

# Voices and visions

## Bryce Historical Committee members explore their hopes for Bryce

IN THIS SERIES OF PROFILES, A CROSS-SECTION OF PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH THE BRYCE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE DISCUSS WHAT MOTIVATES THEM ABOUT SERVING ON THE COMMITTEE AND WHAT THEY HOPE TO SEE COME FROM THE COMMITTEE'S WORK.



### DR. THOMAS HOBBS

*Bryce Historical Committee chair. Executive Director, Western Mental Health Center, Inc.*

"In my opinion, Bryce Hospital has stood for 150 years as *the* primary symbol of Alabama's dedication to individuals and families who have suffered from mental illness. Now, as the passage of

time takes its toll on this grand old structure, it seems only fitting that those of us who have been so affected by its existence should rally to its rescue. Its story should never be forgotten. We should never forget that Bryce Hospital was *the* 'cradle of the civil rights movement' for the involuntarily committed during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and thus catalyzed the establishment of federal standards for institutional care throughout the United States."

"We should never forget that Bryce Hospital launched the 'deinstitutionalization movement,' a social movement that swept the nation, changed the national perspective from that of institutional custodial care to treatment in home communities, and thus revolutionized American public psychiatry. We should never forget that Dr. Peter Bryce was a pioneer in the development of the moral treatment model, a philosophy that introduced humanitarian reform into the treatment of mental illness in the United States at a time when coercion and restraint were the accepted norm. These cataclysmic social movements and events affected the entire nation and had their genesis right

here in our own back yard, right here in Alabama, and only at Bryce Hospital."

"Likewise, we should never forget that Bryce Hospital was *the* prototypical architectural model that was used for construction of asylums throughout the United States in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to its significant national contributions, no other structure or site in Alabama can lay claim to having had more local impact on the personal lives of so many Alabamians."

"My personal concern is that we will indeed forget how important Bryce Hospital and its story have been to us as a people, both nationally and locally. I fear that we will idly stand by and conveniently look the other way as its structure continues to deteriorate and as its story fades into obscurity. That we will soon forget its checkered history and the lessons it still has to teach. I am concerned that in the end, we will simply take Bryce Hospital for granted as a structure that has served its purpose, giving us unwarranted license to either dismiss or ignore its historical importance by virtue of its convenient familiarity. Bryce Hospital and its story should never be forgotten, and certainly not by those of us who have been so affected, both positively and negatively, by its existence."

"I would like to see the significant historical, character-defining features of Bryce Hospital preserved for future generations. I would like to see its human story told by means of a museum highlighting all of the lessons learned from the past, lessons both inspirational and disquieting. I would like to see this grand

**WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THAT BRYCE HOSPITAL LAUNCHED THE DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION MOVEMENT, A SOCIAL MOVEMENT THAT SWEEPED THE NATION, CHANGED THE NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE FROM THAT OF INSTITUTIONAL CUSTODIAL CARE TO TREATMENT IN HOME COMMUNITIES, AND THUS REVOLUTIONIZED AMERICAN PUBLIC PSYCHIATRY. WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THAT DR. PETER BRYCE WAS A PIONEER IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MORAL TREATMENT MODEL, A PHILOSOPHY THAT INTRODUCED HUMANITARIAN REFORM INTO THE TREATMENT OF MENTAL ILLNESS IN THE UNITED STATES AT A TIME WHEN COERCION AND RESTRAINT WERE THE ACCEPTED NORM.**

old structure serve a functional modern purpose for the surrounding community, providing space for possibly a fine arts center or convention facility, as well as

for classrooms and offices for local educational institutions and businesses in the Tuscaloosa area. In essence, I would like to see Bryce Hospital continue to stand

not only as a memorial to what has been but also as a vibrant, contributing partner to what can be."



## CAMILLE ELEBASH

*Family member, representing the family of Dr. Reuben Searcy and the descendants of Dr. James T. Searcy, former Superintendent of Bryce Hospital.*

"Bryce Hospital has been a presence in my life since childhood. My earliest recollections include stories about my great grandfather, Dr. Reuben Searcy, a physician and friend of Robert Jemison. Jemison was a state senator who brought Dorothea Dix to the legislature and through their efforts made the Alabama Insane Asylum in Tuscaloosa possible. Searcy was on the first board and was at least partly responsible for bringing Peter Bryce to the hospital."

