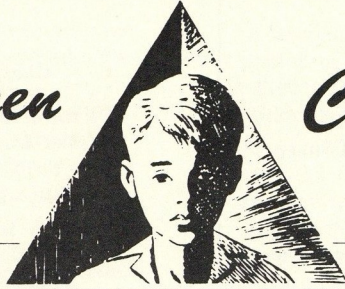


OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Retarded Children

Can Be Helped!



VOL. XII — ISSUE No. 2

JUNE, 1960

MANDATORY CLASSES FOR TRAINABLE

TEXT OF LAW MANDATING SPECIAL CLASSES FOR TRAINABLE CHILDREN

Section 4406 (Education Law) — Special Classes for Severely Retarded Children.

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law the board of education or the board of trustees of each school district in which there are eight or more children with retarded mental development having intelligence quotients of less than fifty shall have the power and it shall be their duty to establish such special classes as may be necessary to provide instruction and training adapted to the mental attainments of such children under regulations to be established by the commissioner of education.

2. The board of education or the board of trustees of any school district which contains less than eight children with retarded mental development having intelligence quotients of less than fifty shall have the power and it shall be their duty to contract with the board of education of another school district, a board of cooperative educational services or a vocational education and extension board of a county for the instruction and training of such children.

This act shall take effect September first, nineteen hundred sixty one.

WAGNER, NEW YORK STATE REPRESENTATIVE AT WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

Robert H. Wagner, President of the New York State AHRC, was designated by Governor Rockefeller as a member of the New York State Committee for the White House Conference on Youth. Meeting recently in Washington, more than 7,000 delegates from all the states and territories of the United States discussed various aspects of children and youth, with considerable emphasis on the handicapped and mental retardation in particular.

New York State made a great deal of preliminary preparation for this Conference resulting in a two volume report, "A Decade of Progress". This report to the Governor views the state of services in 1950, the recommendations of the Mid-Century White House Conference in New York State and what has happened in the ensuing ten years. Of the 20 pages of the chapter on "Outlook for the Handicapped" almost half are devoted to the mentally retarded. Some idea of the progress in this state can be seen from the following figures: For the school year 1959-60, 48 school districts were operating 125 classes for 1,627 trainable children, an increase of 38 school districts over the ten districts which had such classes in 1955-56. For the educable, in the school year 1958-59, 329 school districts were conducting 1,565 special classes servicing 22,651 children or one-third again as many as were served in 1953-54.

GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL

MAJOR A.H.R.C. OBJECTIVE ACHIEVED AT 1960 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The major objective of the State Association for the past four years was finally achieved at the 1960 session of the Legislature.

The bill mandating special classes in public schools for mentally retarded children with I.Q.'s under 50, once again introduced this year by Senator Earl W. Bridges, Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation and Assembly Stanley Steingut, Vice-Chairman, was finally passed and signed into law by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller on April 29th. This action by the Governor reversed his veto of a similar bill last year. The measure takes effect on September 1st, 1961, giving local school districts another year to prepare.



Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation holding open hearing in Senate Chamber, February 2nd. From left to right, John Dowd, Assistant Counsel, Sen. Harry Kraf, Hon. Lee Dowling, Executive Director of the Committee, Sen. Earl W. Brydges, Chairman, Assemblyman Stanley Steingut, Vice Chairman, Hon. Warner Thompson, Counsel.

Although this was the only major measure enacted into law for the mentally retarded this year, it represents a notable achievement since the Association had concentrated most of its efforts on it. The bill passed the Senate with only one dissenting vote, that of Senator Janet Hill Gordon of Chenango County. Vote in the Assembly was 123 in favor and 23 opposed. It is noteworthy that Assemblymen from only 3 counties in which the AHRC has chapters opposed the bill.

Leading the debate on the measure in the Assembly were Stanley Steingut and Assemblyman Robert J. Feinberg of Plattsburgh, New York. On the floor of the Assembly, Assemblyman Feinberg said, "Don't tell me we ought to institutionalize these children. That likewise is so much humbug. What these children need primarily is to be close to and have the proximity of their parents. Schools like this provide education for them in

(Continued on page 10)

The State Association acknowledges with thanks permission of the New York Chapter to use the title "Our Children's Voice" for the State paper.

STATE CONVENTION — ROCHESTER — OCTOBER 28, 29, 30.

OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

issued four times a year by

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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A Non-Profit, Tax-Exempt Organization of Parents and Friends
of Mentally Retarded Children

Chartered by the State of New York
February, 1949

Affiliated with National Association for Retarded Children, Inc.

President: ROBERT H. WAGNER

Executive Director and Editor: JOSEPH T. WEINGOLD

INCOME TAX EXEMPTION FOR RETARDED CHILD IN STATE INSTITUTION

BERNARD M. FINESON,

Chairman, AHRC Legal and Legislative Committee

I have read the ruling of the United States Internal Revenue Bureau known as Ruling 59-379, IRB 1959-49, 7, referring to 1954 United States Code Sections 151, 152 and which contains the following language:

"It is the position of the Internal Revenue Service that the free room and board and tuition received by handicapped children while attending specialized state schools for the handicapped should be regarded as a scholarship within the meaning of Section 152 (d) (2) of the code.

"Accordingly, it is held that no part of the total expenditure made by the state to provide these children with an education should be taken into account in determining whether the children qualify as dependents of their parents for purposes of computing dependency exemption under the Federal Income Tax Laws."

As I read the ruling, it seems to me that in every case in which a retarded child is resident at a State institution, and is receiving some form of instruction or training or education at the school, the total amount paid by the State for the care, maintenance and education of the child at the institution, including room and board shall be disregarded in determining whether such child receives more than one-half of his annual support from a parent for the purpose of allowing exemption for dependents for the purpose of allowing exemption for dependents for Federal Income Tax purposes.

This ruling is an important one for parents with a child in the State institution. The Federal law provides that a parent may claim an exemption on his income tax return of \$600 for each dependent child provided that such parent has contributed during the taxable year more than one-half of the support of such child. . . . In my opinion, the effect of the new ruling is that where a child receives some education, which I believe includes training or instruction, then the amount expended by the State is not to be considered in determining whether the parent paid more than one-half the support of the child.

The editorial comment in the Commerce Clearing House bulletin with regard to this ruling is as follows:

"Amount expended by a State for training and education of handicapped children should not be taken in account in determining whether such children receive more than one-half of their support from the parent for the purpose of determining exemption for dependents for Federal Income Tax purposes."

You will note that although the holding which I have first quoted above refers only to education, the editorial comment refers to training and education, and, I believe, that the term "education" as used in the ruling is broad enough to encompass practically any kind of instruction or training if given on a regular basis.

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY LATEST CHAPTER OF ARHC

At a meeting of the Board of Governors on May 7th, it was unanimously voted to accept the application of a group of parents and friends in St. Lawrence County to become a chapter of the State Association. With this new addition, the State Association now numbers 35 chapters.

The group in Ogdensburg has been operating a pilot school. They have been negotiating with the State Association for this past year. Named as president was Fred W. Crownhart, of Ogdensburg; Mrs. George Lavingne, Ogdensburg, and William Coe, Messina, Vice President; Mrs. Stanley Johnson, Treasurer, and Mrs. William Dodd, Secretary.

FINDING THE CHILDREN WITH P.K.U.

(EDITORIAL)

Elsewhere in this issue of O.C.V. you will read of the state's laudable program providing diets for those children suffering from phenylketonuria whose parents cannot afford to pay for it.

This is all very well and good as far as it goes as a treatment for those children who happen to be discovered.

But what of the children who may go for months and even years without discovery because of the neglect or lack of knowledge of the attending physician.

The simple test now in existence for the discovery of phenylketonuria should be made compulsory for every doctor who has contact with the newborn infant or soon after birth.

This is a public health problem. It should be part of our public health laws. No child should be doomed to mental retardation for life because of neglect or ignorance.

TESTING FOR PHENYLKETONURIA SHOULD BE COMPULSORY!

WELCOME TO NEW O.V.R. PUBLICATION

"Our Children's Voice" warmly welcomes "Rehabilitation Record", a new magazine of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, to the family of publications produced by the federal government.

Filled with interesting material, both statistical and otherwise, one of the major articles, "Training Mentally Retarded For Employment" tells about the work of the Training Center and Workshop of the New York City Chapter of A.H.R.C. "It was on the pattern of this project, developed as a prototype that the 21 occupational centers for mentally retarded have been based," states the article. Quoting from the progress report of the workshop, the author points out that the average annual wage for full time employment of those who came out of the workshop and were placed is \$2,236. Aggregate wages for the entire group total \$54,704. If earnings of individuals in the categories previously employed and sheltered employed are included the total wages are \$64,374. which is a conservative estimate since it does not include earnings of those sheltered workers who are paid on piece rates.

