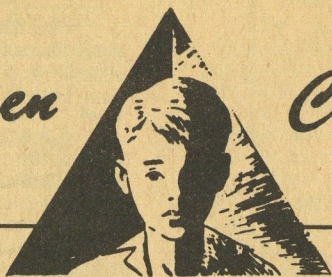


# OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

*Retarded Children*

*Can Be Helped!*



VOL. XIX, ISSUE NO. 3

DECEMBER, 1966

## Community Residences and Workshops, Pledges Governor

### BUSS STOP



Dorothy Burns extends a warm greeting to Governor Rockefeller during his recent visit to the Nassau County Chapter's Vocational Training Center in Hempstead, Long Island. Touring the new building, the William and Esther Kaufman Vocational Training Center, the Governor praised the Chapter membership and its staff for their vision and hard work in providing services to the mentally retarded.

### ASSOCIATION AMENDS PURPOSES IN CHARTER

As a result of a ruling by Counsel to the State Department of Education that the Association did not have the power under its Charter to operate educational facilities to meet the requirements of Section 4407 of the Education Law reported elsewhere, the Association at its annual meeting in Jamestown voted to amend the purposes in its Charter to specify exactly what we mean by the words "assist" the mentally retarded. New purposes will give the

(Continued On Page 20)

### A NET WORK OF HOSTELS IN COMMUNITIES WITH STATE AID

### EXPANDED STATE SUPPORT FOR SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

In a telegram to James F. Reville, president of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, at its Convention in Jamestown, Governor Rockefeller promised "A network of hostels in communities throughout the State", as a "major new element in providing the broad range of services needed by the retarded".

"These hostels," said the Governor, "along with expanded state support for sheltered workshops once again show that in New York State, the mentally retarded are getting more than sympathy."

The telegram was partially in answer to six questions that the State Association has posed to the candidates for Governor.

These questions are:

1. Are you in favor of separate Department of Mental Retardation?
2. Are you in favor of a separate Community Mental Retardation Services Act or the revision of the present Act to insure community services for the mentally retarded?
3. Are you in favor of eliminating parent liability for fees for patients in the state institutions under the Department of Mental Hygiene?
4. Are you in favor of the immediate implementation of the Mental Retardation Plan by providing for 10 mental retardation regional centers a year for three years?
5. Are you in favor of providing for on-going support of sheltered workshops serving the severely handicapped?
6. Are you in favor of special state aid to public schools for special classes for the handicapped?

The message was delivered to the Convention by Dr. Alan D. Miller, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, in the absence of the Governor.

"If the mentally retarded have a stable home with their parents, they can manage quite well; but many do not have such homes. If they do, as they grow older, and as their parents grow older, the problem becomes increasingly difficult. The most persistent fear that every parent of a retarded child harbors is the fate of their child after the death of both parents. All too often an almost independent retarded individual must remain in, or finally be admitted to a state school," the Governor stated.

The hostels will be community residences in which retarded individuals could live in studio apartments with housekeeping facilities. In addition, homemaking services, and common dining and recreation areas will be provided. Under the proposed program, the hostels could be built by the State or by local governments or community organizations with state assistance. Further, the State would finance

(Continued on Page 21)



## OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

issued four times a year by  
**THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP  
 OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.**

19 UNION SQUARE, NEW YORK 3, N. Y.  
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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: **JAMES F. REVILLE**

Executive Director and Editor: **JOSEPH T. WEINGOLD**

## HOW FAR HAVE WE COME?

In this issue of OCV we are reporting two incidents of how communities look at the mentally retarded.

One is a letter from a father who tells about the community rejection of his son and the other is a mass rejection of the mentally retarded by some of the citizens of Rochester.

In both of these we see unreasoning fear, ignorance and prejudice.

But what is even more frightening is our belief that these are not isolated cases, but a reflection of real feelings of society with regard to the mentally retarded.

We who work in the field must not be deluded into thinking because we see acceptance all around us in our small spheres that this is what is happening in the whole world.

What a long way we still have to go, how much further to be truly civilized if the measure of civilization is how much we do for those who need the most and how well we accept those who differ with us.

Although discouraged we will not be thwarted in what we are trying to do. We must believe that the time will come when the mentally retarded will be accepted as human beings with every right to the dignity of human beings.

Anything less than this, must mean that nothing is worth saving. We cannot feel this way and remain in the work we are doing.

## IS CHANGE IMPROVEMENT?

The Commissioner of Mental Hygiene has announced a sweeping re-organization of the Department of Mental Hygiene. This change is administrative in nature with a design to streamline the operations of the central office and its functions.

The reorganization creates a number of Deputy Commissionerships. What interests us particularly is the creation of a Division of Mental Retardation with a deputy commissioner in charge of it.

We must point out this is nothing new. There has been a division of Mental Retardation in the State Department of Mental Hygiene for many years and we recall that Dr. Arthur Pense who headed this up at one time was a Deputy Commissioner.

What interests us particularly is the function of such a Division. According to the table of organization, this Division would have control of programs in the State Schools only. Another Division of Local Services under another Deputy Commissioner would be in charge of local services dealing with Community Mental Health Services, Regional Mental Health Committees and After-care Clinics.

At this point, it seems to us, that although this reorganization may make life easier administratively for the Commissioner, from a practical point of view, it changes nothing in terms of services for the mentally retarded.

If there is to be a real re-organization, we suggest that the Division of Local Services be separated into local services for mental health, under the Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health, and local services for mental retardation, under the Deputy Commissioner of Mental Retardation.

In any other organization divided authority over services in a community fragmentizes services to serve some administrative convenience.

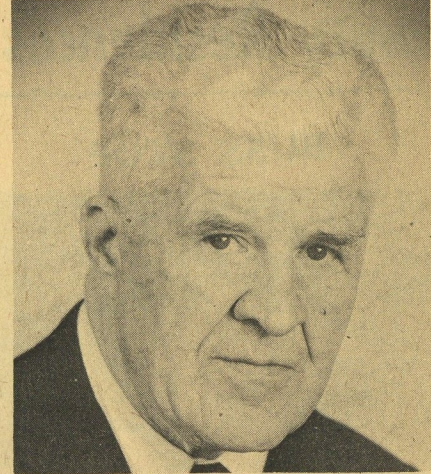
We hope that we will not have to say with the French, "Plus ca change, plus ca reste la meme", the more it changes, the more it remains the same.

## JAMES F. REVILLE RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT

The delegates to the State Convention in Jamestown unanimously re-elected James F. Reville as President of the New York State Association for Retarded Children.

The following excerpts from his remarks at the Banquet, in a sense, his acceptance remarks:

"Last year when I assumed the Presidency of this organization, I said I was undertaking this office with a keen sense of the responsibilities it involved — was I whistling in the wind! I didn't have the remotest notion of how much would be involved — of the time and effort that need be extended — nor did I know of the wonderful reward — the grand feeling that is so an integral part of serving.



James F. Reville

"There is no need to enumerate here what has been accomplished this year and what we hope to accomplish the next year.

"We have spent two days listening to Committee reports. I want to thank all the Committee chairmen and members for their co-operation and dedication to our common purpose.

"We have now to see that laws passed to improve conditions are implemented, and promises, made, are kept. Laws on the books can do us no good and promises take the form of dreams that mean nothing unless they are realized. So, I am serving notice, Dr. Miller, that we will be diligent and, if necessary, militant, until we arrive at the ultimate in services to our children.

"I want to thank Jerry Weingold and John Bertrand for their complete co-operation and assistance at all times. Their professional know how was of invaluable help.

"Bob Wagner and Pete Keischgens were ever ready to come down to the City from upstate, to lend their valuable experience and assistance whenever needed. Thank you, both.

"When Ruth Gross relinquished the Presidency she warned me that she'd be ever present — looking over my shoulder — I am grateful to say while she was there — she didn't push. Thank you, Ruth.

"I would be remiss if I did not thank my wife, Frances, for her patience, forbearance and encouragement throughout this year.

"It is truly said 'no man walks alone' and I have had friendship and help that could only have been inspired by the goal we have forever before us — help for our children.

"Last year I asked for your co-operation to make this a more closely knit organization — to eliminate thinking as individual groups with individual problems. I think we have come a long way toward fulfillment of this objective. This is the only way we can make our strength felt — as a united group.

"There is only one way for us to go — and that is forward, knowing each step we take helps a child go from existing to living. We know what we need and what we want. It is our duty to make these needs known and our obligation to see them fulfilled. I promise to do my part and expect you to do yours."



## DELEGATES ADOPT THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR 1967

### EMPHASIS TO BE PUT ON THREE MEASURES

The delegates to the New York State Convention in Jamestown adopted a 16 point legislative program, which if enacted, would mean a new era for the mentally retarded in New York State.

Among the 16 measures adopted, the Association voted major emphasis upon three measures:

#### 1. EMANCIPATION OF MENTAL RETARDATION

To establish an Office of Mental Retardation in the Executive Department to which all jurisdiction over programs for the mentally retarded, now vested in the Department of Mental Hygiene, would be transferred until the State Constitution can be amended to permit more than twenty departments. At that time, we shall press for Department of Mental Retardation.

#### 2. COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

To amend extensively Community Mental Health Services Act, by among other things, making services for the mentally retarded mandatory, providing for specific reimbursement by the State for City, County or voluntary agencies expenditures for such services and providing for appeals to the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene when local mental health boards refuse to enter into contract for the establishment of such services.

#### 3. STATE SCHOOLS

The elimination of parental liability for fees for patients in the institutions of the Department of Mental Hygiene.

The complete program follows:

##### A. GUARDIANSHIP

A bill to permit the Association to act as guardian or committee of the person of a mentally retarded individual. This would give us powers similar to those now held by children's societies for the benefit of neglected children, and would permit such care to extend beyond the age of 21 years, when guardianship in the legal sense ends.

##### B. CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

A bill to provide that mentally retarded offenders, may be eligible regardless of age, for the same treatment as youthful offenders. This bill was passed in 1965 but vetoed by the Governor. It was amended in 1966 to meet the objections of the Temporary Commission on the Criminal Law, but was again vetoed.

##### C. EMANCIPATION OF MENTAL RETARDATION

1. A bill to establish an Office of Mental Retardation in the Executive Department of the State government, to which jurisdiction of State schools and programs for the mentally retarded, now in the Department of Mental Hygiene, would be transferred until the State Constitution can be amended to permit the creation of a full-fledged Department of Mental Retardation.

2. A bill to set up ten regional centers for mental retardation services, with an initial appropriation of \$1,500,000; such centers to be operated by agencies under contract with the Office of Mental Retardation, or, until such office be established, with the Department of Mental Hygiene.

##### D. STATE SCHOOLS

1. A bill to eliminate parental liability for children under 21 in the institutions operated by the Department of Mental Hygiene. Parental liability for those over 21 was eliminated by the last Legislature.

2. A bill to require that at least one member of the board of visitors of each state school be the parent of a retarded child; however, as a sop to opponents of such a measure, we should be willing to accept a proviso that such a child be not a resident of the school on whose board the parent serves.

3. A bill to enlarge the powers of boards of visitors to investigate conditions at state schools and complaints against any employee and to bring charges against any employee.

4. A bill to eliminate the present age limit of five years in the law which permits the Department of Mental Hygiene to pay for private residential placement of children who are on waiting lists for state schools.

##### E. COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

1. A bill to eliminate the requirement that fees be charged for services provided under contracts with Community Mental Health Boards.

## ASSOCIATION OFFERS STATE CONSTITUTION CHANGES

By unanimous decision, the delegates to the State Convention in Jamestown, reached the following amendments to the Constitution to be considered at the Constitutional Convention in April of 1967:

1. A change in the present limit on the number of departments in the state government to permit a separate Department of Mental Retardation.

The present limitation of 20 Departments is completely unrealistic in the light of the continuing growing complexity of government, according to the Association. Delegates will be urged that this limitation be removed from the Constitution.

2. The elimination of the present requirement that reimbursement to agencies using state or federal-state funds be made on a basis of pre-audited bills, i. e., that they lay out their own money.

Under this provision, grants from the state under the Community Mental Health Services Act and the Vocational Rehabilitation measures, has been a virtual invitation to bankruptcy for the Chapters of the Association. When the grant is made, through a Mental Health Board contract, the Association must put up own money in advance to match state funds. In addition, it can receive no reimbursement until it lays out all the money for a period of time, usually a quarter, and submits paid bills to the state.

3. The provision contained in the proposed amendment on this year's ballot to permit the state to pledge its credit for aid to private agencies for the mentally retarded and the mentally ill.

### DELEGATES ADOPT (Continued from Previous Column)

2. A bill to amend extensively the Community Mental Health Services Act by, among other things, making services for the mentally retarded mandatory, providing specific reimbursement by the State for city or county expenses for such services and also providing for appeals to the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene from refusals to establish such services.

##### F. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1. A bill to require "receiving" school districts to contract with "sending" school districts (those having fewer than the minimum number of children for whom a class must be established).

2. A bill to change the formula of state aid to school districts to provide specific reimbursement of "weighting" for classes for the handicapped.

3. A bill to require the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to reimburse agencies operating sheltered workshops at the rate of \$5.00 a day per worker on an average daily attendance basis for workers not able to work in industry.

4. A bill to provide that school districts, etc., shall be eligible for state aid for the full cost of transportation for handicapped children on routes of twenty miles or more.

5. A bill to authorize boards of education to furnish transportation to mentally retarded children under five years of age who attend day training programs provided by state aid.

##### G. SOCIAL WELFARE

A bill to provide that the need of a disabled person for aid to the totally disabled be determined on the basis of permitting the person to live independently.

In addition, the Association will support the following measures, if they are introduced by others:

1. A bill to provide a salary differential of 10% in favor of teachers of the handicapped.

2. A bill to prohibit life insurance companies from refusing to issue policies up to \$2,500 in amount on otherwise qualified proposed insureds on the sole ground that such proposed insured is mentally retarded.

The Association will continue to oppose:

1. The bill to change the name of state schools to "State Schools and Hospitals."

2. The so-called Family Maintenance Bill insofar as it might permit the Department of Mental Hygiene to obtain reimbursement from the estate of a parent who had disinherited his retarded child.

**DELEGATES ADOPT** Continued Next Column)



## ROCKEFELLER LEADERSHIP LAUDED BY STATE CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions adopted by the delegates at the State Convention included an expression of appreciation to Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller, the efforts of his administration to meet the problems of the retarded, and also expressed "the hope that there will be no diminution in such efforts in the future to fill the gaps which now remain."

In addition, delegates adopted a resolution disapproval of NARC policy with regard to Chapters "obtaining" rather than "providing" services and instructed its delegates to NARC to work for its repeal and the adoption of a policy looking towards obtaining services where practicable and providing them where necessary.

Further items in the resolutions were those concerned with hostels, or community residences, a study of the admissions policy Department of Mental Hygiene with regard to commitment of children with behavior problems, and the need of training all teachers for the needs of the exceptional children.

