

# OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

*Retarded Children*

*Can Be Helped!*



VOL. XXII, ISSUE NO. 2

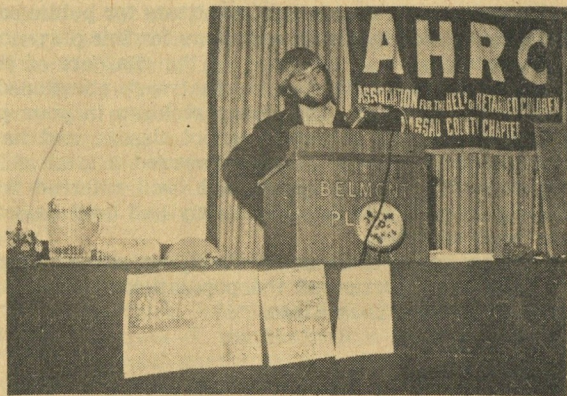
MAY, 1970

## REIMBURSEMENT BILL PASSED AGAIN

### ROBINSON, McCALLUM HIGHLIGHT YOUTH ORGANIZATION

#### CANDI LICENSE ELECTED PRESIDENT

The Organizing Conference of Y.O.U.T.H. — New York State A.R.C. held at the Belmont Plaza Hotel, New York City, April 17-18, 1970, was a major success if the attendance and participation can be used as a guideline. Over two hundred young people from throughout the state attended the Organizing Conference and showed their usual enthusiasm throughout the sessions.



David McCallum gives the word to a rapt audience.

Highlighting the Conference, was the mid-morning talk given by the President of Youth-NARC, Kenneth Robinson of Nashville, Tennessee. Kenny shared with the delegates his own experiences of working with a retarded youngster on a one-to-one basis and encouraged all present to try and broaden the horizon of the mentally retarded in their particular counties. His remarks left the sufficient impression upon those gathered that upon their conclusion Kenny was greeted with a standing ovation of several minutes duration.

Another highlight of the Conference was the appearance Saturday morning of television star David McCallum who is the National Advisor or sponsor to Youth NARC. A warm and charming personality, McCallum drew the raves of all for taking time from his busy schedule to attend our Organizing Conference and for his sincere words with regard to his relationship with the mentally retarded.

Beginning with a mixer on Friday evening, the group moved quickly into the business of organization on Saturday. In addition to adopting state-wide by-laws, the group also elected officers who were installed by National President Kenneth Robinson.

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### FOUR JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE BILLS BEFORE GOVERNOR

#### SEVERE LIMITATIONS ON BUDGET

The Legislature once more, for the fourth or fifth time, passed a bill relieving the parents of children in the State Schools and State Hospitals of liability for fees to the State.

The liability of parents for their children in the institutions of the Dept. of Mental Hygiene, when such children reach the age of 21, was removed some years ago.

Present liability of the parents brings the State in about \$880,000 according to the Bureau of the Budget against income of more than \$175,000,000 from all other sources because of the presence of the patients in these facilities.

The Governor in the past has consistently vetoed this legislation, the last veto being on the ground—(a) that the removal of parental liability might prove a financial incentive to parents to institutionalize children; (b) under the common law, parents of minor children are financially responsible for them.

In the memorandum submitted with the legislation it was pointed out that since the liability of the parents for children over 21 was removed, there has not only been no influx of institutionalization of children over 21 but in fact the numbers have decreased.

With regard to the second point as to the common law liability of parents, it has been pointed out by lawyers that there was no, and we repeat, no, parental liability for minor children under the common law. Such liability was first proposed by the Elizabethan poor laws. This is quite different from the statement that there is a liability under the common law.

We need not go into all the reasons why parents of the retarded and the mentally ill children feel that they are being discriminated against because parents of children with other handicaps do not pay for similar care. It is hoped that the Governor this year will sign this bill since the Finance Committees were very reluctant to let it out of Committee unless there was some assurance of this nature.

In addition to this, the following bills were passed by the Legislature. A. 2735 (Niles-Amann) to provide for an appeal to the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene where a local mental health board refuses to contract with a non-profit agency. In addition, the Commissioner if he believes that the agency is correct, would have the right to enter into a contract directly with such agency. This is not opposed by the Dept. of Mental Hygiene, a reversal of their previous position. They are now in favor of this legislation in the light of the experience that has been had with mental health boards throughout the State.

A bill to provide for direct reimbursement to a non-profit agency by the State for construction where there are

(Continued on Page 15)



## OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Issued four times a year by

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

175 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10010  
674-1520

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

Chartered by the State of New York  
February, 1949

Affiliated with National Association for Retarded Children, Inc.

President: **ROBERT J. HODGSON**

Executive Director & Editor: **Joseph T. Weingold**

## CLIFFORD WESTFALL DIES

Our dear friend and colleague, Clifford Westfall of Schenectady died after a long illness, April 12th of this year.

Cliff, as he was known to all of us, was a man of gentle disposition and soft spoken. This did not prevent him, however, from being President of the Schenectady County Chapter and overseeing much of its development, serving as a member of the Board of the State Association, and as its Regional Vice President for years until his health prevented him from continuing.

The deep sympathy of all members of the Association are extended to his wife, Bertha, and to his children and family.

## FAREWELL TO A FRIEND

I note with deep sorrow the untimely passing of Clifford Westfall and I shall miss him not only as an able co-worker, but as a friend.

Cliff and I worked very closely for four years while he was vice-president of the Central Region. Whenever any problem arose he was quick to answer the call of the chapter and go to work with them to help solve the difficulty. I could always rely on his ability and his accessibility.

Even during the past three years when the illness that finally defeated him was depleting his energy, he never said "I cannot do it, I'm not well".

This man truly gave of himself and left to all of us a legacy of loyalty, inspiration, and dedication.

I can only repeat what Bob Hodgson already said, "he shall live on in our hearts".

James F. Reville.

## STATE AID RESTORATION URGED

Restoration of the original State-aid reimbursement rates to counties for local services expenditures and construction costs has been recommended to the Legislature by Governor Rockefeller in the proposed State budget. The restoration measure awaits approval by the Legislature.

Last year, the Legislature approved a law that cut the reimbursement rates for approved operating expenses from 50 to 45 percent, and from 75 to 70 percent for smaller communities. The reimbursement rate for capital construction costs was reduced from 33½ to 28½ per cent.

The cutbacks were approved to take effect January 1, 1970, but actual state reimbursements to localities are made on a quarterly basis. If the Legislature approves a new proposal restoring the original rates, the restored rates could go into effect for the first quarterly payment this year.

Unfortunately, this is not an open-end bill and the fact is although the rates are being restored, may still mean that projects may not be financed at full amount because a dollar ceiling has been imposed on local services.

Dr. Hyman Pleasure, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene for Local Services states that he believes that all local services can be funded under this dollar ceiling.

## "...TO CHANGE THE WORLD..."

### STATE CONVENTION THEME

The State Convention of the Association will be held this year in Syracuse, September 24th through the 27th at the Syracuse Hotel.

It is expected that hundreds of delegates around the State will convene to find in what ways the Association has been able, and what still must be done "... to change the world ..." for our children's sake.

This theme is picked up from the concluding sentence of the first National convention in Minneapolis when Mr. Weingold, at the end of his talk at the Banquet said, "Although there is some doubt as to how much we can change our children for the world's sake, there is no doubt how much we must change the world for our children's sake."

The convention program will appear in the September issue of OCV.

## GOVERNOR'S BUDGET FUNDS 4407

### Program Sends Children Back To Public School

The Governor's Budget this year, passed by the Legislature, provides for 6,000 children in the 4407 programs with a budget of \$12 million or \$2,000 a year per child.

This is the program under Section 4407 of the Education Law which provides that the State may pay up to \$2,000 a year to non-profit or private schools for the education of mentally or physically handicapped children who are too handicapped to attend public school.

One of the questions that has been raised with regard to this program is that it is a substitute for public education and is being used by public educators for this purpose.

A recent survey, however, of the chapters of the ARC revealed that of the 24 chapters that were questioned, 21 replied to the question "how many children in your program have been referred to public school classes, and have they been accepted"? Of the 21 who answered, a total of 373 children from the 4407 program had been referred to public school classes, where they previously had been rejected, and have been accepted.

Since most of these are probably trainable children, this is a significant portion of the population in classes for the trainable in New York State.

## VOC. REHAB. CUTS RESTORED

It was with great consternation that we heard the Governor's budget request for \$1,250,000 to implement the law that provided for state subsidies up to \$1500 per client for long-range mentally retarded clients of sheltered workshops was cut to \$750,000 by the Legislature.

It was not at all reassuring that the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee in the Assembly and the Finance Committee in the Senate stated that this was an experimental program and that the \$750,000 was to get it started; that if the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation needed more money it could come back and it would get it through a deficiency appropriation.

The efforts of the rehabilitation agencies and especially the ARC were partially rewarded by the restoration of \$250,000 to the budget making appropriation of \$1,000,000. In addition two staff positions that had been cut out of the budget were restored to implement the law.

It is now expected that the law will be implemented in a similar manner as Section 4407 as of April 1st. of this year.



# ASSOCIATION ADMINISTERS NEW TITLE I GRANT

The State Association has participated in a second training program for the staff of 4407 programs under a Title I Grant. Following the 1969 program which was a series of regional conferences for all staff of 4407 programs, a three-day seminar was arranged April 15-17 at Grossing-ers. The program was intended as an in service training program for teacher aides in voluntary agency programs engaged in the training and education of the mentally retarded in State supported non-public facilities under section 4407 of the Education law.

