

INTERLAKE

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SPECIAL EDITION 11TH ANNIVERSARY

The Past, The Present, and The Future

As plans were being formulated for the 11th Anniversary Edition of the Beacon, we had the opportunity to hear a paper presented on Mental Retardation. It was first presented at the AAMD, Region I luncheon on October, 16, 1978 at Portland, Oregon. Dr. Eugene H. Wyborney was the recipient of the Edgar Doll Award for "outstanding accomplishments in the field of Mental Retardation." Many of those who were present at this meeting were so impressed that Dr. Wyborney was invited to repeat his message to the Interlake School cabinet at their meeting on November 6, 1978.

Again, the material as presented by Dr. Wyborney was considered to be relevant and timely, so the suggestion was made that the speech, in its entirety, be published in the 11th Anniversary Edition of the Beacon. It was the consensus of the staff that he accurately describes the past, the present, and the author's views of what could be in the future for Mental Retardation, and that his talk was both candid and thought-provoking.

Dr. Wyborney, we feel, is imminently qualified to speak with authority on the subject of the mentally retarded, as he has been a practicing physician since 1951. During the period of 1951 to 1961, Dr. Wyborney was in private practice in Port Angeles, Wash., a community of about 12,000 residents.

Dr. Wyborney, having a mentally retarded child of his own, fell heir to the practice of the majority of the mentally retarded children in the area. In 1961 he was appointed to the position of staff physician at Lakeland Village, one of the major schools for the mentally retarded in the State of Washington. A year later he was appointed as Clinical Director of Lakeland Village, where he served in that capacity until he retired in January, 1976.

Following his retirement, he was given the position of consultant to Interlake School, which serves the severely and profoundly retarded, many of whom have multiple handicaps and physical problems. Interlake School, a medically orientated facility, serves the entire State of Washington for this group of mentally retarded residents.

AAMD REGION I ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Receiving the "Edgar Doll" award is Dr. E.H. Wyborney with his wife smiling approval. Presenting the award is Winston Leckie, Chan. of AAMD, Reg. I



Jackie Dewey

Don't Handicap the Handicapped

A recent news account of positions of parents of handicapped children brought to mind a paper taken from a speech by Eugene H. Wyhorney, M.D., of Washington state, brother of San Francisco's Vernon Wyhorney, M.D.).

E. Wyhorney's speech was aimed specifically at "those who would see the plight of the mentally deficient and their families as a shocking and far from a problem."

He speaks from a triple position of authority. He is the father of a child with Down's Syndrome, otherwise known as mongolism. Also, after practicing for 18 years as an internist, Wyhorney was for 13 years medical director of a school for retarded children. He is still an active member of the American Association on Mental Retardation.

Just a year and a half after his retirement at a meeting of members of this group, Wyhorney made a rather peppery speech. After all, many

professionals in the field told him it all should have been said much sooner.

Among the points he made:

— A variety of factors has brought a herd of professional workers running to the field — teachers, doctors, physical and mental therapists. Some workers even urged as a motive to get into what they viewed would be a field of golden opportunities.

— Still to be learned? How does one define "normal"? This is not always the same thing for people from different cultural or social backgrounds.

— What about civil rights, or even human rights for handicapped people? Section mentioned is the right to be protected from an unaccepting and often hostile society. It isn't always wise to place a facility for mentally retarded people in an unfriendly community.

— Institutions per se are not all bad. But the bad ones are horrendous. Still,

what about the agony in the homes of the mentally retarded?

—"The problem of mental retardation is not limited to the mentally retarded child," Wyhorney stressed. "It involves siblings, parents, all relatives. These affected need more consideration than all workers in the field."

— Another problem: How do you strike a happy medium between thrusting the mentally retarded into work situations that amount to penance, almost slavery? This has happened in the past. And yet, how show them the joy of accomplishment that comes with doing hard physical work?

Wyhorney took his audience to task, saying, "In this assembly of professional people here who prove the mentally retarded, only those groups actually see the retarded in the home. These are social workers, the psy-

chiatrists and the public health nurses.