O.V.R. has spent or obligated through fiscal 1960 just over \$1,000,000 for these demonstrations. "Back in 1945," states the article, "only 106 mentally retarded persons were rehabilitated into employment . . . in 1954 the number of mentally retarded prepared for and placed in employment was 561, 1% of the total. But in 1958 the total of 1,578 of these mentally handicapped who were rehabilitated was 2.1% of the total. The cumulative total for the years 1954-1958 was 4,520."

Our congratulations to Sidney H. Kasper, editor of this interesting magazine, and to our friends Fred A. Schumacher and James C. Townsell for their article on the mentally retarded.

Subscriptions to the magazine are \$1.75 per year and may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

ALL COME TO STATE CONVENTION — ROCHESTER, OCTOBER 28, 29, 30.

STATE CONVENTION OCTOBER 28, 29, 30th

MONROE CHAPTER HOST

The Annual Convention of the Association this year will be held in Rochester, October 28th, 29th and 30th at the Sheraton Hotel. The Monroe County Chapter will be the host.

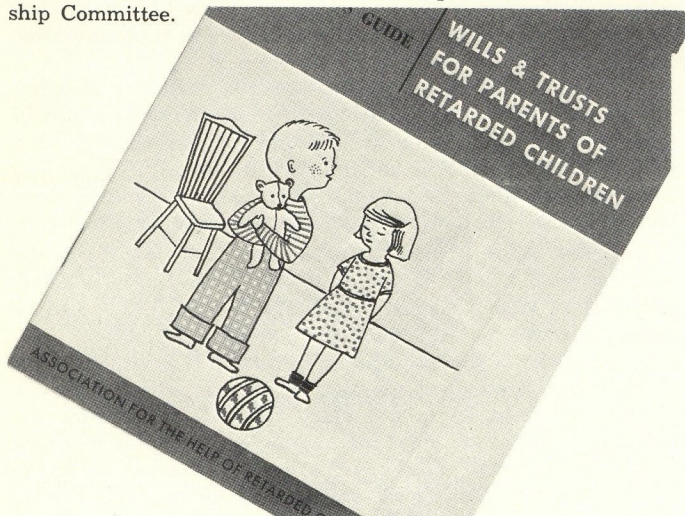
This promises to be one of the most exciting conventions the Association has had. By the time the dates roll around the various aspects of the Rochester Demonstration Project will be in full swing and delegates will be able to see a program that will include pre-school training, schooling for the educable and trainable, classes for the doubly handicapped, recreation, vocational training and sheltered workshops, halfway house, counseling services, clinical services, and the institution at Newark State School as an adjunct of the community.

All chapters are urged to make preparation now for as many delegates and visitors as possible to this great three day meeting.

DON'T FORGET, ROCHESTER, OCTOBER 28TH, 29TH AND 30TH, SHERATON HOTEL. WATCH FOR FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENT.

A.H.R.C. ISSUES LAWYERS GUIDE ON WILLS AND TRUSTS

A new pamphlet, "Wills and Trusts for Parents of Retarded Children: A Lawyers Guide" has been issued by the State Association. This pamphlet was prepared for the guidance of lawyers by Augustus M. Jacobs, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Guardianship, AHRC, Henry M. Myers, Nassau County and Samuel Kalmanash, Westchester County, all members of the New York Bar., under the auspices of the Guardianship Committee.



The pamphlet includes general considerations in drawing wills for parents of mentally retarded children and has sections dealing specifically with the child living at a state residential school, at a private residential school and the child at home. Such questions as, does the retarded child inherit, trusts, leaving to the AHRC, are important sub headings of the pamphlet. The booklet also contains a listing of the chapters of the Association, a description of the AHRC and its functions and a model for legacies and bequests.

Copies of the pamphlet may be obtained at the request of lawyers, free of charge.

State Support For Sheltered Workshops In Pennsylvania

The last session of the Pennsylvania Legislature appropriated \$240,000 to the Department of Public Welfare for services to mental retardates in sheltered workshops. The objective is to provide meaningful programs of activity and training for the older age group not served by programs of the public schools.

New York State, please take note.

LEVITT HONORED BY N.Y.C. CHAPTER AT TESTIMONIAL DINNER

A throng of prominent citizens joined the New York City Chapter of the AHRC in honoring Comptroller Arthur Levitt at \$100 a plate testimonial dinner at the Starlight Roof of the Waldorf Astoria on May 5th, 1960.

George G. Hirsch, President of the New York City Chapter, presented Levitt with a plaque honoring him for the work he has done in the last ten years in helping retarded children.

Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the State AHRC, recalled how the Comptroller had first helped the Association secure space in the New York City public school system for its classes in the face of opposition from parents of normal children. He also traced the growth of the parent movement and the continuing need for community support and leaders such as Arthur Levitt.



Comptroller Arthur Levitt addressing Waldorf Dinner.

The dais guests included Hon. Louis I. Kaplan, Commissioner of Investigation, New York City; Hon. Robert A. Glasser, State Harness Racing Commissioner; Hon. James J. Farley, former Democratic National Chairman; Hon. Carmine DeSapio, Democratic National Committeeman; Hon. Samul DeFalco, Surrogate, New York County; Hon. Nathaniel Kaplan, Justice of Domestic Relations Court, New York City; Hon. Maximillion Moss, former President of the Board of Education, New York City, and Surrogate, Kings County; Hon. Jay Kramer, Chairman, Labor Relations Board, New York State; Cyril Weinberg, Chairman, Fund Raising Committee, New York City; Max W. Schachter, Treasurer of State Association; and Dr. George Zuckerman, Executive Director, New York City Chapter.

Guardianship Sub-Committee Plans For Parents

At a meeting of the Guardianship Sub-Committee of the Legal Committee of the State Association, held at the offices of the Association on February 16, 1960, it expressed its concern with educating the members of our Association to the necessity for estate planning for the benefit and protection of their retarded children. A series of articles designed to present significant aspects of the problems of proper provision will appear in future issues of "Our Children's Voice".

"It is not only important for every parent to plan for future protection," said Augustus M. Jacobs, Chairman of the Committee, "but to recognize the need for periodic review of his plan. Changes in laws or conditions may well defeat the purpose of an existing arrangement and result in incomplete and ineffective protection."

The Sub-Committee on Guardianship will attempt to make every member aware of the absolute necessity for a correctly planned estate.

HOTEL SHERATON — ROCHESTER — STATE CONVENTION

SEGREGATED CLASSES FOR EDUCABLE VETOED

One of the bills passed in the last few days of the legislature would have given local school boards discretion in placing special classes for educable children in locations other than school buildings.

This bill was opposed by the Association although it recognized the special problem that Westchester had. Nevertheless, the Association felt that this problem could be solved over a period of time and that the State Department of Education would show tolerance and good will in doing so.

We feel that this measure and the result are important enough to quote the Governor's message of veto:

"This bill would overrule the recent regulations of the Commissioner of Education which require that special classes for retarded children having intelligence quotients of over 50 be held in regular school buildings. It would permit local school boards to maintain special training classes for such educable retarded children in such locations as the boards determine to be suitable."

"A centralized school for educable retarded children has been in existence in northern Westchester County for four years. It is comprised of children from twenty-five school districts. The regulations of the Commissioner of Education will require the eventual discontinuance of this school."

"The bill presents a sharp issue of conflicting philosophies concerning the most desirable environment in which to educate those retarded children who are educable. Although professional opinion on the subject is not unanimous, the strong weight of that opinion supports the position taken by the Department of Education. This position is that educable retarded children should not be insulated from normal children, because contacts with normal children provide the best opportunity for the full development of such retarded children."

"The regulation by the Department of Education is an integral part of the program which has been mandated by the State in providing classes for educable retarded children. This regulation should remain flexible and unfettered by unnecessary statutory restrictions."

"In addition to the Department of Education, disapproval is recommended by the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, the Board of Education of the City of New York, the School Boards Association, Inc., State Charities Aid, and others interested in education matters and the problems of retarded children. The bill is disapproved."

MOUNT MCGREGOR TO BE USED FOR RETARDED

As part of the Governor's program, the Executive Budget included a provision that Mount McGregor Camp for Veterans be transferred from the State Department of Veterans Affairs to the Department of Mental Hygiene to be used as an annex of Rome State School.

