothers and their babies was closed. The Home was established in 1887 and opened for use on May 1, 1889.

The idea of the founders is expressed in the original legislative act as follows.

"Besides shelter and protection, the object of said institution shall be to provide employment and means of self-support for penitent women and girls, with a view to aid in the suppression of prostitution."

From memory it seems to me that the old statute also someplace had the words "for redemption of fallen women."

Before W.W. II the home was still washing diapers by hand and drying them on outdoor clothes lines. An acre of diapers.

Next the Genoa State Farm. The Genoa Indian School was donated to the state of Nebraska in 1934. The Legislature in 1935 designated it the Genoa State Hospital. In 1937 the Legislature changed the name to Genoa State Farm.

It had:

- 625 acres
- 6 large dormitory buildings
- 15 staff residences
- a school and gym
- laundry
- office
- heat and power plant
- many farm and dairy buildings

The Penitentiary operated the facility until W.W. II with:

- meat packing
- cannery
- farm
When I returned from the Service in 1946 I found a report in 1945 by the Engineering Division to the Board of Control on the feasibility of conditioning Genoa buildings for use in housing 150 "senile mental patients." Cost was estimated at $134,200 and 55 employees would be required.

The report estimated cost of a new building at one of the state hospital as $197,000 and estimated that only 15 employees would be required.

A new building would pay for itself in less than 2 years.

A narrow squeak! We may have been close to housing a state hospital at Genoa.

The Penitentiary discontinued its operation in the W.W. II period. The Reformatory tried unsuccessfully to operate the farm in the 50's.

The property was given to the University which razed all the buildings and I think sold the land.

The moral of all this is: Do look gift horses in the mouth!

"In 1971 Nebraska Orthopedic Hospital was closed. It had begun operations in 1905 for the purpose of correction of twisted bodies in children, prevention of deformities, and to aid the medical and surgical professions of this state. Those who were admitted were children whose parents or caretakers were unable to stand the financial burden of prolonged private treatment.

In 1971 Nebraska Hospital for the Tuberculous was closed. The hospital had been established in 1912 giving 60 years of service to the state.

From its humble beginning in an old residence it grew into a modern well equipped sanatorium."

The old residence, by the way, is now being made into a museum. The hospital property now belongs to Kearney State College.
"In 1960, the School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind were transferred to the Department of Education."

I'll read all of this on the School for the Deaf as it has an interesting connection with the founding of Beatrice State Developmental Center.

"The Nebraska School for the Deaf in Omaha had been one of the original institutions established by this state in 1869. Prior to 1867 the territorial legislature had provided for the education of Nebraska Deaf regardless of age by transporting them to the Iowa School for the Deaf. In 1909, a huge arch at the entrance of the drive stated "Deaf and Dumb Assylum."

In 1890, J.A. Gillespie then principal of the school recommended a name change because of the public interpretation of the word "dumb". He repeated his recommendation in 1905. In 1909, the legislature changed the name to the Nebraska School for the Deaf."

That took some time - 15 years!

The history of the institution recites that so many of the parents brought children who could not speak because of mental deficiency that finally pressure was brought upon the legislature that in 1883 the school was instrumental in convincing the legislature to establish an institution especially for the feeble minded. However, many parents still pressured the school for the admission of their child. Finally families of the children attending the school convinced the legislature to define the word deaf.

The legislature soon followed it in 1875 by establishing a School for the Blind in Nebraska City. The school for the blind was started by Samuel Bacon, who had previously started schools in Illinois and Iowa. He started the school with his own money and in 1875 the legislature made a modest appropriation which was able to return him part of his investment. The school was built in
1876. The administration of the school was originally by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor and the school was organized as a private institution.

The school 14 years after inception became a political football and with each new administration a new director was appointed, regardless of the predecessors abilities. This continued until the 1890's, when a special board for the schools for the deaf and blind was appointed. They continued supervising the institution until the Board of Control was established.

The purpose of the school was to serve those children who were blind or so visually impaired that they could not make sufficient progress in the public schools.

