



IRELAND'S TRAVELING PEOPLE entertain more than 300 retarded children from Plymouth

State Home and Training School during a Christmas party at Roma Hall. (Observer photo)

## For This Party, PSH Kids Get To Go Out

By KATHY MORAN

Christmas came on Dec. 12 for James Compton.

That was the day he celebrated Yuletide season with 320 mentally retarded residents of Plymouth State Home and Training School. For Compton, Christmas means sharing — so he shared himself and his good fortune with the less fortunate children and adult residents from the Northville Township institution by throwing a party.

This was the third Christmas party he has thrown for them in Roma Hall in Livonia, but the first time he has permitted any publicity.

The party is "his" thing — sponsored by him and his Livonia business of Jay Tool & Die.

"WE'VE HAD offers from people who want to help, but we want to keep it our party," he said. "I feel that those of us who have been lucky — whether materially or in other ways — are obligated to share some of it."

What makes the party so special is that it gives residents a chance to leave the institution.

One phase of the two-part plan offers instant approval for admission to Wayne State's winter or spring quarters to students who have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 (B equals 3.0, C equals 2.0) as soon as the average is verified by appropriate high school officials.

"One reason I have it here is that it gets them out of the Home. This way they get a bus, can see the neigh-

borhoods and are in new surroundings.

"I think it's good for them. They are great kids."

BOZO THE clown and Mr. Whodini performed magic tricks and invited children on the stage to participate in their act as the party first got going.

Then Ireland's Traveling People, a Toronto-based professional group, got their audience clapping, dancing and singing-along when they began singing Irish folksongs and Christmas carols.

The five performers are originally from Counties Dublin, Galway and Limerick in Ireland and accompany themselves with a guitar, accordion, penny whistles and harmonica.

The program then called for dinner of hotdogs and pop with time for Bozo, Mr. Whodini and the singers to walk around and talking with the children.

AND AT LAST the moment everyone was waiting for arrived — the jolly ol' man from the North Pole came on the scene to deliver dolls, games, and toys to the good girls and boys.

There were gifts enough for 420 children, but several wards at the institution were quarantined with chickenpox and measles so the party was 100 children short.

Why did he pick Plymouth State Home?

"Because of volume," Compton said, explaining he

wanted to reach as many people as possible.

All the smiling faces and hugs from the children made the host a main attraction — and he clearly was having as much fun as his guests.



WHEN IRISH music got exciting for this youngster, he jumped up and began to dance to the tunes. Ireland's Traveling People, a professional group, performed both Irish folk songs and Christmas carols. (Observer photo)



JAMES COMPTON, owner of Jay Tool & Die in Livonia talks with two residents of Plymouth State Home who attended the party Compton gave for the residents. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

### 3 Draft Boards Merge

Three area draft boards will operate from the Shaw Building, 33200 Schoolcraft, Livonia, beginning Friday, Dec. 22.

The transfer applies to local boards No. 102 in Plymouth and Nos. 219 and 221 in Wayne, a Selective Service System announcement said.

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