

State Welfare Secretary
Helen Wohlgermuth

Received in
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

APR 23 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

April 22, 1973
403 S. Main St
Athens, Pa. 18810

Dear Madam,

I read the write up in "The Evening Times" of Sayre, Pa. about the use of wooden, playpen like cubicles for the aggressive patients at Pott, Pa. and how; Dr. James H. McClelland was asked to leave the Hospital.

I was there visiting in 1962 - When Bobby Blackburn (a cousin) of mine was there. At that time they didn't have enough Help to care for all the patients. Even though they had asked for Help. None came from the State or otherwise.

I have helped care for Retarded (severely) children 13 to 29 yrs. in Private Homes. And I know a little of what has to be done. And if these private families would of had a wooden playpen for their children - They'd had a little more freedom of what a parent has to do - each day of there life.
Anyone should know a Retarded Person -

doesn't have any mind; and could do anything in the (spur of the moment).

as Dr. James H. McClelland "said" that Polk has been progressive - and that they had one of the most progressive educational programs of any State institution of the Country. Which is true!

And, I too agree with Dr. McClelland, that these oversized - play pens are the most humane and logical for any patient. Instead of giving them tranquillizers - or putting them into 'Straight Jackets' all the while.

Tranquillizers - only break up the brain more - that in time they become a Vegetable.

But I hope the new Man & His Staff will be more successful - in the task - they have been Chosen to do - and they learn that Dr. James H. McClelland had done his best, with what money and help he had.

Sincerely

Margaret E. Runzman