Converting Mt. McGregor, the Governor has said, will eliminate the need for a new \$1.5 million building the State has planned to erect at Rome and will reduce operating costs of veterans camp by \$786,583. It will cost about \$500,000 to convert the camp leaving a net saving in 1960-61 of \$1,786,583. Upon his request, the legislature appropriated \$190,000 to end the camp's present activities, provide for maintenance in the coming year and amortize employees vacation and overtime.

Under the plan the proposed new facility for Rome State School will accommodate 400 patients. Building originally scheduled for construction at Rome would have had the capacity of 160 patients. Rome State School is now 40% overcrowded and has a waiting list. No patients will be transferred from Rome State School whose transfer would represent a hardship for the parents. On the contrary, only those will be transferred to make it easier for the parents from the eastern and northern part of the state to visit.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CONTINUED ITS POWERS ENLARGED

The Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation was continued for another year. Its powers, however, were enlarged to include the physically handicapped and emotionally disturbed. The resolution states, "that the powers and duties of the said committee be, and the same hereby are, extended to embrace all aspects and phases of physical handicap, including problems relating, but not limited, to, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and emotional disturbance . . ."

The Committee will now be known as the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation and Physical Handicap. The appropriation was raised from \$40,000 to \$50,000 for this coming year.

HOSPITAL TO RECEIVE \$250,000 FOR CARE OF RETARDED

J. N. ADAM HOSPITAL TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE

A \$250,000 appropriation for J. N. Adam Hospital for Tuberculosis patients in Perrysburg to begin operation as an institution for mentally retarded children was voted by the Legislature at the past session.

The appropriation is based on the expectation that 50 patients will be enrolled by December 31st.

The announcement climaxes a drive by Mrs. John O'Donnell and Mr. John Scheeler of our Erie County Chapter, working locally, and our Executive Director, Jerry Weingold, working in Albany, together with law makers from Erie County to keep the hospital in use. Originally, the hospital has been slated for closing this summer to save \$872,000.

The facility will be used to relieve the desperate situation of mentally retarded children under five in the western part of the state who are on long waiting lists for placement in state schools. It will operate under the administrative jurisdiction of Gowanda State Hospital until the West Seneca School for Mentally Retarded goes into full operation in about three years.

"What we will do when West Seneca opens will depend on the need for such facility at the time," Dr. Paul H. Hoch, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene said. "The hospital could then be closed or converted to some other purpose."

At the offices of the Association, Robert H. Wagner, President of the State Association stated, "This is an example of how vigilant we must be to use every available facility for the mentally retarded to relieve the terrible overcrowding that now exists. This hospital would have been closed and lost for use to anyone if it were not for the vigilance of our members in Erie County. Nothing speaks louder for the need for organizations such as ours than this situation."

CHAMPIONS OF AHRC BILLS

Dealing with legislative matters as this issue of O.C.V. does, we would be remiss in not giving the great credit due to the legislators who are carrying the AHRC sponsored program, not yet adopted by the Joint Legislative Committee, into the halls of the legislature.

In the Senate, William T. Conklin, Senator from Brooklyn, and member of the New York City Chapter Board of Directors, and in the Assembly, our old friend Stanley Steingut, have, for a number of years, been the sponsors of programs that are the picture of the future for legislation in the field of mental retardation.

It takes a great deal of courage, it seems to us, to continue to introduce legislation in which a legislator has complete faith but for which, he is convinced, the legislature is not yet ready. Nevertheless, this has been done by these two men and we stop in our news reporting to pay tribute to them.

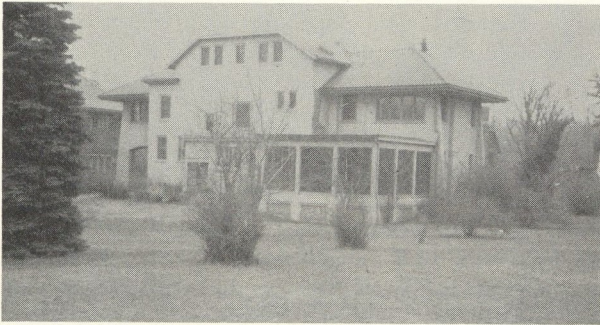
THE GREATEST YET — STATE CONVENTION — ROCHESTER

ROCHESTER HALF-WAY HOUSE IN OPERATION

ANOTHER PHASE OF COMMUNITY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

With the opening of the residential center at 1490 East Avenue in Rochester, another phase of the community demonstration project for the mentally retarded will be implemented.

Monroe County Chapter, which is operating the residential center as well as the sheltered workshop, reports that the zoning board has approved the use of the house as part of the state demonstration project. The building is leased by the chapter.



Residential Center, Rochester, rear view

The center will operate with 12 to 15 young men, 17 years of age or older, most of whom come from Newark State School. All accepted for the residential center must be candidates for the workshop program.

The goals of the residential center program are:

1. To help an individual to live in a small group.
2. To provide experience in functioning as a resident of a community.
3. To provide the individual with background and security which will enable him to participate in a work center or in a working situation in the community.
4. To prepare residents for foster home or other placement.
5. To provide an opportunity for the mental health board to determine how many residents of institutions can be returned to and absorbed by the community effectively and efficiently.
6. To provide the mental health board with a means of determining how many retarded persons over 16 years of age can be retained in the community, who otherwise might have no alternative but to go to an institution.

Director of the project is Miss Lois McLeese.

PUTNAM CLINIC RECEIVES COUNTY AID

By vote of four to two the Board of Supervisors of Putnam County agreed to enter into a contract between the Putnam County Community Mental Health Board and the Children's Clinic, Inc. which is operated by the Putnam County Chapter, AHRC.

The amount of aid will be \$6,000, one half of which is to come out of Community Mental Health Funds through the State and the other from the clinic itself.

Spearheading the drive to obtain these funds was Deborah C. Cherey, a member of the Board of Governors of State, AHRC, and long active in the chapter. The Community Mental Health Board was aided in its decision by a visit from our Executive Director, Jerry Weingold, who explained the powers of the Board to grant this project aid.

The additional funds will aid in the clinic expansion.

WILLOWBROOK UNIT FOR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

A one story brick annex attached to the main hospital at Willowbrook State School is being converted to use as a therapy center for physically handicapped patients at a cost of \$70,000.

The facility will include a classroom, indoor play area and ramps in place of stairs leading to the outdoors. Treatment will be provided in adjoining clinics and in a therapy area in the annex itself. Approximately 40 patients may be housed at any one time.

A BREAKTHROUGH ON MONGOLISM?

FAILURE OF CHROMOSOMES TO FUSE CORRECTLY

The chromosome responsible for the grave human defect called mongolism has been identified and photographed by a group of British geneticists. They call it chromosome 22. It is one of the 46 microscopic threads within cells that carry over the genes of heredity from one generation to another.

According to Dr. Charles E. Ford of the British Radiobiological Research Center at Harwell, who has done a great deal of work in the field, no deleterious genes are present in a mongoloid child. He attributes the defects to an incorrect proportion of normal genes. He declared, however, that the state of genetic imbalance is irremedial. Dr. Ford explains that normal individuals have 46 chromosomes whereas the mongoloids have 47. What probably happens, he said, is that one of the gene carrying chromosomal threads failed to join its opposite partner shortly after conception and either "borrows" a bit of genetic material from another part of the cell or allows itself to be "captured" by another chromosome. The result is an incomplete child.

Dr. Ford explained that of the 46 chromosomes in a normal individual, 22 pairs are autosomal or non-sexual. They match exactly and are common to both sexes, but there are also the sex chromosomes, two X's in a female and an X and a Y in a male. At conception the fusion of an X with another X chromosome results in a female child and of an X and a Y in a male. When one of the non-sexual chromosomes fails to fuse correctly, the result is sometimes a mongoloid child.

This discovery brings into question a previously widely held theory that early in pregnancy some unknown factor interferes with the normal development of the embryo.

To some researchers this new finding suggests that mongolism could begin with an irregularity in the human egg before it is fertilized. They believe the discovery of the extra chromosome is a significant advance in the total research for the reason for mongolism.

MONGOLISM—HOPE THROUGH RESEARCH

NEW PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE PAMPHLET

A new pamphlet, "Mongolism—Hope Through Research", published recently by the Public Health Service of U.S. Department of Health Education and Welfare, tells of the broad research efforts underway at the National Institute of Health to find the cause and prevention of this disorder. This form of mental retardation afflicts more than 35,000 infants born in the U.S. every year according to the U.S. Public Health Service announcement. It occurs in all races and in children born to parents from all walks of life.

