

REST HAVEN

MONROE GAZETTE
MONROE, NY
OCT 25, 1923

Friends of the Blind will be interested in the first season's report of Rest-Haven, the Summer Vacation Center for Blind Girls and Women in Monroe, Orange County, N. Y.

One hundred and forty-six was the roll call from June 14th to Sept. 25th, the girls coming in groups of twenty to twenty-five, each group remaining twelve days.

Scores of letters from the girls speak of this vacation as an epoch in their lives, many of them never before having had an opportunity to "see" the country. Rest Haven, with its beautiful trees and flowers, shady walks, grape arbors, and the winding woodland paths offered rare delights.

Mrs. Mooney, our good Hostess, also has a treasury of affectionate messages, in which the girls she mothered, gratefully acknowledge her loving care and kindness.

The residents of Monroe and the vicinity, a number of friends from Brooklyn and New York City, and the local Church Choir graciously cooperated in entertaining the girls. Some came often to read, while others generously sang and played the piano, mandolin and guitar.

Through the courtesy of the ministers of nearby churches, vehicles were provided for church attendance Sunday mornings.

Kind friends in the neighborhood sent generous gifts from their orchards and gardens—baskets brimful of choice fruits and fine vegetables.

There were birthday parties, cakes and goodies when any of the girls had a birthday—and the entire household joined in a merry celebration. They sang, they danced, they played—and we could hear the echoing laughter of hearts that were gay.

The health record was noteworthy. Our House Physician, Dr. Sprague was called but once.

The summer has been replete with happiness, not alone for the girls who enjoyed the hospitality of Rest Haven, but also for those of us who came in close contact with them and were inspired by their courageous outlook on life—quoting one of them—“Blindness of the eyes is nothing—a terrible misfortune, would be blindness of the heart.”

A. Berwin Newbury,

Secretary