The Resolutions adopted follows:

**RESOLVED:** This Association commends the expressed interest of Dr. Alan D. Miller, the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Hygiene, in the mentally retarded, and hopes that this will result in an accelerated program for remedying the deficiencies that still exist in state schools and community services, and that serious consideration be given, therefore, to the recommendations contained in the report of the Institutions Committee of this Association.

**RESOLVED:** This Association disapproves the NARC policy with regard to Chapters "obtaining" rather than "providing" services and instructs its delegates to NARC to work for its repeal and for the adoption of a policy looking towards obtaining services where practicable and providing them where necessary.

**RESOLVED:** This Association urges the State Education Department, in order that all New York State teachers have a better understanding of the needs of retarded children, to require that all students in teacher training colleges have at least one course in the field of exceptional children with emphasis upon mental retardation, and that such a course be offered in the early years of each student's preparation.

**RESOLVED:** Proper State Departments and agencies dealing with public health nurses be urged to include educational and in-service training programs for public health nurses in the field of home training and management of the retarded child.

**RESOLVED:** This Association urges a speed-up in the activation of the program to establish hostel or Community Residences by the Department of Mental Hygiene to provide facilities for the social supervision of retarded adults to speed their return to the community and to prevent institutionalization of adults who can remain in the community with social supervision.

**RESOLVED:** A study be made by the Department of Mental Hygiene that the admissions policy of the Department with regard to commitment of children with behavior problems who are not mentally retarded to state schools for the mentally retarded.

**WHEREAS** the State Administration, under the leadership of Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller, has expressed sympathetic understanding of and efficient cooperation with the efforts of the New York State Association for Retarded Children in effectuating solutions to the many vexing problems facing the mentally retarded: and

**WHEREAS**, these efforts under such leadership have been rewarded with substantial progress in the many areas of mental retardation services and, although recognizing that many gaps remain and that many services are still required to be furnished for the mentally retarded, the New York State Association for Retarded Children in Convention assembled at Jamestown, New York, on October 7, 8 and 9, by this

**RESOLUTION** expresses its appreciation to Governor Rockefeller for the efforts of his Administration to meet the problems of the retarded, and also expresses the hope that there will be no diminution in such efforts in the future to fill the gaps which now remain.

## LEE DOWLING HONORED BY ASSOCIATION

At the State Convention in Jamestown, Lee Dowling, former executive director of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation and Physical Handicap, was honored for his many years of devoted service to the mentally retarded. The honor took the form of a bronze plaque.



**The moment of the Award to Lee Dowling, former Executive Director of the Joint Legislative Committee, by Warner Thompson, former Counsel to the Committee. Mrs. James F. Reville, Joseph T. Weingold, James F. Reville and Bette Dowling look on**

In presenting the award, the Hon. Warner F. Thompson, former Counsel to the Committee said, in part, "Lee Dowling is no stranger to the needs of those citizens of our state who need consideration because of special circumstances. In the year 1938, after a successful career in business Lee was persuaded to go to Albany and became interested in the work of the Department of Social Welfare and the activities of the Temporary Emergency Relief Administration. He later became Deputy Commissioner of Social Welfare. Later on, Governor Dewey, recognizing Lee's abilities, appointed him Chairman of the State Youth Commission, which office he held for five years until ill health compelled his retirement.

"Then in the summer of 1955 the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation was organized. Senator Brydges, recognizing the need for a competent staff, asked Lee to come out of retirement and assume the duties of Executive Director of the Committee, and Lee accepted the position.

"During the several years that Lee served the committee over 120 bills in this field were enacted into law. The culmination of Lee's efforts was the enactment of a proposed amendment of the State Constitution to permit the Legislature to provide for the education and support of the mentally retarded as it may deem proper. If this amendment is adopted, as it should be in this fall's election, the mentally retarded will be provided for in our basic law for the first time.

"Lee, you have had a remarkable career. You have done much for those who have needed your help. You and your family should be sincerely proud of your accomplishments.

"Throughout your years of active service in government, you have approached your task, with humility, with graciousness, with perseverance, with courteousness, and with dedication.

"To one who so richly deserves recognition, and with the affectionate and warm best wishes of us all, I present to you the award of the A. R. C. for outstanding service."

## BETTE DAVIS HEADS NEW YORK CITY FUND DRIVE

Bette Davis, herself the parent of a handicapped child, has assumed the chairmanship of the New York City Chapter's fund drive.

In a letter addressed to all parents, she states, "I appeal to all parents to help the mentally retarded. A parent knows the frustration, worry, hardship and . . . yes . . . joy in rearing a child. Magnify that five times for the parent of a retarded child."

"We have come a long way," commented Jim Reville, President of the Association. "Prominent public figures in all walks of life, including that of entertainment which probably has one of the greatest impacts on the public, are coming forward to help openly in our cause."



## FINESON ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NARC



**Bernard M. Fineson**

At the annual Convention in Kansas City, the delegates unanimously elected Mr. Bernard M. Fineson, Senior Vice President of NARC, to the Presidency.

Bernie is one of the pioneers of the parents movement, having joined the Association for Retarded Children, New York State, very shortly after its beginning.

Active on many committees, especially the Legal and Legislative Committee of which he was chairman for many years, Bernie was elected President of the New York State Association for Retarded Children and served in that capacity for five years.

His training as chief trial examiner of a New York State Labor Relations Board has given him a broad knowledge of the law. His own experience with a mentally retarded child made him particularly sensitive and receptive to the needs of these children and how they can be met through legislation and other actions.

All of us in the Association join Mildred, his wife, Steve, his son, and Luba, his daughter, in congratulating Bernie on this election.

## BEATITUDES OF FRIENDS OF RETARDED CHILDREN

"Came across this in the Boston Globe recently," writes Walt Schofield, former director of the Schenectady County Chapter, now with the Department of Mental Hygiene.

"Thought you might appreciate the thoughts also."

We do, and they follow:

"Blessed are they who know the needs of the little one sent by God above to guide, to comfort, and to love.

"Blessed are they who understand the many mistakes we made and are not ashamed.

"Blessed are they who never say 'You've been told that a dozen times today.'

"Blessed are they who love me still. God knew of your faith and that you would not question His will.

"Blessed are they who can softly say, 'Try harder, you'll do better another day.'

"Blessed are they who understand my very limited mind. You care more for me than the scratch on the furniture fine.

"Blessed are they who hold back the tears and learn to smile, when the heart is hurting all the while.

"Blessed are they who accept the Graces to carry their cross, Heaven to you will not be a loss.

"Blessed are they who say with their voices of love, 'He is our Exceptional Child.'"

(Author unknown)  
submitted by Eternity.

## FIRST WEINGOLD SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Miss Maureen Mullane, Senior in Special Education at Mt. St. Mary's College in Newburgh, New York, and Miss Judith Thorpe, a Junior, who attends the State University College at Geneseo, were the first recipients of the Joseph T. Weingold Scholarship Awards in Special Education offered by the Association. These two young ladies were selected as the award recipients from a group of outstanding students referred by every college in the State offering courses in teaching the mentally retarded.

The Weingold Scholarship, created by the Board of Governors and approved by the Association in 1965, was set up in honor of 15 years of service to the Association by the State Executive Director, Joseph T. Weingold. The sum of \$1,000 per year was allotted for the scholarship of which \$500 annually will be used in the field of Vocational Rehabilitation and the remaining \$500 in Special Education.



**JUDITH THORPE**



**MAUREEN MULLANE**

The Special Education award will be a two-year award to be given during the student's Junior and Senior years in the amount of \$250 per year. For the first year of the award, it was divided into two parts with one half the money going to a College senior for one year and the Junior student receiving the remaining half of the \$500, available as the first part of a two year award. Hereafter, only one award will be made each year, that, to a Junior student.

Under the direction of George G. Hirsch, Chairman of the Scholarship & Awards Committee, the Association contacted each of the Colleges in the State offering undergraduate courses in teaching the mentally retarded. Each school was asked to submit the name of one Junior and one Senior student for consideration for the award. The names of the students submitted were then reviewed by Mr. Weingold and representatives of the Scholarship & Awards Committee and the final decision was reached on the winners.

Miss Mullane, whose home is in Chappaqua, New York, is the eldest of nine children. She had worked with summer camps during her high school days and while in College tutored slow learners and did some work with culturally deprived children. With the introduction of Special Education courses at her College in 1964, she became interested in the field of the mentally retarded and after field trips to public schools and Letchworth Village, she felt she would like to pursue this course. In a letter to the Association, she wrote, "I realize that with the growth of a social and intellectual culture it is pertinent that the mentally retarded child be aided in order to function in this society. I want to help these children find their place; to be able to function as closely as possible with the normal child."

Miss Thorpe, whose home is Sherrill, New York, is one of four children. She is carrying an average of better than B plus in her College courses. She has had considerable background with the mentally retarded doing volunteer work at Craig Colony on week-ends and having worked with special classes while in High school. Her plans were to do volunteer work at Rome State School during this past summer.



## NO HANDICAP TO COST REDUCTION

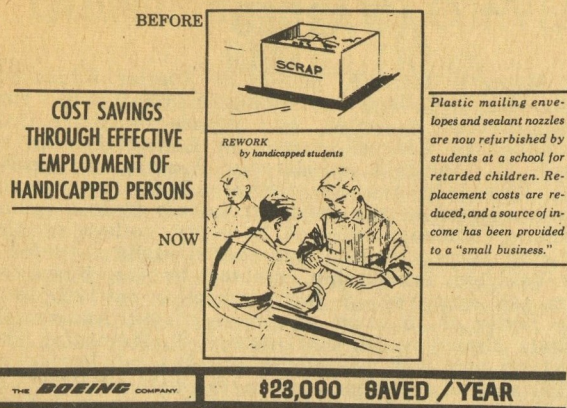


Illustration used by Ad Council to promote employment of retarded

The following is an editorial reprinted from the Department of Defense Cost Reduction Journal, Spring, 1966: "One poster in particular caught our eye at the Contractor Cost Reduction Exhibit in Boston. It is reproduced above.

"We are reminded that both the Department of Defense and the General Services Administration have endorsed to all businesses and industries holding Government contracts the use of sheltered workshops for the handicapped as subcontractors. The joint statement points out that sheltered workshops 'can supply a wide variety of goods and services at competitive prices, and Government prime contractors are encouraged to give these workshops every opportunity to compete for subcontracts.'

"An article in the March-April 1964 'Journal of Rehabilitation', official publication of the National Rehabilitation Association, reports the results of a survey of contractor opinions on 'the ability of sheltered workshops to do work on a regular business-like production and quality basis.' Of the 132 contractors surveyed, 82 percent said the performances of these workshops was better than or equal to performance in most industrial organizations, 6 percent gave no opinion, and 14 percent (included in the 82 percent) said workshops performed far better' than most industrial organizations.

"'Anyone who needs more convincing,' says a representative of the President's Committee for Employment of the Handicapped, 'might take a look at the workshops in his area.'"

## NEW RECORD FOR REHABILITATED

The Secretary of Health, Education and welfare, John W. Gardner, announced recently that more than 154,000 disabled men and women were rehabilitated for jobs during the year ending June 30, 1966, under the Federal-state programs administered by the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration.

He noted that this is a new record and an increase of 14% over the previous year's total of 134,859.

For the third year in succession, Pennsylvania led the nation in the number of physically handicapped persons rehabilitated, with 12,338. New York was second with 9,512.

In the number rehabilitated per 100,000 population, West Virginia ranked first, with 222, as compared with the national average of 78. New York ranked 41st with 53 per 100,000 population being rehabilitated.

These figures do not completely reflect the picture in New York, however, because of the many facilities that have been developed in relationship to DVR.

Clifford Westfall, Chairman of the Vocational Rehabilitation Committee of the New York State Association, said that the figures are completely misleading. "Federal figures are based on very rigid reporting which takes into account only those persons who are placed in industry or jobs. This does not reflect a real rehabilitation picture, as many persons are rehabilitated to the extent of their capabilities and even lead better lives at home or at sheltered workshops as before, but are not figured in the statistics present."

## HOWARD JOHNSON TO TRAIN 200 RETARDED WITH U. S. AID

The Howard Johnson Company announced that it will hire 200 mentally retarded persons for kitchen, counter jobs and restaurant service.

Fredrich H. Thomford, executive vice president of Howard Johnson's mid-Atlantic division, said that restaurants in the New York-New Jersey area will participate in the project initially under a contract with the National Association for Retarded Children.

Placement will be followed by a 10-week-on-the-job training period during which trainees will be paid a minimum of \$1.25 per hour for a 40-hour week.

Howard Johnson will be reimbursed \$25 a week for each trainee from Federal funds being administered by the National Association under a demonstration grant. When the 10 weeks end, trainees will go on the regular company payroll, the announcement said.

All screening for placement in these jobs is through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Last reports are that the Division is tremendously understaffed and there is a snag at present in screening applicants.

## MORE THAN JOB SKILLS MAY BE NEEDED

It takes more than job skills for the mentally retarded to succeed in outside employment, Wassaic State School declares. The retarded person may need help in things entirely unrelated to his job in order to earn a living. Examples from case files of the School:

"A young man skilled at using factory tools had a personality problem. Because of a deformed nose, he avoided people. The School arranged for plastic surgery, restoring his self confidence. Today he assembles tiny parts for hearing aids in a factory. He not only supports himself, but also has a \$5,000 bank account.

"A retarded young lady had lost the use of her hands through polio, reducing her chances of holding a job. The School arranged for physical therapy. She regained enough use of her hands to work. Today, she is employed in a convalescent home, carrying books and recreational material to patients and helping to make them comfortable. She earns \$175 a month plus her keep.

"A young Puerto Rican had been in the School for nine months. He was skilled with his hands but he refused training and he refused friendships. He was frightened; he didn't speak enough English to get along by himself. The School found him a job on an assembly line in a dress factory staffed mainly by Puerto Ricans. He felt at home and developed quickly. He's still there, doing well."

—From the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

## RUTGERS RECEIVES PLANNING GRANT

### SHELTERED WORKSHOPS ADMINISTRATORS TRAINING STUDY

The Vocational Rehabilitation Administration of the U. S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare has awarded Rutgers University a grant of \$27,000 to plan for a training program for Administrators of Sheltered Workshops.

The planning grant will be administered jointly by the Economics Dept. of the College of Arts and Sciences, headed by its chairman, Dr. Monroe Berkowitz, and by the Bureau of Community Services of the University Extensor Division, headed by its director, George A. Tapper.

Dean W. Garwood, formerly director of the Occupational Center of Union county from 1959 to the present, has been engaged as the Project Director.

Rutgers is the third university in the country to receive one of these sheltered workshop grants, the other two being the University of San Francisco and the University of Wisconsin.

The plan during the first year is to develop a training program with the first class for workshop administrators beginning the fall of 1967.



## ARC CHAPTERS HONOR "EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR"

### MONROE AND SUFFOLK COUNTIES MAKE AWARDS

On October 4, 1966, the Monroe County Chapter of the Association held its Third Annual "Employer of the Year" and "Contract Customer of the Year" Award ceremonies at the Chapter office.