In 1962 the Home for Children was transferred to the Department of Public Welfare. In 1884 a group of church women had established the home and called it "Home for the Friendless." It was located between 10th and 11th Streets on South Street in Lincoln. Here the aged, orphans, and the unwed mothers were all cared for. The state and this group of women jointly operated this home until the Supreme Courts' decision gave complete control to the state in about 1900. In 1915 the name was changed by the legislature to Home for Dependent Children. In 1950 the legislature again changed the name to Home for Children. Later it was changed to Whitehall School." The name as I pointed out is now changed again! "In 1926 the Board of Control purchased the C.C. White residence for $75,000 which became the present site for the school.

All institutions in the Division of Corrections (Nebraska Penal and Correctional Complex, State Reformatory for Women, Youth Development Center-Geneva, Youth Development Center-Kearney, and the Office of Parole Administration) were transferred to the Department of Correctional Services when it was created in 1973.
A Division on Alcoholism was created by the 1967 Legislature as a division of the Department of Public Institutions, with the Director of the Division appointed by the Director of Public Institutions.

The Division of Rehabilitation Services for the Visually Impaired, known formerly as the Department of Services of the Visually Impaired, is another service within the Department of Public Institutions.

The Office of Mental Retardation was established as a part of the Department of Public Institutions by action of the 1969 Legislature.

The Community Mental Health Division was established in September 1973, by the Director of Public Institutions.

The Mental Health Community Program was established by the Legislature in 1973.

The Mental Retardation Community Program was established in 1969.

The Data Systems Division was created by the Director of Public Institutions in December, 1973, for the purpose of coordinating the implementation of a statewide, computer-based, mental health information system.

One of the principal programs since the beginning of the state was the mental hospitals. The progress that has been made over the years is reflected in the name changes and some of the philosophies announced throughout the many years.

The Lincoln State Hospital located in the southwest outskirts of the capital city was the first of its kind to be built in Nebraska to care for mentally disturbed persons. That was in 1870. Termed an "asylum" it was some fifteen years before similar asylums were put up. The Norfolk and Hastings asylums were built in 1885 and 1887, respectively. The Hastings institution was first known as the asylum to which the incurable insane were sent."

I've looked up the definition of asylum and find it is "a place of retreat and security" - not a bad name for the early institutions until it became tainted by being used for "bug houses." Funny how thru the years we've cleaned things up
simply by changing the names.

"Report of Nebraska Conference of Charities and Correction lists the names of the institutions in 1902 as follows:

- Nebraska Hospital for the Insane - Lincoln
- Insane Asylum at Norfolk
- Asylum for the Incurable Insane - Hastings

In 1906 the name at Hastings was changed from the Asylum for the Care of the Chronic and Incurable Insane to Nebraska State Hospital.

In 1907 the Board of Public Lands and Buildings divided the state into three hospital districts. All hospitals were placed on the same basis and were to admit patients from different districts in the state instead of trying to separate the curable and incurable.

In 1905 the legislature made provisions for the care of alcoholics and drug addicts through the mental hospitals.

The 1946 session of the Nebraska State Legislature passed a Voluntary Admission Law and passed the act LB 74 changing the name of the Boards of Insanity to Boards of Mental Health.

In the intervening years two other institutions dedicated to the service of the state's unfortunates have been added:

- The Nebraska Hygiene Clinic at Hastings in 1951
- The Nebraska Psychiatric Institute at Omaha in 1947 - on the campus of the College of Medicine, University of Nebraska

Since then the Panhandle Mental Health Center in Scottsbluff; Lincoln Lancaster Mental Health Center, Lincoln; Great Plains Mental Health Center, North Platte; and an Adult Protective Service at Douglas County Hospital, Omaha have been established.

The 1969 Legislature changed the titles of the three mental hospitals at Lincoln, Hastings, and Norfolk to Regional Centers."
While we are not now part of the penal and correctional institutions, they are still part of us so I'll give you some history of them.

"The Youth Development Centers for Girls at Geneva and for Boys at Kearney. The Legislature in 1879 established Nebraska State Reform Schools for juvenile offenders.

The first girl, age 13, came from Kearney. The first boy, 8 years, 11 months, came from Fremont for stealing a $2.00 whip.

In 1887 the Legislature changed the name to State Industrial School. In 1891 the Legislature made appropriations for the Girls Industrial School at Geneva. The new school opened in 1892 with 57 girls from Kearney."