The grant, which is handled through the State Association, was used to bring the aides into a series of studies relating to their day to day activities. Mr. Robert Sansone, Associate Program Analyst for the Department of Mental Hygiene, again served as coordinator of the program.

On April 15, the group opened with core sessions on "The Role of the Aide" under the direction of Mrs. Elizabeth Floyd, Coordinator of Day Training, Suffolk County ARC, Rhoda Ferber, Educational Program Director, the Shield Institute, Regina Schatner, Educational Program Director, New York City Chapter, and Mr. Sal Gullo, Director of the Nassau County United Cerebral Palsy Association.

On the second day of the program, the aides were able to choose from one of two elective subjects including Behavioral Management under the direction of Miss Ferber, Self Help under the direction of Mrs. Floyd, assisted by Joann Pasanisi of Suffolk Rehabilitation, Language and Communication under the direction of Mrs. Schatner, and Motor Coordination under the direction of Mr. Gullo.

On Friday, the last day, the program centered around a panel headed by the faculty members and Mr. Sansone, and moderated by Mr. Jay Schleichkorn, Executive Director, New York State Cerebral Palsy Association, who also served as a consultant during the sessions. Mr. John Weems, director of the Cayuga County Chapter of the New York State ARC, was also present in a consultant's role.

In commenting on the program, Mr. Sansone stated, "I think that this was a highly successful program. The aides all functioned at an extremely high level. Their interest and cooperation throughout the program was extremely gratifying."

Originally designed to serve only 100 participants, the program drew 119 individuals from around the state and there were over thirty additional applicants who had to be turned down because of the limitations on the Conference size. Those agencies participating included: ARC Chapters from Clinton County, Jefferson County, Niagara County, Erie County, Cayuga County, Wayne County, Chemung County, Broome County, Saratoga County, Albany County, Rensselaer County, Ulster County, Orange County, and Suffolk County; United Cerebral Palsy Organizations in Buffalo, Geneva, Utica, Westchester County, Suffolk County; the Staten Island Aid for Retarded Children; the Exceptional Children's Center in Brooklyn; the Shield Institute; the Kennedy Child Study Center; M.E.N.D.; Special Children's Center; Suffolk Rehab; Pre-Schoolers' Workshop; and Prospect Programs.

## IMAGES THAT NEED SHATTERING

A survey of housewives in Syracuse, N. Y., disclosed that three-fourths have a high opinion of the job abilities of the mentally retarded. Reason: for years they have been hiring retarded domestic workers from the Syracuse State School.

But the survey also showed that three-fourths of all male employers in Syracuse hold unfavorable opinions of the retarded as employees. They have not had as much first-hand exposure to them.

The survey, conducted by students of Syracuse University's Mental Health Information Program, concluded that there's no substitute for personal contact with the mentally retarded in order to build more favorable attitudes toward them.

## STUDY OF EDUCATION FINANCING

Governor Rockefeller and the State Board of Regents, with the agreement of the legislative leaders, has announced the creation of a New York State Commission on the Quality, Cost and Financing of Elementary and Secondary Education. In appointing the members of the Commission, the Governor and the Regents issued the following statement:

"New York is justly proud of its educational eminence and the opportunities its excellent school system has afforded its people.

"However, we cannot uncritically project our present system forward without change, in this age of profound change, without running the risk that our schools may lack educational relevance and financial viability in the future.

Therefore, we have created a State Commission on the Quality, Cost and Financing of Elementary and Secondary Education to conduct a searching examination of these schools, and to make recommendations for meeting the challenges to them in the next decade bearing on their quality, relevance, cost, efficiency and financing.

"The Commission's work will cover both public schools and non-public schools, which now serve one-fifth of the State's elementary and secondary pupils."

Mr. Manly Fleischmann of Buffalo, New York has been appointed Chairman of the Commission. According to a spokesman for the State Association, it is hoped that this Commission will also examine the financing of special education in New York State. At present the State pays the same for a pupil in a class for the handicapped as for a pupil in a class for so-called normal children. This is an obvious injustice when the cost of educating, for example a trainable mentally retarded child runs three or four times that of educating a child of normal intelligence.

## NEW BOOKLET ON EMPLOYMENT OF THE MENTALLY RETARDED

### BERNIE ROSENBERG HONORED

Two presidential committees recently released a joint report on rehabilitation and employment of the mentally retarded that contains 39 recommendations.

Dr. Robert Aldrich, Vice Chairman of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation and Harold Russell, Chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, joined in honoring Bernard Rosenberg, member of the Board of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, and one of the founders of the State Association, with citations for his outstanding work in promoting the employment opportunities for the mentally retarded.

The booklet called, "These, Too, Must Be Equal," contains 39 proposals for action. One of them, number 12, states that at least 600 new sheltered workshops that include the mentally retarded are needed today, according to State facility plans. Unfortunately, however, said Mr. Thomas Coughlin, Senior Vice President, New York State Association for Retarded Children and Chairman of the Vocational Rehabilitation Committee, the Federal funds have been cut to almost zero for projects to establish sheltered workshops for the mentally retarded.

The book is a good public relations document if it can go into the hands of those who need it the most, the employers, industry, especially labor, and the general public.

Our New York City Chapter reports that, obliged to move from its present quarters at 380 Second Avenue where the sheltered workshop has been located for many years, it is finding it very difficult to get space rented to it by owners of property when they find it is to be used for a sheltered workshop for the mentally retarded.

Copies of the booklet may be obtained from the President's Committee on Mental Retardation, Washington, D.C. 20201.



## GOVERNOR'S BUDGET SLASHED BY LEGISLATURE

This article concerning the Governor's budget and the action of the Legislature will probably be academic by the time it reaches the reader.

The Governor's budget message provided for full funding, of Section 4407 classes operated by private agencies as well as the program for aid to sheltered workshops for long-term and mentally retarded employees.

The budget also provided some \$14,000,000 more for services for the mentally retarded in the State Department of Mental Hygiene.

As of this writing, the beginning of April, the Legislature has cut the \$1,250,000 requested by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Education Department for the sheltered workshop program by \$500,000, leaving \$750,000 for a program to service 1,000 adults.

Inquiries from Ways and Means Committee and Finance in the Senate elicited the reply that this is an experimental program, a new one, and if the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation needs more money during the year it can come back for it with the implication that it will receive such funds, as the program under Section 4407 of the Education Law did. This is not too reassuring to the agencies who are waiting for the implementation of this law through funding and, in the opinion of the Association does not carry out the pledge of the Legislature and the Governor last year when they stated that the program would be funded this year.

It is the hope of the agencies dealing with this large number of severely handicapped individuals that the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will fund the programs at the full amount and take the Legislature at its word, come back for more when it needs it.

It is heartening, however, to report that the Governor's budget providing for 6,000 pupils in Section 4407 programs is being funded at the maximum of \$2,000 per pupil, \$12,000,000 in all. This has been approved by the Legislature at this time.

The budget of the Department of Mental Hygiene, however, has not fared as well with a \$6,000,000 slash from the programs for the mentally retarded.

At this writing there is still hope that some or all of these cuts may be put back in the supplemental budget which must be passed by the Legislature before it adjourns.

All members of the Association have been asked to write to the legislative leaders with regard to these cuts in the hope that some of them will be put back.

### "DID YOU KNOW THAT ..."

Print and broadcast media contributed \$5,028,733. worth of space and time in 1968 to public service messages on mental retardation, the Advertising Council reports.

This figure brings the total value of contributions to the Council-coordinated program to over \$35 million since 1965, when the campaign got under way.

Major contributions during 1968 included 368,170,000 television home impressions, 963,153 newspaper lines, and 115 ads in national consumer magazines.

**STATE CONVENTION — SYRACUSE HOTEL**  
**— SEPTEMBER 24 THROUGH 27 —**  
**MAKE PLANS NOW**  
**WE EXPECT YOU — STATE CONVENTION**  
**— SYRACUSE**

## AID TO DISABLED LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED

After almost a year of waiting, Chapter 1135 of the Laws of 1969 is being implemented by the State Department of Social Services.

The failure of the State Department of Social Service to bring this law into operation, was resulting in conditions bordering on scandalous, with numerous applications filed for fair hearings, because local Social Service Departments were waiting on the State to approve the procedure.

Shortly after a release from Assemblyman Stanley Steingut, Minority Leader, and Assemblyman Harry Kraf, to the newspapers of the State of New York, action followed by the Department of Social Services.

Chapter 1135, Laws of 1969, provides that Aid to the Disabled shall be granted to a recipient in a residential facility for the mentally retarded which is approved or licensed by the State Department of Mental Hygiene, if and so long as Federal aid is available for such purpose.

The Administrative Letter dated January 15, 1970 issued to all public assistance staff throughout the State states that the facilities covered "by the provision are (1) approved hostels under voluntary auspices which were originally established by the Department of Mental Hygiene and (2) Licensed residential schools under voluntary or private proprietary auspices."

The letter further states that "applications shall be accepted from or on behalf of any mentally retarded individual between the ages of 18 and 64 years in an approved hostel or a licensed voluntary private proprietary facility for the mentally retarded, or in such facility pending licensure or approval."