"One of the earliest stories about my great grandfather took place during the Civil War when his 18-year-old son, Reuben, was mortally wounded at Murfreesboro, Tenn. Another son, James, was with him when he was shot and was allowed to remain with him until he died. Dr. Searcy tried to reach his son but was turned back by Union soldiers. James came through unscathed and became the second superintendent of the hospital, succeeding Dr. Bryce."

"Early stories from my mother included ones about visiting in the superintendent's home – built for Dr. Bryce who died before living in it. James Searcy and his

large family were the first ones to occupy it. My mother frequently rode her bicycle from her home in downtown Tuscaloosa to play with cousins at the home."

"As a child I became friends with the Partlow children. By that time Dr. W.D. Partlow had succeeded Dr. Searcy. His brother, Dr. R.C. Partlow, was on the staff and had a home on the grounds. I spent many nights on the Bryce campus with my friends. I remember going to movies on Friday nights with the patients and being allowed to play in the storeroom, laundry, and all over the grounds, mingling with the patients. It was there that I realized that there should be no stigma attached to mental illness. They were just people with sometimes overwhelming problems. I remember several individual patients even today. However, there were some frightening things about the illness then. There were no drugs so the seriously ill patients frequently screamed during the night, an eerie sound to the visiting child."

"Years later, after my retirement from the faculty of the University, I took on the volunteer job of doing publicity for the first Decorator Showhouse to raise money for the Tuscaloosa Mental Health Association. The superintendent's home on the Bryce grounds was the home being featured. In that capacity I spent some time in the hospital library with Kathy Fetters, the librarian, and she was immensely helpful in getting material for my publicity releases. I enjoyed my time with her because it jogged my own memories of Bryce."

**"ANOTHER IMPORTANT PART OF THE TREATMENT WAS THE FARMING OPERATION ON THE HUGE PROPERTY. PATIENTS WORKED THE FIELDS AND RAISED LIVESTOCK FOR THEIR OWN FOOD, VERY IMPORTANT DURING POST-CIVIL WAR DAYS AND YEARS OF BEING POORLY FUNDED.**

**IN LATER YEARS I WAS NOT AWARE OF THE SEVERE PROBLEMS THE HOSPITAL FACED WITH SUCH LIMITED SUPPORT FROM THE STATE AND A GREAT INFLUX OF PATIENTS. IT HAD BECOME A WAREHOUSE WITH LITTLE OR NO TREATMENT OFFERED."**

"About this same time I became a member of the Jemison-Van de Graaff mansion foundation board. Built in 1859-61 it was the home of Robert Jemison, the state senator who got the funds to build the hospital. His home was designed by the same Mr. Sloan who was also the Bryce Hospital architect. As we know, Sloan incorporated the Kirkbride design for the hospital which emphasized beautiful surroundings as part of the treatment."

"Another important part of the treatment was the farming operation on the huge property. Patients worked the fields and raised livestock for their own food – very important during post-Civil War days and years of being poorly funded."

"In later years I was not aware of the severe problems the hospital faced with such limited support from the state and a great influx of patients. It had become a warehouse with little or no treatment offered."

"People in Tuscaloosa were probably more aware than many others of the *Wyatt v. Stickney* suit which released many patients into the community, since a large number of them stayed in the area. We had a constant reminder that patients were no longer confined. I was quite interested in meeting Ricky Wyatt during a recent committee session and talking with his mother afterward."

"I can only hope that our committee will be able to see that the main building is preserved as a monument to Alabama's place in this important field."



## RONALD HUNT

*Mental Health Advocate. Executive Director, CONTACT: Wings Across Alabama*

“Honestly, I have mixed feelings about my participation on this committee. The more involved I have become the less excited I have become about the deal with the University of Alabama. I hope if it purchases the property, the University will find a use for the historic main building with linear wings, the superintendent’s home, and the main approach including the Peter Bryce grave site.”