The booklet mentions recent research discussed in this issue of OCV and statistics showing that mongoloid children are born more frequently to older mothers than to younger women. About one mongoloid per thousand births is born to mothers under 30 years old. The rate rises with increasing age of mothers, to reach two or three per hundred births in women over 45 years old.

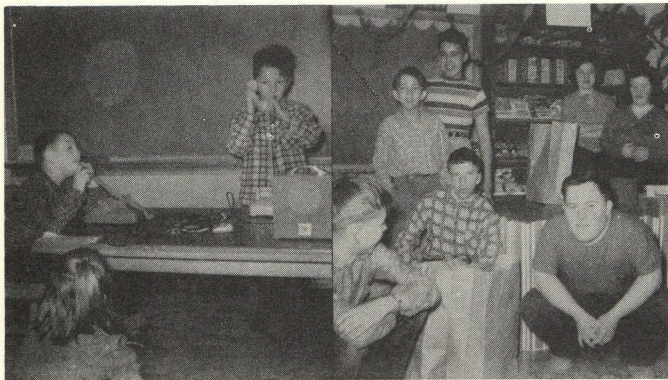
Medical research which may solve more mysteries of the origin of mongolism and other forms of mental retardation, and bring hope of their prevention, is being conducted at the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, one of the seven national health institutes, and at other medical research centers.

The pamphlet, written by the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness is listed as Public Health Service Publication #720 and Health Information Series #94. Single free copies may be obtained from the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, Bethesda 14, Maryland, or from the AHRC, 19 Union Square, New York 3, New York. Quantity orders cost \$3.00 per hundred from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

SEND RESERVATIONS — STATE CONVENTION — OCTOBER 28, 29, 30.

Chapter News

ONEIDA-HERKIMER had a booth of work produced by employees at its workshop . . . at the Industrial Exposition of the Mohawk Valley . . . in Utica . . . the Workshop has moved to larger quarters . . . CLINTON COUNTY already planning more classes in rural areas for trainable children under mandatory bill . . . Adirondack Hairdressers Ass'n. presented the chapter with a check for \$340, proceeds of a card party . . . the Board of Education of Rochester (Monroe County Chapter) is also planning classes for the trainable even before mandatory becomes effective September 1st, 1961 . . . The power of the law says the editor . . . SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER very active with its clinic . . . the first class for trainable children opened by the chapter on March 1st . . . and the ninth play group . . . the chapter is striving for a membership of 7500 . . . think they can do it . . . annual dinners all over the place . . . President Wagner and Executive Director Weingold dividing themselves into several copies to attend . . . chapter in Suffolk now has five pre-school training programs . . . auxiliary program also expanding rapidly . . . more news



Gloversville:
We learn to use the telephone.

Fulton County School:
We make a supermarket.

from SUFFOLK — a radiothon sponsored by Knights of Pythias May 22nd . . . girl scout and brownie troops being organized . . . a boy scout troop was formed . . . camp program . . . and so let's leave SUFFOLK before it takes up all the space for chapter news . . . BROOME COUNTY announces that American Legion members have been urged to take a lead on a local level in helping retarded children and in pushing the use of anti-polio vaccine . . . thanks Joe . . . organizing a class in religious instruction for Catholic children . . . ULSTER COUNTY as usual full of activity . . . two parent study groups open at headquarters . . . one for pre-school trainable children parents and the other for school age trainable children parents . . . urges its members in Chapter paper . . . and its name is "ARC LIGHT" . . . to write to Senator Jacob K. Javits, urging hearings on Senate bill #772, Independent Living and Facilities . . . Has your chapter done so yet? . . . announces the opening of a nursery school program . . . ROME STATE SCHOOL chapter reports 79 members . . . Is this enough? . . . ROME STATE SCHOOL was host to upstate state school conference . . . Newark, Syracuse and Craig Colony met there in November . . . new assistant director, Dr. Hammond . . . Mrs. Hammond will head up volunteer program . . . academic children are making trips to the supermarket in Cooperstown and the Farmers Market . . . Have all chapters made their contribution to Rome State School? . . . CHEMUNG COUNTY CHAPTER reports United Commercial Travelers made \$200 from turkey raffle . . . incomplete returns . . . planning to go full blast in the fall after disappointing ending of classes . . . money, money, money . . . PUTNAM COUNTY CHAPTER plans

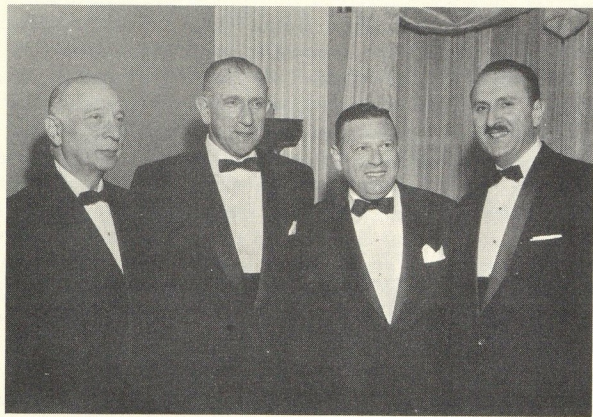
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CHAPTER NEWS (Continued)

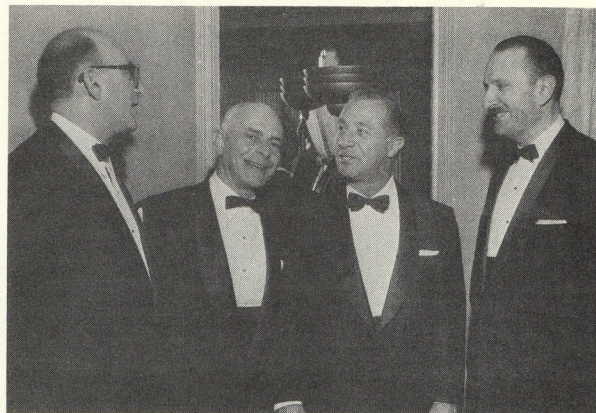
"Really Big" membership campaign . . . Chicken Barbeque at the firehouse in Mahopac . . . Have you seen the item in OCV on the Clinic? . . . NASSAU COUNTY CHAPTER . . . Ah Brookville . . . host to the Southeast Regional Conference of AHRC, Saturday, May 14th . . . and why weren't we invited to the Christian Dior Fashion Show in April? . . . says their Thrift Shop is in need of merchandise . . . any old stuff around anywhere? . . . or new stuff . . . is establishing a full time counseling service for parents of mentally retarded children . . . religious training at Midway Jewish Center in Hicksville . . . Bingo going every Saturday night in the Hicksville Bingo Hall . . . sponsored by several auxiliaries . . . hey, raffling off a trip to Hawaii for only \$10 a raffle . . . Your editor is awfully tired . . . AHRC NASSAU COUNTY AUXILIARY sponsored chartered tour of Europe . . . still not invited . . . UPPER HUDSON still traveling the winter, spring and summer roads through the three counties they service . . . collected over \$1,000 from their fund raising letters . . . Did you know that Mrs. Harold Lucia, our old friend, and one of the first members is now teaching the Hudson Falls Chapter sponsored class . . . CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER . . . right in the middle of legislation . . . held an Easter party for all the children in the area . . . open house at the training center on Friday, May 6th . . . rugs made by the youngsters were raffled off . . . SCHENECTADY COUNTY CHAPTER buying a house . . . okayed by the Board of Governors, State Association . . . has a new movement . . . "Let Joe Do It" . . . You are Joe . . . and the poem at the end of their newsletter "But what you lack | In halo and wings | You sure make up | In other things" well, match it . . . WESTCHESTER COUNTY CHAPTER has new executive director Mr. Morris Barrett of Elmsford . . . formerly with National TB Association . . . and MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER has new executive director, our friend Mary McLain . . . formerly with Health Ass'n. . . WESTCHESTER reports that Red Cross of Westchester Chapter is cooperating to provide services and materials for several AHRC projects . . . carries an announcement that Letchworth Village is trying to place some of their girls who have been trained in housework and child care and some of the boys who have been trained in gardening . . . round table discussion group for parents of young retarded children under way every Wednesday night . . . and they are raffling off a Ford Sunliner convertible . . . Sunny Fox emceed big party at the county center April 16th. ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER states AHRC McCarthy School is a beehive of activity . . . parties . . . assembly . . . open house . . . and some learning too . . . Home economics class has been incorporated into the curriculum . . . ERIE COUNTY CHAPTER . . . has named Miss Theresa Lawrence as educational consultant . . . takes the place of our old friend Natalie Perry . . . must be well qualified as she was trained at Hunter College and Yeshiva University in New York . . . National Council of Jewish Women Buffalo section setting up a Speakers Bureau for AHRC . . . have worked both as teacher assistants and at the AHRC office . . . our old friend Mel Semmel is now at Buffalo State Teachers College and working closely with the chapter . . . Associate Professor, if you please . . . report considerable progress to date in religious training opportunities for the retarded . . . have designed and edited a new pamphlet on the Association . . . get a copy, it's good . . . did you know that our own Bob Guthrie was the featured speaker at the closing banquet of Ontario (Canada) Association for Retarded Children Annual Convention in April . . . Have we left anyone out? . . . It's your own fault . . . keep sending in material, pictures, news items . . . this is your paper.