At this writing we are still waiting for the schedule of fees to be paid in the various schools that have been approved.

Among them are the Jefferson ARC Hostel, and the Westchester ARC Hostel.

A list of these approved schools may be obtained from the State Department of Social Service, 112 State Street, Albany, N. Y. 12201.

## ARTHUR PENSE DIES

The mentally retarded of New York State, and indeed the nation, lost one of their best friends in the death of Arthur Pense, former Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene for Mental Retardation in the State of New York.

The Association's first contact with the Department of Mental Hygiene was through Dr. Pense. At that time, there was no special interest in mental retardation in the Department, but we soon became aware that in Dr. Pense the mentally retarded had a real friend.

Through his efforts, a Division of Mental Retardation was established with Dr. Pense as the first Deputy Commissioner.



DR. ARTHUR PENSE

His family, has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in his memory to the New York State Association for Retarded Children.

These contributions are gratefully accepted by the Association which will set up a perpetual memorial to Dr. Pense in the form of a scholarship for some young person to work in the field of mental retardation in an institution of the Department.





The Governor wins smiles from this group of youngsters on his tour of West Seneca State School. And the youngsters were impressed with their guest.

## INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE MEETS WITH DR. GRUNBERG

On March 21 the Institutions Committee under the Chairmanship of Shirley Epstein met with Dr. Fred Grunberg, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene for Mental Retardation and members of his staff to discuss problems of common concern to the Department to the Association.

Among the topics considered were the following:

**Hepatitis:** are residents of State schools protected by the use of Gamma Globulin; **Food:** since food is bought centrally, why is almost twice as much money spent for feeding in the Summer camps run by the Department than for residents in the State schools; **Information Centers:** has the Department instituted any service to inform parents of facilities where they can go for advice and find out what services are available and where; **Hearing and Speech Tests:** what are the results of surveys made and what programs have been instituted as a result of these surveys; **Overcrowding and Waiting Lists:** Up-to-date schedules for new schools, who they will serve, and where the residents will come from; and **Orientation before Admission:** is this procedure followed in all schools or is it up to individual directors?

Although not all problems were resolved by any means, there was frank and open discussion on these and other items. One of the major items of discussion was the location of the new State schools and the opposition of local residents. It was pointed out that in Westchester the Department has backed away from three sites up to the present time and is now involved in a dispute in a later site in North Yonkers.

Mr. Charles McAllister, Assistant Commissioner reported on the recent hearing survey. 3700 were tested and 43% showed some hearing loss. He noted that the severely and profoundly retarded could not be tested. This was questioned in the light of reports in the newspapers that infants two and three days old may be tested for hearing loss. It was also pointed out by the Commissioner that although overcrowding has decreased, it is still a critical problem. The solution depends on more money, more facilities, and especially the development of community facilities to prevent institutionalization and to bring those out of the institution who should not be there.

## SYMPOSIUM AT CRAIG STATE SCHOOL

In a two day symposium at Craig State School in Sonyea, N. Y. our Executive Director, Joseph T. Weingold, was the keynote speaker at the first day with an address on "Private Services as Innovators".

The symposium dealt with the realities of mental retardation, need, plans, programs and projects now and for the immediate future.

Participating in the program were Dr. Vincent I. Bonafede, Director of Craig State School, Dr. Arthur L. Arnold, Assistant Commissioner, Rochester Regional Office, Dept. of Mental Hygiene who spoke on "Public Service to the Handicapped, Changing Policies in New York State". Dr. Ellsworth Bourque, Chief of Adult Habilitation Services, Newark State School and Dr. Albert Scheiner, Director of the planned Monroe State School in Rochester, New York.



J. T. Weingold, Dr. Arthur L. Arnold and Dr. Vincent I. Bonafede.

On the second day, Dr. Nadene Hunter, Deputy Director of Craig State School welcomed the more than 400 participants to hear an address by Francis X. Lynch, Deputy Executive Director, President's Committee on Mental Retardation on "How the Nation Plans for its Handicapped", followed by Dr. Charles Greenberg, Director of Rome State School, formerly Director of Craig State School on "New York State Plans for the Care of the Handicapped" — A Historical Review.

Dr. Guy M. Walters, Director of the Rochester State Hospital spoke on "Psychiatry — A Critical Facet in the Care of the Handicapped" followed by a Summary of the Symposium by Mr. Walter Schofield, Chief Program Analyst, Dept. of Mental Hygiene and a Conclusion of the Symposium by Dr. Vincent I. Bonafede, the Project Director.

The participating agencies were—U. S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, Division of Mental Retardation; and Rehabilitation Service Administration; National Institute of Mental Hygiene; New York State Association for Retarded Children, President's Committee on Mental Retardation; The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation; State University College of Arts and Science, Geneseo, and the Al Sigl Rehabilitation Center, Rochester, N. Y.

Funds for this symposium were provided by a grant from the U. S. Dept. of HEW. The program was coordinated by Dr. John H. Black of Geneseo State College.

## THANK YOU

TO ALL THOSE WHO DID NOT VOLUNTEER IN ANSWER TO OUR PLEA IN THE LAST ISSUE OF O.C.V. OUR THANKS.

THE FACT IS, WE ARE THANKING THE WHOLE ASSOCIATION.

STATE CONVENTION — SEPTEMBER 24th thru 27th — SYRACUSE



## 6 IDENTIFY AND CAUSE OF TAY-SACHS

It has been clear from the beginning of research on Tay-Sachs disease, a sure killer of infants, that a missing enzyme is the cause.

After a 16 year search, that enzyme was identified last August by two University of California doctors at its Dept. of Neurosciences in San Diego. It is called Hexosaminidase A.

They predicted that the absence of the enzyme could be verified in early pregnancy by taking a sample of amniotic fluid from the womb. A Tay-Sachs diagnosis would then justify a therapeutic abortion, saving the mother the psychological anguish of bearing a doomed child.

Now the prediction has become fact. A New York woman who had previously watched a Tay-Sachs baby become paralyzed and blind and then die, submitted to an amniotic tap as precaution. The enzyme was found to be missing. An abortion was performed and the diagnosis of Tay-Sachs confirmed in the 21 week-old aborted fetus.

Dr. Carlo Valenti of Downstate Medical Center did the amniotic tap January 19th. The diagnosis was made January 21 by Drs. Bruno W. Volk and Larry Schneck, of the Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center. The abortion was done January 27th.

Dr. Samuel V. Dunkell, medical chairman of the National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases Association announced that the dramatic story appears in the March 21st issue of *Lancet*, the British Medical Journal, which is printed in Boston.

Tay-Sachs disease, an inherited metabolic disorder, has its highest incidence in societies where there is much inbreeding and it is found that 1 out of every 24 Jews of Eastern European ancestry are carriers of the recessive gene whose presence causes the illness. One out of every 250 persons in the non-Jewish population is a carrier.

## RUBELLA VACCINE SPED TO MILLIONS

Government health officials expect that 12 million American children will have been vaccinated against rubella by the end of June.

So far, 4,787,695 have received protective shots against the virus disease in Federal, state and local programs that began after the first vaccines were licensed last year. The objective is to forestall another nationwide epidemic.

As a consequence of the last one in 1964-65, about 20,000 babies were born with serious birth defects and an additional 30,000 pregnancies ended in spontaneous abortions and stillbirths.

Nationwide epidemics have occurred roughly once a decade on the average. The current Government objective is to immunize 60 million preadolescent children by mid 1975. Presumably the time-table would be accelerated if signs of an impending epidemic appeared.

The New York State Legislature this year has passed legislation mandating immunization against diphtheria, pertussis and rubella in addition to small pox and the others now mandated before entry into public schools.

## ALFRED H. HOGAN DIES

OCV notes with mourning the passing of Alfred H. Hogan of Ogdensburg, a member of the St. Lawrence Chapter, on January 14, 1970. Mr. Hogan, together with his wife Margaret, were membership chairmen for the St. Lawrence Chapter in the 1964-65 membership push which for the first time pulled the Chapter up from a membership under twenty to several hundred. He is well remembered for his special St. Patrick's Day newspaper on the mentally retarded which was distributed throughout the community by the Mayor and other officials. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and five children.

## ONONDAGA, FULTON LEAD MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

With membership in the State Association looking as if it is heading for record heights this year, special mention is due to outstanding membership efforts which have been turned in by Onondaga and Fulton County Chapters.

In Onondaga, where Mrs. Ian (Rosalyn) Sagar has been membership chairman for the past several years, the Chapter has already surpassed last year's membership goal. Mrs. Sagar has already submitted a list of 530 memberships from Onondaga County surpassing last year's final total by some ten members and bringing about an increase of 123 members since the 1968-69 membership year. We understand that there are a number of other names ready to be submitted and that the Chapter's membership quota of 600 will most likely be surpassed this year.



National Mental Retardation Membership Month was kicked off in Syracuse in City Hall when Mayor Lee Alexander took the first 1970 membership in the Onondaga County A.R.C. Presenting the membership card to the Mayor was 16 year old Michael Sagar, son of membership chairman for the Onondaga Chapter, Mrs. Ian Sagar. The Mayor congratulated Michael on the outstanding job he had done at school typing a letter to City Hall.