“However, I am more concerned about ensuring that the patients of the new Bryce Hospital have a state-of-the-art facility to meet their psychiatric needs. If push came to shove, I would prefer more money for a new hospital, even if it meant sacrificing the preservation of everything but the superintendent’s home and the main domed building (without the wings).”

**“HOWEVER, I AM MORE CONCERNED ABOUT ENSURING THAT THE PATIENTS OF THE NEW BRYCE HOSPITAL HAVE A STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY TO MEET THEIR PSYCHIATRIC NEEDS.**

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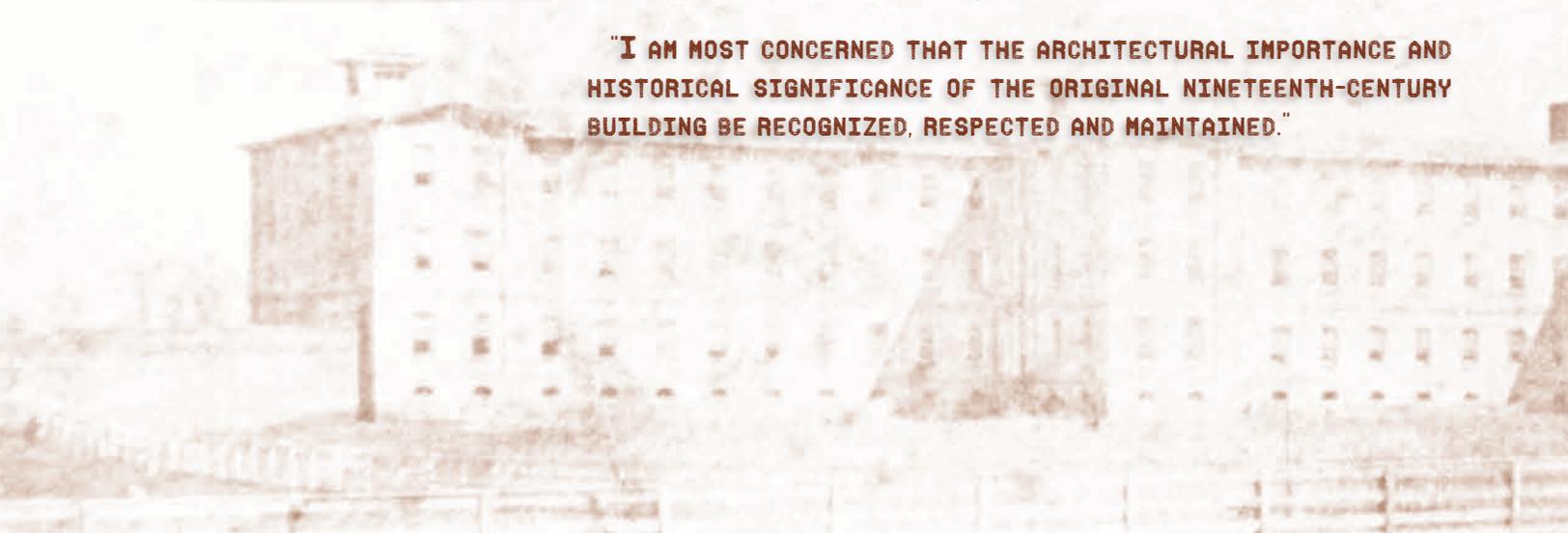
## ROBERT MELLOW

*Associate Professor of Art, University of Alabama, and author of the Bryce Hospital Historic Structures Report.*

“I am an associate professor at The University of Alabama in the Department of Art and Art History. I first became interested in Bryce Hospital when I wrote an article for the April 1985 issue of *The Alabama Review*, published by the Alabama Historical Association. In 1990, in conjunction with the Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County with a grant from the Alabama Historical Commission, I

wrote a Historic Structures Report on the hospital. Later in 1994 I wrote another article about the significance of Bryce in the Spring issue of *Alabama Heritage*. I am most concerned that the architectural importance and historical significance of the original nineteenth-century building be recognized, respected and maintained.”