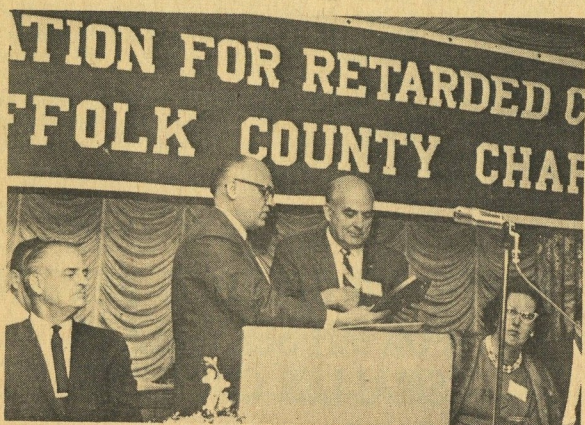
Xerox Corporation was the winner of "Contract Customer of the Year" and the University of Rochester the winner of "Employer of the Year."

The University of Rochester has hired over 15 mentally retarded people just in the last year and many more before that time. Its orientation program for the retardate is also unique.

Polychrome Press was cited as the runnerup for "Contract Customer of the Year." Last year this company won the Award.

Well over sixty people from business and industry, City Councilmen and Civic leaders witness the presentation. A buffet was prepared by the trainees in the Day Training Program and served prior to the Awards presentations.

The Suffolk County Chapter, at its annual dinner, awarded the Annual "Employer of the Year" honor for Suffolk County to the Davis Aircraft Products, Inc. The Award was made by Mr. William Spinelli, District Supervisor of the State Education Department, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.



Mr. William Spinelli, District Supervisor of the State Education Department, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, presenting the Annual "Employer of the Year" Award for Suffolk County to Mr. Frank L. Davis, President of the Davis Aircraft Products, Inc. of Northport, L. I. Illustration used by Ad Council to promote employment of retarded.



Xerox Corp. is winner of "Contract Customer of the Year" award in Rochester; Mrs. Elsie Forrest represents the University of Rochester as "Employer of the Year" and Mr. Dario Armanini, representing Polychrome Press, runner up as "Contract Customer of the Year."

## MINIMUM WAGE LAW TO AFFECT WORKSHOPS

President Johnson has signed the bill (H R-13712) amending the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, extending its protection to additional employees, raising the minimum wages, and including Title V, "Handicapped Workers." This Title is, in essence, S.2210, which had been introduced by Senator Morse, who also chaired the subcommittee which drafted wage and hour legislation. The amendment is as follows:

1. Minimum wages in sheltered workshops will not be less than 50% of the federal minimum wages in 1967; not less than 75% in 1968; and not less than the minimum wage in 1969.

2. The Secretary may issue special certificates permitting lower wages in the case of handicapped workers engaged in training or evaluation programs, where their work is incidental to such programs. Other special certificates may be issued under "exceptional circumstances," which would relate to individuals so severely impaired that they are unable to engage in competitive employment. There is no legal minimum for wages in such cases.

3. The Secretary is authorized to establish a new classification called "Work Activity Centers," which shall be distinguished from sheltered workshops. These are exclusively for handicapped workers whose physical or mental impairments are so severe as to make their productive capacity "inconsequential."

4. The state vocational rehabilitation agencies will certify as to the productive capacity of individuals in this latter category.

In reporting the bill, the committee added an additional section which directs the Secretary of Labor to immediately begin a study of the possible effects of this legislation upon the employment of handicapped people in the workshops and to make a report to Congress by June 30, 1967. The decision to include a provision for the study was precipitated by the fear of many people in rehabilitation and workshop fields that the imposition of a minimum wage in workshops would result in excluding from the workshops individuals who cannot be expected to earn such a wage.

The National Association for Retarded Children joined many others in expressing misgivings about the legislation. Our concern centered on the fact that no comprehensive public hearings had been conducted on the legislation; that neither the Secretary of Labor nor the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare had expressed any official viewpoint, and the Administration had not taken a position; and that the passing of such legislation was not an emergency matter and should get more deliberate attention. NARC has long felt, with National Association of Sheltered Workshops, that minimum wages in workshops must be accompanied by subsidies to help pay the cost between what is paid to an individual and what he actually earns. So far, Congress has given no consideration to this problem. As the Secretary of Labor undertakes his study, it is felt that this issue will have to be faced.

Department of Labor is holding private hearings around the country and conferences in a manner that can only be described as secretive to help it formulate the regulations.

## TALKING TYPEWRITERS IN STATE SCHOOLS

"Talking Typewriters" are to be used in 18 state hospitals and schools to teach retarded and emotionally disturbed children, Gov. Rockefeller recently announced.

Federal grants total \$1,174,185 will enable the State Department of Mental Hygiene to hire 282 teachers and other personnel and to buy teaching machines. The state schools involved are Craig Colony, Newark, Rome, Syracuse, Wassaic, West Seneca, Willowbrook and Letchworth Village.

The talking typewriters involve combination typewriters and tape recorders to teach children to read and write.

The state program will also utilize language laboratories combining visual and hearing devices. The machines facilitate learning for the children and enable some children to enter normal classes, when used in the community.



## WILLS AND TRUSTS MUST BE CAREFULLY DRAWN RECENT DECISION EMPHASISES NEED

A decision of the Surrogate of Kings County (in re Harry Schram, deceased, New York Journal, April 18, 1966) emphasizes the need of careful drafting of wills and trusts for the benefit of mentally ill or mentally retarded persons, and the lengths to which courts will go to reimburse the Department of Mental Hygiene.

Mr. Schram, in his will, set up a trust for his mentally ill sister to take effect only if the sister "resides at a public hospital . . ." at the time of his death. The trustee was directed to "use the income for the benefit of my sister in any way within my trustee's complete discretion." He was also given power to invade the principal for the use and benefit of the sister, primarily in the event of "serious illness, misfortune or other emergency or unusual condition . . ." The income of the trust was not enough to pay the Department's bill, and the trustee refused to pay the balance out of principal. The court held that this was an abuse of discretion and ordered him to pay, because, although the power of invasion was intended primarily for serious illness, etc., Mr. Schram did not "exclude the principal from being used for other purposes, to wit, the proper support, maintenance and shelter of the beneficiary."

A decision of the United States Supreme Court (Baxstrom v. Herold, 383 U. S. 107) holds the procedure prescribed by Sec. 384, New York Correction Law, for the civil commitment of a mentally ill prisoner at the end of the term of his sentence, is unconstitutional. The reason is that the procedure denies him the equal protection of the laws because he has not the right to the jury review available to all other persons civilly committed for mental illness in New York. This case was decided February 23, 1966, and it is not yet apparent whether or not the courts will construe it as applying to the provisions of the Correction Law and the Code of Criminal Procedure relating to the commitment of mentally retarded persons convicted of or charged with a crime. None of the cases in which it has been cited so far deals with the mentally retarded. In any event, the whole subject of involuntary commitment of the mentally retarded needs serious study and reform.

## LESS THAN 2 PERCENT SPENT ON MENTAL RETARDATION

Less than 2% of the total amount spent by Community Mental Health Boards in 1965 was spent on Mental Retardation, according to figures of the Division of Local Services of the Department of Mental Hygiene in the State of New York.

The total amount spent by Community Mental Health Boards in 1965 was \$52,132,194 of which \$22,298,667 was State aid.

A little over \$1,200,000 was spent in toto for mental retardation services, including clinics, day training centers and all other services.

The amount spent on clinics for the retarded was a little over \$560,000. Of this amount, \$281,000 was contributed by the State, \$249,000 by agencies. Counties contributed only \$31,398.45.

On Day Training Centers, a total of \$643,000 was spent. Of this amount, \$321,500 was spent by the State and \$283,579 by the various agencies, almost all of them Chapters of the State Association. Only \$37,956.91 was contributed by the counties.

Thus, in 12 years of operation of the Community and Mental Health Services Act, we can see the relative importance of Mental Retardation in the total picture.

The Association will once again press for the complete revision of the Community Mental Health Services Act to make services for the mentally retarded mandatory under the Act and to permit Associations to appeal from adverse decisions of Mental Health Boards refusing to enter into contracts contemplated under the Act.

## RETARDED INELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION MAY RECEIVE STATE AID

A measure given little chance for success has passed the last session of the Legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

This law amends Section 4407 of the Education Law to include the mentally handicapped in provisions which permit the State Department of Education to pay up to \$2,000 a year for the instruction of physically handicapped children.

Previously the law provided that such payments for a suitable private educational facility within the State if a child is not receiving instruction in a public facility because there are no adequate such facilities because of the unusual type of the handicap or a combination of handicaps.

In the last issue of OCV it was reported that the State Department of Education has interpreted this to include the mentally retarded if they also suffer from certain physical handicaps.

It is now no longer necessary for them to suffer from such handicaps. The mentally handicapped are included by designation and the ability of the Department is enlarged to make payments to facilities within as well as without the State.

A bulletin has gone out to all Chapters from the State Office outlining some of the procedures.

This bulletin has received the approval of the State Department of Education after the Association objected to the Department's own criteria which the Association found too confining and rigid.

Applications should be made by the parents directly to Charles D. Becker or by the Association for the parents and children by name. In any event, the parents must eventually make the application.

## STATE AID UPPED 75 PERCENT FOR MH SERVICES IN SMALLER COUNTIES

Counties or cities in New York State with populations of less than 200,000 will be encouraged to expand their community mental health services under provisions of a bill recently signed by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller after last year's legislative session. This measure increases state aid to localities from 50% to 75% for the first \$100,000 in operating cost.

The State will continue to pay 50% of the costs incurred by counties over 200,000 population and of costs above \$100,000 in the smaller counties.

Forty-seven counties north of New York City have less than 200,000 residents and will qualify for this aid increase. Forty of these now have community mental health boards and most of the other seven are exploring the possibility of establishing organized boards.

The defect in the law, according to Augustus Jacobs, Chairman of the Legal and Legislative Committee of the Association, is that it is not tied in with services for the mentally retarded. Thus a small community may spend its first \$100,000 on services other than the mentally retarded and the services for the mentally retarded, being over the \$100,000 mark will be relegated to a 50% reimbursement.

The operation of the law, however, has found several counties where the Association has been the beneficiary of the 75% reimbursement. The question still remains what will happen to the 75% reimbursement when county begins spending over \$100,000.

In one county upstate, the mental health board is spending most of the first \$100,000 on administrative costs and very few projects for services will be receiving the 75% reimbursement from the state.

The Association will continue to press for at least 75% reimbursement for all counties for services for the mentally retarded.



## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RATIFIED

### DIRECT STATE AID FOR RETARDATION AND MENTAL HEALTH NOW POSSIBLE

A Constitutional Amendment that will permit the State to give or loan its money in aid of private associations or undertakings for mental retardation or mental health projects was passed by an overwhelming vote in the recent election.

The Amendment to Article VII, Section 8 of the Constitution removes the prohibition against the State giving or loaning its money in aid of a private association undertaking; or to pledge its credit for that purpose, except for funds or property now held or which may hereafter be held by the State for educational purposes.

The same section of the Constitution, however, provides that nothing shall prevent the legislature from providing for a number of purposes including the "education and support of the blind, the dumb, the physically handicapped, and juvenile delinquents as it may deem proper."

The Amendment adds to this enumerated list the "mentally ill, the emotionally disturbed, and the mentally retarded." It also adds "mental health or mental retardation" funds for those excepted from the prohibition against aiding private organizations.

Under this Constitutional Amendment, if proper legislation is enacted, the State may now deal directly with voluntary organizations such as ourselves to help support projects for the mentally retarded.

The previous prohibition in the Constitution forced the State to create artificial ways of dealing with voluntary agencies who were actually doing the work, through aid to municipalities who, in turn, then had to give the money to the organization. For example, under Public Law 88-164, Construction of Mental Retardation Facilities, the State could not give any grants directly to a voluntary organization for such construction. This prohibition has now been removed.

It is noteworthy that the Amendment does not in itself pledge the State to expend any monies. All such expenditures are subject to legislative action.

The bill was passed for the first time in 1965 when introduced by Senator Kraf. It was passed, as required by the Constitution, again in 1966 as introduced by Senator Conklin and Assemblyman Steingut.

## GOVERNOR VETOES YOUTHFUL OFFENDER BILL

For the third year running, Governor Rockefeller has vetoed a bill that would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Correction Law to treat mentally retarded persons as youthful offenders regardless of their age.

The philosophy behind the bill is that, all things being equal, the mentally retarded should be judged before the law according to their mental rather than their chronological ages.

The bill would not change the rules as regards criminal responsibility of persons charged with crimes. The change is a procedural one to give the judge a wider range of dispositional possibilities. At present, if the retarded are treated as adults, and are not so mentally retarded as to be able to plead that as a defense to the crime, the judge must send them to a correctional institution, probably a prison. If treated as youthful offenders, under the bill as proposed, the judge would have a greater variety of possible dispositions, including institutions in the Department of Mental Hygiene as well as community facilities.

The Governor's veto recites the fact that he disapproved the bill in 1964 and 1965 and for the same reason he disapproves this one.

The fact is that this bill differs materially from the others and bears also the approval of the Chairman of the Temporary Commission on the Revision of the Criminal Code, Assemblyman Bartlett.

In his veto message, the Governor states that the Department of Mental Hygiene and the Department of Correction, the Department of Social Welfare, the State administrator of the Judicial Conference, the State Association for Mental Health, the District Attorney of New York County and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York all recommended disapproval.

The efforts of the chairman of the Legal and Legislative Committee of the State Association, Augustus Jacobs, to obtain copies of the memorandum disapproval from the State departments have met with rejections of these departments on the ground that this is confidential information and can only be revealed with the Governor's consent.

A letter has been written to the Governor asking him to release this information to the Association.

Information has also been solicited from the others who have quoted as disapproving the bill to see what their objections are.

## Occupation Day Center For Retarded



New York City Chapter's occupation day center of the Association opens at Gustave Hartman YM-YWHA where it is a project of the Far Rockaway Auxiliary. Emil Levin (second from left) president of Queensborough Council for Social Welfare, cuts ribbon. Others shown are Leslie Sharaga, executive director of the "Y"; Mrs. Enid Becker, past president of auxiliary and Jack Gorelick, director of AHRC occupation day centers.

## HEALTH LEGISLATION FAILS TO PASS HOUSE KILLS JAVITS AMENDMENTS

In a last minute action, the House of Representatives voted a comprehensive health legislation bill and eliminated all the Javits amendments to the Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act.

These amendments would have authorized help in staffing mental retardation facilities constructed under the Act; and permitted Federal aid for the acquisition of property and the cost of land in connection with the construction.

The Act will also authorize training physical education, recreation personnel for retardates and other handicapped children.

In the rush to close the session, the bill failed to go to conference.

Senator Javits in a speech on the Senate floor pointed out that the amendment to bring in line the construction of mental retardation facilities with the construction of mental health centers and also the vocational rehabilitation amendment was eliminated by the House Committee. He stated that every effort will be made next year to see to it that this was corrected.

It was obvious from the progress of the bill, that the administration was not in favor of it, due, probably, to the desire not to spend money this year on this type of project.