The other excellent effort which has come through to this point was that in Fulton County Chapter. For many years, Fulton languished in its membership campaign turning in generally only between 25 and 35 members. Last year, the Chapter managed to increase membership to 47 and was given a 1970-71 quota of 65 memberships. Mrs. Fred Ackley, membership chairman, has already submitted a listing of 96 members, better than doubling the 1969-70 total and surpassing the membership quota by 50 per cent.

Other lists coming in from Chapters around the State seem to indicate a fine effort being made and a more complete report will be offered in the next issue of "Our Children's Voice".

## CIVIL SERVICE STATUS TO THE MENTALLY RETARDED IN NEW YORK CITY

The bill introduced by Senators Marchi and Conklin in the Senate and in the Assembly by Assemblyman Gold provides for a new civil service status for the mentally retarded in NYC.

It adds a section to the Civil Service Law to authorize municipal service commissions in cities containing more than one county to determine 100 positions with limited duties which can be performed by mentally retarded persons found qualified and upon such determination such position shall be classified in non competitive class and be filled by persons certified by State Education Dept. as mentally retarded and qualified to perform satisfactorily the duties thereof.

The bill is now before the Governor.



# MONGOLISM BAFFLES SCIENCE DESPITE 10-YEAR STUDY

An extra chromosome that retards about 250,000 Americans, afflicting them with Down's syndrome, or mongolism, continues to baffle scientists despite 10 years of intensive research.

Researchers still do not know what causes the extra chromosome, a microscopic bundle of hereditary material. Nor do they know how it mentally and physically damages about 1 in 650 newborns throughout the world.

Without such an understanding, doctors are unable to prevent this incurable condition.

At a New York Academy of Sciences—National Foundation March of Dimes conference here at the Waldorf-Astoria researchers struggled during three days with the mysteries of the extra chromosome in the hope not only of dealing with mongolism but also of gaining clues about other diseases such as leukemia and premature aging.

For unknown reasons, victims of mongolism have a 20 times higher rate of leukemia than the average, a greater susceptibility to infections and a high incidence of heart defects.

These disorders cause about half the afflicted to die by the age of 5 years.

As antibiotics have helped extend the life expectancy of the afflicted — only 20 per cent survive past age 30 and 3 per cent beyond 50 — doctors are rediscovering a little known observation made almost a century ago.

In 1876, two British physicians, Dr. John Fraser and Dr. Arthur Mitchell, described premature aging in 62 patients with mongolism, according to Dr. George A. Jervis of the Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation at Staten Island.

More recently, some physicians have noted changes from cheerfulness to sullenness, from playfulness to apathy, from docility to excitement in older mongolism patients, Dr. Jervis told the conference.

Within the last 15 years, pathologists have noted in such patients the distinct degenerative changes of brain cells — plaques, or focal areas of degeneration, and small holes — seen in different disease called Alzheimer's presenile dementia, Dr. Jervis said.

But patients with Alzheimer's do not have an extra chromosome, and doctors still do not understand the biologic mechanism and senescence, or premature aging. Dr. Jervis is studying human brain tissue for clues to this mechanism.

Ordinarily, humans have 46 chromosomes, but in 1959 a group of French scientists discovered that mongolism patients have 47.

The vast majority of patients have this 47th chromosome, which doctors can locate on a genetic map called a karyotype, in a position numbered 21. Doctors sometimes call mongolism "trisomy 21" because three not two, chromosomes are at position 21. This form of the disease is rarely hereditary.

A small number — about 3 per cent — of mongols have 46 chromosomes, but the extra genetic material is attached to the chromosome at position 15. Doctors call this translocation. This type can be hereditary.

An even rarer type of mongolism is mosaicism, that is the coexistence in the same person of some cells with the normal 46 chromosomes and other cells with 47. This type is not hereditary.

The extra chromosome contains genes that cause cataracts, which limit the vision and the ability to understand one's environment. The genes retard his bone growth, generally limiting an adult mongoloid's height to that of a normal 10 year-old. They also cause a tell-tale horizontal line across the palm of the hand, called a simian crease.

The name mongolism — some credit John Down with the first description in 1866 and hence call it Down's Syndrome — results from the Oriental appearance created by the epi-

(Continued Next Page)

## BISHOP BRODERICK ASSISTS EFFORTS OF ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED



Vincent Sollecito Jr., President of the Montgomery County Chapter of the ARC accepts check for \$500 from Bishop Edwin B. Broderick of the Albany Diocese. The check was made possible by money presented to the Diocese by the Knights of Columbus, that is donated to worthwhile causes at the discretion of the Diocese.

## RUBELLA BILL PASSED

### Mandatory Shots For All School Children

A bill mandating the use of a recently developed vaccine for all children entering school to prevent German measles or Rubella, has been passed by the 1970 legislature.

The bill sponsored by Senator Norman F. Lent (R) Nassau County and Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Public Health.

According to Dr. Hale Harrow, Assistant Commissioner for Prevention, State Department of Health, we have every reason to expect that the Rubella vaccine will be as effective as the measles vaccine. They have also every reason to believe that it will be durable.

He stated that if children ages 1 - 10 were immunized we can control the disease, protecting a new generation.

It is evident that we need community planning, with intensive informational and motivational program.

Although the vaccine is in short supply, it is estimated that over one million doses will soon be available.

The State Department of Health is engaged in a massive education program as well with the expectation that 1.5 million will be vaccinated this year.

It is noted that if the parent is in the early stages of pregnancy, the child should not be given the vaccine.

## MONGOLISM (Continued)

canthal fold, an extra crease of skin at the junction of the upper and lower eyelids.

Reports at the conference reinforced the findings that the frequency of mongoloid births increase with the age of the mother at conception.

For example, it has been found that a 20 year old has about one chance in 2,500 of delivering a Down's child. Chances rise sharply, at about age 35 and 45 they are about 1 in 40. There is apparently no relationship to the father's age.



# SENATOR JAVITS INTRODUCES WAGNER - O'DAY AMENDMENT

## AIM IS TO HELP HANDICAPPED IN SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

As a result of three years of work by Senator Javits and his staff through Mr. Roy Millenson, the New York State Association for Retarded Children, and the National Association of Sheltered Workshops and Homebound Programs Senator Jacob K. Javits, Senior Senator from New York, has introduced with Senator Magnuson from Washington and Senator Randolph of West Virginia, an amendment to the Wagner-O'Day Act—the 1938 law which for the past 32 years has given to the blind a special priority in the selling of certain products to the Federal Government.

The bill, S. 3425 has two principal objectives: (1) to extend the priority now reserved for the blind to the other severely handicapped, assuring, however, that the blind will have first preference; and (2) to expand the category of contracts under which the blind and severely handicapped will have priority to include services as well as projects, reserving to the blind a first preference for five years after enactment of the bill.

A companion bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives by representative Craig Hosmer of California and other members of the House.

Largely through the opportunities made possible by the Wagner-O'Day Act, there are now over 5,000 blind persons earning regular wages in 79 workshops for the blind in 35 states, turning out over 300 high-quality products. "This bill", according to Senator Javits, "would broaden their opportunities by allowing for special consideration in government contracts for services in addition to products. Also, it would permit the severely handicapped to avail themselves of similar opportunities, without impinging on the first preference given the blind."

According to Senator Javits, a recent study indicates that 50 per cent more disabled persons could be helped by a sheltered workshop if more work were available to them. Today over 100,000 disabled (including blind disabled) are served each year by the 1,500 sheltered workshops in the nation.

"This legislation is **not** a welfare measure," said Senator Javits in presenting the bill to the Senate. "It is a hard-nose proposal to help those who have no choice but to help themselves. The blind and the severely handicapped wish to be self-supporting and to be tax payers, not tax burdens. This legislation will provide a significantly increased number of opportunities for work for those who otherwise might be relegated to institutions, to welfare programs or supported by already burdened families. After 32 years of successful operation, the Wagner-O'Day Act must now be strengthened as I propose."

The Act contemplates the establishment of a National Industries for the Handicapped, similar to the National Industries for the Blind, which would, in effect, be a central contract procuring apparatus for the handicapped from government sources.

A similar project for New York State alone was proposed by Mr. Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, to the then office of Vocational Rehabilitation in Washington, but was rejected as a demonstration project. At that time the four chapters operating the largest workshops were willing to contribute the matching funds necessary for such a project.

"The enactment of this bill may mean the emancipation of the mentally retarded especially from the bondage of low earnings due to the inability of the shops to get remunerative contracts," said Mr. Weingold. "This is a giant step forward in eliminating a category of most favored handicapped groups among the handicapped."

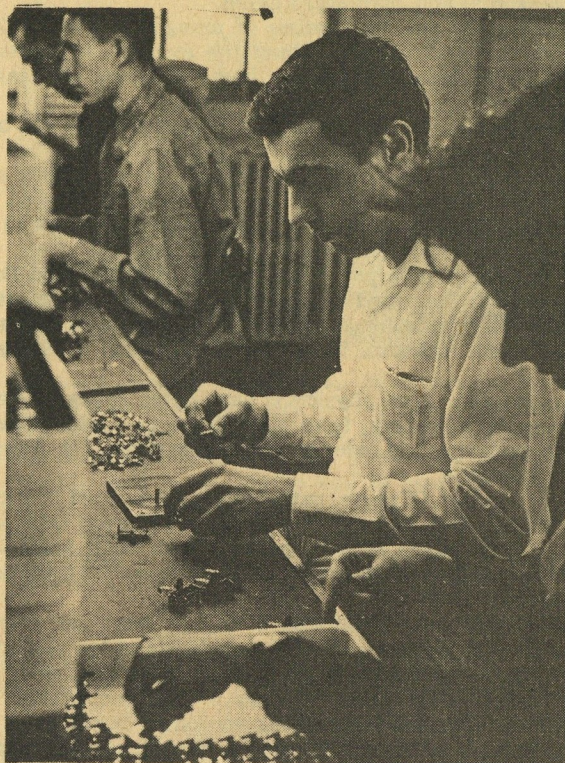
## THE AGE OF THE COMPUTER

We hear from Monroe County Chapter the story that epitomizes the age of the computer.