**“I AM MOST CONCERNED THAT THE ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ORIGINAL NINETEENTH-CENTURY BUILDING BE RECOGNIZED, RESPECTED AND MAINTAINED.”**





## JON BROCK

*Consumer/Advocate. Former Bryce Hospital Patient.*

"As an involved observer of this committee's work, and as a longtime mental health consumer advocate, I want to see the Bryce Hospital legacy live on in ways that will improve our future rather than just memorialize our past. One of several ways to do this is to create a genuinely national approach to development of a national mental health museum."

"A coordinated effort that links a national museum of mental health to other educational initiatives that broadens and deepens the capacity of consumers, family members and mental health administrators is surely worth exploring. The combination reaches far to inculcate a broader, deeper view of mental health issues with-

in the public and within the mental health field over a long period of time."

"All of us engaged with mental health issues, in our differing and similar ways, strive to build a worthwhile future yet we lack access to our common past. We lack common resources to inform our personal and organizational understanding. Through a national museum of mental health, all of us could access the human and historical realities of our common past, gather our better selves, and shape the present we have into the future we want."

"Very few mental health museums exist. Those few are small, have few artifacts, few archives, and narrow perspectives. They have a local or state focus, not a national or global focus. They do not create common understanding. They lack a driving vision that engages needs and realities facing individuals, agencies, professionals, administrators, and academic institutions."

"We find ourselves within a disappearing historical opportunity. As the vast state asylums downsized in the deinstitutionalization movement, the artifacts, archives, and memories of the institutionalization movement have largely vanished."

"But the opportunity is still great. If we act, remarkable, worthwhile artifacts, archives, and living memories can be preserved, protected, and presented for future advantage. Public mental health policy, programs, and professions will broaden and deepen by engaging the humanity and history of people who experience mental illness. Views of stakeholders, the general public, academic in-

stitutions, policy makers, and others will broaden and deepen. All of us gain."

"On a personal note, let me add that I was committed to Bryce Hospital in 1965, years before the *Wyatt v. Stickney* case. Through the years I've thought many times about how it was, what I experienced and witnessed, the many old men, the many old women, the World War I veterans, the many people who were still there after squandering years, decades, half a century or more of their lives."

"Recently, I drove and walked through former Bryce Hospital grounds that are now part of the University of Alabama. Everything on those grounds speaks of what is there now. Nothing on those grounds speaks of what was there then."

"At some point, none of us will be among the living. Lessons and memories of the institutional era, the deinstitutionalization era, and the recovery era may be fully forgotten sooner than we think. A truly national museum of mental health would offer an institutional setting to support the field in its efforts to recall its past and to invoke the future we want to have."

"In our moment, Bryce Hospital offers us all one last opportunity. A National Museum of Mental Health in combination with other educational initiatives should be developed at Bryce Hospital. Such a chance to engage past, present and future public mental health policy will not happen again."

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Jon Brock has prepared a much more detailed memorandum regarding his vision for the proposals outlined above and shared it with the Committee's museum subcommittee.*

**"ALL OF US ENGAGED WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, IN OUR DIFFERING AND SIMILAR WAYS, STRIVE TO BUILD A WORTHWHILE FUTURE YET WE LACK ACCESS TO OUR COMMON PAST. WE LACK COMMON RESOURCES TO INFORM OUR PERSONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL UNDERSTANDING. THROUGH A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MENTAL HEALTH, ALL OF US COULD ACCESS THE HUMAN AND HISTORICAL REALITIES OF OUR COMMON PAST, GATHER OUR BETTER SELVES, AND SHAPE THE PRESENT WE HAVE INTO THE FUTURE WE WANT."**



**LEE ANNE WOFFORD**

*Cemetery Program Coordinator, State of Alabama Historical Commission*

“My primary point of service to the committee is regarding cemetery preservation. Bryce Hospital has four cemeteries: Bryce Cemetery #1, Bryce Cemetery #1A, Bryce Cemetery #2, and Bryce Cemetery #3. Bryce Cemetery #1, commonly called the Old Bryce Cemetery, was established around 1861 and continued to be used until 1968. There are approximately 2000 people buried here, but this is only a rough estimate as a complete

archaeological investigation has yet to be performed. It is located on the north side of River Road (“Jack Warner Parkway”). Many of the original grave markers have been stolen over the years.”

