

Mentally Ill Are Seldom Violent:

Out of The Night Of Morganton

Asylum Patients, as General Rule, Get Along Well Together

By TOM P. JIMISON (This is the tenth of a series of articles...)

I had heard much about crazy people, but I discovered at Morganton that most of it wasn't true. I found that demented people are for the most part, harmless.

Outsiders tell alleged funny stories of men who think they are Napoleon, but there were no Napoleons at the institution.

There were many immensely wealthy men there. They gave away money with indiscriminate liberality, some of them transacting millions of dollars worth of business in a single day.

Unwillingly many parents teach their children the "May-flower" complex by buying them expensive toys with which to fill their playmates.

Several of the women there I claimed to be the widow of John. The Baptist. Another one was engaged to Herr Hitler.

Several of the men were very intelligent, and one was a doctor. He had long been a patient who had long been a patient who had long been a patient.

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of his important things soon finds himself without an audience. Other patients laugh and nod and walk off. The demented look up to nobody. They even call Dr. Watkins plain "Mister" when addressing him.

There is little jealousy among the inmates at Morganton. If a patient gets some extra privileges, most of his ward mates are glad of it.

OFFERS BOOKS The project was discussed with Mrs. McVey, librarian at Morganton, and she offered to let the hospital have a few hundred books.

Profits from the hospital commissary had mounted to several thousand dollars, so it was decided to buy a few hundred volumes. The back of the amusement hall was chosen for the library.

Books are safe Many people said the library wouldn't work. Crazy folks could read, they said, and ruin the books.

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