In 1945 the names were changed again - to Boys and Girls Training Schools.

Now they're changed again!

"The Reformatory for Women was established in York in 1920. It is now called The Nebraska Center for Women."

"The Reformatory for Men

The Administration Building and 10 acres of land were purchased in 1921 at a price of $37,500."It had at one time been the Haywood Military Academy - maybe a normal school before that. I find a record of a building having been burned before 1909. The Administration Building was built in 1907 or 1909.

It was of reinforced concrete construction up to the top story - there they built a lumber yard. Wood studs, wood lath and plaster with an entirely wood roof structure. In the wood lath and plaster partitions they set massive steel barred jail doors.

The Cell House was built in 1925 at a cost of $50,000. Cells were not installed in the north one-half of the building until 1931.

The building isn't old - its just been eroded away - it simply looks old! There have been no physical plant improvements here after 1932 excepting; a new boiler house and a new security fence and towers.
"The Nebraska State Penitentiary

The penitentiary was first established in 1867"- this was 9 years before Custer's fiasco - " with a temporary building opened in 1869. The legislature passed on March 4, 1870, a bill to provide authority and $5,000 to construct a temporary penitentiary to be completed by April 28, 1870."

They could really set tight schedules in those days - to the day - now we hesitate to say in what year the work will be done.

"The permanent penitentiary was completed in the fall of 1876. It was built of limestone from quarries 12 miles outside of Lincoln."

I found a statement that the first stone selected was rejected as being too soft - this must have been a blow to the convicts.

The stone actually used was pretty soft - its possible to go thru the walls with a screw driver and tablespoon - its been done!!

I'll describe how the walls were built. The walls are made of two shells of cut stone about 12 inches thickness, with an interior cavity about two to three feet wide - making the entire wall something like four or five feet thick. The cavity, as the wall went up, was filled with stone cuttings, chips, natural lime, sand, and clay - this was before the day of common use of Portland cement.

Let me tell you of one early building. It was a two story building with 20 cells-a jail-called "The Hole" by the inmates, who hated it. It was a symbol of all they hated. It was used as the excuse for one riot that by fire destroyed all shop buildings.

When the smoke cleared we built a beautiful new 38-cell Adjustment Center. You guessed it - the inmates named it "The Hole."

The only construction other than the Adjustment Center has been:

- shops to replace those burned in two riots
- and the minimum security dormitory.
Attached to the written history sheets given to me was an account of the infamous and tragic escape by Gray, Dowd and Morley that resulted in the death of six men including the Warden and Deputy.

Some escapes have been ridiculous ones like these:

the man who wrote his own pass and walked out thru the three barred gates of the Sally Port.

the man in the Adjustment Center who somehow, in broad daylight, managed from the fenced yard of the center to scale the prison wall at a point about 20 feet from a tower and go down the other side to escape across the dairy lot - the tower guard made no effort to stop him - didn't fire a shot. Later he stated he just couldn't shoot at a man. He had been assigned to the post for some time - no one had thought to ask if he would shoot!

I'll tell you briefly of an attempted escape I have a personal knowledge of.

A few years ago I had a phone call from the Warden. He, in a low deadly voice, asked if I could come out to his office at once for an emergency. I swished! The Warden and Deputy were in a huddle in the Warden's office. They explained they had been informed that three inmates just recently released from the Adjustment Center were digging this way thru the north wall of the east Cell House at a certain location in the basement. They proposed, in order to prevent exposing the fact that they had been informed, that the three of us pretend to make an inspection of the basement for data on some proposed repairs or remodeling. We should have been given Oscars for our acting. I paced off distances - made notes - and we discussed locations for partitions and the like. Finally we reached the small room (about 8' x 16') built against the north basement wall. It was locked. I said something like, "What's in here - this room would have to be taken out to open the corridor." The Warden asked
who had the key. The basement was full of inmates at various work assignments. All were frozen - no one had a key. Finally a key was found, and the door unlocked and there were three disgusted inmates. The leader said, "I didn't expect to see you here today, Warden."

The men had only a foot or so more to go and they would have gotten through not to the outside but into the execution chamber where the electric chair is set up!