STATE CONVENTION — ROCHESTER — OCTOBER 28, 29, 30.

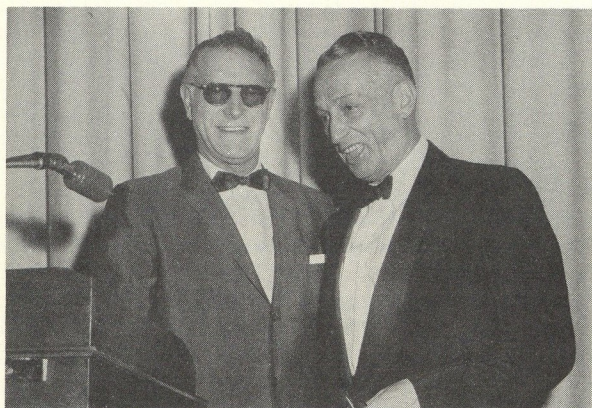
7 SEEN AT THE LEVITT DINNER



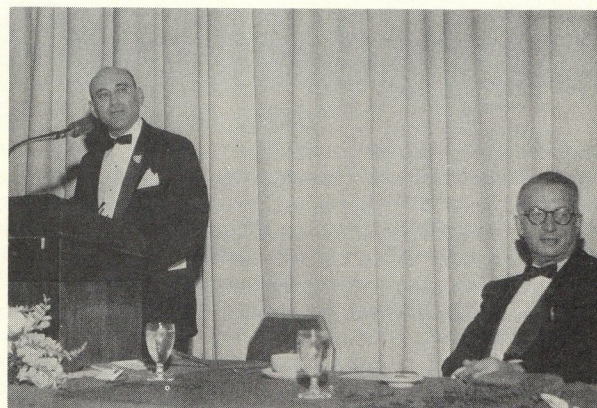
Left to right, Hon. Maximilian Moss, Cyril Weinberg, Hon. Louis I. Kaplan and George Hirsch.



Left to right, Jerry Weingold, Julian Banner, Treasurer, New York City Chapter, Surrogate Samuel de Falco and George Hirsch.



Hon. Carmine De Sapio enjoys a Levitt story.



Joseph T. Weingold delivering major address.

INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST PANEL DISCUSSION FOUR CHAPTERS MEET IN NEW YORK CITY

The auditorium of Mabel Dean Bacon High School in New York City was crowded with members of four chapters of the AHRC attending the first of a series of panel discussions held under the auspices of the State Institutions Committee, Leo Fixler, Chairman.

Hosts at this meeting were Benevolent Society—Willowbrook Chapter, Community League—Wassaic Chapter, New York City Chapter and Welfare League—Letchworth Village Chapter.

Participating as panelists were Robert H. Wagner, President, State AHRC, who told about the functions of the State Association; Bernard M. Fineson, Chairman, Legal and Legislative Committee who spoke on the legislative program; Dr. Arthur W. Pense, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, who discussed the new Office of Mental Retardation; Hon. Isadore Siegel, Assistant Attorney General, who spoke of the rights of the parents under the Mental Hygiene Law; Bernard Rosenberg, former President of Westchester Chapter and member of the Board of Visitors of Letchworth Village who described the functions of a board of visitors; Miss Katherine D. Lynch, Director of C.R.M.D. Bureau in New York City who spoke of the facilities in public school for such children in the City and their needs.

Moderator was Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the State Association. A question and answer period followed the meeting and was both lively and stimulating.

The Institutions Committee plans to hold two more such panels, one probably in Syracuse and the other in Rochester.

CLINIC OPENS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD AIDS

The Suffolk County Chapter, AHRC has announced the opening of a Clinic for Retarded Children at Brookhaven Memorial Hospital in East Patchogue, where offices, examination rooms and reception room have been leased.

The new Clinic, at least for the time being, will restrict its services to children under 15 years of age at the time of application. This is necessary, it was explained, because of the large number of potential patients in the County who heretofore have not had access to clinical services.

The Clinic will offer a complete range of diagnostic and follow up services both for children and parents. Plans are now being made to add research training facilities as soon as practicable.

The realization of the Clinic is the result of three years work and was materially aided by the Community Mental Health Board whose contribution may run as high as \$15,000. The matching funds are to be put up by the Suffolk County Chapter, AHRC. Medical director of the Clinic is Mortimer H. Dubovsky, M.D.; Chairman of the Association's professional advisory board is Dr. David Spielsinger, a Patchogue pediatrician. President of the Clinic's Board of Directors is John A. Maher of Babylon.

"This is one of the most important steps in services to the retarded children that we have taken in Suffolk County," stated Walter Krudop, President of the Chapter. "We owe a great deal to the friendly and understanding reception of the Community Mental Health Board in Suffolk County, Dr. Luther Woodward, representing the State, and our many friends among the professional community in the County for this step."

With the opening of this clinic there are now nine specialized clinics for mentally retarded children in the State of New York.

ALL COME TO STATE CONVENTION — ROCHESTER, OCTOBER 28, 29, 30.

PARENTS GROUPS MEETS WITH COMMISSIONER OF MENTAL HYGIENE

For the third successive year, at the invitation of Dr. Paul H. Hoch, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, representatives of the parents groups speaking for children in the state institutions and the State Association for the Help of Retarded Children met with the Commissioner, Dr. Arthur W. Pense, Head of the Office of Mental Retardation and personnel of the Department of Mental Hygiene to discuss common problems.



Dr. Paul H. Hoch, at head of table, and Department personnel meeting with AHRC representatives in Albany, April 19th, 1960.

The meeting lasted more than three hours and went into many items in a prepared agenda. There were four main topics, I. *Items Affecting the Daily Living of the Children and Services.* This included such matters as the extension of rehabilitation programs for the adult retarded, a more meaningful program for middle grade children and young adults, volunteers, deodorizing equipment, play areas, water supply, visiting practices, the posting of menus for parents to see, etc. II. *Items of More General Application.* This included the request that parents groups and the State Association be involved in budget preparation; more information be given to the Association as to how the appropriations have been spent; review of salary scales and grades for employees of state schools; pre-institutionalization counseling for parents; institutionalization of children under five and limitation of size of institutions to be built to a maximum of 1500. III. *Organizational and Informational.* Under this was discussed the steps that have been taken with regard to research, a request that the rules and regulations of the Department guiding the administrative actions of the Directors be publicized, a request for a study of the Department's relationship to the problem of mental retardation, and information concerning the new facilities such as West Seneca, the Long Island School, Mount McGregor, and others. IV. *Questions concerning specific state schools.*

The meeting was a frank and open discussion of all the matters on the agenda which, to the astonishment of all, were covered in full. Some highlights of the meeting were that a study of the question of reimbursement might be made by the Governor and a proposal by Mr. Weingold that a pilot project, involving community agencies, be set up to determine on what scale pre-institutionalization counseling can be given to parents of children on the waiting list.

Present at the meeting were Dr. Paul H. Hoch, Dr. Arthur W. Pense, Dr. Joseph L. Camp, Miss Margaret M. Farrar, Mr. Granville Hills, Mr. Charles I. McAllister for the Department; for the Association, Mrs. Bea Fink and Mrs. Esther Kaplan, Welfare League, Mr. Harry Binsky and Mr. George Craig for Monroe County (Newark State School and Craig Colony), Mrs. Frank C. McCarthy, Syracuse State School, Mrs. William E. Baines, Rome State School, Mr. John Scheeler, Newark State School, Mrs. Helen Altman, Community League—Wassaic, Mr. Irving Silverman and Mr. Norman Weissenfeld, Benevolent Society—Willowbrook, Mr. Leo Fixler, Mr. Robert H. Wagner and Mr. Joseph T. Weingold, for the State Association.