"The rest of you deal with them from an ivory tower and seldom see the devastation that can occur in the home and in some families who have such a child."

He would like to see groups for parents only, not to be infiltrated nor dominated by groups with political positions or looking for a change in "do good."

"Parents know far more about some aspects of the mentally retarded than any professional," he said. But he decried the fact that many professional workers in the field view parents' groups as adversaries whose opinions are to be circumvented or ignored.

He said it is unfortunate that the courts are at the mercy of ambitious lawyers and the personnel so-called expert whenever.

"There are those among us who have

an obsession with getting involved in the hope of getting national recognition from the testimony they give. Then there are those who are obsessed with getting into print. And they are not necessarily the best authorities on the subject."

Wyhorney ended his speech, saying, "If you are a psychiatrist or psychologist who hopes to become a Sigmund Freud or an Alfred Adler — an educator who hopes to become a Horace Mann or a Helen Parkhurst — an administrator who hopes to become a Jimmy Carter or Pierre Trudeau — or a lawyer who hopes to become an F. Lee Bailey or a Melvin Belli or any professional who hopes to become a Dan Weller or Lawrence Oliver by using the witness chair of a federal court as a stage, please build your spotlight in the future in some other field.

"The mentally retarded have enough problems without you."

Dr. Wyborney leaves for new post at Lakeland Village near Spokane

After 10 years of general practice in Port Angeles, Dr. Eugene H. Wyborney left Wednesday for fulltime medical work with mentally retarded people at Lakeland Village near Spokane.

A state school founded in 1914, Lakeland Village now has an enrollment of 1,500. Dr. Wyborney will be the first fulltime physician.

"The problem at Lakeland is largely one of education," Dr. Wyborney says. "My important work will be a periodical evaluation to eliminate any medical handicaps that might interfere with the patient's training. It will also take care of incidental illnesses that occur."

Staff at Lakeland is made up of educators, psychologists, sociologists, psychiatric consultants and physicians.

DR. WYBORNEY'S interest in retarded people has grown steadily over the past 10 years.

He has been active for six years in the Washington State Coordinating Council for Exceptional Children. Objectives of the group were to coordinate the efforts for education of exceptional children regardless of their handicaps.

He also serves on the subcommittee for mental retardation for the state medical Association's committee for maternal and child welfare.

He has been a director of the Washington State Heart Association for three years. Dr. Wyborney speaks highly of the heart association's Seattle evaluation center to determine the amount of work any heart patient can safely handle.

EUGENE HENRY WYBORNEY was born at Bridgeport near Chief Joseph Dam where the Okanogan River joins the Columbia, Feb. 9, 1912. He attended Washington

State College majoring in forestry and range management until his senior year when he changed to pre-medic. At Bridgeport, his people were farmers.

In 1938 Dr. Wyborney graduated from the University of Oregon Medical School in Portland. He completed his internship at Siskiyou County General Hospital in 1939.

He then became resident physician in tuberculosis and chest diseases at Maryknoll Sanitarium at Monrovia, Calif., where he stayed 15 months. For the next six months he was at Riverside County Hospital. The next years, 1941 to 1946 were confined to military service.

After a course in tropical medicine at Tulane, he spent 23 months overseas in the Central Pacific area.

DR. WYBORNEY SAYS his military assignments were divided between doing internal medicine in the receiving room and administration. He was admitting officer for the 36th Field Hospital attached to the 77th Infantry Division.

"We went through four campaigns, the Marshall Islands, Guam, Leyte and Okinawa. On our biggest day there were 243 admissions in 24 hours. I saw them all myself and put them in a 400 bed hospital that was already full," he recalls.

"That was not our hardest day, though. One day we got 190 casualties in 30 minutes. It took 12 hours to sort them out."

The doctor explains that those who were hungry were sent to eat immediately. Many had not eaten for two or three days. This left the doctors free to attend the more serious cases.