The Work Training Center of our Monroe County Chapter provides many opportunities for its clients, but instant wealth is not one of them, writes Mrs. Judith Yurman, Administrative Assistant. Friday is payday for the clients and Friday the 13th seemed to cast its spell over Monroe County Chapter, ARC. The payroll clerk of the Work Training Office was going through the checks to be handed out when she noticed that one of the client's pay seemed unusually high. The client's gross pay for the previous week was \$14,411.25, but even after all of the deductions, he was left with a fairly adequate sum of \$7,814.04 for the week.

The key punch operator at the Rochester bank added a few zeroes to the clients rate per hundred and instead of paying \$2.50 per hundred he paid \$2,500 per hundred.

The client was very understanding, writes Judy, and gladly accepted his true earning of \$10.75 for the week.



**THIS IS WHERE THEY EARN THOUSANDS  
OF DOLLARS A WEEK**

## THE MENTALLY RETARDED IN EMPLOYMENT

Public employment offices around the country, according to the newsletter of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, give counseling and placement services to 17,000 mentally retarded each year, according to a Labor Department survey.

**Industries** where the retarded have gone to work: construction, 5.3%; manufacturing, 21.6%; transportation, 2.3%; trade, 30.3%; services, 33.0%; government, 4.1%; others, 3.1%.

**Types of jobs** the retarded have filled. clerical and sales, 8.0%; domestic service, 10.5%; other service jobs, 33.8%; industrial, 47.5%; others, 26.8%.

All this is very interesting, but there is a vast difference between what employers say they do and what they do. For example, a survey of Maine's employers by the State Commission on Rehabilitation showed that 86% said they would hire the mentally retarded; 41% did hire them.

On the other side of the scale it is interesting to note that 92% of the employers said they seldom if ever have been contacted by agencies serving the handicapped.



## NASSAU ISSUES NEW BROCHURE

A new brochure, "A Right to Grow" has just been issued by the Nassau County Chapter of ARC.

Full of illustrations and readable brief descriptions of their programs, this brochure is a model that all of us can follow, (if we have the resources and finances to produce it).

Included in the pamphlet is a statement of income and expenditures for the year ending May 31, 1969, a most necessary element in any brochure that is going to be given to the public to enlist its support.

If you have not yet done so, we urge every chapter to try to obtain a copy of this pamphlet from the Nassau County Chapter, 189 Wheatley Road, Brookville, Glen Head, N. Y. 11545.

If there is any criticism we have to make it is that the address as a chapter does not appear anywhere in the brochure, but then of course they will say that everyone in Nassau County knows where the AHRC is.



As part of their training in pediatrics, students from Cornell Medical College assigned to North Shore Hospital in Manhasset, L. I., are visiting the Nassau County Chapter to learn more about mental retardation. Pictured above Chapter Medical Director, Dr. Jack Storm, left, instructs one of the medical students.

## TWINAME SUCCEEDS SWITZER

Secretary of HEW Robert H. Finch has announced the appointment of John D. Twiname as Administrator of the Social and Rehabilitation Service, effective March 1st.

The Social and Rehabilitation Service includes the Rehabilitation Service Administration, formerly known as the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Division of Mental Retardation, among others.

Mr. Twiname has served as Deputy to Miss Mary Switzer, who has retired after many years of distinguished service, since April 1969. He came to HEW from the position of Vice President of Marketing Services of the American Hospital Supply Corporation of Illinois, heading the company's research and development activities.

## RETARDED CHILDREN'S CENTER, A STEP NEARER



County Executive John H. Mulroy presents an \$85,000 check to the Association for Retarded Children. The money, to be used for a new Onondaga Community Mental Retardation Center being built on Wilbur Avenue, was received from the State as reimbursement to the County. The Association is now housed in temporary quarters on W. Genesee St. From left, Dr. Alfred Falcone of the ARC; Mulroy; Mrs. Margaret W. Daly, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health; and David Elleman, County Comptroller.

## A STATE FACILITY FOR THE RETARDED IN QUEENS

A new State facility in Queens will soon be a home and a school for 272 moderately retarded persons from Queens County. These adolescents and adults presently live far from their homes, primarily at three State schools: Willowbrook, Wassaic and Letchworth Village.

Governor Rockefeller announced that construction contracts have been awarded and work is underway on the second phase of a project to convert the former Stadium View Motor Inn in the Corona Section of Queens to a residence and vocational training center for retarded boys, girls, men and women. The center will be the first operational part of the new Queens School for the mentally retarded.

We understand that this part of the Queens State School will be named the Bernard M. Fineson building in honor of our former President and former President of the NARC, Bernie Fineson.

## AN APOLOGY TO MENTAL HYGIENE NEWS

An article in the January 1970 issue of O.C.V., headlined "Jacobs Protests Mental Hygiene News Article" stated that Augustus M. Jacobs, Chairman of our Legal and Legislative Committee, wrote a letter to Mental Hygiene News concerning the Recodification Hearings and that the Mental Hygiene News had not seen fit to print it.

We hereby offer our apology to Mr. Robert Storr, Editor of the Mental Hygiene News because apparently the November 14th issue of Mental Hygiene News carried all of Mr. Jacobs letter and excerpts from his testimony before the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental and Physical Handicap.

The fact of the matter is that the November 14, 1969 issue of Mental Hygiene News apparently did not reach us. I hope that Mr. Storr will accept our apology.

## RESERVE THE DATES

## STATE CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 24, 25, 26, 27



## SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE GREAT SUCCESS

After a number of years absence, the Southeast Regional Conference of the New York State ARC returned to life most vigorously on Saturday, April 4 at Letchworth Village State School. Chaired by Southeast Regional Vice-President, James D. Maroon, the Conference attracted an attendance of over three hundred persons for a series of workshops.

After morning tours of the facilities at Letchworth Village and the new mental retardation facilities in Rockland County, the group assembled at the Mary E. Davidson School Auditorium where they were greeted by Mr. Maroon and welcomed by Dr. Jacob Schneider, Superintendent of Letchworth Village State School.

After a fine luncheon served by some of the residents of Letchworth, the group broke up into a series of workshops.

A workshop on Pre-School and Education was chaired by Dr. Sam A. LaMagna with Mr. Charles D. Becker and Mr. Charles McAllister as panelists. Another on Sheltered Workshops and Hostels was chaired by Thomas A. Coughlin, Chairman of the Vocational Rehabilitation Committee of the Association, with Dr. Max Dubrow, Director of the New York City Workshop, and Mr. David Baumstein of the Department of Mental Hygiene as participants. A third workshop on Guardianship, Insurance and Social Security was headed by Leo Fixler, Chairman of the Guardianship Committee of the State Association, who was assisted by Joseph Oster, the Honorable John F. Skahen, Surrogate of Rockland County, and Mr. Hy Clurfeld.



Part of the more than 300 people in attendance at S. E. Regional Conference.

Nassau County spotlighted the remaining two workshops with Mrs. Ruth Schueler, Chairman of Nassau County's Youth Organization, heading a panel in Youth and Auxiliaries, and Mrs. Bernice Sobel of Nassau and Mrs. Jo Iovino of Suffolk County participating. A final workshop on Finance, Grants and Fund-Raising was handled by Mrs. Helen Kaplan, Executive Director of the Nassau County Chapter.

The response to the program was most gratifying and it seems positive that the Southeast Regional Conference will once again become a regular ARC function.

In addition to Mr. Maroon as chairman, the planning for the Conference was completed by Assistant Chairman, Mrs. Jo Iovino, and by Mrs. James F. Reville (Welfare League), Mr. Gordon Webster (Suffolk), Mrs. Bernice Sobel (Nassau), Mrs. Myra Drucker (Nassau), Mr. Carl Genna (Ulster), Mr. Vincent Puleo (Ulster), and Mrs. Anne Kraus (New York City).

The Arrangements Committee consisted of Mrs. Reville, Chairman, Mrs. Herman Volaski, Registration, Mrs. Sidney Finck, Luncheon and Workshops, Mr. Ben Aceto, Letchworth Tours, and Mr. James F. Reville and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gasman, Hospitality.

**WHO HAS THE TAPE OF MR. WEINGOLD'S SPEECH AT THE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL MEETING, LETCHWORTH? PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH MR. WEINGOLD IMMEDIATELY.**

## 1970 POSTER CHILD

Roberta Scott, 13, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Huey Scott of Wichita, Kansas, was named 1970 Poster Child of the National Association for Retarded Children, it was announced by Frank E. White, President of the Association.



**NEW YORK** — Actress Barbra Streisand, Honorary Chairman for the National Association for Retarded Children, congratulates Roberta Scott, 13, of Wichita, Kansas, on her selection as the 1970 Poster Child. Lennie Sampiere, 11, of Cranford, N. J., also gets hugged as winner of the Retarded Childrens' Christmas Card Contest. "People Who Need People" is the Association's campaign theme.

