

Fannie Farrington: An inspiration to everybody

Outpatient Clinic helps those with mental problems

The Angelina County Outpatient Clinic, 911 Chestnut, Lufkin, is one of five mental health facilities operated by the Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health-Mental Retardation Services.

Sandy Skelton, director of the outpatient clinics, said the clinics are located throughout the 13 county region to provide area residents with mental health care in their own communities.

"If a person needs the care offered by Rusk State Hospital, we serve as a screening agency for that facility," Skelton said, "but if the care needed can be offered locally, we provide that service."

The service to a client begins with an intake and evaluation procedure that develops information on the problem a client may have and the client's background.

Skelton said the most common problem is depression or anxiety, some caused by specific situations such as

strained parent-child relations and marital problems that result in extra stress at that particular time.

After the problem has been determined an assessment is made as to what is needed, Skelton said.

He said there are several services available including general counseling, individual or group or family counseling.

Some persons require medication only and other require both medication and counseling.

Skelton said the services are provided by professionals including psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, social workers and case workers.

The person needing care will be directed to the staff member who can best provide for the needs of that individual.

Skelton said no one is turned away or denied treatment because of lack of money. The payment schedule is based on a sliding scale figured on the income and number of people in the family.

Other services offered by the outpatient clinics are evaluations for court proceedings and for other agencies.

A function of the agencies that is almost equal to providing services to persons with emotional problems is the education of the public to recognize emotional problems



MRS. FANNIE FARRINGTON was one of Diboll's premier 'first' ladies, as was Mrs. Mary Ann (Annie) Chandler (left). The occasion of this picture was Mrs. Chandler's 85th birthday. Mrs.

Farrington was about 87 at the time. Both went to their reward many years ago, but their mark on Diboll remains.

(Free Press Photo)

and to be familiar with the help that is available through MHMR.

"There are still many people we can help," Skelton said, "who have a problem, but are not aware of our services. Other people who are in need of our services misunderstand our services or are not motivated to seek help."

"The national average for emotional problems is ten percent of the population. The

population of the 13 county area according to the 1975 census figures is 272,800.

"We conduct workshops and make personal appearances in an effort to help people recognize problems at the early stages, Skelton said. If we can begin to treat the problems early, then they will not be as difficult to treat when they become more serious, he added.

MHMR is a locally based agency providing mental

health-mental retardation services, and alcohol and drug abuse services. The agency is governed by a Board of Trustees composed of local persons appointed by the commissioners courts of the 13 counties served by the agency.

For additional information, contact the Angelina County Outpatient Clinic at 639-2384.

By ELLEN TEMPLE
Especially for The Free Press

(This article is based on an interview with Mrs. Fannie Farrington in 1954 by John Larson of the Forest History Foundation, Inc., Santa Cruz, Calif.)

Fannie (Mrs. Frank) Farrington moved to Diboll in 1903 and lived here until she passed away almost 30 years ago.

Her Diboll connection began when she met T.L.L. "Tom" Temple, a fellow Christian Scientist, at her cousin's reception in St. Louis, Mo.

He was head of Southern Pine Lumber Co. at the time and probably in St. Louis to do business with his banker. At any rate, the Farringtons and Mr. Temple got to be friends. And he persuaded them to go to Diboll. He had a vision of the kind of community it could be and he needed their help.

How did he convince a church working lady to leave a comfortable big city for an East Texas wilderness town that had two saloons and only one church? He appealed to her missionary spirit and asked her to come help uplift the town and mill, "socially, spiritually and morally." And in two weeks," she said, "We were in Diboll." It was 1903.

"Well, the first morning — we landed about 4 o'clock — and of course it was almost breakfast time. We had no room at that time and we had hot biscuits, broiled steak, coffee and some kind of dessert, fruit — we had a lovely breakfast."

Mr. and Mrs. Farrington lived in a hotel in Diboll for two years and paid \$16 a month for room and board. She ran a millinery business and he worked in the company commissary, later as postmaster. Then Mrs. Farrington went to work for the store, took her time, got to know folks and came to learn the needs of people in Diboll.

And she always kept her main mission in mind — which was to help Diboll people any way that she could.

One of the first activities she organized was a book club. Sixteen of them would each buy a different, good publication. And they'd meet once a week, discuss their reading, trade books and then have a little social hour.