## FUNCTIONAL STUDIES OF NEW STATE SCHOOLS COMPLETED

A quarter of a million dollar study by Chapman and Garber, Architects, for the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene Facilities Improvement Fund for three new institutions has been completed.

Among the chief recommendations of the study were plans for a A. R. C. and New York State close cooperation in a number of projects and for comprehensive Habilitation Programs.

As a result of the study, three books were published in July, 1966.

1. Functional Space and Facility Planning for a State School for the Mentally Retarded at Wilton, New York.
2. Functional Space and Facility Planning for a State School for the Mentally Retarded at Syracuse, New York.
3. Functional Space and Facility Planning for a State School for the Mentally Retarded at Kings County, New York.

Proposals for comprehensive programs for each of these communities (community-wise State Schools and other facilities) were made. Some plans will cover programming until 1990.

These books are now being circulated nationally. One of the plans was accepted unconditionally, while the other two books have been accepted, subject to further study.

It is possible that copies of these may be obtained from the Mental Hygiene Facilities Improvement Fund, 95 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York.

## STATE BUILDING CAMP AT WILTON FOR RETARDED

Resident camping will be available to mentally retarded young people at a camp to be built at Wilton, Saratoga County, by next summer.

Site preparation for the \$200,000 camp is under way at this time and construction is scheduled to begin soon.

Accommodating 120 resident campers and 48 staff members, the camp will be located on the property on which the Wilton State School for the Retarded will be built.

The camp will serve residents of state schools for the retarded and may accept retarded children living at home in the Wilton area.

Plans for both the Wilton School and the camp are being made by the architectural firm of Whittlesey, Conklin and Rossant of New York City, which designed Reston, the new self-contained suburban city outside of Washington, D. C.

While the plans closely resemble the type of camps used by Scouts and similar groups, they are carefully designed to provide easy orientation for retarded youngsters as to the layout of cabin sites, main buildings, etc.

"Providing this type of camping experience for the retarded," Governor Rockefeller said in making the announcement, "not only makes for a healthful vacation, it also steps up learning of social skills and development of desirable character and personality traits. We are hopeful we can open the camp to retarded children living at home — as scheduling of campers from state schools will permit — to afford a vacation for both these youngsters and their parents. This is most important, as these children usually have little opportunity to socialize with others and their parents so often must sacrifice a great deal of freedom to care for them."

The Department plans to have a camping season of about four months. Retarded children in school can go to camp during the July and August summer vacation but the older retarded no longer attending classes can be scheduled during June and September.

The estimate includes all costs of developing the site of approximately five acres, constructing the camp structures, providing a swimming area, equipping the kitchen, building a road into the campsite from old Route 9, and providing sanitary facilities in the residence cabins and utilities for the camp.

## WILLOWBROOK BEGINS TRANSFER OF PATIENTS

In September, Willowbrook State School began the long-awaited transfer of patients to New Suffolk State School, one of the number of moves designed to reduce overcrowding and improve conditions at the nation's largest institution for the retarded.

In addition to the transfers, Dr. Jack Hammond, Willowbrook's Director, said the new bank of classrooms and 10 pre-fabricated buildings will be completed and placed in use.

"Until Nov. 30, we will be first transferring younger and physically handicapped children whose parents reside in Nassau and Suffolk County," Dr. Hammond said.

"The new school already has patients who had been transferred from Willowbrook to Bronx State Hospital on a temporary or holding basis over the last two years." These number about 700.

Hammond said there will be about 120 in the first group of new transfers and approximately 600 more will be shifted later on.

The pre-fabs built at a cost of \$1.5 million will accommodate 300.

The first block was ready Sept. 12.

The significant feature of the pre-fabs, is that no ward will have more than 30 patients and each has its own classroom and day-room. Children between the ages of 6 and 12 will occupy the new buildings.

The transfers and additional space for 300 will dent the overcrowding that has plagued Willowbrook and has been the basis of criticism of conditions at the school.

Despite a closed admission policy, Willowbrook is still more than 1,300 over its rated capacity of 4,528.

Unfortunately, the waiting list is over 1,000 at this time and one wonders what will happen when admissions are reopened.

The nearest estimate for the completion of any of the new State Schools is at least five years.

## \$2.7 MILLION TO MENTAL HYGIENE FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS

Federal grants totaling \$2,715,668 have been made to the Department of Mental Hygiene to carry out special programs in the treatment and educational enrichment of retarded and emotionally disturbed children and intensified professional training.

Pilot programs aimed at giving psychiatric nurses and aides deeper, more creative insight into their roles as members of therapy teams will begin in July at eight state hospitals and schools. The National Institute of Mental Health has approved nearly \$700,000 in in-service training grants for the programs which will include courses in psychiatry, psychology and other disciplines to provide a better grasp of various types of mental illness and mental retardation with particular emphasis on up-to-date approaches to treatment.

The eight institutions receiving grants are St. Lawrence, Marcy, Utica, Hudson River, Rockland and Bronx State hospitals, Syracuse Psychiatric and Craig Colony.

"Talking typewriters" and other electronic teaching devices will be used this summer (1966) in six-week educational enrichment programs for retarded and emotionally disturbed children in 8 state schools and 10 hospitals. Federal grants totaling \$1,174,185 will be used to employ teachers and other staff personnel for some 2,923 pupils and to purchase 18 "talking typewriters" and 16 "language laboratory" machines.

The program for retarded youngsters will be conducted at Newark, Rome, Syracuse, Wassaic, West Seneca and Willowbrook state schools, Letchworth Village and Craig Colony.

The National Institute of Mental Health has awarded Hospital Improvement Grants totaling \$861,708 to Newark State School and Marcy State Hospital to determine how much personalized care can help severely retarded pre-school children and disturbed adolescents.

A five-year grant of \$487,010 has been made to Newark for a "Residential Unit Care Plan for Retarded Children" to continue developing a program of improved individualized care of severely retarded children under five unable to walk, talk or feed themselves.



## GRADUATES FROM SCHOOL OF NURSING AT WILLOWBROOK



Governor Rockefeller, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene Alan D. Miller and Dr. Jack Hammond, Director of Willowbrook State School with graduates (front) Charlotte Clark, Phyllis Giglio and Jeanne Fantoli; (rear) Robert Scherbyn and Sabine Cooper

## NURSING SCHOOL EXPANDS LIBRARY AT WILLOWBROOK MAX GORDON'S MEMORY HONORED

The Nursing Arts Section of the Library of the School for Practical Nursing at Willowbrook State School, Staten Island, New York, was recently dedicated in the memory of Max Gordon. Mr. Gordon was a founder and the ninth president of the Benevolent Society for Retarded Children—Willowbrook Chapter of the Association.

The dedication followed the first commencement exercises of the School of Practical Nursing at which Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller was the principal speaker.

The new library portion was made possible through the gifts of the members and friends of the Benevolent Society to the Max Gordon Memorial Fund.

Through the Benevolent Society's volunteers, the 6,000 mentally retarded children and adults at Willowbrook are provided with parties, story hours, movies, trips to the city, and recreation equipment. The Chapter contributes to research projects for the mentally retarded. A current clothing drive is to provide for the more than 3,000 abandoned residents who have no relative to supply their needs. Their aim is to bring to the child in the institution a fuller life, comparable to that of his brother or sister residing at home. A basic goal is the training towards self-reliance and the improvement of social adjustment according to each child's mental capacity.

Mr. William Heisler, First Vice President, gave the memorial address and read the plaque commemorating the event.

## OPERATION "SWEAT"

### THREE STATE SCHOOLS SET GRANTS

Under a new U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare program, 38 high school and college students were able to investigate careers in aiding the mentally handicapped by working this summer in three New York State Schools for the mentally retarded.

The students worked under the Student Work Experience and Training Program, (SWEAT), funded through the U. S. Public Health Service, in cooperation with the State Department of Mental Hygiene.

Commissioner Alan D. Miller said the program called for employing 16 students at Syracuse State School, 12 at West Seneca State School, Erie County, and 10 at Letchworth Village, Rockland County.

The students' salaries were paid through Federal grants to the three schools, totaling \$36,592. However, the State provided the training and supervision of the students and also evaluated the program.

## PARENTS APPOINTED TO BOARDS OF VISITORS IN STATE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION'S RECOMMENDATIONS ACCEPTED BY GOVERNOR

Three parents of mentally retarded children, members of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, have been appointed as members of the Boards of Visitors of two State Schools by Governor Rockefeller.

For the newly established State school, Sunmount, Governor Rockefeller appointed Mrs. Alfred Hogan of Ogdensburg, for a term ending Dec. 31, 1969. Mrs. Hogan, a graduate of St. Louis University of St. Louis, Mo., is a teacher of the Ogdensburg Public School System. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the St. Lawrence County Chapter of the Association for Retarded Children.

For the Suffolk State School, Governor Rockefeller has appointed Mrs. Robert Shanahan of East Islip for the term ending December 31, 1971. Vi Shanahan is Executive Director of the Suffolk County Chapter and a parent of a retarded child.

David Forbes, of East Meadows, a member of the Nassau County Board of Directors has been appointed to the board of visitors to the Suffolk State School for the term ending December 31, 1973.

## 12 ATTENDANTS COMPLETE STATE TRAINING COURSE IN NEWARK

In a program sponsored by a Federal in-service training grant to Newark State School, 12 attendants have completed a 15-week course in child-development.

The course is designed to supplement previous attendant training in order to provide the aide with a broader understanding of the patient and his particular needs as well as the significance and meaning of his behavior. The course content enhances the attendant's knowledge of the normal child's development and emphasizes the development of the child afflicted with mental retardation.

Attendants completing the course are engaged in carrying on intensive nursing care programs structured to meet the nursing needs of severely retarded children. In this type of comprehensive nursing care plan, an attendant cares for eight children on a daily basis, thus establishing a close relationship with the children and functioning more effectively to meet the individual needs of the retarded.

Program instructors included Dr. Sydney Koret, director of the Convalescent Hospital for Emotionally Disturbed Children in Rochester, and Dr. Martin Johnson, a psychologist at that agency. Program consultant is Dr. Armin Klein, a psychologist at the Convalescent Hospital, and Dr. Matthew Perlman, Rochester, who has done psychological evaluations of the children participating in intensive nursing care programs.

Dr. Frank R. Henne, director at the school, served as program director and Mrs. Francis Green, chief supervising nurse, is program coordinator.

## SOME INSTITUTIONAL STATISTICS

In statistics recently issued with regard to state institutions for the mentally retarded, New York State is listed as charging a maximum monthly charge to the parent's estate or to parents (now only under 21) of \$215.00 a month.

It is interesting to note that the average per capita monthly cost in the institution is listed as \$166.20.

Only five states charge more than New York State. Only 15 states have a less average per capita monthly cost. These range from a low of \$88.50 in Alaska to a high of \$334.10 in Kansas and California.

The average per capita monthly cost in the country is \$190.80.

Only five states have no waiting list. Until two years ago, New York State was among these. It is now listed as having a waiting list of 942.



## Association Honors Outstanding Employees, High School Essay Writers

The Association's Saturday evening Banquet in the Gold Room of the Hotel Jamestown, Jamestown, New York, was the scene of the second annual presentation of awards to outstanding employees in State Schools and the winners of our High School Essay Contest. An added feature was the First award to an outstanding employee at the Sampson Unit of Willard State Hospital where more than 500 mentally retarded who have not been visited by their families for many years are residing.

Mr. Francis Spencer, an attendant, was named the outstanding employee at the Sampson Unit, the first such designee from this institution.

The other outstanding employee winners were:

Lena Norton, Supervising Nurse, Willowbrook State School.  
Miss Mabel Badgett, Supervising Seamstress, Letchworth Village.  
Mrs. Anna S. Wilson, Staff attendant, Wassaic State School.  
Rev. E. Charles Baueer, Catholic Chaplain, Newark State School.  
Miss Gertrude M. McCord, Chief Supervising Nurse, West Seneca State School.  
Frank Timneri, Attendant, Craig Colony School and Hospital.  
Josephine Tuller, Chief Aid, School Dispensary, Syracuse State School.  
Miss Dorothy Cobb, Senior Social Worker, Rome State School.

All of the employees were again nominated from within their own institutions and their names submitted to us after a review by a committee at the local institution. The coordination of the awards was handled by George G. Hirsch, Chairman of the Scholarship and Awards Committee for the Association, and Dr. George Etling, Superintendent of the Wassaic State School, on behalf of the Department of Mental Hygiene.

The high point of the awards this year was the fact that presentations were made by Dr. Alan D. Miller, Commissioner of the Department of Mental Hygiene. In commenting upon the spirit which he felt these employees embodied, Dr. Miller quoted briefly from the letter submitted by Dr. Lloyd E. Watts, Acting Director of the Syracuse State School, in describing Mrs. Tuller, as follows: "Certainly a true measure of her achievement is the unanimous esteem in which she is held by her fellow workers . . . an esteem vividly represented in the many accompanying statements urging her nomination. Through all these statements the words 'kind', 'thoughtful', 'pleasant', 'gracious', 'efficient', repeatedly sound tribute to her stature in the eyes of all who work beside her."



**FRANCIS SPENCER**



**MABEL BADGETT**



**REV. E. CHARLES  
BAUER**



**JOSEPHINE TULLER**



**MISS SYDNEY SMILOWITZ,  
First Prize Essay Contest  
Winner**



**CAROL RUSSELL HAIGHT,  
Second Prize Essay Contest  
Winner**

Also receiving awards at the Convention were the winners of the High School Essay Contest on the topic, "Mental Retardation—A Community Problem—a Community Challenge". Following co-incidentally, the pattern of the first year's award, the first place winner once again came from the Association's Southeast region and the second prize winner, from the Northeast. The winner of the first prize was Miss Sydney Smilowitz of Pomona, New York, who attended Spring Valley High School in Rockland County. She is now attending the City College of New York. The presentation of the award to Miss Smilowitz was a special privilege to Mr. James D. Maroon, Chairman of our State Education Committee for the past 10 years, since Miss Smilowitz was a product of the school system of Jim's home County, Rockland.

The winner of the second prize was Carol Russell of Schenectady, a graduate of Mohonasen Senior High School in Schenectady, who is now working in her home city. Married to Richard Haight since graduation, Carol is anxiously awaiting his return from the service. Her award was presented by Northeast Regional Vice President Clifford Westfall of Schenectady.



**LENA NORTON**



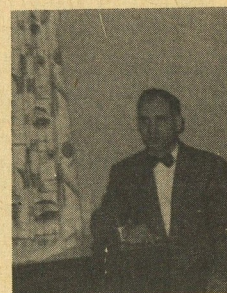
**MRS. ANNA WILSON**



**GERTRUDE M. McCORD**



**DOROTHY COBB**



**MR. FRANK TIMNERI**



## CROW WE GLADLY EAT

In the last issue of Our Children's Voice, a statement was made that no funds allocated under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, were being used for the mentally retarded.

We have since received many calls and a number of letters saying that this statement is inaccurate.

As an extenuating circumstance, we plead that the Chart and figures sent out by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare were dated and did not take into consideration recent developments in the State.

Charles I. McAllister, Assistant Commissioner of Mental Retardation, Department of Mental Hygiene, writes that State Department of Mental Hygiene has applied for, received and utilized Title I funds for the mentally retarded during this past summer.