"Beatrice State Home"

The Beatrice State Home was established in response to a parent association for the school for the deaf. Many parents of retarded children were asking to get their child admitted but the school for the deaf was not equipped to meet the retarded child's needs. Therefore, the Institution for Feeble Minded Youths was established by legislative action and was opened and received the first patients in May of 1887."

The legislature in 1945 renamed it the Beatrice State Home. Now in 1976 we've named it the Beatrice State Developmental Center. (None of these name changes help switch board operators.)

"In 1943 the biennial report stated that "During the first 56 year period, 4,348 patients have been admitted and taken care of in the Institution. At the close of the present biennium the patient population consisted of 1,480 patients present at the Institution and 163 patients living away from the Institution, on parole. It is interesting to note that there is still present the second patient to be admitted to the institution and he has been there continuously for the 56 years."

"Soldiers' and Sailors' Home
Grand Island, Nebraska

The first Soldiers' and Sailors' Home was established at Grand Island, Nebraska. The Legislature of 1877 passed an enactment which provided for this institution and Governor Thayer laid the cornerstone of the first building on
October 6, 1887, and that building was dedicated June 26, 1888.

The Legislature of 1877 also approved a bill that designated that suitable tracts of 2½ acres, or more, with regular streets and alleys to be laid out and to cause comfortable cottages and out-buildings to be built as found necessary for those able to partially support themselves. A number of duplexes were built in which families were housed and the thought was that they should be made to feel that they were living an independent and comfortable life. Food rations were issued from the central commissary each week. Coal was also issued to the members.

In later years a "Line" was extended to members living within 1½ mile of the administration building where they could own, or rent, a home and draw rations from the Home. The homes built by the State did not accommodate all of the veterans who desired to live at the Institution and a line of small homes for housing was established, on what became known as the "fringe." An all-time high was 68 members living on the "Line" which was discontinued by Legislative order on July 1, 1937.

The last Civil War veteran in the Home was William J. Bell of Elgin, Nebraska. He died October 11, 1942 at the age of 99 years, 10 months and 27 days.

In 1895 the legislature had established a Soldiers and Sailors Home in Milford to take care of the overflow at the Grand Island Institution. On June 1, 1939 the Milford Home was merged with Grand Island Home. Later the name was changed to The Nebraska Veterans Home and an annex was opened in Norfolk and Scottsbluff."

Courageous Senator Matzke wrote the bill closing the Milford Home right in his own district and neighborhood! Jack you remember when we wanted to close one building at Norfolk.

In 1940 the Education Department, with engineering by the Board of Control Engineering Division, converted it to Milford Trade School.

In the late 30's the legislature established the State Planning Board. I acted as engineer in making field surveys and report on physical plants of the
Board of Control, University of Nebraska, and State Colleges (then Normal Schools). The Planning Board then prepared a ten year construction program for all state institutions.

This was the awakening.

The situation at mental health institutions in 1938 was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Total Employees</th>
<th>Ratio Patient/Employee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L.R.C.</td>
<td>1221</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>7.3/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R.C.</td>
<td>1548</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>5.4/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.R.C.</td>
<td>1054</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>6.2/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3823</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This total had gone to 4342 by 1946 and continued up from that point.

Beatrice 1341 93 14.4/1

Salaries were about 39 percent of the total expenditures, including capital costs.

The institution per capita costs: not per day - not per month - but per year were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L.R.C.</td>
<td>$235.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R.C.</td>
<td>$255.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.R.C.</td>
<td>$245.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beatrice</td>
<td>$136.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the same time the Soldiers and Sailors Homes had these costs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Island</td>
<td>$530.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milford</td>
<td>$529.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

They had these populations and employees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Island</td>
<td>164 members</td>
<td>66 employees</td>
<td>2.5/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milford</td>
<td>67 members</td>
<td>33 employees</td>
<td>2.0/1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1938 only 5.3 percent of the total capacity of Board of Control institutions was in fire resistant buildings!

We were living in and maintaining fire traps!

I'll describe a typical ward building:

- bare plastered walls
- bare wood floors
- heavy barred windows
- wood joist and studs
- wood roof structures
large open dormitories and day rooms
no ventilation
no cooling
steam radiator heating

Our "tranquilizers" were floor polishers, pushed by patients up and down the floor for hours and hours at a time. The polishers (called "rubbers") were wood blocks about six or eight inches square and eighteen inches long, wrapped in old blankets and pushed by a long handle. Floor wax was a homemade mixture of kerosene and parafine.

