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doing an excellent job of sending payments of \$500 at a time in an attempt to pick up the bank balance.

"In charge 5b Mr. Russell writes, 'Make an effort immediately to collect these accounts (Loretto Home and Convent).'

"Mr. Russell cannot deny that Miss Dolan told him that she has absolute confidence in the mother superior, that the mother superior was, and has been, making periodic payments of \$500 each, that she, Miss Dolan, has accumulated sick leave and vacation leave time which she had never used and that if Mr. Russell feared the money would never be paid that he could take Miss Dolan's accumulated sick pay to secure the bill and that Miss Dolan had no fear whatever that the account was good.

"If Mr. Russell wanted court action, why didn't he take it himself, why did he not call on the state for action by its lawyers, why fire this woman who considered it a definitely good bill (and it was)? Why fire her because she did not want to have unnecessary trouble with those of her own faith?

"It seems as if any real man would have attended to this job himself if it was necessary and not try to push this over onto this lady of over 25 years service if he sincerely, honestly, deep-down considered the account a shaky one.

"Last session I was disappointed in the attitude of the majority of the Rutland County senators on the Branon Bill on transportation of school children. To me, to fire this sincere woman because she failed, even refused, to have trouble with her own people when she had guaranteed the account if necessary, with her own accumulated back salary is tragic.

"Bear in mind Mr. Russell by his own words has brought into this controversy 'Mt. St. Joseph Convent,' 'Mother Superior,' 'Loretto Home,' 'this institution,' referring to the periodic \$500 payments.

"Neither Miss Dolan nor anyone in her behalf drew them in; Mr. Russell did that and Miss Dolan must answer the same. Her friends and those who admire her for her great unselfish service are entitled to know the depth to which these charges go and her answer to the same.

"Three charges have to do with a report on one conflict between two inmates of the Colony House checked on by an official for Brandon and orally (instead of written) fully reported on. One charge has to do with her own rating sheet which she was advised not to sign as she considered it inaccurate and so she could not sign it honestly. One has to do with a \$39.90 clothing item which was completely audited, and one with a quart of wax purchased on a general order via purchasing agent authority and not by a new set of forms recently sent out by Russell prior to Nov. 14, 1955.

"In due time, either by newspaper or by radio, I plan to quote from a large number of reports to the Legislature setting forth by page and year, statements of the wonderful work done by Miss Dolan at the Colony House, I shall disclose other conditions and situations with reference to Mr. Russell and the administrator of the Brandon State School, the Gould case and others.

"The people should know these things. The friends of Miss Dolan should know. The girls of the

Colony House for years back should know. We hope the governor of the state feels obligated to investigate the situation from the angle of the employe, not as in the past, the angle of the employer.

"I do not know where The Rutland Herald was furnished with the following: 'Dale said she repeatedly disobeyed orders, not only defying him but also Russell and his two immediate predecessors, the late Francis Needham and Dr. Francis Kelly.'

"Miss Dolan will have letters and statements of Commissioner Dale, some of very recent date, praising her and her work. As to Dr. Kelly, in his official report (page 67, 1947) he says, 'There can be no doubt that the credit for the success of this project is largely due to the untiring effort and loyal service of Miss Katherine Dolan,' and again on 1948, (page 77), 'Miss Dolan has carried on valiantly and loyally.'

"As to Mr. Needham, only one biennial report was signed by him and while it does not mention Miss Dolan by name, he does say (page 91), 'The Colony serves as a bridge from Brandon to conditional discharge. The fact that many of its girls have made a superb adjustment to society proves the value of such a plan.'

"Miss Dolan was in charge of accomplishing this superb adjustment.

"Miss Dolan has fought against all who threatened the welfare of those girls, fought with that same sincerity a mother fights for the welfare of her child.

"In payment for all this Mr. Russell, the state of Vermont, through Russell, notifies this elderly and loved lady that after 25 years of service in Colony House, after over 30 years as a state employe, notifies her not personally but by public newspaper notice that 'Miss Dolan Fired From Colony House' and fired at once.

