

Buildings' dedication held at Laurelton

By ROB HUFNAGLE

LAURELTON — "Throughout its history, the Laurelton Center has been blessed by a dedicated, devoted, and caring staff," said Dr. S. Reeves Power, the institution's superintendent.

Power was one of several speakers at a buildings' dedication ceremony Thursday afternoon on center grounds. Fittingly, much of his brief speech focused on the staff, past and present, of the 70 year-old institution.

Many of the people to whom 25 of the center's buildings have now been dedicated, were former staff members. Other honorees included people closely associated with the Laurelton Center.

One honoree, Bethany Bossert, was a client. Bethany's mother, Edythe H. Bossert, spoke at yesterday's ceremony.

She explained how her daughter, who has since died, made progress once being moved to the Laurelton Center. Bethany spent 11 years at another institution.

"Once they brought Bethie here, she began to grow," said Edythe Bossert, now a member of the Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Bossert credited the Laurelton Center's staff and administrative policies with her daughter's growth as a person. She also paid tribute to the family members who came to Thursday's ceremony to watch as buildings were dedicated to their respective relatives.

"It's a special day that all you people could come here representing a member of your family. (They) were so special to us," Mrs. Bossert said.

In addition to Bethany Bossert (Bethany Chappel), other building names and honorees included: Wolfe Building, named for Mary Moore Wolfe, M.D. Sc.D., one of the founders of Laurelton Center and its first Superintendent; Houser Building, named for Russell M. Houser, first Garage Foreman; Idell Building, named for George S. Idell, first Architect; Newman Building, named for Gertrude Newman, first Director of Nurses; Schooley Building, named for William A. Schooley, first Maintenance Engineer; Snyder Building, named for J. Frank Snyder, first Farm Manager; Biddle Building, named for Judge Edward W. Biddle, first President of the Board of Managers; Brown Hall, named for Nona B. Brown, second President of the Board of Managers; Derr Hall, named for Frederick S. Derr, M.D., former Medical Director and Staff Physician; Earle Hall, named for Catherine H. Earle, member of the first Board of Managers; Edgett Hall, named for Cather-

ine DeEtte Edgett, M.D., second Assistant Superintendent; Glover Hall, named for Oliver Wendell Holmes Glover, M.D., former Member of the Board of Trustees; Ireland Hall, named for Effie Clair Ireland (Thorn-ton), M.D., second Superintendent; Jolly Hall, named for Hilda Jolly, first Social Services Director; Karstetter Hall, named for Margaret Karstetter, former First Matron; Linn Hall, named for Philip B. Linn Esq., former Member of Board of Trustees; Lomison Hall, named for Kay Lomison Dorman, former Cottage Attendant; McClure Hall, named for Margaret F. McClure, former member of the Board of Trustees; Moore Hall, named for Katherine V. Moore, first Supervisor of Attendants; Moyer Hall, named for Edward W. Moyer, former Director of Recreation; Murdoch Hall, named for J. M. Murdoch, M.D., member of the first Board of Managers; Showalter Hall, named for Charles Showalter, first Business Manager; Sleighter Hall, named for William Z. Sleighter, former Business Manager; Vanuxem Hall, named for Mary Vanuxem, Ph. D., first Assistant Superintendent and Psychologist.

Of the honorees, only Derr and Schooley are still living. Both attended Thursday's ceremony. Schooley, one of event's speakers, had those attending the ceremony laughing as he told short stories about many of the honorees.

Other speakers included Power; Bossert; Dorothy B. Ruhl, a former psychologist; Evelyn C. Marboe; current President of the Board of Trustees; and Ralph J. Sneed, Ph. D., Bureau of Direct Program Operation, Office of Mental Retardation.

Marboe made reference to the institution's goal of training residents to move back into the community.

"Status quo is not in our vocabulary. We move forward," she said.

Marboe said as recently as 1969 there were more than 1000 people residing at the center. Now there are 231.

The center, at one time known as the Pennsylvania Village for Feeble-minded Women of Childbearing Age, was formally opened in 1919. The institution admitted its first male in 1969.

Lewisburg Daily Journal