

Governor Warren, Doctor Tallman, Honored Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, of Camarillo State Hospital, extend to you the sincerest welcome on this memorable day. To us, this is an event which means the culmination of our fondest dreams, with the opening of this wonderful Receiving and Treatment Unit.

Today marks another step forward in the pace-making march of progress which the California State Department of Mental Hygiene is making. And we feel the justifiable pride in this great, this truly magnificent addition to our Camarillo family.

For me, this is an unforgettable moment, and I cannot dwell lightly on the meaning which the opening of this new unit conveys to all of us.

Camarillo State Hospital ranks as one of the largest psychiatric treatment centers in the State. Ever since our doors were first opened in 1936, when this institution was guided by the capable hand of Dr. Thos. W. Hagerty (pause for Dr. Hagerty).... Ever since that auspicious day, the census of men and women patients entering our portals has risen steadily.

In the beginning, the south wing was large enough to qualify for our needs. But as time passed, it was necessary to expand, to meet the rising influx of patients, and early in the 1940s the north wing was begun.

But this also, in the course of years and events, became crowded, and an expansion program was again required. This time our far-sighted Department of Mental Hygiene visualized a great treatment center for integrating the functions of our entire hospital.

This Receiving and Treatment Unit is a monument to the skill and ingenuity of man. To the designers, the architects and engineers; to the craftsmen who labored tirelessly that this structure might become a

vivid reality -- to these artisans, we offer our most heartfelt thanks.

For we have now within our grasp the means of consolidating the treatments and therapies necessary to our patient charges. Realizing the grave responsibility of their care and welfare, we are indeed happy that this new Unit gives us the opportunity to offer them the finest in psychiatric medicine.

Here we have comfortable and modern facilities for over 700 patients. Every phase of the modern hospital is at our fingertips. This unit is a splendid example of the stream-lined advancement of psychiatric treatment at its best.

An entity, dependent upon no other factor, this unit is self-operating and self-functioning. It is the nerve center of our entire hospital metropolis. This is truly a city within a city.

With this cornerstone for the ages, we, of Camarillo, look proudly ahead. We realize the tremendous task which faces us. For, in the days to come, thousands of men and women shall enter this new unit, seeking care and help.

They are our responsibility. We owe them a priceless heritage -- the gift of a full and wholesome life.

We cannot fail them. We must not fail them. It is a duty and a challenge, which we accept readily.

Dr. Tallman is introduced