

Those of us who call the Eastern Shore our home are proud of the way this hospital has strengthened its relationship with, and its services to, the communities which comprise this nine-county region. This hospital, like other mental institutions, has suffered the unfortunate stigma that has accompanied mental illnesses—a stigma which happily is rapidly fading. But while some may have avoided it, and others criticized it, Eastern Shoremen in general have been proud to have the hospital in the area. And the relationship between the hospital and the public has steadily improved through the years.

Working with existing facilities and resources on the Shore, Dr. English and his staff have expanded their services, through such programs as increased outpatient clinics and follow-up services, the setting up of day centers and the exchange of information between hospital staff and community agency personnel. I am told that within the past month he has made the resources of this hospital available to the Commission on the Aging as a means of helping local agencies carry on their programs.

We can look forward to the Eastern Shore State Hospital's continuing in a place of leadership on the Delmarva Peninsula, quite in keeping with the theme of its golden anniversary; "Eastern Shore State Hospital—Hub of Regional Psychiatric Services." In commemorating this important event in the history of mental hygiene in Maryland, let us pledge ourselves to strive unceasingly and unyieldingly to the end that the victims of mental illness and mental retardation may fare better in the future than they have in the past.