PKU DIETS BEING PROVIDED BY STATE

New York State for the first time will go into the community to provide for children a treatment for the prevention of mental deficiency, Dr. Paul H. Hoch, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene recently announced. The treatment consists of a special diet formula which will be supplied by the Department of Mental Hygiene for children suffering from phenylketonuria.

The program is being organized on a research basis and will make it possible for physicians throughout the State to secure supplies of the necessary diet for patients if their financial circumstances are such that they require assistance. The diet will be supplied for all children up to the age of five suffering from the disease who are expected to respond to the treatment.

There is good reason to believe that a child identified in early infancy and treated with the special diet will not become mentally defective. Phenylketonuria, or phenylpyruvic acid deficiency, Dr. Hoch explained, is caused by the failure of one of the body's enzymes to assimilate phenylalanine, a chemical found in protein food stuff. Use of a purified low-phenylalanine diet from which the offending substance has been removed helps to prevent or minimize the disorder if treatment is begun before brain damage occurs. A comparatively simple ferric-chloride diaper test now offers an effective technique for mass screening and detection.

The operation of the pilot program, believed to be the first state project of this kind in the country, will be centered at Letchworth Village, Thiells, New York, under the direction of Dr. George A. Jervis, Director of Research and one of the pioneers in the field of mental retardation.

Cooperating with the State Department of Mental Hygiene are the New York State and City Health Departments; Diagnostic and Counseling Study Center Children's Hospital, Buffalo; Burke Foundation Diagnostic Clinic in White Plains; Shield of David Institute for Retarded Children; Developmental Evaluation Clinic of Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn; Broome County Mental Clinic, and the Mental Retardation Clinic at Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester and Flower and Fifth Ave. Hospitals, New York City.

Information on the service may be obtained from Dr. Jervis at Letchworth Village, Thiells, New York.

A.H.R.C. PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL REHABILITATION CONFERENCE TRAINING CENTER AND WORKSHOP, N. Y. C., HIGHLIGHTED

Our Executive Director, Jerry Weingold, and Dr. Max Dubrow, Director of the A.H.R.C. Training Center and Workshop, New York City, the prototype for all such workshops receiving O.V.R. Grants, were among the 60 people invited to a National Rehabilitation Conference sponsored by Southern Methodist University, N.A.R.C. and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in Dallas on February 10th, 11th and 12th. Thirty-six states were represented.

The conference was designed to provide for an exchange of views and experiences leading to more specific appreciation of the problems and information concerning what was going on. Representing the National Association were Elizabeth Boggs, President, Dr. Gunnar Dybwad, Executive Director and Dr. William Fraenkel, Consultant in Vocational Rehabilitation. Among the notables from Washington were Miss Mary E. Switzer, Director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Dr. Gilbert Barnhart, Chief, Division of Research Grants and Demonstrations, O.V.R., and Dr. Fred A. Schumacher, Social Administration Specialist.

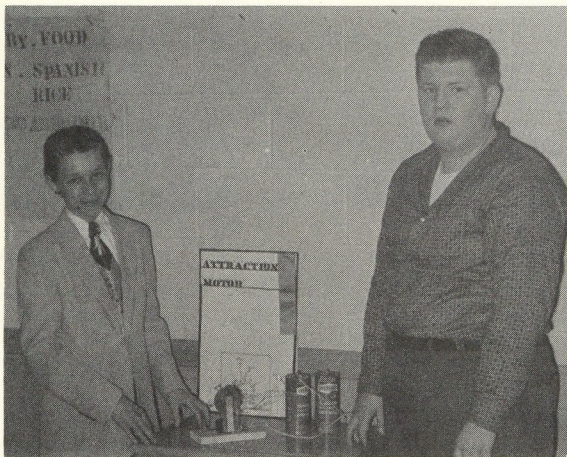
Representative John E. Fogarty of Rhode Island, a sponsor of the health-for-peace bill now pending in Congress, was the banquet speaker at the Conference. Long a champion for medical research and aid for disabled persons, for 14 years he has served as chairman or ranking minority member of the Health Sub-committee on appropriations. He said that since he became active in appropriation actions, money for the National Institute of Health has increased from \$4,000,000 in 1946 to \$400,000,000 in 1960.

THE GREATEST YET — STATE CONVENTION — ROCHESTER

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SCIENCE FAIR

Six projects from the various areas of science were presented by the students of the Junior High Special Education class at a science fair held April 1st and 2nd, at the Junior-Senior Brewster High School in Brewster, New York.

Projects were created and completed by the students, plus verbal and chart explanations of the specific projects to the judges. Six projects were presented by the students of the Special Education class.

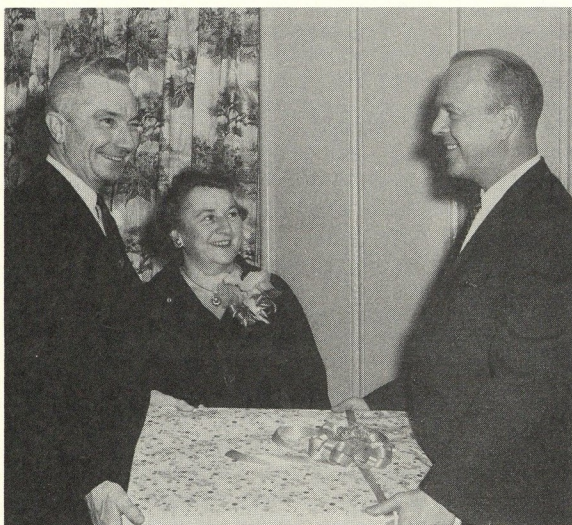


Clarence Gallagher, left, assisted by Ray Hansen, winners of 1st award at Science Fair, Brewster.

1. ATTRACTION MOTOR (1st award). Clarence Gallagher and Ray Hansen.
2. WOOD COLLECTION (2nd award). Dorothy Tompkins, Nina Ashby, Jessie Tompkins.
3. NIGHT LIGHT (3rd award). George Ingersoll.
4. CRYSTAL GARDENS. Diane Allen.
5. RUBY LANTERN. Richard Carrol, Theodore Baird, Charles Tompkins.
6. SEEDS, for food and decoration. Linda Lee Duker, Alice Gallagher, Linda Lee Ernest.

All students received a certificate for participation and effort.

PETER C. KEISCHGENS TESTIMONIAL



Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Keischgens, left, were presented with a gift from those attending a testimonial dinner in their honor. Robert B. Sinclair, right, vice president of the Jefferson County Association for the Help of Retarded children, Inc., made the presentation.

HUNTINGTON SITE FOR LONG ISLAND STATE SCHOOL FINALLY SETTLED

On February 26, 1960, Governor Rockefeller sent the following letter to Arthur M. Cromarty, Republican County Chairman of Suffolk County:

"Dear Mr. Cromarty.

Thank you for your telegram of February twenty-first concerning the location of the school for mentally retarded children in Suffolk County.

The Echo Lane site in the Town of Huntington has been definitely and finally selected for this most essential facility. Steps have already been taken to expedite the acquisition of the property.

This site was selected initially in 1958 during the Harriman Administration. It was one of three locations recommended by the Planning Board of the Town of Huntington.

Because of the concern of certain local groups, I promised a review of the situation and an examination of suggested alternate sites. At my direction representatives of the Department of Mental Hygiene, the Department of Public Works and the Division of the Budget made on-the-spot examinations of the properties recommended. These alternative sites were all rejected for substantial reasons.

The special meetings were held with interested groups from Huntington at which the situation was thoroughly reviewed. The first meeting included the Secretary to the Governor, the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, the Superintendent of Public Works and the representatives of the Division of the Budget. At the second meeting I personally met with the group together with the Lieutenant Governor and the Secretary to the Governor.

This matter has had the most thorough consideration and the decision was made after a weighing of all factors. There is urgent need for this school which I am sure the County and the community generally will consider it a definite asset.

This, it is hoped, brings to a close the vindictive campaign carried on by a few individuals against situating the Long Island State School in the Township of Huntington."

In this connection we should like to quote from an editorial in the February 25th issue of the Suffolk County Watchmen coming out of Huntington Station New York.

"It isn't often that the editor of a small weekly newspaper puts himself on the side of supporting a very unpopular cause. Public acceptance of his paper is his bread and butter, and the rejection can cause hardship for the economic well-being of the entire publication."

"I say, and at the risk of offending, or encouraging rejection, let them have their home . . . let them have a chance to come even a small way out of the darkness . . . they aren't lepers, or criminals . . . they aren't dangerous . . . they won't infect another child . . . your's or mine . . . they won't blight the grass, or bring a depression, they won't hurt you . . . they can't HURT YOU OR YOUR'S . . . they need help . . . let's help them . . ."