"Not even the courtesy of a private letter ahead of time. The Rutland Herald carried the headlines early Saturday morning. A registered letter was not mailed from Montpelier until late Dec. 30 and not received by Miss Dolan until 11:10 in the morning, Saturday, Dec. 31, long after her friends had read about it publicly and started calling her.

"And this is the Christmas season when Christians celebrate the birth of Christ, the exemplar of that love which Katherine Dolan has tried so hard to give these Colony girls for 25 years."

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RUTLAND DAILY HERALD,



Herald Photo—Merusi.

HAPPIER DAYS: Miss Katherine M. Dolan, discharged Friday as matron of the Colony House here after long years of service on charges of disobedience, is pictured at right in this photograph taken last year when she was given a party by women and girls left in her care at the home. Sen. Asa S. Bloomer has protested the action of firing Miss Dolan.

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Discharge Of Miss Dolan

When anyone has served the state as long and faithfully as Miss Katherine Dolan has it, is nothing less than tragic to have her career culminate in discharge and a welter of charges and counter-charges.

There is little doubt that up to a certain point in Miss Dolan's career as matron of the Rutland Colony House, Commissioner of Institutions Timothy Dale would agree that she was one of the most valuable workers in his department. He would undoubtedly agree that she was highly competent and that she gave herself unselfishly to the Colony House and the girls in her care far beyond the requirement of any job of salary compensation.

For that reason, the difficulties and differences which have arisen in recent years over the operation of the Colony House must have been particularly painful to Commissioner Dale who will this year himself complete 20 years of service as head of the department which employed Miss Dolan.

It has always seemed to this newspaper that the colony house program operating as a branch of the Brandon Training School is one which could be extended to various parts of the state rather than being limited to Rutland.

The Rutland Colony House could, a few years ago, have been a model for such a program and Miss Dolan might well have been capable of setting it up.

Instead the program has not been extended, but has ever been curtailed because of difficulties between Miss Dolan and her superiors. Finally she was discharged for "repeated refusal to obey orders." Miss Dolan has refused to accept discharge or to leave the Colony House.

Sen. Asa S. Bloomer has come to her support with a statement promising help in securing counsel for her and in carrying her case to the voters during his election campaign this year. He has served notice that he intends to use the case as a cause celebre and has started off by raising the issue of religious prejudice.

The Dolan case will become the cause of heated discussion and increasing ill feeling which would be less regrettable if there were any prospects that any great wrongs were to be righted. However, we can't see how much help from all this can come to Miss Dolan or anything can change the sad fact that such an honorable career in state service has had such an unfortunate culmination.

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Local Retarded Children Assn. To Hear Funke

Arthur Funke, psychologist for the Vermont Children's Aid center here, will speak at an open meeting of the Rutland Assn. for Retarded Children at the Park St. School today at 8 p. m.

Funke's topic will deal with emotional disturbances as a cause or factor of mental retardation in children.

Leonard F. Wing Jr., president, yesterday announced the names of the trustees of the association. They are: Raymond Messer, Mrs. Evelyn Costello, Donald Carrigan, Arthur Landry, Mrs. Elizabeth Hughes, Funke, Wing, Mrs. Margaret R. Ferguson, Robert S. Franzoni, Mrs. Samuel Stowell, all of Rutland; Donald Flory of Center Rutland, Carl Johnson of West Rutland, Miss Frieda Vargish of Fair Haven and Frederick C. Cizmesia of Wallingford.

The following standing committees have been appointed: hospitality, Mrs. Mary White, chairman, Mrs. O. Andrews Ferguson and John R. Carrigan; program, Funke, chairman, Carl Johnson and Rabbi Jacob Handler; publicity, Mrs. Ethel Stearns, chairman, Mrs. Costello, Mrs. Herbert W. Lyon and S. P. Wild; finance, Messer, chairman, Mrs. Ferguson, Wing, Franzoni, Mrs. Benedict Lorman, the Rev. Harvey D. Butterfield and Msgr. John F. Kennedy; admittance, Mrs. Hughes, chairman, the Rev. Olof C. Johnson, Flory and Miss Vargish; and refreshments, Mrs. Stowell, chairman, Mrs. Fred Cyr and Miss Shirley Mailhotte.