He writes, "As late as April 26th, allocations were only tentative and the number of departments which were to participate under this lump sum allocation was not clearly defined.

"Information on specific appropriations was obtained, and on May 13th the final revised instructions for project grant applications were received. Since the deadline for submission of project proposals was May 31st, one proposal was submitted by the Department for the mentally retarded pupils in the State schools, on May 27th. Approval was later received on June 24, 1966.

"Subsequently, a six weeks summer education orientation and enrichment program was conducted by the Department of Mental Hygiene, from July 5th through August 12th for pupils in eight of the State Schools, under Title I Grant, MH 01-66-003A total \$749,653.68.

"These funds, available until August 31st, were utilized to hire teaching, supervising and stenographic personnel to conduct this six weeks summer program, as well as for the purchase of special 'teaching machines' which will continue to be used permanently in the regular education program.

"Approximately 1300 pupils, ranging in age from 5 to 21 years, were enrolled in these all day classes. This program provided for classroom groupings of approximately ten pupils each, extensive educational field trips as well as the purchase of the teaching machines and audiovisual aids.

"Part I, Basic Data, for Title I funds for the 1966-67 school year has already been compiled and submitted. This will continue to make our department eligible for Title I funds, once Congressional action, expected in October or November, has voted the appropriation."

We have also received information that in Westchester the Mamaroneck School District No. 1 has instituted a program in their school three afternoons a week which includes remedial reading, enrichment, study centers, in-service training. A class has been established for educable retarded children of high school age. All this under Title I.

Indicated proposals of individual school districts (including the Boards of Cooperative Education Services) in Westchester, developed, submitted or approved, total more than \$2,450,772 in approximate appropriations for Title I programs.

We have also received calls and letters from other school districts to all of whom we apologize here.

As we said, in the title of this article, this is crow we gladly eat.

## NORTHEAST CHAPTERS TO AID MT. MCGREGOR

Climaxing several months of organizational planning, the Northeast Region Institution Committee of the Association met recently in Albany at the Association's offices for elections and planning.

The group is made up of three representatives from each of the nine Chapters for the retarded in the area, and will function as a unit with the support of the Chapters to bring added comfort to patients at Mt. McGregor Division, Wilton, of Rome State School. Clifford Westfall of Schenectady is the Regional Vice President.

Present Chapter Chairmen are Edward Donohue of Troy, Rome State School; Ellis Riker, Albany County; Mrs. Audrey Ziegler, Rensselaer; Paul Hermon, Fulton; Mr. Westfall, Schenectady; Harold Lucia, Warren-Washington; Miss Nan Walsh, Saratoga.

## GE COVERS RETARDED IN HEALTH INSURANCE

The new General Electric Health Insurance Plan for employees now covers dependent unmarried children even after they have attained age 23, if they are dependent because they are full-time students or are incapable of self-sustaining employment because of mental or physical handicaps.

"If an eligible employee," writes General Electric to the employees, "is already enrolled for dependent coverage and has a child who will now qualify for coverage, even though coverage had previously been terminated because the child had reached age 23, the child will automatically be covered by the new improvement."

Employees need only enrollment for dependent coverage to provide benefit protection under the plan even if coverage for the dependent has terminated previously.

This carries out the intent of the amendment to the Insurance Law that was sponsored by Senator Conklin in 1965 which has been so ably implemented by the Superintendent of Insurance.

## FOWLER WILSON NEW SCHENECTADY DIRECTOR

W. Fowler Wilson from Binghamton, New York, has been appointed director of the Schenectady County Chapter's program.



Making a 15-loop bow in the  
Schenectady workshop.

Mr. Wilson succeeds Walter Scofield in the post, who has taken a position with the State Department of Mental Hygiene. Wilson is a native of Binghamton, a former teacher and past executive director of the Broome County Association. A graduate of Syracuse and Columbia universities, he has done graduate work in education and vocational rehabilitation for the mentally retarded.

The Schenectady County Chapter's program includes information and referral, Day Training Center under contract with the Mental Health Board and a Sheltered Workshop which will begin to serve a broad area around Schenectady.

We all wish Fowler well!

## ONEIDA-HERKIMER CHAPTER ENGAGES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mrs. Patricia Macfarlane has been named to fill the newly-created post of executive director for Oneida-Herkimer County Chapters.

She will be responsible for the administration and operation of the Chapters' affairs according to the policy set by its Board of Directors.

The Oneida-Herkimer Chapter was founded in 1954. It provides diagnostic and counselling clinics, and a pre-school class which prepares retarded children for special training.

It also operates a sheltered workshop which has been developing steadily.

Mrs. Macfarlane was a teacher and principal at the Washington Mills School for Retarded Children operated by the Association from 1955 to 1959. The school, which was taken over by the Board of Cooperative Educational Services in toto in 1958.

For the past five years, Mrs. Macfarlane has taught kindergarten in the Utica school system.



## MEASLES VACCINE STILL UNUSED BY MANY LONG ISLAND STUDY FINDS

When vaccines to prevent measles were discovered, tested and found safe three years ago, medical and public health experts predicted the early eradication of the disease. Now the experts on Long Island and throughout the nation are restating the facts about the vaccines, which are:

It's safe, it's free, it's easily available—and too much of it is going unused. One half of the susceptible children in the U. S. have received it and thus been protected against measles and its complications, which can include encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), pneumonia and hearing disabilities. Too many patients, the experts say, are still not aware of the serious threat presented by the highly infectious childhood disease.

The National Association for Retarded Children highlighted the problem by choosing as its 1966 poster girl a pretty little brunette named Kim Fisher of Fort Wayne, Ind. A perfectly normal child from the age of two, Kim then contracted measles, complicated by encephalitis.

Today, at the age of 10, she is gradually learning to talk all over again at an Indiana training center. Encephalitis left her hard of hearing, her optic nerve damaged, unable to walk, talk or hold up her head. She has undergone surgery to straighten her eye, she wears a hearing aid with boosters attached to both ears and she is doing well at the training center.

Kim was comparatively lucky, says Dr. Jack Storm, pediatrician and medical director of the Nassau AHRC Training Center in Brookville, where five per cent of the children are known to have become retarded as a result of measles encephalitis.

"Kim's case," he said, "seems doubly tragic when you realize that a harmless injection, which could have prevented a very bright little girl from becoming mentally and physically handicapped, has since become available. And it seems unbelievable that the free vaccine has not been given to every single child in the three years it has been available."

There are no precise statistics on the number of Long Island children still needing immunization, Dr. Storm said, but "on the basis of experience in clinics we must assume great numbers, especially in low socio-economic areas, are still unprotected."

The Jewish Hospital participated in the 1961 tests that established the vaccines as "a major victory" for medical science. Government approval of two types of vaccine — live and killed — was described in 1963 as the final step toward wiping out the disease. In September, 1965, the State Health Department released free vaccine to all areas, including Nassau and Suffolk, urging top priority for "persons who do not routinely seek preventive medical care."

About 20,000 doses have since been administered in Suffolk, and about 15,000 in Nassau, officials said recently. Patients who cannot afford private care are urged to take their children to clinics in both counties.

In Nassau, mass immunization has not been carried on. Emphasis has been on distribution through individual private physicians, said Dr. John Ripp, consultant to the health commissioner.

In the meantime, officials everywhere are urging parents to:

- Stop thinking of measles as a harmless childhood disease that every child has to undergo. Start considering the serious lifetime hazards it can cause.

- Remember that a gamma globulin injection which your child may have had after exposure to measles, does NOT provide permanent immunity, if your child did not get even a light case of measles.

- Have every susceptible child immunized as soon as possible after the age of 9 months. Children through 12 are more susceptible to measles; infants under 2 are most apt to have serious complications, but any child may have them. Reactions to the vaccine (fever, rash) are rare and do not constitute a problem, the health officials said.

- To arrange or to discuss immunization, call your own pediatrician or family doctor. If you have none, or feel you cannot afford one, call your county health department.

## BIRTH DEFECTS STUDY AT CRUCIAL STAGE

A crucial stage has been reached in the most massive study ever attempted of the factors that affect early human birth and development.

Its objectives are multiple: To determine why more than a million pregnancies in the U. S. each year fail to produce living children; why 126,000 babies are born each year who will be mentally retarded; why thousands of others are born crippled in other ways — with defective hearts, missing or useless limbs, impaired hearing, impaired eyesight.

The project began about eight years ago as a collaboration between the institute and more than a dozen major hospitals from Coast to Coast. A huge sample of pregnant women was taken. The study is following them carefully all the way through pregnancy and birth, and then examining the children at frequent intervals for at least seven years.

By now millions of pieces of information have been collected on some 60,000 pregnancies and the babies born at 14 hospitals during the last seven years. There are about 55,000 babies in the group. The final one studied was born September 30 at Children's Hospital in Buffalo.

So far all aspects of the study have cost \$35-million to \$40-million. The study sample is complete and several hundred of the children, 7 years old or more, are about to undergo their final examination.

Many individual scientific reports have been published from the preliminary data, but most of these offer important clues to be pursued further, rather than final conclusions. Although it is entering its final stage the study has at least seven more years to run.

Although nothing definitive has yet been found, there are some interesting leads, according to Dr. Heinz W. Berendes, chief of the perinatal branch of the institute and chief officer of the project.

For example, it has often been observed that babies whose mothers contracted rubella (German measles) early in pregnancy often had deficiencies in hearing as well as other more serious defects.

Studies at Johns Hopkins University Hospital, one of the collaborating institutions, show that the hearing deficiencies get worse as the child gets older. This trend, never previously established, has now been confirmed by others.

It suggests that there is some continuing disease process operating in these children. This in turn calls forth the hope that some way may be found to arrest this process. For example, it was found earlier in the prenatal study that the Rubella virus infecting the mother also often infected the unborn child and continued to be present in the baby for months after it was born.

Could this virus be a factor in the progressive disease? Could some future antiviral drug eliminate the infection and part of the continuing damage? This is the kind of research lead the study is turning up.

The very size of the sample and the close and long term follow up give hope that the full story from early pregnancy to the first school years can tie up effects to their causes.

## NEW HOPE FOR EPILEPTICS

A computer registering the work of an electrode placed on a patient's brain may help thousands of people who suffer from epilepsy too severe to be controlled by medications. The research project is sponsored under a Vocation Rehabilitation Administration grant for \$67,674 to the University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco.

Electrodes will pinpoint the exact spot in the patient's brain which is affected, and register this information on a computer. The surgeon will read the computer to locate the area of disfunction. Then by surgical techniques, the pathway of "electrical storm" cells could be interrupted, and the patterns which lead to epileptic attacks could be broken.

"Although 85 percent of all epileptics can be treated to the point where all manifestations of their problem are completely eliminated or controlled by medication," said VRA Commissioner Mary E. Switzer, "the remaining 15 percent are not able to become vocationally independent. Perhaps this grant will help to release those persons who still suffer from seizures."



## STATE HEALTH PROGRAM HELPS RETARDED PKU AND MEASLES ATTACKED

"The Statewide program to test newborn children for phenylketonuria (PKU) costs less during the first year of operation than the lifetime institutionalization of a single child with the disease," Governor Rockefeller reported in his proclamation of October 3 as Child Health Day.

Testing newborn children for PKU, a disease which may cause mental retardation, was made mandatory in 1965 under legislation introduced by Senator William T. Conklin, Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation and Physical Handicap. The program cost \$224,000 during that year, and 23 children were found to have the condition. A lifetime of care at an institution, according to the Governor, would cost \$250,000 for a single child. Thirteen more cases have been found so far in 1966 (as of October 3).



**Dr. William J. Ronan, secretary to Governor Nelson Rockefeller, holds Michael Kiernan, 15 months old, first child in the state to be saved from phenylketonuria retardation under the mandatory testing program for new-born infants that went into effect January 1, 1965. Michael, who was placed on a special diet for PKU babies, was presented with a teddy bear from Governor Rockefeller at the annual state health conference. A significant part of the early research on PKU treatment was done at Letchworth Village.**

When a child with PKU is detected early, a special diet can avert mental retardation. This diet is furnished free of charge by the State to those who cannot afford it. All of the phenylketonuric children discovered so far as a result of the program, have been put on this low-phenylalanine diet, under medical supervision. They remain at home with their parents, leading a normal childhood.

In addition, the State Health Department is now spearheading a drive for measles immunization.

"Though measles is often considered an inevitable part of childhood, it can lead to measles encephalitis and measles pneumonia — both diseases which can be fatal," Governor Rockefeller said. In addition, post-measles encephalitis may, and often does, lead to mental retardation.

The State Health Department has contributed more than 334,000 doses of vaccine in the past year. This year, more than twice as much vaccine will be available.

"It is to be hoped," said James F. Reville, president of the State Association for Retarded Children, "that the measles vaccination will be required of all children before entering school, rather than the permissive legislation that now exists."

Many states have already mandated such vaccination.

## BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT PROCLAIMS "MEASLES VACCINATION MONTH"

Showing the way to the rest of the State, Bronx Borough President Herman Badillo issued a proclamation declaring the period of October 3rd through 31st to be "MEASLES VACCINATION MONTH" for Bronx County.

He urged all parents of young children to recognize that measles is the number one childhood disease at this time and that the simple procedure of vaccination for all children 7 years of age or under, who have not already contracted the disease, can provide a major step forward in eradicating measles entirely.

According to Dr. Irving Greenwald of the New York City Department of Health one child in six develops serious complications from measles.

"It is shocking," said Borough President Badillo, "to realize that statistics indicate 4000 children a year develop measles encephalitis and out of that number, 500 will probably die and 1600 may become mentally retarded.

Parents were urged to consult their local physicians or go to the nearest of four health centers in the Bronx under the supervision of the New York City Department of Health.

"We can eliminate measles once and for all. One injection immunizes for life," said the Borough President. "No child need suffer from measles from now on."

The Bronx campaign was launched under the urging of the New York City Chapter.

## BIRTH DEFECTS RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Governor Rockefeller recently announced that he will establish a Birth Defects Research Institute in the State Health Department.

The Institute will conduct studies to help lessen the tragedy of babies being born with diseases and deformities that might be avoided if more were known about them.

"The birth of a child with a malformation or with an inherited disease is a tragedy for the child, the parents and for the community. The fear of giving birth to a deformed child lurks in the mind of every expectant mother. The thalidomide disaster served to bring the problem into sharp focus, as did the discovery of PKU (phenylketonuria) and the means of detecting it and preventing its progression to mental retardation," the Governor said.

In making the announcement the Governor quoted the fact that out of 28,000 babies born each month in New York State, an average of 320 have defects which are visible or otherwise readily detectable at birth. Still other infants have conditions, such as heart defects, which are discovered later. The result in each case is untold grief for the parents.

The State Health Commissioner, Dr. Hollis S. Ingraham, who will be responsible for the operation of the Institute, said he will recommend changes in birth certificate forms in order to give researchers more information with which to work. Presently, only three questions deal with birth history in the baby's family. They ask the number of other children born alive to the parents, the number of stillbirths and the number of children born alive who have since died.