There were no fire detection or alarm systems. Emergency lights were kerosene lanterns - these were still in use at Lincoln Regional Center after W.W. II.

Many patients were locked in their rooms. All wards were locked.

There was much use of restraints - straight jackets and cuffs.

Clothing was a standard uniform of bib overalls and straw hats for men, and Mother Hubbards for the women.

Hair was trimmed close to the heads of all highly disturbed or "untidy" patients. These patients generally wore a one-piece garment.

Food was served cold - generally boiled meat, gravy, potatoes. One old report said eggs were given to patients on Easter.

Here are some of the 1938 plan recommendations at Beatrice:

tear down the "S" Building when the "D" is completed (done in 1940)
We've had the building vacated several times and right now its in use for programs.
Before I leave maybe I can set fire to it myself!

tear down the "R" Building - this was done last summer - 39 years later!
Not bad!

tear down the old boiler toom - last year we repaired it and put on a new roof structure!

Let me read this great pearl of wisdom (I wrote it myself):

"From the experience of states reputed to have the most advanced standards of care for the feeble-minded it may
be expected that the population of this institution (Beatrice State Home for the Feeble-Minded) should at least increase at the same rate as in the past ten years. If buildings were made available an even greater increase might be expected. Continuing expansion in the next ten years at the same rate as in the past ten years the population will increase to approximately 1,800. (In ten years it actually reached 1,621 but went on to 2,086 by 1958). It will be necessary towards the latter part of the next ten years period to construct a building for at least 200 beds. The addition of 200 beds will increase the capacity to 1,739."

Here's another!

"The statistics as to the number of mental defectives and as to the number needing hospitalization or institutional care in any general population is so meager that the capacities of an institution to care for them in a state like Nebraska can only be based on past experience and population increase, plus waiting lists."

Here is the situation in the mental centers today to contrast with that in 1938:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>population</th>
<th>total employees</th>
<th>patient/employee ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L.R.C.</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>.36/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R.C.</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>589</td>
<td>.38/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.R.C.</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>.34/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vets Home</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>1.13/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beatrice</td>
<td>965</td>
<td>1,090</td>
<td>.89/1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The per capita cost reported as follows - we can't question the figures - after all they are by D.P.I.:

- Hastings - a high of $103.16 per day - a low of $59.30 per day
- Beatrice - a high of $123.29 per day - a low of $20.07 per day
- Vets Home - a high of $28.75 per day - a low of $15.39 per day

These would give yearly per capita costs of many thousands of dollars. I realize our patients now don't spend years in the institution. These figures are shown only for comparison and to show the progress made.

That should be enough backwards looking today - let's get on with making new and better history.

Thank you.
area and a 38-bed adult admission program.

1974 - Employees cafeteria closed.

1978 - Second floor of K-Building renovated to accommodate continuing education programs.

1985 - Adolescent building renovated to set up private or semi-private rooms rather than open "cubes".

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>PATIENTS</th>
<th>STAFF</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>PATIENTS</th>
<th>STAFF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>1,170</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>1,225</td>
<td>745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>1,375</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>750</td>
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<td>1950</td>
<td>1,601</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>1,684</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>518</td>
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<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>1,506</td>
<td>661</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>453</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

STATISTICS

Lincoln Regional Center covers 107 acres of ground
1985 operating costs $11,527,462.43
1985 total payroll $9,794,544.00
1985 cost per patient per day
Adolescents $176.00
Extended Care $127.00
Security $123.00
Short Term Care $147.00
Average per diem $136.47

From February 1985 to February 1986 the dietary department cooked and served 260,503 meals or an average of 5,009 meals per week using:

182 cases or 13,104 pieces of fried checken
3,630 lbs. ground beef patties
8,145 lbs. ground beef
1,620 lbs. roast pork
1,830 lbs ham
3,720 lbs roast beef
1,050 lbs frankfurters
4,901 lbs whole potatoes
1,716 lbs instant potaties
7 - 12"x14" cakes per week
25 pies per week
66,352 half pints milk