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Bloomer Plans To Ask Hearing By State Board

Asa S. Bloomer said yesterday he plans to appeal for a hearing before the State Personnel Board for Miss Katherine M. Dolan, who was fired Saturday as matron of the Colony House on 17 charges of alleged disobedience.

Bloomer said he will serve Miss Dolan in his capacity as county senator and will probably do a little legal work as well. He added this did not mean he would act as her attorney.

Miss Dolan is still at the Colony House, a branch of the Brandon Training School. The two remaining girls there were transferred to the Brandon school Saturday.

Bloomer said no further moves had been made on the part of the State Department of Institutions that he knew of. "It's a little early yet," he said.

Commenting on the hearing before the State Personnel Board Bloomer said, "we still have plenty of time for that."

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1/7/56

Colony Girls Back 'Dodie'

26 Former Charges of Ousted Miss Katherine Dolan Rally to Her Support.

Twenty-six former Colony House girls yesterday spoke up in defense of Miss Katherine M. Dolan, matron of the Columbian Ave. home operated by the state, who was fired Dec. 31 on 17 specific charges of alleged disobedience.

The 26 girls signed a statement in Miss Dolan's behalf, recalling the care and help she has given them. The statement was largely prepared by Miss Shirley Mailhotte of 84 Park Ave., a former Colony House girl.

Miss Mailhotte says she could neither read nor write when she was transferred to the Colony House over five years ago from the Brandon Training School. She has been on her own for six months and makes her living as a domestic in eight homes in the city and by part-time work at a local dress shop. Miss Mailhotte says that she as well as the other Colony House girls will remain grateful to "Dodie," as they call Miss Dolan.

The statement follows:

"We, the graduates of the Colony House, know the motherly love we have received from Dodie. She has given us constant understanding and hope through the years. Colony is like any average home in America. As a mother guides her children with love and understanding, so Dodie has guided us. Hundreds of us found the true love and home-spun life a value that the average person could never appreciate or understand.

"Now we come to the word Colony as it has been spelled by Dodie's constant efforts: Care with courage; obedience with justice; love with loyalty; outlook with future; necessary for our welfare; and years of untiring effort.

"This is Dodie's tribute to her girls.

"It seems very unfair that a person who has given 34 years of her life so unselfishly should be flagrantly mistreated as Dodie has. Firing her after the years of faithful and devoted service she has given to the state, hardly seems like a just reward.

"We are supposed to be misfits in society, but we do appreciate the motherly love which has been extended to each of us girls. How can the Brandon State School, Mr. Russell, or even Mr. Dale do this to the only mother we know, love and respect.

"Our hope for 1956 is for a better state to live in as peaceful as we want other states to think we are. We are a small state and why are the Big Shots always trying to put the little man out of his rights. It is the little man's votes that count. The Colony House Girls."

Putland Herald

1/20/56

Miss Dolan Keeps Busy

Discharged Matron Is Still at Colony House With Another State Employe.

Miss Katherine M. Dolan, busied herself with personal affairs yesterday at the Colony House, which she has refused to leave despite her discharge by the state.

Matron of the state institution since 1930, Miss Dolan was dismissed Dec. 30 in a letter signed by Francis W. Russell, superintendent of the Brandon Training School of which Colony House is a branch, and made public by Timothy C. Dale, commissioner of institutions.

The letter contained 17 charges and alleged "repeated refusal to obey orders." The commissioner said Miss Dolan had previously been asked to resign and refused.

Up to yesterday no further moves had appeared in the case. Sen. Asa S. Bloomer, who has protested Miss Dolan's dismissal, said there was nothing new.

Miss Dolan and her companion, Miss Mary Sharkey, a state employe, continue to receive some courtesies from the state.

The ex-matron said heating oil, milk and some bakery products continue to arrive at the home, but that otherwise she is boarding herself.

Miss Dolan spoke pleasantly about a telephone conversation between the Colony House and the Brandon State School in which someone assured the occupants of the Colony House they could ask for what they needed, but could no longer requisition anything. The milk and bread delivery, Miss Dolan said, are part of a contract which has not yet expired.