The goal is to expand this in order to tell the number of times the mother has been pregnant, when and where the other children were born, what happened in each pregnancy, the sex of each child and the incidence of twins and birth defects.

Such information to be studied on a strictly confidential basis.

In the office of the Association, our Executive Director, Jerry Weingold remarked, "This is indeed a great step forward when we recognize that birth defects are a medical rather than a psychiatric problem."

"The present confusion of clinics for the retarded with so-called 'psychiatric' clinics has created numerable misunderstandings in the community and resulted, in a number of instances, of diminished or inferior services to the mentally retarded."



# Chapter News

One always looks for new ways to approach the subject of Chapter News to see to it that everyone who has sent in information has an opportunity to be represented . . . this month we are going to borrow from the old saying "last shall be first" and open with news of **GENESEE COUNTY CHAPTER**, the newest within the Association . . . the group has held a number of family picnics



**GENESEE RECEIVES ARC CHAPTER.** Mrs. John Duddy, president, receives charter from City Council President Louis Del Plato at American Legion Center as H. W. Vanderhoof, County Superintendent of Schools adds congratulations.

throughout the summer as a way of getting together and encouraging interested prospects. It appears to have been fun for all as a recent press clipping passing through the office indicated that the third such picnic for the summer was being planned . . . also that front page coverage was obtained in the Batavia Newspaper upon the presentation of their charter from the Association. On the occasion of this worthy publicity spread, Mrs. John Duddy, Chapter President, wrote: "We finally made the front page—there are a few errors in the (newspaper) copy but a step in the right direction." From the other end of the state comes another issue of **SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER**'s fine little paper the **ARC LAMP LIGHTER** . . . it was interesting to note that the Flame of Hope candles were used at their 1966 installation ceremony . . . how about the rest of us getting on the band wagon . . . Also interesting to note their repeat performance of "Gas-Up Days" where some of the ladies in their auxiliaries become the operators of local filling stations for a day with the day's profits going to the Association . . . moving toward the area around Albany we note with pleasure the fine publicity given to the summer camp operated this year by **COLUMBIA COUNTY CHAPTER** . . . always good to see a new group getting into projects so quickly . . . incidentally, one should take the time to mention the help received by the Chapter from the Hudson Lions Club in the form of a \$90.00 check and \$11.00 turned over to the Chapter by five children who operated a back yard carnival in Hudson for the Chapter . . . another fine gesture toward a local chapter was in **ALLEGANY COUNTY**. A plan reported in a newspaper clipping was for the Grange to hold a flower show and turn the winners' prize money over to the Association rather than the winner . . . the **SULLIVAN COUNTY CHAPTER** was part of a luncheon honoring Mrs. Ida M. Hasbrouck who lead the movement that resulted in the establishment of the Sullivan County Mental Health Board, upon her leaving the community to move to Binghamton . . . they also have welcomed a new director to their Day Training Center, Mr. Arthur Dawson . . . **ERIE COUNTY CHAPTER** continuing its forward movement took part in a Health Exhibit at the Erie County Fair . . . had a nice picture of Executive Director John Campana in the newspaper receiving a check for \$230.00 from the Willow Ridge Civic Association . . . **BENEVOLENT SOCIETY-WILLOWBROOK CHAPTER** planning a Theatre Party to the film "Hawaii" for January 28th, 1967 . . . very effective flyers with the announcement . . . loved the picture in their October newsletter reminding members to pay their annual dues — or else! with a picture of the sheriff pursuing some run-a-way, undoubtedly a holdout . . . Who Says the Institutions Aren't for the Community department . . . a special bulletin out of Benevolent Society urging a "yes" vote on Amendment No. 4 . . . **ULSTER COUNTY CHAPTER** keeping things stirred up along the Hudson . . .

received a donation of Auditory Training equipment from the United Commercial Travelers in their area . . . speech and hearing problems have always been one of the strong suits of their programs . . . something for the rest of us to think about . . . Chapter going all out for selling Flame of Hope Candles . . . wish them every success . . . they, too, used them at their annual dinner . . . enjoyed the confidence of their Newsletter which suggested that the highlight of the evening would be the fact that they had invited Senator Robert F. Kennedy to be their speaker . . . had to settle for J. T. W. . . . **LEWIS COUNTY CHAPTER** has news other than that their cheese is good this month, telling us that 10 boys from the special education classes in Lewis County spent three weeks at the Future Farmers of America camp in Lewis County . . . Camp Oswegatchie is the state owned camp of FFA where our boys were integrated with "normal" boys from all over the state . . . **MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER**'S new Newsletter mast-head in Red and Blue is certainly an impressive new addition . . . the inside is even more interesting than the outside with many stories of real interest on a wide variety of activities by their children, including an overnight camping trip . . . recreation and the background of the Chapter . . . **ONWARD MONROE** . . . an interesting newsletter from **ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER** with a guest editorial written by the sister of a retarded child . . . a very enlightening commentary . . . those interested could perhaps obtain copies of the June Newsletter from the Orange County Chapter . . . Chapter recently signed a contract with the Mental Health Board to join the growing list of progressing chapters . . . where does one expect to find busy **NASSAU COUNTY** except right in the middle of things . . . under the circumstances, what better place for them than in the middle of our Chapter News . . . good news abounds throughout their newsletter . . . plans for their new school . . . the dedication of the workshop . . . the fact that the donor Theatre Party is all sold out . . . and news about their presenting Governor Rockefeller with this year's humanitarian award . . . not to mention the fact that the New York State Ladies Auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans has named Helen Kaplan as Woman of the Year — a deserving honor for a deserving lady . . . amid all these big plans also a pleasure to note such things as the backyard fair which was held by four Wamtagh youngsters to raise \$43.27 for the Chapter . . . more truth than fiction in the story "a little child shall lead them."

It becomes difficult to sort out news from **ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER** since their thick Newsletter is always full of exciting events . . . one of the big things of



**Speech Therapist Clifton Davis from Syracuse University helps ARC Center youngster in Syracuse.**

recent date, however, the several page spread on the Association's Day Training Center in the Empire Magazine, part of the Sunday newspaper, really a fine story on their good work . . . everyone at the State office sorry to see the hard working President, Joseph Munnis, transferred to Pennsylvania with his firm, but wishing him the best of luck . . . smiles quickly restored to our faces with the presence of Mr. Alfred Cappuccilli in the Presidency — that's what you call talent in depth . . . received a Newsletter from **STEUBEN COUNTY CHAPTER**, haven't heard from them for a while and were glad to see it . . . they were going to discuss Chapter reorganization — we hope it was successful in whatever way they were planning to reorganize . . . they have shown some interest right now in getting together with some of the surrounding Chapters for services and that's always a pleasure to see . . . speaking of resigning Presidents after many years of

(Continued on Page 17)



# Chapter News (Continued from Page 17)

faithful service, Joseph Tholl had to resign from the Presidency of the ALBANY COUNTY CHAPTER also due to a transfer by his company . . . we know Joe will be missed a great deal by all the Albany area people . . . at the same time things continue to move ahead . . . among the changes Albany welcomes a new Executive Director, Mr. Donald White . . . ROCKLAND COUNTY CHAPTER'S Newsletter getting longer and newsier all the time . . . they admit they are getting off to the usual exciting start this fall with the trainees in the Center . . . spent a little time this summer on a public education project with Chapter Executive Mrs. Louis Dolan and State Assistant Director John Bertrand on a two-hour telephone interview radio show . . . from what surely was the smallest radio studio this side of the Mississippi River . . . SCHOHARIE COUNTY CHAPTER has started a little Newsletter . . . just shows what small Chapter can do . . . although, with the kind of membership drive the Chapter has had, soon no one will be able to call them small anymore . . . note that they are saving General Mills Coupons toward their station wagon to be used to transport children to their programs . . . the State office notes with regret that Mrs. Agnes DeKay has resigned as the Chapter's secretary . . . we certainly enjoyed the news clippings and informative releases sent us for this column . . . hope she'll continue active in some way . . . SCHENECTADY COUNTY CHAPTER making headlines like mad . . . our Chapter news sources so numerous this time one doesn't know where to begin . . . Newsletter has been coming in regularly, information being received from their publicity Chairman and a full page spread on the Chapter's Bow making operation in their Workshop . . . what can we say except keep up the good work. SCHENECTADY . . . from ONTARIO COUNTY CHAPTER the news that the Chapter is continuing its training class for retarded young adults offering bowling instructions and has religious instructions going under the auspices of the Third Order of St. Francis in Geneva . . . a good diversity of activities . . . OTSEGO COUNTY CHAPTER publicity Chairman, Harold Grube, sends an interesting letter telling of the activities of this group . . . reads as follows: "Our Education Committee has made books on 'Mental Retardation' available to members through the Tri-County Library Service . . . Annual Family Picnic at Gilbert Lake State Park with members and families of the newly formed Chapter of the National Society for Autistic Children as guests . . . had an information booth at the OTSEGO COUNTY Fair . . . Sold 1300 boxes of Holland Bulbs with an incentive prize of a Poloroid Swinger Camera to member selling the most boxes . . . (Prize was won by Mrs. Nellie Davis, Chapter Treasurer, who sold 300 boxes) . . . Sent a speaker to Otsego Pomona Grange meeting . . . we appreciate a gift of \$400 from the 63-year-old Otsego County Children's Society, which upon disbanding divided its funds among a number of organizations which are helping children . . . receiving offers of moral and financial support from a number of organizations such as Grange, Rotary and Eagles . . . "Whew! from the frozen north country WARREN-WASHINGTON COUNTY again writes that during



**Director Cricket Mathias serves hot dogs and pop to campers.**

the warmer months of the year they sponsored their Annual Summer Day Camp jointly with the local Cerebral Palsy Association . . . 20 children attended the Camp this year . . . three all day sessions were held each week

during the month of July . . . are looking forward to a pre-school class and day care center as future projects . . .



**Deborah Burr of Centerreach demonstrates A-1 service on Gas-up days for benefit of the Suffolk County Chapter.**

WELFARE LEAGUE-LETHWORTH VILLAGE CHAPTER would win the prize, if there were one, for getting information about the State Convention out to its Chapter most rapidly . . . had their Newsletter with many of the particulars within two weeks after the close of the Convention . . . Incidentally, very interesting coverage . . . a most interesting story in that issue of the Newsletter however, was one entitled, "We are beginning to give Childmore room," in which Dr. Schneider, Director of the School, speaks on the subject of some improvement on the subject on overcrowding . . . this is the kind of news we always like to hear . . .

Hats off to BROOME COUNTY CHAPTER for some real planning . . . the September 1966 issue of their Newsletter carried a schedule of Board meetings through June of 1967 . . . we consider this splendid planning and something in which we hope more of our Chapters will participate . . . it is interesting to note that awards were given in a Countywide Essay Contest on Mental Retardation . . . CATTARAUGUS COUNTY CHAPTER'S Newsletter also full of interesting facts . . . among them the fact that the City of Olean once again offered money, this year \$250.00, to help support the Association's summer day camp program . . . in addition to this, the Newsletter contained a list of 31 individuals and organizations who contributed money toward sending children to Camp Cornplanter . . . 48 children attended for 51 camper weeks . . . 39 children of needy families were able to attend because of the generosity of these organizations . . . as always, the Olean Jaycees right in the fore in serving the retarded . . . a donation of \$723.00 for transportation purposes was noted in this particular Newsletter . . . SARATOGA COUNTY CHAPTER apparently took a note from the last time this column was written discussing dinners at some length as the summer news from that neck of the woods has been filled with word of all sorts of mouth watering events . . . the fourth annual chicken barbecue was held August 21st and on July 24th a clam-bake was planned for Saratoga Lake . . . finally, we come to WESTCHESTER COUNTY CHAPTER whose news will again wrap up this edition . . . we talked a lot about money . . . would have to mention the clipping in the Mamaroneck Times showing President Herbert Katzenberg receiving a check for \$5,200 from the Shore League, one of the Chapter's Auxiliaries . . . so many things happened but probably the most exciting thing is the fact that the regional demonstration project which was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor "way back" in 1965 has finally become a reality . . . we can hardly believe that it has happened but are thrilled by the fact . . . in addition, the Chapter is working on a new Vocational Rehabilitation Project in connection with the New Rochelle public school . . . another exciting possibility . . . we let WESTCHESTER remain until last for this issue because the October, 1966, Newsletter we received from them contained a comment which was just too good to pass up . . . I doubt that the Editor of their Newsletter planned a double entendre when writing a little blurb to ask for support to the Westchester County United Fund but we cannot resist quoting it as the feeling of your staff toward most of what happens in United Funds . . . the precious quotes reads as follows:—"Giving the UNITED WAY is also giving the RETARDED WAY!" . . . enough said . . . will close for this time.



## WESTCHESTER INSTITUTION PLANS PROGRESS

The plans for the new state institution for the mentally retarded in Westchester have progressed to the point of site selection.

A meeting was held on Thursday, Oct. 27th, in Westchester County where the Department of Mental Hygiene presented its plans and progress to the Community Mental Health Board, the New York State Association for Retarded Children and other interested agencies.

According to the Department of Mental Hygiene, as soon as several prospective sites are selected, a meeting will be held with the A. R. C. to develop community acceptance.

Statistics at the meeting brought out that there have been an average of 70 new admissions a year to the state institutions from Westchester. In the year 1966, there were 27 new admissions but this does not reflect the waiting list.

There are 94 classes for educable retarded children with enrollment of 1291 and 26 classes for trainable children with enrollment of 292 for the school years 1965-1966 in Westchester.

Apparently, all is not going smoothly and we are running into the same community misunderstanding that we have in Suffolk.

In an editorial in the New York Post, called "Barriers to a Refuge," the following statement was made:

"In seeking a 30-acre site to building a \$20 million residential school for the mentally retarded, the state Department of Mental Hygiene is receiving intensive non-cooperation from some residents and public officials in Westchester County.

"Various harsh objections have arisen: some people protest they will have to pay more local taxes if the tax-free school is in their vicinity; there are reported fears of declining property values, even alarm about community safety.

"The resistance is undoubtedly based to some extent on ignorance and fear. We believe Governor Rockefeller, Sens. Javits and Robert F. Kennedy, the county's Congressmen and state and county mental health officials can do a great deal to overcome both the misapprehension and the misguided opposition to this project. We hope they will make it a bipartisan campaign."

It will be recalled that the Association had to fight a case up to the Court of Appeals brought by some residents of Pelham Manor who objected to the use of the Pelham School for Retarded Children. The Court of Appeals finally decided in favor of the Association.

The fears of the residents in that area that their property values would decline was not borne out by the facts. As a matter of record, the property values in that area have increased enormously. It is interesting to note that one of the objectors to Pelham School, a near neighbor, was operating on his own property a school for dogs.

## ROCKEFELLER MOVES TO PRESERVE AGRICULTURAL LAND PUT BACK FARMS ON STATE SCHOOLS, URGES ASSOCIATION

Governor Rockefeller recently announced the appointment of 15 members of the New York State Commission on Preservation of Agricultural Land.