Roberta was selected from the hundreds of nominees suggested by the Association's nearly 1500 affiliated units to represent the nation's six million mentally retarded children and adults.

The Scotts have three younger children, all normal, but Roberta has been mildly retarded since birth. She attended Special Education classes in the Wichita public school system and is currently enrolled in the Starkey Development Center.

Roberta has been invited to New York to meet Barbra Streisand, the Association's National Honorary Chairman, and will appear with Miss Streisand in a forthcoming television film appeal to be shown during November, National Association for Retarded Children's Month.

## YOUTH CONV. (Continued from Page 1)

The officers elected were: President—Candi License, Baldwin, New York (Nassau County Youth); Vice-President—Western Region—James Freitag, Olean, New York (Cattaraugus County Youth); Vice-President—Northeast Region—Tommy Cranna, Hudson, New York (Columbia County Youth); Vice-President—Southeast Region—Susan Gordon, Manhasset New York (Nassau County Youth); Recording Secretary—Patricia Owens, Port Jervis, New York (Orange County); Corresponding Secretary—Paula Crosson, Olean, New York (Cattaraugus County); Treasurer—Nancy Paret, Smithtown, New York (Suffolk County); Board member, Western Region—Nancy Klein, Rochester, New York (Monroe County); Board member, Northeast Region—Claudia Beynart, Hudson, New York (Columbia County); Board member, Southeast Region—Debbie Rhatigan, Commack, New York (Suffolk County).

The Central Region of the New York State A.R.C. was the only region not represented at the Organizing Conference.

The group also voted the position of Honorary Vice-President to Nancy Denker of Plainview, New York from Nassau County.

The group was also pleased to learn of the involvement of youth through their schools through the luncheon address of Mr. Elliot Noyes, Principal of Great Neck High School.

The Youth Conference was under the direction of Mrs. H. E. (Ruth) Schueler, co-chairman of the Association's Youth Committee.

The Board of the Youth Organization will be meeting again in June to plan for a fall Convention.



# Y.O.U.T.H.'S ORGANIZING CONFERENCE



R. J. Hodgson, President of the N.Y.S. A.R.C. with N.A.R.C.'s Y.O.U.T.H. Consultant, Emily Leonard, and our new State Y.O.U.T.H. President, Candi License.



Charlie Cyge of Nassau County gives a relaxed version of a group leader.



Y.O.U.T.H. — N.A.R.C. President, Kenny Robinson speaks while Nancy Denker listens and David Shulman looks.



The hard part — Tom Freltag and Sam Morrie of Olean dig down for registrars Sharon Newman and Eileen Rhatigan.



Mr. Elliot Noyes holds forth.



Ruth Schueler, Elliot Noyes, in conference with Nancy Denker and Candi License.



"I thought you were from the New York Times" she said.

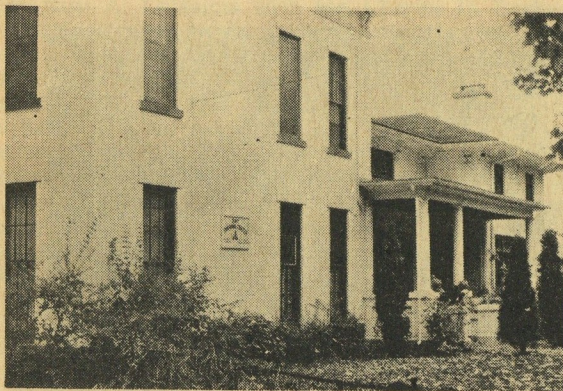


Kenny Robinson, President Y.O.U.T.H. N.A.R.C., and Eileen Rhatigan, N.E. Regional Vice-President, at the Friday nite mixer.



# Chapter News

We lead off this issue's news with an apology to WELFARE LEAGUE — LETCHWORTH VILLAGE CHAPTER for the failure to report in our last issue on WELFARE LEAGUE'S 30th Anniversary Luncheon. It was a marvelous gathering highlighted with a performance by residents of LETCHWORTH of the Glibert and Sullivan operetta "The Pirates of Penzeance". Awards were given to Dr. Howard A. Rusk, and Carol & Sam Diggs. In addition, a handsome brochure on the history of WELFARE LEAGUE was issued at this time . . . Congratulations to Mrs. James F. Reville upon her election as President of WELFARE LEAGUE. Dr. Alan D. Miller, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, presided at the installation meeting for all the new officers of WELFARE LEAGUE on April 4 . . . Congratulations also to Ben Aceto, outgoing President, who was presented with a silver bowl in recognition of his service to the Chapter . . . WELFARE LEAGUE also very active with the Southeast Regional Con-



**New Wayne County Building.**

ference reported elsewhere in this issue . . . WAYNE COUNTY CHAPTER continuing to expand and grow in their new quarters purchased by the Chapter last summer. At the present time, reports Director Barbara Pyle, the Chapter is serving 25 children, has 3 teachers, one aide, one full time speech therapist, one full time social worker, a part time physical therapist, and a "proud" Director. Expanding into new programs for this coming year . . . Have been chosen by the Lions Clubs of WAYNE COUNTY as their charitable project of the year. It is the first time all the clubs in the County have gone together in one effort on behalf of one organization . . . Congratulations on their fund drive which took in over \$10,000. An excellent job in a small County . . . CLINTON COUNTY CHAPTER has sent out an interesting brochure outlining all of their programs for 1969-70 in advance. A most attractive work . . . Recently made a big attempt to upgrade their workshop by inviting Dr. Max Dubrow of New York City and Milton Levine of our Nassau County Chapter in for an evaluation consultation . . . ONTARIO COUNTY rolling right along, now accepting an occasional adult from the WAYNE COUNTY Program and sending some of their younger children to WAYNE. A good cooperative effort . . . BROOME COUNTY struggling through the difficulties of a building looks just about ready to go. What a marvelous thing this will be . . . Mrs. Harry Sall, Membership Chairman, sent out a fine membership letter. Others should get copies from her . . . Hats off to SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER for a handsome new publication, "The Communicator" to be published in February, April, July, October and December. It is one of the most comprehensive newsletters we have yet seen and certainly one of the most attractive . . . Many thanks to SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER for providing the sodas, which were guzzled in quantity, for our Youth Conference. SUFFOLK had a good representation and has some of the more active Youth groups in the State . . . Mrs. Margot Vogel, Publicity Chairman for SCHOHARIE COUNTY CHAPTER writes, "SCHOHARIE COUNTY CHAPTER has just finished its

successful annual fund drive headed this year by Dr. Seeley M. Phillips, Veterinarian — has started its fifth annual membership drive — and at present is also knee deep in building plans for the new ARC Center. An option on land has been obtained, architects hired and the formidable task of meeting all contingencies and red tape head on has begun. Wish us luck. It is also the Chapter's fifth birthday. Happy Birthday To YOU . . . MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER continuing to become more effective with each passing month has now started a new project at their Center called "Project Kitchen" an attempt to equip a new kitchen in their center . . . Many thanks to the Knights of Columbus and Bishop Broderick for their contribution of \$500.00 to MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER . . . Had a Christmas Pizza Party and were once again the recipients of the receipts of the annual Spaghetti Supper of the Amvets under the direction of an old friend, Nick Manginelli . . . Planning to take 23 youngsters to the Circus in Madison Square Garden as of this writ-

## MAYOR CORNING HONORED



Judge Harold Segal, one of the stalwarts of our Albany County Chapter makes a presentation to Mayor Erastus Corning, II (seated) at the reception in honor of the Mayor by our Albany County Chapter. The recognition is for Mayor Corning's great contributions to the cause of retardation represented by two buildings we now occupy and much other help from the City.

ing. Hope they get seats together . . . ALBANY COUNTY CHAPTER sponsored a Presentation and Reception in honor of Mayor Erastus Corning II at their Center on April 7th. A well deserved honor for a great friend . . . It's so difficult to pick news out of the busy activities at ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER but perhaps the highlights sent in by Sue Morse, Public Information Director, could best express their activity. Building Chairman, Al Cappuccilli announces that the new Center is 60 per cent complete and the Chapter can expect to move in during the summer. They are looking forward to showing it off when they host the State Convention this fall . . . Dr. Burton Blatt, author of *Christmas in Purgatory* and now head of the Special Education Department at Syracuse, spoke to the Chapter . . . A Boy Scout Troop is being formed for retarded boys in ONONDAGA COUNTY under the auspices of the ARC . . . The North Syracuse Jaynees are interested in helping parents of retarded by developing and coordinating a baby sitting program . . . Miss Viola Hall of the Board expects to take over a Youth program in ONONDAGA COUNTY . . . BENEVOLENT SOCIETY FOR RETARDED CHILDREN busy with their usual rounds of activities had their annual installation meeting in January with Dr. Jack Hammond as the installing officer . . . Very pleased at having two WILLOWBROOK children winners in the Christmas Card Design Contest . . . May 9th will be the date of their annual luncheon . . . OTSEGO COUNTY continuing to grow too, now producing a monthly newsletter which is a most "newsy" sheet . . .