Miss Dolan said she is keeping busy with personal affairs so as not to get bored. She has been sorting a voluminous amount of records in recent weeks. She said there were several trunks full of them.

In addition to her companion, at least one graduate of the home has spent an occasional night in the Colony House to keep the occupants company.

YEARS OF DEVOTION

To the Editor of The Herald: To all who know Miss Katherine Dolan there need not be any explanation as to the years of service and devotion she has given to the Colony House.

To the people who are unfortunate not to have met her let me say just this:

I have known Miss Dolan all my life. She is a heartwarming, kind and sincere woman. The endless years of love and devotion she has given to the girls at the Colony House has been, to a great majority of them, the only real home life they have ever known. And now some of you people want to take it away from her.

What about the many, many girls she has raised and guided all these years, and has endured unto them the courage and the knowledge to take their place in life? Do you think it was easy? It was a long and tedious job and one that Miss Dolan loves and has devoted her whole life too. A job that she wouldn't trade for all the worldly riches.

Since human ills are caused by unbelief, selfishness and cruelty, let me say that you have done Miss Dolan a great injustice. Truly she is "all the good things" that those in politics overlook. She is a mother to hundreds of girls and her home is the Colony House.

PATRICIA DOLAN

Rutland, Jan. 3.

'BLUNDER'

To the Editor of The Herald: In my early days in Rutland I used to see the Colony House on Columbian Ave. . . . It was a happy home. On Sundays I saw Miss Katherine Dolan

leading her girls down State Street to a service in one of the many churches here. They were well dressed, clean and orderly. In other words they were ladies, showing the good effect of the teaching, love and care of this true womanly woman.

Today as I ride the bus, I see that home deserted, and I feel the sense of desolation, one would feel in wartime, after an enemy raid, and I think of those wards in the "Charge of the Light Brigade," "Somebody blundered." That blunder was disastrous, but not more so than that which closed that home. Now the statement made to The Herald by Attorney Asa S. Bloomer shows that he is a real man, a true gentleman. We all know him as a good lawyer and I hope, as many others do, that his efforts in behalf of justice and right may help to straighten out this mistake and that we shall see the Colony House reopened under the leadership of the only one who is fitted for it, Miss Katherine Dolan; that she may again have her girls, and that the Home may go on to bigger and better achievements in the future than in the past.

ROBERT EATON

Rutland, Jan. 6.

ASKS PROTEST

To the Editor of The Herald: Whose diseased mind invented the clever plan of taking Miss Katherine Dolan's girls from the Colony House one by one with no explanation? These girls are now receiving small pay in families throughout Vermont. Who gets the best of this transaction? And who carries out this brilliant idea?

Every one who knows Miss Dolan realizes she has been the only mother many of her girls have known. The atmosphere of The Colony House is one of loyalty and goodwill. How many homes in the United States have such an atmosphere? And how many institutions have been operated as efficiently as The Colony House?

What is the matter with us that we, in our indifference, vote for state officials who take advantage of their position by discharging a person like Miss Dolan in the underhanded way in which her resignation is being handled? Isn't it modern for gentlemen to hold office? A true Vermonter likes to play fair.

What are we going to do about this situation? We can register a protest by writing to Montpelier to Gov. Joseph Johnson and to Commissioner of Social Welfare Timothy C. Dale. Ask

them to reinstate Miss Katherine Dolan as matron of The Colony House. Or if this does not seem expedient at this time, offer her an equally important position along another line. Vermont needs Miss Katherine Dolan's exceptional ability.

EVALYN WEIR

Rutland, Dec. 31.

12/30/55
RUTLAND DAILY HERALD, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 30, 1955.

State Seeking Resignation Of Colony Matron

Efforts to obtain the resignation of Miss Katherine M. Dolan as matron of the Colony House were disclosed yesterday through a visit of two representatives of the State Department of Institutions.

They called on her at the Colony House Wednesday. According to Miss Dolan, they broached the subject of her resignation.

Institutions Commissioner Timothy C. Dale is expected to make a statement in Montpelier today on the matter.