On March 24, addressing the New York State Agricultural Leaders Forum at Cornell University, the Governor said, "Urban sprawl, and its effects on land, people and economies is proving to be a most stubborn and perplexing problem" in New York State.

"Our mutual objective," he said, "is a maximum effective use of our land to meet the problems of an on-rushing future."

In a letter to Alton G. Marshall, Executive Assistant to the Governor, the Executive Director, Joseph T. Weingold, urged reinstatement of State School farms. Weingold commented, "This is very interesting in the light of the action of the Department of Mental Hygiene, under the late Dr. Hoch, eliminating the farms operated by the State Schools for the mentally retarded."

## A PARENT VOICES APPRECIATION TO MENTAL HYGIENE

It is with distinct pleasure that we are able to reproduce here a letter from a parent, Mrs. Frank Fortunato, to the commissioner of Mental Hygiene expressing her gratitude to him and to his staff, with a special mention of Muriel A. McInernery, Social Worker, New York City Office.

Writes Mrs. Fortunato, "At the most emotionally critical period in our lives we found strength, intelligence and kindness in Miss McInernery. She is a fine employee of the State and a superior human being."

Although the parents decided to place their daughter, Faith, in Willowbrook, Mrs. Fortunato expressed her deep appreciation to the Commissioner and his staff.

Part of the letter follows:

"In particular we wish to mention our esteem and respect for Miss Muriel A. McInernery, Social Worker for Retarded Children, New York. We applied for assistance from the State at the time of our daughter's birth in 1963 and Miss McInernery guided us in our first venture into the newness of having and providing for a retarded child. We decided to take the child home, and then three years later we turned again to Miss McInernery for help and found her guidance and moral support invaluable. She was firm in her explanation of the State's position with respect to financial aid, facilities, care, etc., and equally positive in understanding of our emotions as parents who love their child. Her high intelligence, stability and sincere interest carried us through many weeks of torment. Complicating things was the fact that my husband's work took us to Spain for six months immediately after placing the child and Miss McInernery was kind enough to write us regarding the status of aid, approximate date of admission to Willowbrook, etc., which we so appreciated being abroad and concerned about our child.

"At the most emotionally critical period in our lives we found strength, intelligence and kindness in Miss McInernery. She is a fine employee of the State and a superior human being.

"We are grateful for the facilities which exist in New York State and appreciative of the State's help to us.

Sincerely,

(signed) Grace M. Fortunato

(Mrs.) Frank Fortunato

## GRAND JURY REPORT ON WILLOWBROOK RELEASED

A long-awaited Richmond County grand jury report on Willowbrook State School was made public in September by Supreme Court Justice James C. Crane.

However, the presentment, which had been on Justice Crane's desk since last Dec. 22, contained nothing new to guide state authorities in correcting conditions the jury termed "hazardous to the patients."

The six-page typewritten document was considerably less explicit than news accounts that appeared a year ago in the wake of Senator Kennedy's widely publicized blast at "snakepit" conditions at Willowbrook and sister institutions.

The grand jury was empaneled June 1, 1965, to investigate the unnatural deaths of three patients. Two had been scalded in showers. The jury found "no evidence of culpable or criminal negligence attributable to any individual" and thus handed up no indictment.

At the time of Senator Kennedy's visit, there were 6,055 patients at Willowbrook, which had a certified capacity of 4,528.

There are still 5,557 patients but some of the overcrowding is now being relieved by the completion of 10 pre-fabricated buildings that Governor Rockefeller authorized after the Kennedy attack.

"We have steadily invested more money in developing the human skills and physical resources of this immensely important school," Mr. Rockefeller said at the graduation exercises of a class of Practical Nurses.

"In 1958, the school's budget was \$7,515,403. We've increased it every year. This year it's \$14,800,000 — a 97 percent increase in eight years."

Although overcrowding has gradually been reduced at Willowbrook, it is noteworthy that there is a waiting list of almost 1,000 for admission to the school.



## PARENT LIABILITY UNDER FEDERAL CARE PROGRAM QUESTIONED

Accompanying a description of Federal programs, "—foundation for all our aspiration," came a note from President Johnson asking for comments and suggestions. On reviewing this legislation, we, the Association, were shocked to find that under Title XIX, Amendment to the Social Security Act, parents of children over 21 are relieved of financial responsibility EXCEPT where the child is blind or disabled.

It is noteworthy that the New York State Medical Assistance Act goes further than the Federal by eliminating all parental responsibility for children over 21 whether or not the child is blind or disabled.

Following are excerpts from the letter to the President:

"We have read with great interest and glowing pride '—foundation for all our aspirations' which you sent us with your note of Feb. 8, 1966. May we take advantage of your request that we send along comments and suggestions to you.

"We have been carefully reviewing new Federal legislation and the potential improvements this may make in the lives of the mentally retarded and their families. Among the laws which seemed to hold great promise is the Amendment to Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

"We thought that this new Amendment would provide some relief for parents of the mentally retarded over age 21 who are now responsible for an enormous financial burden as long as such retardate lives. This unhappy situation, which deprives many of our citizens of savings, college funds for their normal children, and security in old age, should be of deep concern to our government.

"It was therefore with great surprise and shock that we learned that under Title XIX the Federal government released liable relatives of applicants for medical assistance from financial responsibility, except for the spouse, parents of children under 21, and parents of children OVER 21 WHERE THE CHILD IS BLIND OR DISABLED. In the latter case, the release at age 21 does not apply.

"I am sure that you will agree, on careful consideration, that this is a concept which is socially and morally difficult to defend.

These very parents of adults who are blind or disabled are the ones who bear the greatest burden, during the minority of their children, and now they are being penalized during their majority.

"We urge you to consider this matter carefully and, if you agree, to help correct the situation.

"We might add, parenthetically, that the New York State medical care bill which was enacted recently to implement Title XIX removes this liability in our State for all parents of children over 21 who are blind or disabled."

An exchange of letters then followed with Mr. Fred H. Steininger, Director of Bureau of Family Services, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, who replied at the request of the President.

In essence of what Mr. Steininger said is that prior to the enactment of Title XIX, there was no limitation on the State as to the eligibility requirements relating to relative responsibility. In other words, they can hold the parents or any relative liable. Under Title XIX, the parents of children over 21 cannot be held liable unless the children are blind or disabled. This is a long advance over the old law.

Title XIX, according to Mr. Steininger, does not require States to impose on parents responsibility for support for blind or disabled children over the age of 21.

The contention of the Association is, however, that Title XIX of the Social Security Act be amended and expanded to FORBID the states holding parents of the blind or the disabled responsible.

## McALLISTER PROMOTED

Charles I. McAllister, who was acting director of the division of mental retardation, has been promoted to assistant commissioner of Mental Retardation in the State Mental Hygiene Department.

Charlie McAllister, as he is known to the members of the Association, has been active in mental retardation studies for 30 years and directed the department's educational services from 1953 to 1963, when he was appointed deputy director.

## PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST MEETING, SETS GOALS

A double-barreled program—to complete, within six months, an evaluation of current Federal mental retardation efforts and to begin immediately a search for bold new ways to combat this problem has been planned by the newly-organized President's Committee on Mental Retardation.

Selection of these immediate goals was announced July 1, by Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, John W. Gardner, Chairman of the Committee, following its organizational meeting.

Bernard M. Rosenberg, former President of the West-Chester County Chapter of the Association, and member of the Board of Governors, is one of the members of the President's Committee.



Members of President's Committee taking the Oath of office (our Bernie Rosenberg at far left)

He has been appointed to a special Task Force to bring back "way-out" ideas. To pursue these, New York State Associations staff organized a meeting of leaders in this state in the field of mental retardation.

Present at this meeting were: Bernard Rosenberg, Chris DeProspero, head of Special Education, CCNY; Adrian Levy, Commissioner of Education for Vocational Rehabilitation; Charles D. Becker, Chief of Bureau for Mentally Handicapped Children, Louis Rosenzweig, director of Program for the Mentally Retarded, Brooklyn College, and Alan D. Miller, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene.

## ROCHESTER COUNCIL ASKED TO BLOCK HOME FOR RETARDED

Nearly 100 residents in the Culver Road area in Rochester recently attempted to gain the City Council's support in blocking state plans to relocate a "Halfway House" for retarded young men in their area.

The facility, jointly sponsored by the State Department of Mental Hygiene and the local chapter of the Association for Retarded Children, has been operating since 1960 in a rented house, but now the house has been sold and they are forced to move.

The residence is a result of the Rochester experiment in which the Association operated such a residence to demonstrate how it can contribute to the prevention of institutionalization.

The residence serves no more than eight young men, former patients at Newark State School, all between the ages of 17 and 21. Not only will they be working daily at the ARC vocational center but their activities will also be supervised in their free hours by the house parents.

"We've had 29 trainees go through the program so far," said John Regan, Executive Director of the Chapter, "and none of them ever got into trouble with the law."

Many of the residents in the area were fearful that the young men might be, as one of them phrased it, "a menace. These are sick people, not in command of their faculties, and this will result in an explosive situation in our residential neighborhood."

In addition, that old chestnut about real estate values was brought up, something the Association has encountered a number of times before.

Mayor Frank T. Lamb sidetracked temporarily at least the effort to prevent the State from using this house.

Although the protest pointed up once more how much the retarded are still being rejected, the avalanche of letters to the press hacking the objectors or praising the Mayor, and charging an affront to the mentally retarded had been extremely heartening.

We know that the Department of Mental Hygiene which has been through this kind of thing several times, will not be discouraged by this display of civil misunderstanding.



## CONKLIN PRINCIPAL SPEAKER IN OLEAN

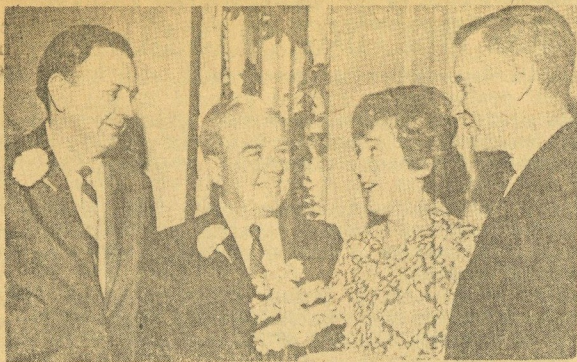


Table favors made by retarded children bring smiles to leaders at dinner of the Cattaraugus County Chapter, Olean. Left to right: Charles Reid, retiring president of the county chapter; State Sen. William T. Conklin; Mrs. William Burdsall, dinner chairman; and William Burdsall, newly installed chapter president.

## ROCKETTE ALUMNAE HELP RETARDED



ALUMNAE ROCKETTES shape up for the mentally retarded

A Rockette danced four years at the Music Hall in the 1940's. Today, she has 12 children. Would you believe the Rockette costume still fits? It does.

When a girl retires from the line, she usually keeps her good looks and shape. Maturity often enhances her attributes.

Although the "Breathless 12" have 39 children among them, the costumes fit and precision kicks are as high as ever.

Formed 11 years ago, the Alumnae Association has 260 active members.

Some girls keep up their dancing through teaching ballet, tap and jazz dancing. Others teach dance and rhythm to retarded and handicapped children.

The New York City Chapter of the Association was one of the first to have the Rockette Alumnae help them teach the retarded rhythm and dancing.

Proceeds of the group's functions go to a different charity each year. This year, they presented a check for \$1,500 to the National Association for Retarded Children.

### CHARTER AMENDED (Continued from Page 1)

Association specifically the power to educate, train, operate vocational rehabilitation facilities, and all other facilities necessary to assist and rehabilitate the mentally retarded.

The State Department of Education has already approved these changes.

## RESEARCH FIGHTS MENTAL RETARDATION

As a result of past research, it is now possible to:

- Vaccinate against measles.
- Detect and Treat PKU.
- Transfuse for blood incompatibility.
- Operate for hydrocephalus.
- Treat hypothyroidism to prevent cretinism.
- Overcome some effects of deprivation.
- Reduce prematurity.
- Avoid the consequences of german measles in the mother.

The NARC Research Fund has supported important studies of—

- Chromosomal abnormalities;
- Errors of metabolism;
- Prematurity;
- Maternal infections;
- Obstetrical techniques.

Unfortunately, however, too little money is being donated to the NARC Research Fund. In 1965, for example, 271 local units and 24 State Associations contributed \$68,067 for research.

Since the NARC Research Fund was established, contributions, mainly from State and local units members, have totaled over \$1 million. This is far too little, according to those engaged in administering the Fund.

It has been suggested persons knowledgeable in the field of raising funds for research that the approach to the member units and to the members themselves should be only a small part of such a campaign. It has also been suggested, not yet acted upon by National Association for Retarded Children, that the pharmaceutical firms be approached for support of the Research Fund on an on-going basis.

The National Association has made an earnest appeal, in the meanwhile, to all member units to contribute to this Fund.

## COLLEGE SEMINAR TO AID RETARDED

One of the four colleges and universities in the United States to conduct the first college seminar for training of the mentally retarded will be the State University College at Cortland.

The college is the recipient of a special \$29,800 grant from the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation to conduct a seminar in physical education for the mentally retarded.

The first seminar took place August 19th for college teachers from the northeast.

Each of the teachers chosen to take part was a leader in the physical education field and must agree to teach a course on this subject in his own college by the 1967-1968 academic year.

Cortland has long been interested in instructing teachers in this field and several years ago Prof. Emeritus Leonore K. Alway, formerly chairman of the women's physical education department at Cortland, initiated a course on this subject.

Recently Dr. Whitney T. Corey, chairman of the department of men's physical education at Cortland, proposed a more comprehensive physical education program and contacted the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, which is interested in physical education and recreation of the mentally retarded.

Mrs. Sargent Shriver, vice president of the foundation, said "We at the Kennedy Foundation consider this seminar as one of the most promising developments in mental retardation in many years and look forward to working together with the college at Cortland to produce a very exciting and effective program."

Among the topics to be covered by the seminar were: physical and psychological characteristics of the mentally retarded, improving motor coordination through physical education skills and recreational crafts, instructional materials, parental relationships, and employment opportunities for the handicapped.



## COMMUNITY REJECTS RETARDED, SAYS FATHER

So much effort and strength have gone into the program of educating the public to the problems of the retarded, that sometimes we are deceived by our own efforts into thinking that the retarded are really being accepted.

We wish to share with you a letter from a father of a retarded child printed on August 25th, 1966, in the Wyoming Reporter. The letter follows:

"I am the father of a retarded child. A fourteen-year-old boy. I didn't realize until this past week how serious a problem this is. My boy goes from Warsaw each school day to a special class in Silver Springs. To and from the Warsaw School he is taunted by the name retard and if he leaves his bicycle on Warsaw School grounds, it is used by other children and brought back broken.

"When he goes swimming at Warsaw Falls after school and on week-ends he is taunted and any refreshments he has are taken with the threat of a beating. This is not done by one boy alone. It is done by several in a gang. I know the names of some of them.

"There the many more boys than girls around this section who have the same affliction and their fathers and Mothers must have the same problem. During the past week my boy and two companions from the same school were taunted by the names retard and kicked out of the little league by young and old alike.