# Chapter News

Planning to do some work in their area with the Special Olympics . . . Planning their first complete door-to-door campaign for May. Mr. Guy Rathbun, Honorary Chairman of the campaign, and John Bertrand of the State Office will be on hand for a kick-off dinner. It appears that the 1970 contract with the Mental Health Board has been assured which will be quite a switch from the fight we went through ex-post facto in 1969 for OTSEGO COUNTY . . . Who can blame Ronald Gates, Program Director of the SCHENECTADY ASSOCIATION, for the big smile he is flashing in a recent newspaper clipping when he accepted a contribution from the Mayfair Women's Club, a long time supporter of our SCHENECTADY COUNTY CHAPTER . . . Everyone in SCHENECTADY joined by the entire State Association in mourning the loss of our dear friend and a long time worker in the Association, Clifford Westfall . . . Leona Perkins, President, HERKIMER COUNTY CHAPTER, advises us that HERKIMER gave County retarded children and adults a nice Christmas party with over 100 attending.

The Herkimer V.F.W. Auxiliary contributed \$100.00 for gifts, and there were also donations from the Auxiliary of gifts for some individuals. The Polish Community Home donated the use of their hall for the party with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and Willie the Clown present plus local groups with music for singing and dancing, it sounded like a very busy party . . . They are planning another summer day camp program which will operate for 6 weeks this year and will have an open house as a part of a membership drive. It will be held at the Special Education Center in Herkimer . . . The Ilion Jaycees are trying to organize a local group on behalf of Special Olympics. Their March newsletter contained little green shamrocks stuck on by hand in honor of St. Patrick's Day . . . CHATAUQUA COUNTY CHAPTER reviewing programs for its members points out that they have 15 young adults now working at their workshop in Jamestown and a pre-school class operating in the First Baptist Church in Jamestown. In Westminster Hall, of the First Presbyterian Church, at Dunkirk the work activity center is operating with 12 mentally retarded adults and St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church of Dunkirk is housing a day training center for 10 youngsters, a growing program in CHATAUQUA . . . ROCKLAND COUNTY news reported throughout OCV as we always get a real flood of materials from this group. Certainly, however, congratulations to them upon moving into their new facility and upon their handsome new newsletter format . . . COLUMBIA COUNTY CHAPTER is zipping out a monthly newsletter . . . Indicating the receipt of \$500.00 from Bishop Broderick of Albany through the Knights of Columbus campaign. Had one of the delegations of youth at our Organizing YOUTH Conference . . . Were given an Easter party by the Loyal Order of Moose. An interesting item indicates that the Youth group was holding a spaghetti supper at the Elks Club on April 2 and that for only \$1.25 it would probably be the best Irish-Jewish-Italian-Polish spaghetti you could get. Sorry I missed it . . . MONROE COUNTY also with emphasis on YOUTH has started a fine upstate group which was also represented at our Spring Organizational Conference . . . SULLIVAN COUNTY CHAPTER recently presented plaques to several fund-raisers including Mrs. Ada Mastro and Joseph H. Gersten for helping raise \$1,100.00 for the COUNTY's program . . . PUTNAM COUNTY CHAPTER joining that list of Chapters with staff have hired Ed Tangey formerly of ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER to work for them. Congratulations on their new newsletter "The Pulsebeat" . . . CAYUGA COUNTY CHAPTER continues onward. We were pleased by the presence of John Weems, Chapter Director, as one of the consultants at our In Service Training Program for Teacher Aides . . . the Camp Committee for the Physically Handicapped of CAYUGA COUNTY is running a Bake Sale May 9th to help support the summer activities

of the group . . . The Association's membership meeting was having a Kentucky Fried Chicken Dinner in April . . . Our Chapters keep thinking of more interesting ways to lure people to meetings. Hope everyone's attending . . . Certainly must mention ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER's hiring of a new Executive Director Mr. John Calloway. Moving forward rapidly on their building and it is hoped that perhaps ORANGE will be the next in a series of ARC groups to have their own facilities . . . ORANGE represented by two fine groups at our Organizing Conference for Youth . . . CATTARAUGUS COUNTY also very heavy on information on Youth . . . The boys at the CATTARAUGUS COUNTY CHAPTER CENTER have a basketball team called "Benny's Bombers" . . . They are good enough that they have won three out of four games played against the Youth groups from CATTARAUGUS COUNTY . . . Congratulations also to Mr. Patrick Carroll who has joined the Chapter as their

## PROGRAMS IN BROOME COUNTY WORKSHOP



The above pic was taken by IBM, Owego Club on visits to Adult Training Workshop and Day Training Center at Woodrow Wilson School, Broome County Chapter.

new Director of Program . . . RENSSELAER COUNTY is going to have a cub pack for retarded boys with Mr. Ernest Messier as advisor . . . News Item of Interest — Did you know our Northeast Region Institutions Committee publishes a newsletter once a month? . . . Our ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY CHAPTER writes to indicate that it has been just a year ago in April that the Chapter moved to the Village of Hermon and established their Rehabilitation facilities. Since that time, the activities have been growing by leaps and bounds . . . The 6 trainees who started last April have grown to 32. As Mr. Laurin, the Executive Director says, "It would take a full volume to tell you the many personal stories about each one of the trainees. However, I can say that until we opened the facility, the majority of our trainees were sitting and waiting anywhere from a period of 1-30 years for some type of community based vocational rehabilitation service and activity." . . . The trainees have been working on sub-contracts for the industrial and business community and have been especially busy in the area of mailing. We hope all the members took advantage of the opportunity to see the facility at the Chapter's April 20th meeting . . . Finally, last, but by no means least, we must mention, since we have prodded all of you on this area of YOUTH to try and match NASSAU COUNTY's enviable record. With over 4,000 young people participating in their annual Teen Drive, the Chapter more recently had a delegation of almost 100 at our YOUTH Conference and has over 1,700 members registered in their YOUTH group. We will be looking for similar activities from the rest of you soon . . .

## COM'ON STATE CONVENTION

SEPT. 24 THRU 27 — SYRACUSE HOTEL



## NEW YORK STATE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Mrs. Dorothy W. Buehring, a long time friend of the New York State Association for Retarded Children in the State Department of Education, has been named State Director of the New York State Special Olympics for 1970. This program which is attempting to give mentally retarded youngsters in over forty states and Canada an opportunity to compete athletically will culminate in a State Olympic Meet to be held in the University of Rochester, June 12 and 13. Co-sponsoring the State program are the New York State Jaycees and the New York State Association of Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped, Inc.

The Special Olympics Program was developed by the Kennedy foundation to promote sports and athletic competition for mentally retarded children. Last year, more than fifty thousand mentally retarded children took part in each regional Special Olympics in the United States and Canada.



**Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, of the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, national sponsors of the Special Olympics Program congratulates Mrs. Dorothy Buehring, staff member of the Bureau for Mentally Handicapped Children and newly appointed State Special Olympics Director.**

Working with Mrs. Buehring is a twenty-eight member executive board representing the State Education and Mental Hygiene Departments as well as separate associations, groups, and private and parochial schools. Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller is the Honorary Chairman.

The State Program begins with the establishment of fitness clubs within the schools and various participating organizations where the children go through an intensive and extensive physical fitness training program. These programs are organized and controlled by qualified physical education and special education instructors. The goal of this fitness program is not only to prepare the participants for the competition in meets but, more than that, to develop their physical skills and create an awareness of the benefits of proper physical fitness and a desire to achieve good physical health.

Some thirty-five local meets are being held throughout New York State early in May. The meets are arranged so that each child is not only competing with children in his own age but at his own skill level. Some ten thousand children are anticipated in the various local competitions and the winners of the local meets will travel to Rochester to take part in the State competitions. About eleven hundred youngsters are expected for the State finals which will include running individually and in relays, jumping, throwing, and swimming events.

One hundred and twenty-five winners from the State meet will be selected for the Chicago International Special Olympics.

In commenting on the program, Governor Rockefeller, the Honorary Chairman, said, "It is our goal to provide a combination of State and local services that will give each mentally retarded person in our State all the help he needs to make his life as normal as possible." It is with this goal in mind that Mrs. Buehring has given her tremendous leadership to the Special Olympics Program. A number of ARC Chapters have already designated local chairman to work with this program.

## MONROE COUNTY AND THE UNITED FUND

We reprint from MONARC, the monthly publication of our Monroe County Chapter, the following article by John Regan, Executive Director, without comment.

"Some nine years ago, the Sigl Center was conceived. As the planning progressed through the years, your Chapter estimated it would provide training programs for 120 people in the workshop and 50 in the Day Training Program. We recognized that someday we would reach those totals. We did in June 1969.

In May 1969, the Board of Directors instructed our Long Range Planning Committee to study population trends and projected numbers of people to be served. The Committee was also charged with recommending appropriate planning for those numbers. It was recognized that by January, 1970, close to 75-100 people could be on a waiting list which would increase 50% every 6 months.

A diligent search was made toward a solution to house this expansion. In July 1969, Mr. Gordon Howe, County Manager, suggested a temporary answer could be found in one of the unoccupied buildings at Iola. We examined the cafeteria building and found we could adapt our programs to it and could transfer approximately 75 people in our present training and workshop programs into the complex, with small makeready needs required.

We also explored new building possibilities, however, it was felt that at this time they would be too costly.

Dialogue was initiated between your Chapter and the Finance Committee of the County Legislators. They authorized a five year lease on the building at Iola and required that we pay for the utilities and minor maintenance.

