ART THERAPY — Nearly all the young adult patients at Northville State Mental Hospit-

al participate in art classes. The owl montage is one of many this girl has made.



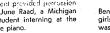
SHOP SCENE — New equipment in a machine shop gives young men in the hospital's H

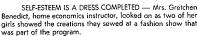
Building a chance to work out creative pro-



HAPPINESS IS SONG - At a program for staff and visitors recently, this quintet sang out lustily on numbers like "God Bless America" and "Climb Every Moun-

tain." Another patient provided pe effects, and Mrs. June Raad, a Michigan State University student interning at the hospital, was at the piano.





A World Comes Alive

Young Adult Patients Respond To Own Group, Classes, Show

SY MARGARET MILLER
Women's Editor
''Happiness Is' was the program's title.
Teens sang in twosomes and threesomes
and bigger groups. Several stepped out a
dance they had created. A guitarist played
and sang. A small instrumental combo performed. Girls modeled dresses they had
made for themselves. The room where the
program was held was bright with the teens'
art work.

The scene could almost have been a talent show in any of the high schools that dot
this area.

this area. But it wasn't. It was the young adult building of the Northville State Hospital for the mentally ill.

AND THE KIDS, REALLY not so different from the ones that fill school corridors, all were patients in the hospital. Most of them are described as suffering from chronic montal library.

all were patients in the hospital. Most of them are described as suffering from chronic mental illness.

A year ago, many spent most of their time in locked rooms, taking little interest in any of the world around them.

But on the day of their program they announced some real accomplishments proudly to Northville staff and guests who came to visit.

What happened in that year?

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A lot—and it exemplifies the sort of change and the staff and guests who came to visit.

What happened in that year?

Let Dr. K. C. Nair, head of the young adult unit at Northville since March of this year, describe the new developments.

"A year ago," Dr. Nair reports, "there were 260 patients in H Building, present location of the young adult unit. Their ages ranged from 15 to 60 years of age, and the building was a maximum security unit.

"It was decided that the patients in their teens and early twenties should be separate from the others."

So, in a series of several moves, older patients were moved out of the building-

from the others.

So, in a series of several moves, older patients were moved out of the buildingscome to other parts of the hospital, some to nursing homes, some to their families.

Left in H Building were 40 patients, and they were moved to men's and women's wings of 20 persons each. Other parts of the unit, which previously housed more patients, were given over to the next big innovation, a school for the patients.

ART CLASSES previously had been given in the hospital's Activities Therapy Building, and they were moved to H Building. Added were remedial reading classes, home economics for the girls and shop for the boys, and recreation therapy, which is mainly



Another major advance came in the size of the staff. By June of this year, there were 32 staff members in the ward, a staff-patient ratio of 1 to 1.85.

"That is the best in the hospital," said. Dr. Nair. "The ideal ratio for psychiatric work is 1 to 1, and the closer you can get, the more chance there is for progress."

The changes moved along, gradually but steadily.

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At first, teachers went to the patients' rooms to escort them to classes. Now the young men and women move freely through the building and keep track of their own schedules.

Mrs. Gretchen Benedict, who came in June as home economics and remedial reading teacher, started the girls on three-armhole dresses—simple patterns to foster the feeling of accomplishment.

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In the shop classes, instructor Bob Hayes has had the boys putting bright coats of paint on recreation rooms and corridors. They also have installed equipment and made foot lockers for their rooms. Class projects range from cutting boards to cocktail tables.

The art teacher, Mrs. Shirley Ford, has hung dozens of the paintings of her students through the whole area.

THE P H Y S I C A L AND occupational changes are great, but to Dr. Nair and his staff they are far overshadowed by the new spirit in the kids themselves.

"The biggest improvement," said the director, "Is in the level of functioning, Most of these patients used therests in even keeping the patients used the treest in even keeping state that the start for the Building, put it another way.

"The change has been unbelievable."

The change has bee



