

• Blue - Buf

~~Many thanks~~  
Dr Robert Cooper

Many thanks for your  
letter. I tried Uman  
Buffalo to do as you  
suggested about the  
Camp

**The Wiltwyck School for Boys, Inc.**

BOX 71 - ESOPUS - NEW YORK

*Buffalo*

Bx 3777

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*Executive Director*

May 31, 1946

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
29 Washington Square West  
New York 11, New York

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The attached report is a summary of our contact and thinking regarding John Buffaloe, the son of your cook. We saw John and his mother at our office in New York; checked via telephone on John's school situation and "cleared" the family through the Social Service Exchange. The Social Service Exchange is a "clearing house" for all families in Greater New York City who have been known to any social agencies in Greater New York City.

Please feel free to call upon us if there is anything further we can do in relation to either John or his mother.

Very sincerely yours

*Robert L. Cooper*  
Robert L. Cooper

*Mary [unclear]  
Have to see about  
to camp*

RE: JOHN BUFFALOE,  
Age 15 years

Mother: Vivian  
Father: James  
PRESENT ADDRESS:  
1229 Franklin Avenue, Bronx, NY

You will recall that we spoke with both you and Miss Thompson about our interview at our New York City office with both John and his mother. John would not consider even the possibility of spending the summer at Wiltwyck. Apparently the mother has used a rather continuous threat "about sending him away" and John interpreted planning for him at Wiltwyck for the summer as a ruse on the part of his mother to have him "put away." We then discussed with John the possible plan of his going to a regular summer camp in New Hampshire. He seemed receptive to this idea after we explained in some detail that it is only a summer camp for children who live in New York City and that it had no connection with an institution for the long term care and treatment of children. We agreed to explore this possibility and see if it would be possible to work out a summer camp plan for the months of July and August for him. His mother seemed accepting of this idea.

John is attending Junior High School Number 40 in the Bronx. He is in a CRMD class (children with retarded mental development) and is in an adjustment grade which John describes as being the 9B term. The school reports that John is not conspicuous in behavior at the school and is not outstanding in any way. His Intelligence Quotient was thought to be within the dull normal category of between 75 and 80. There is a history of some truancy and the school felt that the boy was not working up to his low capacity. He will graduate from this junior high school as of the end of this school term, but the school does not feel that John has the ability or interest to go on to a specialized vocational high school such as Auto-mechanics (this was John's expressed wish to me). The school felt that he was an extremely dull child, essentially lacking in real motivation who presented no special behavior problem.

Through the Social Service Exchange, we note that the family was known to the Probation department of the Court of Special Sessions in the Bronx. We wrote to this agency for a summary of their knowledge of the family situation. Attached is the report that we received from this agency. You will note that there appears to have been a fairly long history of rather severe marital con-

flict between the parents and it is to be noted that when John was 13 years of age the report states that he was then living in the south with relatives. We do not know how long John has lived with his mother in New York but wonder if he has not spent a great deal of his life in the south with relatives and if he does not feel a little rejected because of this fact.

Mrs. Buffaloe impresses us as being a quiet possibly dull person who had been able to provide the child with an environmental situation that was essentially without much warmth or sense of motivation. She seemed interested in the child but apparently is a pretty ineffective parent. She seems to have tried to control the child through threats of sending him away. He did not seem particularly relaxed with her and we got the impression that the relationship was probably not very close or very satisfactory for the mother or child. We were unable to have Mrs. Buffaloe engage in any conversation regarding the child's father and felt that there was still a great deal of conflict in this area.



CITY OF NEW YORK  
COURT OF SPECIAL SESSIONS  
PROBATION DEPARTMENT  
851 GRAND CONCOURSE  
BRONX 51, N. Y.

MAY 17 1946

JAMES J. RYAN  
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

TELEPHONE: JEROME 7-2899

May 16, 1946.

Miss Natalie Dunbar, Director,  
Case Work Department,  
The Wiltwyck School for Boys, Inc.,  
271 West 125th Street,  
New York City.

Re: JAMES BUFFALO  
1203 Fulton Ave. Bx.

Dear Madam:

James Buffalo, father of John was arrested July 28, 1944 on complaint of his wife Vivian who charged that about 4 P. M., in their apartment at 1203 Fulton Avenue, he struck her on the face and head several times with his fists and kicked her with his booted foot. As a result she incurred a swollen eye, several loose teeth and a bruise on her head. She stated that her dentist informed her she might need to have one or more teeth extracted as a result of the injury.

He went to trial and was convicted August 1, 1944 in this Court.

On August 23, 1944 he received a suspended sentence of thirty days in the Workhouse. The reason for this apparently was that Mrs. Buffalo informed the Court that although defendant had struck her frequently in the past she now intended to leave him. However, wishing to do everything she could to keep her home together, more for the sake of her child than herself and since James had made a promise to mend his ways generally and never strike her again, she was willing to give him another chance, and in view of that did not desire the Court to impose a jail sentence upon the defendant. Subsequently she informed probation officer that James had said he no longer intended to live with her, that he did not want to support her and that he was taking that position because she had had him arrested. She was advised to take action in the Family Court to obtain a support order.

The arresting officer also stated that defendant had refused to submit to arrest, resisted the officer and had to be taken to the Station House by force.

James Buffalo was a native of Raleigh, N.C., and had been in New York City since 1929. He had been variously employed as a truck driver and porter and for one and a half years prior to arrest as a metal sorter for the Bendix Aviation Corp., Bendix, New Jersey. His earnings were approximately \$60.00 weekly.

They had one child, a son, thirteen years of age, who was then living with relatives in the South.

Mrs. Buffalo stated that her husband drank rather heavily and she had been having difficulty with him for quite some time. He did not give her enough money to support the household properly as a result of which she had to take



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TELEPHONE: JEROME 7-2899

Re: James Buffalo

-2-

May 16, 1946.

employment as a cleaning woman, and at the time of assault she was employed in that capacity at the Empire State Building.

Buffalo was registered with Local Board No. 39, Order No. 1657 and was classified in 1-A. His Social Security No. was 089-03-0654.

Hoping this information will be of assistance to you.

Very truly yours,

Thomas F. MacNulty  
Probation Officer in Charge.

TFMacN/CE