A few weeks ago, I received word that our budget request for such program expansion had been denied by the budget committee of the Community Chest. This news was most disheartening because it now means we are unable to serve those retarded people who have been or will be referred to us. As some of you know, our waiting list is such that one must wait 6 months to get into program and in some cases a year or better.

I feel that the County Legislators have done their part, if not more than we had hoped. I personally feel a moratorium on program expansion is unacceptable until there is an effective moratorium on the incidence of mental retardation."

## PROGRESS AT LETCHWORTH VILLAGE

### Dr. Schneider Reports To The Parents

In a comprehensive report to the parents of children at Letchworth Village, Dr. Schneider highlighted the progress that has been made.

Although much has been done, he felt that there were still too many patients, not enough space, and not enough personnel.

The patient load has been reduced from 4,840 in 1965 to 4,227 as of November 13, 1969. This is the lowest figure since 1939 at which time Letchworth Village did not have its four largest cottages.

Overcrowding, however, has only been reduced from 41.3 per cent to 31.1 per cent.

Dr. Schneider did state, however, that in the matter of personnel positions have doubled since 1965, nurses tripled, occupational therapists and recreation have quadrupled.

In 1965 Letchworth Village had 17 physicians, all but one over 50, only 7 licensed, only one with Speciality Boards. Now there are 34, more than half under 50, 30 licensed (almost all in New York State), 8 with Specialty Boards, 3 more have passed the written examination, and 5 more are Board eligible. In 1965 there were 10 nurses; now 29, including for the first time a Chief Supervising Nurse.

In the past year alone, the number of attendants increased from 891 to 1029; the number of vacant positions decreased from 676 to 367.

The report lists about 52 new programs.



## CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Mrs. Edward (Karin) Burgess, Chairman of the Scholarship and Awards Committee of the New York State A.R.C., was pleased to announce three winners in New York State's second Christmas card design contest. Held in connection with the program planned by the National Association for Retarded Children, entries were again solicited from throughout the state for a judging at the State Offices in New York City.



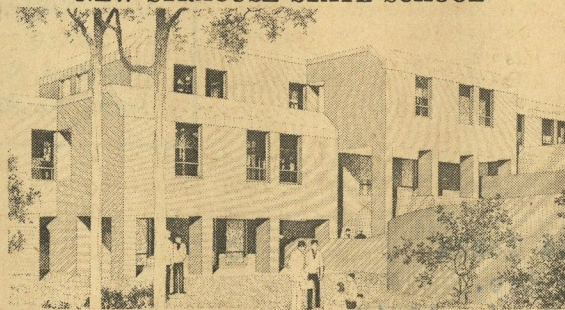
L. to R.: Mrs. Miriam Lang with first place picture, by Bernardo Medina, Willowbrook State School, Miss Margaretta Salinger with second place picture, by Terry Coolidge, of Corning, and Mrs. Edward Burgess, Chairman of the Scholarship and Awards Committee, with the Honorable Mention picture, by Anne Beyerle, Willowbrook State School.

Mrs. Burgess said, "We were very fortunate to once again have two outstanding judges to assure us of an excellent representation in the National Christmas card design contest." The judges, for the second consecutive year, were Mrs. Miriam Lang, owner of Lang Galleries in Queens and Miss Margaretta Salinger, assistant curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The first place award in the State competition was submitted by Bernardo Medina of Willowbrook State School. Second prize was won by an attractive painting from Terry Coolidge of Corning, New York. The third, Honorable Mention, was given to Anne Beyerle, also of Willowbrook State School.

Each of the winners received a twenty-five dollar U.S. Savings Bond as their State award.

### NEW SYRACUSE STATE SCHOOL



Artist's rendering shows a view of one of the residence units at the new Syracuse State School for the Mentally Retarded. Construction has just started on the \$20.3-million facility, which will house and train 744 retardates from Onondaga, Oswego, Cayuga, Cortland and Madison Counties. The school is being built by the Health and Mental Hygiene Facilities Improvement Corporation.

**ANNUAL CONVENTION — SYRACUSE —  
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## ONEIDA COUNTY PROGRESS REPORT

Oneida County Chapter reports its progress in its 16th year of existence.

It has three main program areas: preschool program for retarded children, ages 5-7; prevocational program for moderately mentally retarded children ages 17-21; and a work activity center for moderately mentally retarded adults.

In February 1969 there was inaugurated a fourth major program called day training, a pilot project designed to meet the needs of retarded adults not amenable to placement in a work activity center. Plans are formulated to expand this to fulltime operation in 1970, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in 1969 making them eligible for all DVR aid possible. The Work Activities Center provides remunerative employment to clients through sub-contracting and prime manufacture.



Left to right: James A. Cannistra, Workshop Manager; F. Winifred Iamele, Workshop Supervisor; Joseph G. Sabo, Workshop Supervisor; Pearl Kushner, Workshop Supervisor; Michael McSweeney, Workshop Supervisor.

One of the interesting innovations of the chapter's program is the first public relations student intern from one of the local institutions of higher learning.

The chapter is actively planning construction of a facility to house the many projects of the chapter. It is hoped this will be initiated during 1970.

### REIMBURSEMENT (Continued from Page 1)

no county or city funds involved, (A.4729 Niles-McCloskey). At present this money is siphoned through the counties involving our chapters in large interest costs to provide the funds necessary to proceed before any money comes to them. This legislation, we hope, is being supported by the Dept. of Mental Hygiene.

Finally a bill to enlarge the Boards of Visitors of institutions to include parents of mentally retarded children and to enable the Boards to investigate charges of mis-treatment of any patient against any employee (now limited to charges against directors). A. 2732A. (Lentol-Amann).

Of the 28 bills that were introduced through the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental and Physical Handicap, as we see, only four passed both Houses. The Committee, however, must take some credit for the law that mandates immunization against rubella since it was a part of the Committee program later adopted by the administration. Such bills as removing architectural barriers for the handicapped, taking care of mentally retarded children on waiting lists, amending social service law, proceedings in the Family Court, special state aid for special education, amendment to the health insurance law, experimental programs for preschool children, state-wide information service, to permit psychiatric treatment of children in the public schools, to provide for transportation to summer programs for the handicapped, and others, all failed to pass one or another House or both Houses.

The Joint Legislative Committee on Mental and Physical Handicap will renew its efforts this coming year in this respect. The Committee has been continued for another year under the chairmanship of Senator Dalwin J. Niles of Fulton County.



## NEW RECODIFICATION BILL

After analyzing all the testimony and hearings before the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental and Physical Handicap as well as the testimony presented in writing outside of the hearings by hundreds of people, a new bill (S.9486 introduced at the request of Senator Niles) embodies many of the suggestions made in the testimony and some of which have been agreed to by the Dept. of Mental Hygiene at many conferences with Senator Niles and his staff.

The bill was re-written by Senator Niles' staff, with the advice of the advisory committee chosen by Senator Niles.

Although not all the suggestions that were made have been embodied, this bill will be the subject for a study before the next session of the Legislature when it is hoped a bill in final form could be introduced and passed.

The new bill will be distributed to those people who testified and other interested parties for comments and in preparation for possible further public hearings.

## ROCKLAND FORGES FORWARD

Mrs. Marion Dolan, Director of Rockland County Chapter, recently wrote to thank "Our Children's Voice" for the regular publicity which appeared on behalf of Rockland County Chapter. In addition to her thank you note, she was able to add a number of new measures to the growing list of Rockland's accomplishments. Among these were the Chapter's move into their new quarters in the Mental Health Complex, the approval of the Board of Supervisors for a supplementary budget for the Pre-School Nursery, and the fact that Camp Venture has incorporated on its own.

She also suggested that we might share with our readers the new nursery school which the Chapter started, which has been going since last October 15th and has 16 children in attendance during two sessions, morning and afternoon.

Most interesting was an attached clipping from the Rockland County Journal News which featured reactions of members of the newspaper to touring the Chapter's new facilities. Perhaps what is happening is best summed up by the comments of Janet Fisch, City Editor, who said, "The Complex is more than just a place to go and something to do for people whose world is surrounded by tall fences and prejudice. The Day Training Center of the Association for Retarded Children radiates loving kindness. A visit to this special world of sunny rooms and happy people is a rare reward."

## STEBEN OPENS SERVICES

March 9, 1970 was a red letter day in the history of Steuben County Chapter. Under the dedicated leadership of Edward Muller, Chapter President, sixteen months of hard work by the Chapter were culminated with the opening of the first Day Training Center in that County.

The classes are being operated at two locations in the County due to its large size. Two classes are located in Corning and one in Hornell. The programs are running five days a week from 9 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. including time for lunch and nap.

Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, said, in commenting upon the programs, "It is a real pleasure to see Steuben County Chapter opening these facilities. We have been aware of the many months of hard work that Mr. Muller and the members of the Chapter have put in to make these arrangements. The value of what we are doing can really only be measured in our ability to deliver services to the retarded youngsters in the most remote locations.



Obviously delighted with the new experience of school is Russell Flint, left, a pupil in the Hornell Day Training Center sponsored by the Steuben County Chapter, Association for Retarded Children. Darrin Greenfield, right, eyes a telephone, considering its play possibilities, while Mrs. Lee (Mary) Gibbs, teacher, makes the children feel at home.

(Photo by The Evening Tribune, Hornell, N. Y.)

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

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