

In the spring of 1918, with World War I calling the young men of Maryland, he enlisted in the army. Because of his hospital training and experience he was assigned to the medical corps, and, because of his supervisory abilities, he was placed in charge of the psychiatric ward at Fort McHenry, working directly under Colonel Arthur P. Herring, the doctor who later was named Commissioner of Mental Hygiene for Maryland. Many cases of mental illness had developed in the service and there had not been time to establish veterans facilities. However, the State had built the Foster Building at Spring Grove but the funds had not been provided to furnish and equip it. So arrangements to do this were made with federal authorities with the purpose of using the building for mentally-disabled service men until Veterans Administration hospitals could be established.

Again, because of Mr. Dayhoff's knowledge and ability, he was placed in charge of this Veterans Administration unit and continued with its supervision until regular Veterans Administration facilities were made available. The Foster Clinic was then turned back to the State system and Mr. Dayhoff was appointed "Supervisor-in-Charge." Mr. Dayhoff's duties and responsibilities grew as the hospital expanded. In addition to his primary administrative duties as head of all non-professional nursing activities, he handled practically every type of administrative responsibility in the hospital: admission of patients, personnel, laundry supervision, maintenance of statistical records and employee housing. Always determined to bring happiness into the lives of patients, Mr. Dayhoff turned his five-day week into a seven-day week by taking on additional duties. He opened and operated two miniature canteens where patients could buy small packaged candy, cakes, and other treats, and used the income for many types of patient entertainment. He re-activated the Spring Grove baseball team which played in the Weltmer Bowl, a baseball diamond made possible by Doctor Weltmer, Superintendent. Both men believed in wholesome outdoor amusement as good therapy for mental patients. Mr. Dayhoff played first base and also acted as manager of the team. When winter and cold weather terminated the games and picnics in the Bowl, Mr. Dayhoff began showing movies twice a week to large groups of patients in the Rice Auditorium, built in 1935.

Since retiring on September 30, 1958, Mr. Dayhoff has continued working daily at Spring Grove as a volunteer. He has continued to function in the same capacity, in several areas, as he did before retirement. Spring Grove's 1,000 employees and 2,400 patients know Mr. Dayhoff for what he is—a competent, dedicated, hard-working man