Miss Dolan told The Herald last night that this was the first time department officials had directly mentioned her resignation. She has been matron of the Colony House since 1930.

At present there are only two girls at the institution. The Columbian Ave. home normally has about 25.

Miss Dolan said she has retained Asa S. Bloomer as her legal adviser.

12/31/55

Miss Dolan Fired From Colony House

Seventeen Specific Charges Filed Against Matron by Brandon School Head.

Disobedience Charged

(Morning Press Bureau)

MONTPELIER, Dec. 30. — The state today announced the firing of Miss Katherine M. Dolan as matron of the Colony House in Rutland for "repeated refusal to obey orders."

Timothy C. Dale, commissioner of institutions, made public a letter of discharge sent to Miss Dolan yesterday. It was signed by Francis W. Russell, superintendent of Brandon Training School.

Dale said the action definitely does not herald the closing of the Colony House. On the contrary, he said, a broader program will be put into effect almost immediately.

Seventeen specific charges of disobedience, some dating back to last March, are listed in the letter of discharge. Most of them deal with failure to make an accounting of the earnings of Colony House inmates and with failure in some instances to collect the wages from employers of the girls.

The Colony House is a branch of Brandon Training School. Its primary purpose, Dale said, is to serve as a rehabilitation center through which more advanced students from Brandon can be trained to be returned to society.

The girls are permitted to work outside the institution with part of their earnings going to them and part to the state.

The 17 charges list a number of instances where Miss Dolan allegedly ignored Dale's orders to file reports concerning the girls' earnings and accounts.

Miss Dolan has been matron of the Colony House since 1930. Dale said she repeatedly disobeyed orders, not only defying him but also Russell and his two immediate predecessors as Brandon administrator, the late Francis Needham and Dr. Francis Kelly.

The situation has been building up for sometime, the commissioner said, and has reached the point where the discharge of Miss Dolan is imperative. Miss Dolan was requested to resign from the job but refused, Dale said.

Russell's letter disclosed the Board of Institutions and Board of Mental Health held a joint meeting at Brandon Dec. 12 to go over the situation. Miss Dolan was present, according to the letter.

Russell said the Board of Institutions concluded at the meeting Miss Dolan "had repeatedly failed and refused to recognize or obey orders given by her supervisor."

The letter added: "The Board of Institutions accordingly directed me in the best interests of the Rutland Colony House, Brandon Training School and the state of Vermont to effect your separation for cause."

Russell noted Miss Dolan's actions "are in violation" of state personnel rules and regulations.

Dale said one of the matrons at Brandon will be transferred temporarily to take over at the Colony House. He said no decision has been reached as to who the new matron will be.

The commissioner revealed plans

(Continued on Page Two)

Colony House Head Fired

(Continued from Page One)

are underway for a stepped up program of rehabilitation at the Colony House. It will encompass a clinical program including more social work, group therapy by a psychologist, bi-weekly physical check-ups, and a regular schedule of visits by a psychiatrist.

A letter from Russell to Dale said 15 girls at Brandon have been hand-picked to go to the Colony House under the new matron. They will have an orientation of at least three weeks before being allowed to take employment.

When questioned as to why the population at Colony House has dropped to two girls, Dale disclosed a consulting state psychiatrist has refused to certify any more girls under Miss Dolan.

The commissioner said the Department of Institutions and Brandon administrators recognize the social value of the Colony House as an integral part of Brandon's rehabilitation program.

"They believe the Colony House and its program should not only be continued, but be expanded," he added.

Dale said the rehabilitation program had bogged down under Miss Dolan. Girls that should have been ready to return to society in two years or so were kept indefinitely, he added.

Miss Dolan's discharge was made effective immediately, capping several weeks of conferences among various state agencies connected with the institution. The matter has been brought to the attention of Gov. Johnson.

News at Glance

DOMESTIC

RUTLAND — Miss Dolan refuses to budge from Colony House; Bloomer opposes her ouster—Page 1.

Colony House Head Refuses To Quit Post

Bloomer Says He'll Seek Office if Necessary to Assist Miss Dolan.