MENTALLY RETARDED AT SAMPSON AIR BASE

OVERCROWDING RELIEVED AT NEWARK AND ROME

Five hundred mentally retarded patients, 16 years and over, from Rome and Newark State Schools will be moved into the new facility at the former Sampson Air Base, it was announced by Governor Rockefeller.

At this writing, 100 mentally retarded patients from Rome and Newark have been moved into the new facility and are making themselves comfortable and useful. No one will be moved where this represents a hardship for the parents.

ALL COME TO STATE CONVENTION — ROCHESTER, OCTOBER 28, 29, 30.

MANDATORY CLASSES (Continued from page 1)

the daytime and they can be taken home at night and there have the parental love and care which is so necessary for the right type of development. If I never vote for another bill, as long as I live, I shall vote for this one and I shall ask everyone here to do so."

Another bill that passed and was signed by the Governor was introduced by Senator Wm. T. Conklin and Assemblyman Luigi Marano of Brooklyn to increase the number of the board of visitors of Willowbrook State School from 7 to 8. This bill will afford the Governor an opportunity to appoint a parent as a member of the Board of Visitors from one of the four boroughs of New York City other than Richmond. Not one of the present seven members of the Board of Visitors at Willowbrook resides in Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn or Queens, although most of the patients are from these boroughs. One member of the Board is from Nassau and the remainder from Staten Island.

The rest of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation program as well as bills introduced at the request of AHRC failed to pass. These included the following: 1) to give judges of children's courts and domestic relations courts in New York City power to order services other than institutionalization for the retarded; 2) to add to the powers of community mental health boards the support of day training centers for retarded children or emotionally disturbed children under seven not legally attending school; 3) to appropriate \$180,000 to the Department of Mental Hygiene to pay for private institutionalization of mentally retarded children under the age of five on the waiting list for placement in state schools; 4) to add, "training and education" to the duties of the Department of Mental Hygiene, instead of just care and treatment; 5) to change the Education Law so that a mentally retarded child who would be receiving public school instruction if at home would receive it in a state institution, with the cost charged to the school district from which he came; 6) to provide that at least one member of the Board of Visitors of each state school should be the parent of a retarded child; 7) to provide that the director of a state school could be an educator as well as a physician and should be a trained administrator with at least five years actual experience with retarded; 8) to eliminate all fees for institutional care of retarded; 9) to permit group insurance on an association basis for AHRC members; 10) to provide that commitment of a child to a state institution by one parent can only be on notice to the other parent; 11) to provide a salary differential of \$480 to all teachers of the handicapped in public schools.

A bill to change the name of state schools to "schools and hospitals," introduced again this year at the request of the Department of Mental Hygiene was defeated in Committee in the Senate. This bill was opposed by the AHRC. The text of the Governor's message of approval of the mandatory bill follows:

"The problem of determining the manner in which the State can best discharge its responsibility to the mentally retarded child has indeed been difficult to resolve. The law presently permits school districts to establish special classes for mentally retarded children having intelligence quotients of less than fifty. Experience under this law, which has been in effect since 1955, indicates that school districts, for the most part, have been unwilling to avail themselves of the permission granted by the law and have failed to establish classes for such severely retarded children."

"This bill requires school districts to provide special classes for severely retarded children. These classes would be established under regulations promulgated by the Commissioner of Education."

"Last year I disapproved a similar bill, because it had not been established to my satisfaction that the public school system should be charged with this responsibility. I stated at that time, however, 'I am deeply concerned with the problem of severely retarded children. It is essential that there be some training adopted to the needs of children so afflicted.'"

"Over the course of the year I have given intense consideration to this problem and have reached the conclusion that legislation requiring the establishment of special classes for severely retarded children is the only proper solution."

(Continued on next column)

NASSAU COUNTY WORKSHOP EXPANDS

The Nassau County Training Center and Workshop in Hempstead, Long Island, is now servicing more than 50 retarded young adults. Aided through State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation grants, it has steadily expanded its program to meet the growing needs of retarded adults in Nassau County.



Lining up for a snack in the cafeteria.

Contemplated is a program of horticulture training, if funds can be obtained for the rehabilitation of the green houses in the Brookville home of the Chapter.

The Workshop is under the director of Leonard Muskin.

MANDATORY CLASSES (Continued)

"That the State must provide for the training of these tragically afflicted children is beyond question. The issue has been the proper means for providing such training. In the light of the experience gained over the past five years through observing the manner in which such classes have been functioning in Nassau County and elsewhere on a voluntary basis, it is abundantly clear that the facilities of our public school system are best adapted to providing the training which these children must have."

"The history of public education in this State and in the United States is developing the philosophy that every child is entitled to receive such degree of education and training as is within the limits of his capabilities. This philosophy clearly supports the enactment of this legislation and coincides with our moral and humanitarian impulses."

"Although financial considerations are not and cannot be controlling factors in an issue such as this, it may well be that the training of severely retarded children in the community will result in eventual savings to the people of the State by permitting such children permanently to remain in the community instead of being eventually placed in institutions."

"I am confident that, under flexible and appropriate regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Education, the impact of this law on our public school system will not in the slightest manner be disruptive. With the enactment of this bill, New York recognizes its responsibility to the unfortunate children in our society who are tragically afflicted through no fault of their own."

"This bill is approved."

The success of the legislation is the result of a great deal of ground work and education done by the Association this past year. The Department of Mental Hygiene, which last year opposed the bill, was convinced this year that it was a good measure. New York State Grange, who likewise opposed the bill last year, this session voted in favor of it. The help of many other organizations such as the American Legion, and the New York State A. F. of L.—C.I.O. was enlisted. Most important of all, perhaps, was the work that was done with the Governor's staff and the Governor in bringing all the facts to his attention.

"The Governor's action in approving a bill this year which he vetoed last year," said Robert H. Wagner, President of the AHRC, "represents a statesmanlike approach to a problem. We were convinced that when all the facts were placed before the Governor he would approve. That he did so vindicated our faith in our cause and all the wonderful people, our chapters, and our members, who worked so hard for this result. A special vote of thanks must go to those wonderful men in the legislature, Senator Brydges and Assemblyman Steingut who carried the brunt of the battle."

STATE CONVENTION — ROCHESTER — OCTOBER 28, 29, 30.

"CHERES PARENTS..."

"Cheres parents et amis des enfants arrieres" . . . Yes, that's our Executive Director, Jerry Weingold, beginning a talk for the Quebec Association for Retarded Children in Montreal on February 25th. It must be said, however, that either his French or his courage was not equal to continuing the whole speech in that language.

The focus of the talk was a ten point program for the mentally retarded. It follows:

1. **PARENT EDUCATION.** First and foremost, we the parents must educate ourselves to the meaning of mental retardation and to the acceptance of these children as children with a handicap who need, not our pity, but our help and support, and who deserve it.

2. **CLINICS.** This is at the point where, perhaps, the parents need most help, the point of discovery that their child is not like other children. For this we need specialized clinics with informed and devoted professional personnel to diagnose and interpret to the parents the condition of the child. This is the point at which the parent needs special counseling and help in formulating a plan for the further development of the child.

3. **NURSERY SCHOOLS.** It has become axiomatic in this field that the younger you can begin training a mentally retarded child the more you can do with him.

4. **SCHOOLS.** And by this I mean public day schools as for normal children, but with, of course, a specialized curriculum tailored to their needs and with a deep concern for them as people.

5. **RECREATION.** The constructive use of leisure time has become an important part of our way of life and for this the retarded need specialized facilities in order to demonstrate to the community that they too can enter the stream of life.

6. **VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION.** This, of course, includes sheltered workshops, vocational training, placement on a job where possible, follow-ups, sheltered employment for those who cannot enter into industry. The world of work must be open to those mentally retarded who can enter into it.

7. **REHABILITATION MINDED INSTITUTIONS.** I do not now speak of great congregate types of institutions, but those which are completely child-centered, which have a deep desire to see to it that the children are returned to the community wherever and as soon as possible.

8. **RESIDENCE QUARTERS (OR HALF-WAY HOUSES) IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITY.** This is a necessary concomitant to the institution. These are sometimes called half-way houses. They can be used to return the retarded individuals to the community by way of a residence where they will adjust to the community while learning how to work. But they can also be used as a residence center to enable those youngsters who can work in the community, whether in sheltered employment or private industry, to live in the community if they have social supervision.