"Also during the week my seven-year-old daughter was taunted and stoned out of a neighbor's yard on Genesee Street by the children of a mother who came out and said she hated retards. There is nothing wrong with my daughter as far as I know except she has a heart ailment. I love these children of mine, and the boy more so because of his problem as the Fathers of more intelligent boys and girls should love theirs.

"I don't see how I or the other Fathers and Mothers can bring these children up to be useful citizens if these things keep happening.

"I hope I am speaking for the other Fathers as well as myself when I say, 'We won't get anywhere with these kids until the unaffected children of the so-called intelligent people stop treating them as if they crawled out from under a rock'

"I don't want sympathy, just a square deal.

"Anyone interested, the editor has my name and address."

## COMMUNITY RESIDENCES (Continued From Page 1)

up to 50 percent of the total operating cost to assure financial stability for the hostels, and "thus make possible a life of dignity, happiness and self-respect for thousands of the mentally retarded who cannot now enjoy these", the Governor said.

"A network of hostels will be a major new element in providing the broad range of services needed by the retarded including expanded sheltered workshops, new community facilities, State School Colonies, and eight smaller State Schools located near the community," the Governor said.

"Many of the people," said the Governor, "who will live in these facilities would be able to pay the full rent since they would be working in the community. Others, working in sheltered workshops, might be able to pay only part of the rent. The State, supplementing as necessary, can assure the continued stability of the hostel."

"As part of this renewed effort, I will ask for increased support for sheltered workshops to strengthen these services which provide training and employment for the retarded."

The text of the telegram follows:

"I very much regret that I cannot be with you at your Banquet tonight, but I feel well represented by Dr. Miller. The mentally retarded have a true champion in Alan Miller. I am deeply gratified by the wonderful work he has been doing. His dedication, imagination and persuasiveness in advancing programs for the mentally retarded must stir the hearts of all of us who are so deeply concerned that everything possible be done for the retarded.

"I would like to announce to you this evening a new breakthrough in our mutual efforts to bring help to the retarded.

"I will recommend to the 1967 legislature, if re-elected, a program of state support for the construction and operation of community hostels for the mentally retarded.

## STATE A. R. C. HONORS BLIND

The N. Y. State Association for Retarded Children presented an award to two state associations for the blind for their support in urging passage of Amendment 4, reported elsewhere in this issue.



**L. to r. Joseph W. Pike, President, New York State Federation of Workers for the Blind;; William S. Dwyer, First Deputy Vice-President of the Empire State Assn. for the Blind and Joseph T. Weingold.**

The award was presented at the offices of the Albany Association of the Blind on Washington Avenue in Albany.

In a joint statement Joseph W. Pike, president of the, New York State Federation of Workers for the Blind, and William S. Dwyer, first vice president of the Empire State Association of the Blind, said:

"When our present (state) Constitution was adopted in 1938, it included the blind, the deaf, and the physically handicapped. In fact, such inclusion of some of these handicapped persons even goes back to the Constitution of 1894."

"When the constitutional provisions for the physically handicapped, the deaf and the blind were adopted, the problems of the mentally retarded and the emotionally disturbed were not identified."

"Now that it is realized how much can be done for the mentally ill, the mentally retarded and the emotionally disturbed to bring them into the stream of society it is only right and reasonable that they should have the same consideration in the Constitution as the other handicapped groups."

The award presentation was made by Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the New York State Association for Retarded Children.

"If the mentally retarded have a stable home with their parents, they can manage quite well; but many do not have such homes. Or, if they do, as they grow older, and as their parents grow older, the problem becomes increasingly difficult. The most persistent fear that every parent of a retarded child harbors, as you well know, is the fate of their child after the death of both parents.

"All too often, an almost independent retarded individual must remain in, or finally be admitted to a state school.

A network of hostels in communities throughout the state will be a major new element in providing the broad range of services needed by the retarded—including expanded sheltered workshops, new community facilities, state school colonies and smaller state schools.

"These hostels will be community residences that could be built by the state or local governments or with state assistance by voluntary organizations such as your own. In addition, the state would finance up to 50 percent of the total operating cost to assure financial stability for the hostels — through this program, it is our desire to make possible a life of dignity, happiness and self-respect for thousands of the mentally retarded.

"These hostels along with expanded state support for sheltered workshops once again show that in New York State, the mentally retarded are getting more than sympathy.

"I care very deeply about these matters — and we seek the same goals.

"I can assure you that the scope and pace we have set to achieve the progress we have made so far will not be diminished but will continue to increase during the next four years if I have anything to do about it."

(Signed) NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER.



# SEEN AT THE STATE CONVENTION



**Ruth Gross and Bob Wagner — A Pair of Past Presidents Posing.**



**Quick introductions before Mr. Samuels' speech find (l. to r.) Robert Wagner, Past President New York State ARC, Mrs. Jess Present, Bernard Fineson, Past President, NYS ARC, Joseph T. Weingold, Howard Samuels, Jess J. Present, State Assemblyman and John W. Bertrand.**



**Congratulations! So says Bernie Fineson to Jim Reville on his re-election. Louise Cooke thinks it's funny.**



**The Max Schachters, at dinner**



**Gus Jacobs, Bernie Fineson and Joe Stuckart talk over old times.**



**Joseph T. Weingold, James F. Reville and Bette Dowling listen to Howard Samuels at Saturday's Banquet.**



**Looks like Weingold bit the wrong piece of tongue.**



**Panel on Program Planning and Implementation. l. to r. Harry W. Vackel, Bd. of Supervisors, Erie County; Dr. Hyman Pleasure, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Mental Hygiene; Dr. Stanley P. Davies, Panel Chairman, Deputy Director for Planning, Department of Mental Hygiene; Robert Berroyer, Special Assistant for Construction, Department of Mental Hygiene; Adrian Levy, Assist. Commissioner for Vocational Rehabilitation, State Education Department.**



**Panel on Fund Raising. l. to r. Elliot Aronin, Nassau County; Robert Hodgson, Chairman of Panel, Erie County; Mrs. Joseph Van Haelst, Wayne County.**



**Mrs. Mary Andrews charms a registrant while Mrs. David Naetzker does the hard work.**



**The Tom Kennys, younger and elder, of Geneva,**



## INJECTIONS FAIL TO SPUR LEARNING

EXPERTS UNABLE TO DUPLICATE TESTS SHOWING TRANSFER OF TRAINING IS POSSIBLE

Is it possible to transfer learning by injection?

Several much-publicized experiments within the last few years have suggested that it is. Contrary results were reported in August of this year, however, from six universities and two major drug firm laboratories.

In prior experiments scientists have tried to answer this question: can an animal's ability to learn a task be enhanced by injections of material from the brains of animals that have already learned it?

For example, rats are taught to find their way through a maze to get food; or to avoid electric shock by reacting to a signal light of a buzzer. Material from the brains of these trained animals is then injected into untrained rats. These are then taught the same lesson. If the injections are helpful the animals should learn more quickly.

Several scientists have reported experimental results suggesting that such enhancement of learning has taken place. There has been one set of experiments in which the transfer seems to have been from one species to another — from rats to hamsters.

Such experiments have attracted wide interest because they bear on an important area in modern study of the brain. This is the question of how memory and learning are laid down and stored.

Some scientists believe ribonucleic acid (RNA) is a key to the chemistry of memory. RNA directs the manufacture of protein in all living cells. It is one of the master chemicals of life.

Experiments here and abroad have shown that RNA production goes up sharply in the brains of animals that have just undergone training. Furthermore, there is some evidence in man to suggest treatment with RNA, or chemicals that promote its production can stimulate the ability to remember. Some chemicals that inhibit RNA and protein formation seem to interfere with memory.

Some scientists think that memory is coded in the complex structure of RNA molecules or in proteins formed at the RNA's direction. Hence, the attempts to see what effect RNA injections might have on the behavior of untrained animals.

The experiments reported were attempts to reproduce the results of others that have claimed success in this kind of transfer through RNA. But the attempts failed.

"In 18 experiments no clear evidence of a transfer of any of these kinds of training from trained donors to recipients were found," said the report of the August 5th issue of *Science*, published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The new report is noteworthy in that it represents a unanimous result from at least seven independent projects.

"Each of the sets of experiments was independently undertaken in one of our laboratories," said the report's authors.

## THE STORY OF PERIWINKS

What are Periwinks? Are they a flower? Are they a food?

Periwinks are a means to help handicapped become more independent. That's all.

Periwinks are an easier way for the handicapped to dress themselves. They are 4 Magnetic buttons-on-tape 12 inches long. They can be sewn on any garment to take the place of other closures. And the other closures don't have to be removed.

Periwinks are not affected by ironing or washing or anything. So they are permanent. So permanent that they can be moved from garment to garment.

It takes absolutely no effort to close Periwinks.

And it takes very little effort to pay for them. They are only \$6.00.

For Periwinks, and, in the near future, for clothing for the handicapped of all ages by New York's brightest young designers, write to Magnet Button, Inc., 31 West 12th Street, New York, New York, or call Watkins 9-4982.

## MRS. SHRIVER GETS A LASKER AWARD

QUESTIONS LETTING SCIENTISTS CONTROL OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR

Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver called on theologians, philosophers and humanists to help rule the swirling new world of science which can now profoundly influence the very nature of man and mankind.

Unless they act, she warned, men may be left "helpless in a sea of half-truth, misinformation or, even worse, naked before the power of a biologically planned society."

Mrs. Shriver made the remarks accepting the Albert Lasker Award in Health for her work for the mentally retarded.



Mrs. Eunice Shriver (left) accepts award from Mrs. Mary Lasker

She noted that research is racing ahead so fast that scientists are on their way to being able to control evolution, change and even alter sex, and regulate the size of children "in the next few decades."

"If organ transplantation becomes routine," she said, "who would be chosen for preservation—the young and most promising? The elderly? The retarded?"

"If we leave the answers to these and similar questions only to the scientists," Mrs. Shriver warned, "someone lacking in moral judgment will surely advocate euthanasia as a solution to the population problem."

Dr. George E. Palade, a professor at the Rockefeller University, won the basic medical research award. Dr. Sidney Farber, a professor of pathology at Harvard Medical School, was awarded the clinical research award.

## GRADUATES IN AMSTERDAM



Special Class Graduates—James Ravella, supervisor of special classes in Amsterdam presents diplomas to Douglas Small and Christine Mazur, first graduates of the local special class. Both have reached the age of 21, when state training programs cease.

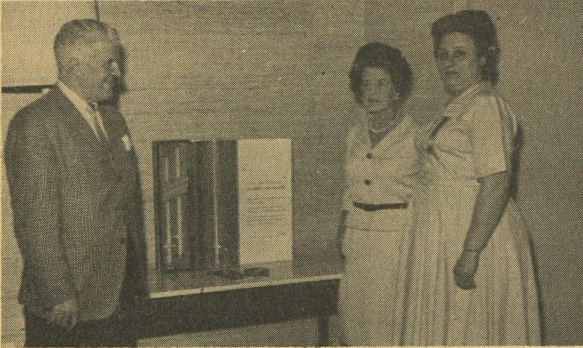


## ASSOCIATION PROMOTES FLAME OF HOPE CANDLES

In an all out promotion of the sale of Flame of Hope candles, New York State Association Chapters have ordered over 100 cases. There are 24 pairs in a case.

If ordered by the case, they can be purchased for \$1.50 a pair, FOB the nearest workshop, in this case, the AHRC Training Center and Workshop at 380 Second Avenue, New York, New York 10010.

Making the candles provides work in 12 workshops throughout the country for the mentally retarded as well as a promotional item to educate the public to the needs of the mentally retarded and their capabilities.



**l. to r. President Reville, Mrs. Rose Kennedy and Mrs. Harry Finkel, president of the Massachusetts ARC, with Flame of Hope Candles at Northeast Regional Meeting.**

Originally launched by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation and the National Association of Sheltered Workshops, the candles are marketed through stores in a number of cities.

In addition, an advertising campaign has been carried on in newspapers, over radio and television to promote the item.

For Christmas the candles are Red. In a letter to our John Bertrand, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation, sister to the late President Kennedy, writes "The rehabilitation values of this project have been terrific in each of the 12 workshops. More than 30% of these retarded men and women who started work on the candles have already been assigned to outside employment."

"We need help to prove that their product — the candles — are marketable. We need to help the stores let the public know about the candles and we need to create new outlets for the candles."

"They do make wonderful gifts for any occasion — especially Christmas. I hope you will promote this."

All Chapters are urged to order your candles immediately from the AHRC Training Center & Workshop, 380 Second Avenue, New York, New York 10010. You will find the activity rewarding in personal satisfaction and in money because you retail them for \$2.98 against a cost of \$1.50. Sell enough and you won't need any Mental Health Board contract.

## "YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT"

We have from time to time told our readers about the negative attitudes of residents of Huntington, Long Island, (Suffolk County) towards the Suffolk State School. The following letter in the Huntington Long Islander poses a quite different attitude. We reprint it happily.

"Editor, The Long-Islander:

"For the past 4 years I have been exposed to mental retardation through my daughter, who is a member of the Huntington Junior Auxiliary for Retarded Children and has been associated with their summer program for recreation in Huntington. Thru the years I've met Retardates, their families, I've learned of their plights and the goals they wish to achieve to make life more meaningful for these children.

"What compelled me to write this, is what I witnessed today. To-day was indeed a big day — The Camp's yearly Carnival. I arrived at Camp at 9 A. M. with my daughter and two younger children, who if I might inject a point here, have accepted these children as they do their own playmates with no detriment to them. I was introduced to some of the children, teachers, assistant teachers and last but not least the volunteer workers. What an enthusiastic group of teen-agers. God bless them for the fine job they do.

"The Retardates were warm and loving. A boy telling his teacher about a sad situation at home, I had to turn away at this point as it brought tears to my eyes. His teacher, competent and knowing, handled the situation beautifully. These children would put our children to shame. They were well-behaved, following instructions. To sum it up, one could see the communication between teachers, workers and children.

"The hustle bustle that went on was exciting. The volunteers were working diligently setting booths up in the auditorium. The enthusiasm among them was overwhelming. Finally the preparations were completed. Children, parents, relatives and friends were led into the auditorium. I was awed by what the teachers and workers had set up for these children. The children were all given tickets at the door which they surrendered one by one as they engaged in the different games of chance. You can be sure there was no lack of imagination on that score. There was music, decorations, pop-corn, cold drinks — the definite theme and atmosphere of a commercial carnival was there down to the three assistants who dressed up as clowns. They rode trikes, gave out balloons, danced with the children, in the true sense of the word, they were clowns.

"It finally was time for me to leave. My children had a ball. Myself? I drove home just a little bit richer, by what I had witnessed at this camp.

"Throughout this letter I have purposely omitted the names of my daughter, volunteers, assistants and teachers. Accolades for them were not my intent although they justly deserve them one and all. I'm sure my daughter and all the other volunteers know how proud we their parents are of them. The Director and his teachers should be commended for running a well organized camp.

"In closing let me say this. You've heard the slogan 'Retarded Children Can Be Helped,' well you better believe it — I do."

(signed) Mrs. J. Nolan

**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED  
CHILDREN, INC.**

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