“Bryce Cemetery #1A contains burials that date from 1892 to 1921. There are approximately 37 burials here. It is believed by many that these burials were once a part of Old Bryce Cemetery before the construction of River Road in the 1960s bisected this area. However, proof has yet to be uncovered to substantiate this belief.”

“Bryce Cemetery #2 was established in 1922 and continued until 1953. There are approximately 1550 burials here. Unlike Bryce Cemetery # 1, a burial listing does exist for this cemetery. Bryce Cemetery #3 was established in 1953 and continues through the present day. There are approximately 500 burials and a burial listing does exist here, as well.”

“Thus, we have four distinct cemeteries on the Bryce campus with a little over 4,000 burials. Approximately half of these burials are anonymous.”

“All four cemeteries have recently been added to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, the state’s official list of historic cemeteries in Alabama. The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) considers historic cemeteries particularly worthy of preservation and appreciation, and therefore deserving of this special recognition.” “Historical markers are planned for each of these sites to acknowledge and remember the thousands of Bryce Hospital patients who are buried here. We also hope that a substantial monument engraved with the name of every known person buried in Bryce Hospital’s cemeteries will be erected to commemorate each and every life.” “In addition, a cemetery preservation and maintenance plan will be created for each of these sites to ensure their future preservation.”

**“HISTORICAL MARKERS ARE PLANNED FOR EACH OF THESE SITES TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND REMEMBER THE THOUSANDS OF BRYCE HOSPITAL PATIENTS WHO ARE BURIED HERE. WE ALSO HOPE THAT A SUBSTANTIAL MONUMENT ENGRAVED WITH THE NAME OF EVERY KNOWN PERSON BURIED IN BRYCE HOSPITAL’S CEMETERIES WILL BE ERECTED TO COMMEMORATE EACH AND EVERY LIFE.”**



**SUSAN CORK**

*Family member, representing descendants of Ms. Ellen Bryce, wife of Dr. Peter Bryce, the first Superintendent of Bryce Hospital.*

“My interest in the Bryce Historical Committee is very personal, as my great-great aunt was Ellen Clarkson Bryce. She was the sister to my mother’s grandfather, Edgar LaRoche Clarkson, Sr. Due to the untimely early death of my grandfather, Mrs. Bryce took my grandmother and the four children (of which my mother was one) in to live with her. Thus she was very much a part of my mother’s childhood.”

“As a child, I can remember my mother taking us to Bryce to wander around, check on the portraits of Dr. and Mrs.

Bryce, gaze at the pistachio tree and of course the day the fountain froze up, we had to see that! I am very interested in saving as many of the buildings as possible, especially the Kirkbride building. It has such rich history, it is so remarkable in its formation, and it would be a shame to see it demolished.”

“As Dr. Hobbs has repeatedly told us, this committee isn’t just one to do the task that has been set before us by the Commissioner, but a committee that will evolve into one that will continue to face future tasks regarding Bryce.”

**MRS. BRYCE TOOK MY GRANDMOTHER AND THE FOUR CHILDREN (OF WHICH MY MOTHER WAS ONE) IN TO LIVE WITH HER.**



## NANCY CALLAHAN

*Family member, representing descendants of Dr. J.S. Tarwater, former Superintendent of Bryce, Partlow and Searcy Hospitals.*

"Even as a child, I was made aware that there are people in this world who suffer from mental illness, and that some require treatment, long- or short-term, in a hospital. From 1950-1970, my mother's brother, the late Dr. J.S. Tarwater (1897-1974), was superintendent of Bryce Hospital, Partlow State School and Hospital, and Searcy Hospital at Mount Vernon."

"In the late 1960s, Dr. Tarwater was also appointed the first mental health commissioner for the State of Alabama, a position he held until his retirement in 1970. His own mother, Emma Lee Newton Tarwater, who died when he was a child, had been a nurse at Bryce Hospital in the late 1800s."