At that time in Diboll — the early 1900's — people enjoyed tennis and especially baseball. And they had a band and an orchestra. But most of the social life centered around the church. Mrs. Farrington's church work was interdenominational. Although in the early days she held Christian Scientist meetings that Mr. Temple attended when he was in town, she later served for 18 years as the First Methodist Church's superintendent for the children's division.

And she was the first president of a parent-teacher group organized to help underprivileged children. Not only did she make sure that those children had the right clothes to wear to school, but she also helped provide their books and supplies.

Each woman in her Christian society would adopt a child and be sure he or she was properly ready for school. And if a child seemed particularly suited for college, Mrs. Farrington would find a way to send him or her.

Mrs. Farrington also helped heal the sick. If while on the job at the commissary she heard of illness, she'd be sure that the family got help.

The company doctors called on her for assistance. "I've helped with operations. We had two that was operated on in my house, in my living room. We turned it into — moved a bed in there and kept the patient for two weeks until he was able to care for himself."

When the undertaker from Lufkin came to Diboll and needed help, it was Mrs. Farrington who would assist him. Her answer to squeamish people: "We know that this is just a house we live in, and after the spirit's gone we shouldn't worry about this body any more," she said. "So I never allowed those things to affect me in any way because that was just business; the spirit had already gone back to its Maker."

The 1929 Panic or Great Depression challenged all people in Diboll to help one another. Mrs. Farrington recalled children's hungry faces and cold bodies and the box of old clothes and coats that she kept handy to keep the children from freezing.

Times then were desperate. She remembered the winter of 1930 when one man came into the store barefoot and asked her what he should do. Mrs. Farrington begged the manager for help. And he, with tears in eyes, said, "Tell them to give him shoes." Community members helped each other, in some way, every day during those

difficult days.

In the 1920's when times were easier, they had more fun. Twice in the fall, Mr. Tom Temple would bring a group of his friends from Texarkana to play tennis. And the three "Virginians," Tom Temple, Henry Temple, and Watson Walker loved baseball.

Mr. Temple established Diboll's first library in the early 1900's. On the upper floor were rooms for visiting company officials, and on the ground level was a reading room with all kinds of books and magazines for everybody's use. Mrs. Farrington was in charge of the library's book collection.

On the other side of the room was a billiard table. About five years later they turned the books over to the school and converted that recreation area into a living room for guests at what was still called the "Library" (now Love-Wood Products office). Mrs. Farrington believed that Mr. Temple stopped the billiards because "I think they kind of got the bets up a little bit. And I don't think he approved of that."

Mrs. Farrington recalled the celebration when World War I ended in 1918: "When the Armistice was signed, I was cleaning house, and Mr. Farrington rushed in and grabbed his gun. I thought there was something terrible happening. I said, 'What on earth!' He said, 'The Armistice was signed!' And the men all got their guns and anything that would make a noise; whistles all blew and it certainly was a day of rejoicing."

During WWI the ladies in Diboll set up a Red Cross sewing room at the Library. Nearly every lady in town sewed or knitted. And the men at the plant chipped in whatever money they could afford — 25 cents to a \$1 once a month that was collected and sent to Red Cross headquarters. "And they acknowledged it with a telegram from Washington, which was put up here. I think the town was very proud of their work in the Red Cross during WWI."

Recalling their first car, a Ford model T, Mrs. Farrington remembers how her husband, (or was it a boy driving for him?) ran off the bridge! No one was hurt.

One time Mr. Farrington had car trouble and sent word for Mr. Rutland, who had a car too, to come out and tow him in. They chained up the cars, and Mr. Rutland drove on into town. Not until he accidentally turned into a ditch by the Farrington's house did he discover that the chain had broken along the way, and he had lost Mr. Farrington way back there.

The farmers with horses were scared to death of the first cars. In Lufkin about that time, the city passed an ordinance giving the horses right of way over cars! Mrs. Farrington recalls: "Oh, we had a world of trouble...And we almost had to leave town sometimes because the farmers would be so up in arms because the horses would be scared and run off the roads."

The Farringtons would drive to Dallas to market. They'd have to keep an ax handy to cut things out of the road. One time when it rained too hard, they just had to leave their car out on the muddy highway. Or sometimes they'd leave their car in Dallas and have it sent back by freight!

Riding in a car then was a thrill, especially for the children. She remembered that one of the Chandler boys addressed his school class, telling them that at one time, "the height of ambition and the thing he enjoyed most was to get to sit on the fender and then hope that the car would start so that he could get a ride!"