Urges Johnson Action

Backed by the protests of Sen. Asa S. Bloomer of West Rutland, Miss Katherine M. Dolan, discharged Friday as matron of the Colony House, yesterday refused to leave the state institution on Columbian Ave.

Declaring he is "incensed" over the treatment of Miss Dolan, Bloomer said he would seek some public office in the coming election if necessary to further her interests.

He also asserted he will call on the State Employees Assn. for assistance and be active in securing counsel for her.

Bloomer pointed to her long years of service to the state and the girls sent to the Colony House and referred caustically to the public announcement of her firing before she herself received the letter of notification.

Bloomer expressed hope that Gov. Johnson "feels obligated to investigate the situation from the angle of the employe, not as in the past, the angle of the employer."

Francis W. Russell, superintendent of the Brandon Training School, of which the Colony House is a branch, said yesterday a matron to replace Miss Dolan will not be sent until she leaves.

Russell, who signed the letter firing Miss Dolan on 17 charges alleging disobedience, said he had originally hoped to send a matron from the Brandon school to the Colony House for temporary duty some time this week.

"I don't intend to budge," Miss Dolan told The Herald yesterday. She added that she has many personal belongings at the Columbian

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Miss Dolan Defies Ouster

(Continued from Page One)

Ave. home and it will take some time to move them.

Miss Dolan said the letter informing her of her discharge arrived at the Colony House late Saturday morning. It was made public in Montpelier Friday by Institutions Commissioner Timothy C. Dale.

She has been matron of the Colony House since 1930.

Russell said one of the matrons at Brandon will operate the home temporarily after Miss Dolan leaves. Fifteen girls at Brandon have been picked to go to the home. The temporary matron will be replaced by a person qualified to handle the stepped-up rehabilitation program planned for Colony House, he explained.

At present there are only two girls at the home, which normally houses about 25. Dale revealed Friday that a consulting state psychiatrist has refused to certify any more girls under Miss Dolan.

According to Dale, she was asked to resign but refused. Thursday Miss Dolan told The Herald that the first time department officials had directly mentioned her resignation was Wednesday, when two representatives called on her and broached the subject.

Following is the text of Bloomer's statement:

"I have had the privilege and honor of serving my town and county in nine sessions of the Legislature, four times in the House and five times in the Senate. As far back as 1937, my first session, I was called by some, 'The Commoner,' because it was felt by them I stood for the rights of the common man unhaltered by any bank, corporation or public utility. I endeavored to courageously serve the people.

"That is why I am now incensed over the treatment of Miss Dolan, the attitude displayed by Francis W. Russell, superintendent of the Brandon State School, by the Board of Institutions and by the Board of Mental Health. It is difficult for me to believe that the commissioner of institutions could be a willing party to the summary discharge of Miss Dolan.

"I shall do what I can to help her in my capacity as a senator for Rutland County. I shall call on the State Employees Assn. for assistance in her behalf. I shall be active in securing counsel for her, I shall be a candidate for some public office this coming general election to further her interests if necessary and try to correct such treatment of faithful state employes.

"Miss Dolan has been matron of the Colony House since 1930, 25 years of service to these girls' below normal in some ways or they would not be there.

"Through these 25 years she has bestowed upon them that love and affection they, in many instances, never had as children. The Colony House became their home and Miss Dolan a foster mother. To some it was their only real home, the only place of human, personal warmth and comfort.

"These girls had 25 years of the life of Miss Dolan and now she is kicked out at once on 17 specific charges.

"An analysis of these charges is most interesting and in fairness to Miss Dolan and the people, her friends and those not her friends, the public should know about them.

"Charge 1 has to do with some savings bank books of the girls. Mr. Russell knows, or ought to know, that he or the state auditor has frequently had these books, that they have been audited in due course often and the state auditor's office has verified the same.

"Charge 2 apparently is the real issue because it embraces in substance 2, 3, 4, 5a, 5b, 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16. It reads as follows.

"On March 30, 1955, Saturday at 10:30 a. m. I called on you to remind you that the information requested the previous day was not sent. In that conversation you told me that the largest amount owing was by the Mt. St. Joseph Convent and that the mother superior was