"During much of Dr. Tarwater's superintendence and earlier, my father, the late A.K. Callahan (1904-2001), was a member of the state legislature from Tuscaloosa County. One of his passions was acquiring adequate funding from the legislature for Bryce, Partlow and Searcy. It was a frustrating passion because never enough money was appropriated. There were times in the 1950s when funding was so scant that it averaged \$2 per day for the individual patient's care, and into the 1960s, the patient appropriation still was only \$3 per day."

"My brother, A.K. Callahan, Jr., of New York City, remembers an incident of his

childhood that our family found deplorable. While the legislature was in session, probably in 1959, my father carried my brother, age ten, with him to Montgomery. Mental health appropriations were coming up for a vote. My father acquired a meeting with the governor and urged him to support higher budget funding for mental health. 'But the patients at Bryce Hospital don't vote,' my brother remembers having heard the governor respond to my father. 'I'm not going to increase funding for people who don't vote.' It was a sickening attitude my family never forgot. Sadly, it symbolized many Alabama political sentiments of those times."

"At some point in the 1960s, my father conceived the idea of bringing the entire state legislature to Tuscaloosa for a tour of Bryce Hospital. It was the first and probably only time that such an event has ever taken place. He acquired sponsorship from the chamber of commerce and other local businesses because two meals were involved."

"My father invited Gov. George C. Wallace to attend, but the governor indicated he was unable to participate. My father also invited Lt. Gov. Albert P. Brewer and his wife. They came and the lieutenant governor spoke in behalf of the plight of Bryce Hospital during an evening banquet concluding the day."

"Growing up, I learned about the symptoms of mental illness not only from my uncle, but also from my mother, the late Marguerite T. Callahan (1910-1991), who lived in my uncle's home on Bryce Lawn when she was a student at the University of Alabama in the 1930s. At that time, my uncle was a doctor on staff at Bryce, and taught in the Bryce nursing school. That era was prior to the mental health medi-

cations now available. 'Sometimes it was hard to sleep at night,' my mother once told me, 'because of the loud ravings of the patients which we would hear all the way from our house across the lawn to the hospital.'"

"I learned about the cruel politics of mental health treatment from my father, who, no matter how hard he tried, was never able to secure enough funding. Even so, I was heartened by Dr. Tarwater's having told me that despite inadequate funding, while he was superintendent, if a patient was admitted and had potential for treatment, he or she *would* be treated. If a patient was treatable to the extent that he or she could be discharged, he *would* be discharged."

"Often times, he proudly pointed out, the treatment was such that the patient would not need to return to Bryce. In fact, there was a period in the 1960s when the need-for-return rate at Bryce was one of the very lowest in the nation. That fact contributed to national interest in the hospital."

"I learned from Dr. Tarwater that Bryce Hospital was a place where psychiatrists from other parts of the country came to study the treatment methods, including visitors from the highly-regarded Topeka, Kansas-based Menninger Clinic. The poet Carl Sandburg once came to Tuscaloosa and asked for a tour of Bryce, which my uncle gave him. Sandburg was interested in mental illness and had heard of the Bryce treatment."

"Having expressed an interest in preserving the grand old superintendent's home on Bryce Lawn, I was tapped for membership on the Historic Preservation Committee, to represent the late Dr. Tarwater and his family. No one can know

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what an honor this endeavor has been for me. The committee will lead a statewide movement to educate the public about the hospital's past. We want to instill statewide appreciation for the strengths of that past."

"We will seek to raise public awareness of lessons learned on how to avoid the errors of past misdeeds and attitudes about mental health treatment. We hope to sculpt momentum across the state for effectively preserving the documents of those bygone eras, from cemetery preservation campaigns, to bringing back furniture once gracing the old and dis-

tinguished high-domed main building. We also envision mapping out plans to create a national mental health museum in that structure. It would call attention to the original role-model treatment at Bryce and to the national advancement of mental health treatment resulting from the *Wyatt v. Stickney* court rulings of the 1970s. How inspiring it is that Ricky Wyatt, a former patient at Bryce, who instigated those legal actions, attends our meetings as a guest."