Mrs. Farrington also recalls some bad times in Diboll when saloons were still operating and a few men shot and killed other men as close as the station and ice house. But during her lifetime all the saloons were closed and Diboll's one church became seven.

And, ever optimistic, she'd rather talk about the good things. Mrs. Farrington's interview closes with her saying: "It's just been wonderful to see the growth. It makes me happy now to drive — I don't walk much. I've been very ill for two years, but I'm getting so I get out now — but do drive over the plant now and see the improvement; it's just the most wonderful..."

In the interview, Mrs. Farrington paid high tribute to her friend Mrs. Katherine (Arthur) Temple of Texarkana: "She is one of the most wonderful women I have ever been associated with. She's done more good in the world than any one woman that I know of. She'd hear of someone crippled; she'd go to see what could be done for them...If they needed food and clothes, she'd go and see what could be done and that they got the things they needed."

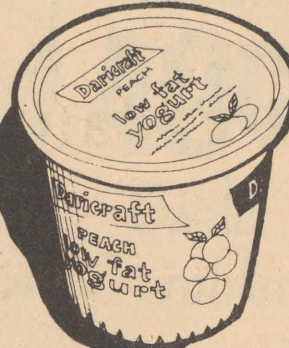
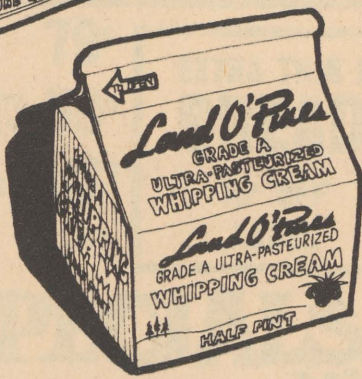
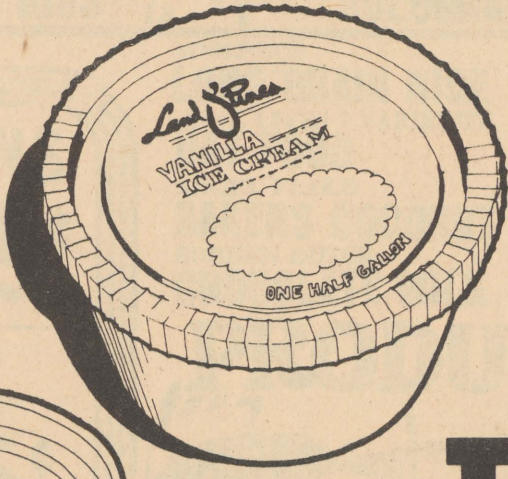
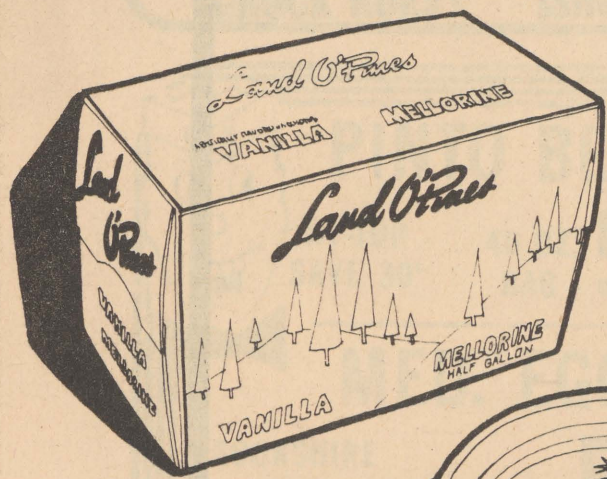
I imagine that through the years, many people have had the same words of praise for Mrs. Farrington.



THE HAROLD TURNERS have made available this snapshot of Diboll's original library, with snow on the ground, probably in the 1940's. Originally built and used as a guest house for Southern Pine Lumber Company executives, it was envisioned by Southern Pine founder T.L.L. Temple as a library and was

partially used as such. It still stands today and is the headquarters of Love Wood Products. Ironically, the chairman of Love Wood Products, Jim Love, is chairman of the board of trustees of T.L.L. Temple Memorial Library—Tom Temple's dream come true 75 years after he dreamed it.

OUR VERY BEST



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Land O'Pines

EAST TEXAS FRESH!