9. **PUBLIC EDUCATION.** Without this, of course, very little that we are trying to do will be accomplished. We are part of the world in which we live and that world must be educated to understand the needs and worth of our children.

10. **RESEARCH.** This has been put last, but is by no means the last thing that we must consider. If we are ever to have any hope of altering this process of mental retardation, if we are to have any hope that we will be able to prevent mental retardation, then we must throw ourselves into a thorough and wide reaching research program.

Copies of the talk may be obtained from the State Office.

BRITAIN TELLS U.S. PSYCHIATRISTS: DON'T NEGLECT MENTAL DEFICIENTS

American psychiatrists got a polite dressing down from one of Great Britain's top doctors for neglect of the mentally defective, the vast army of what he calls medicines "ugly duckling".

Psychiatry should stop shunning these unfortunates, Sir Aubrey Lewis, Professor of Psychiatry at London University, told the American Psychiatric Association at its meeting in Atlantic City in May of this year, because even at the imbecile level many individuals can be trained to do useful work.

And in research, Sir Aubrey said, "doors are opening fast. At least five distinct metabolic anomalies (flaws in the body's use of food) have been detected, so that possible ways appear of aborting their ill-effect on mental growth; the genetic peculiarity of mongolism has been disclosed in the extra chromosome . . . and challenging evidence has been accumulated on maternal conditions during early pregnancy which may retard the child's mental development."

Sir Aubrey estimated that between 10 and 20% of those classed as imbeciles could do work for pay. He also stated that under socialized medicine as practiced in England, defective children could move easily between home care and hospitals as necessary, a flexibility not common here.

STUDY OF MENTAL HYGIENE DEPARTMENT RELATIONSHIP TO RETARDATION URGED BY AHRC

At a meeting held with Hon. C. L. Wainwright, Assistant to the Governor's Counsel, the AHRC urged a broad study be made of the relationship of the State Department of Mental Hygiene to the state schools for the mentally retarded. The purpose of this study would be to evaluate state policy concerning a number of items such as: 1) reimbursement, 2) preparation and secrecy of budgets, 3) evaluation of programs for the mentally retarded, 4) personnel in the state schools, 5) director's qualifications and 6) any other matters that might seem pertinent.

At the meeting it was pointed out that such an evaluation or study by the executive branch of the government or any other body designated by the Governor has not been made in the 32 years since the Department of Mental Hygiene was created by constitutional revision. Representatives of the Association suggested that this study be made by a committee appointed by the Governor to include legislators, members of the AHRC, representatives of the Department of Mental Hygiene as well of the Governor's office. At this point the position of the Governor's office seems to be that some of these matters could be taken up by the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation.

It would seem that various suggestions of the Association with regard to this study may be narrowed to the reimbursement problem, as a beginning. Present at the meeting were Hon. C. L. Wainwright, Assistant to the Governor's Counsel, Dr. Arthur W. Pense, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, Mr. Leo Fixler, Chairman, AHRC, Institutions Committee, Bernard M. Fineson, Chairman, AHRC, Legal and Legislative Committee, David Groberg, member of AHRC Institutions Committee and Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director.

FOUR CLASSES CLOSED BY CHEMUNG CHAPTER

FUND LACK CITED BY DIRECTORS VOTES NOT TO JOIN CHEST

The four classes operated by the Chemung County Chapter were closed at the end of the session on Friday, April 8th, because of lack of funds. The decision to close the classes more than two months earlier than usual was made by the Board of Directors of the Chapter to conserve funds to reopen the classes in the fall.

During the special fund drive last Thanksgiving Day the Association collected between \$8,500 and \$9,000 against a goal of \$12,000. The offer of the State AHRC to lend the Chapter the money to continue the classes through May was rejected by the Board of Directors since these funds would have to be repaid from next year's drive and might pose a threat to the classes next year.

Mrs. William E. Murdock, Jr., Association President, said the decision to close the classes was made "with deep regret."

"The Chapter hopes," she continued, "that by conserving its remaining money and adding the anticipated funds from planned fund raising events, to be able to open classes again in the fall."

At a special meeting of the Board of Directors a decision was also reached not to join Community Chest in Chemung County. The members felt that this move would remove incentive from the members to work for the Association. This work, they felt, was one of the most important therapeutic effects the Association had and should not be relinquished.

ALL COME TO STATE CONVENTION — ROCHESTER, OCTOBER 28, 29, 30.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I am sure you will be happy to know that with your help and direction we have been able to secure public bus service from the New York City Board of Education for 75% of the retarded children in our program.

I join all the Catholic parents of the Special Education Program of the Archdiocese of New York in expressing our sincere thanks and gratitude.

Be assured of our continued efforts to support the AHRC legislative program and to secure 100% membership of our parents in the Association for the Help of Retarded Children.

With kindest personal regards I am,

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT LISI, President
Parent-Teacher Association
of Special Education

Dear Editor:

The latest edition of "Our Children's Voice" has just reached me; and before I could stop myself, I had read every word of it, quite fascinated. The volume of information it contains is extremely helpful to laymen and professional, alike. Congratulations on a splendid piece of work.

I should be very happy if you will accept my doctoral dissertation, inclosed, as an exchange of information. Perhaps you have a library, or know of one which can use it. At any rate, I find it helpful in my work to know about what leading states are doing in the field of mental retardation. I hope the dissertation will help others who may do research or writing in this field.

Sincerely yours,
EUGENE R. DeBARR, Ph.D.
Supervisor, Classes for Retarded Children,
County of Cuyahoga Welfare Dept.,
Division of Child Welfare,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Editor:

I thought you might be interested in the following information . . .

My son, C. Douglas McAllister is a member of the Future Teachers of America, a high school organization for those interested in becoming teachers. All of the youngsters were given an assignment to assist a regularly employed teacher for a six week period. The last period of each school day was spent in this manner. He chose to work with a teacher of the educable mentally retarded in Bethlehem Central School District and was permitted to do "practice teaching" as well. He felt it was a most rewarding experience and he is planning to take work necessary to enter the field when he gets to college.

Sincerely,
CHARLES I. McALLISTER,
Director of Mental Hygiene
Education Services,
State Department of
Mental Hygiene

(Continued on next column)

WEINGOLD SPEAKER AT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARDS MEETING

The Executive Director of the State A.H.R.C., Joseph T. Weingold, was one of the featured speakers at the Fifth Annual Conference of the New York State Associations of Community Mental Health Boards in Rochester on April 4th.

His paper, "Problems in Providing Services for the Mentally Retarded," discussed the Community Mental Health Services Act, its relation to the mentally retarded, and the difficulties in obtaining services under this Act, from the Community Mental Health Boards. He pointed out that in the fiscal year that has just ended, March 31st, 1960, a net total of \$23,796,320 was spent by state and local communities and agencies under the Act. Of this, \$1,250,000 was contributed by agencies leaving \$22,546,320 spent by the state and communities. Of this sum, said Mr. Weingold, exactly \$90,203 or only a little more than 4% was spent on projects for the mentally retarded, in addition to the special project in Rochester. He placed part of the blame for this situation on the fact that the bill is psychiatrically oriented and quoted Dr. Paul Lemkau, former director of the community Mental Health Board in New York City.

In his study, "The Epidemiological Aspects of Mental Deficiency," Dr. Paul Lemkau states, "For many years the field of mental deficiency failed to arouse much scientific interest, psychodynamically probably because of two factors. The first was that it was thought that the mentally deficient patient could not profit by psychotherapy because he lacked the capacity to make the necessary associations and was therefore unsuitable for the popular kind of treatment."

"The second factor in the psychiatric eclipse of mental deficiency was the development of psychological testing. This fitted the retarded because the growing profession of clinical psychology was there to accept the cast-off cases to salve the conscience of the important dynamic therapist for his neglect of the large group of cases."

Mr. Weingold felt, however, that almost all of the services that the mentally retarded needed, with the exception of school services and vocational rehabilitation now under the department of education, could well be supplied through the community mental health board under the provisions of the Act. He pleaded with the boards to plan for such services offering them rewarding experiences in return.

Copies of Mr. Weingold's talk are available on request from the State Office.

LETTERS (Continued)

Dear Editor:

I am writing in reference to my requests of March 17, 1960 for material on the mentally retarded and intellectually gifted. This material, which you sent, is very much appreciated and I thank you for your prompt reply. Dr. Gladys Rhodes, Professor of Education and in charge of our program in Special Education will put this material to very good use by making it available to both parents and the students at the State University College of Education at Geneseo, New York.

Yours truly,
GEORGIA McCLURE,
Senior Library student

ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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