"In a general sense, if Alabama's leadership can fully understand our past, only then can we effectively forge our future.

If the Bryce story can be fully documented, warts and jewels, our state can author a more level history through a people effort. I envision the Historic Preservation Committee's taking a lead role in coalescing Alabama into citizens who embrace with care and soul an appropriate statewide mental health treatment program as a high and proud priority."



### MIKE AUTREY

*Director, Office of Consumer Relations,  
Alabama Department of Mental Health.*

"Like everyone else, I think the building and the architectural history is very important. I understand how that represents important aspects that are being lost in America, but to me that is not the main thing."

"I want the structure of Bryce preserved because of all the thousands of people who spent their whole lives there. We don't know their names. We don't know their individual stories. But we do know that thousands of people over 150 years lived and died there. We owe it to them to preserve this place in their memory."

"I've been to Bryce many times. I've been in those committee meeting rooms in the main building. Just ten years ago people were living in those same rooms. When I look out those windows I see their lives passing by. The ghosts of people are in there."

"You know, it's important to save Bryce so we won't ever forget. So we won't ever do that again. We need to remember all those people and make sure we never do this again."

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## JOHN HOUSTON

*Commissioner, Alabama Department of Mental Health, whose idea it was to form the committee and who appointed its members.*

"In my first post-college *real* job, I served as an advocate for 60-70 residents of Partlow who lived at Paty Hall on the University of Alabama campus. I was there from December of 1972 until I left for graduate school the following year in pursuit of dual masters degrees in social work (MSW) and special education (MA). My first year field placement in social work was a clinical placement at Bryce. Part of my second year field placement was also at Bryce, where I again served as, and was later employed as a Patient Advocate. That was my first professional exposure to Bryce.

"My orientation there took me back to the early days of the *Wyatt* order. Of course there have been a lot of changes since then. We have never before been in a position to do what we needed to do so it would have been a luxury for us to take

care of these buildings in spite of their rich history. We tended to the service aspects as best as we could, while the historical aspects deteriorated, or the archives walked away. I've seen thousands of people in my association with Bryce, and been involved in hundreds of hours of litigation over what went on there. I've also seen all the questions about the artifacts, documents, and cemeteries. I came back to the Department in 1986, and not much in that time had been done to protect either the buildings or their history."

"Then one day I found myself as Commissioner. The University of Alabama had expressed an interest in the Bryce property and that fell into my lap. It became my responsibility. It was no longer my concern – it was my *responsibility*."

"While the prospect of a new, state-of-the-art hospital is very important, so is the preservation of Bryce's artifacts and oral history. To me these things seemed vulnerable, at-risk, in jeopardy. I wasn't sure what I should do or how I should go about it. It seemed to me that the proper thing to do was to bring in others, to seek their advice, including patients and families that shared Bryce's history; members of the Bryce, Searcy, Tarwater and Partlow families who had made that history; plus people in historical societies on the state and local levels. I felt like they had all earned the right to participate."

"Dr. Tom Hobbs had come to me earlier and had taken the initiative to propose

that Bryce be elevated to the national historic registry. I knew Tom mostly through his work with the homeless and people with addictions in Jefferson County, and that he was a dedicated professional. He seemed to me to be a good person to chair the committee."

"As the committee's work unfolded the scope of the issues involved was enormous. I initially thought mostly in terms of just the main building, but it became so much more than that. There are so many important and historical sites on the campus associated with Bryce. We have the admissions records of every patient who was ever there, going back well over 100 years. The cemeteries are all there, though we don't know who all is in them. So the scope was huge."

"The next thing that surprised me about the work of this committee was the *passion* of its members. This is not just some honorary job, or an obligation. The members truly care about what they are bringing to this project."

"So, the first thing I want to see happen is to preserve the history of this place. But also, I hope the committee can help the public of Alabama and beyond to understand the value of the Bryce Hospital legacy and what we can learn from it. I'd love to see a national mental health museum created on that site. There is an obvious Civil Rights parallel. You want to remember the good but also the bad so you don't repeat that while going forward."

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