

OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Retarded Children

Can Be Helped!



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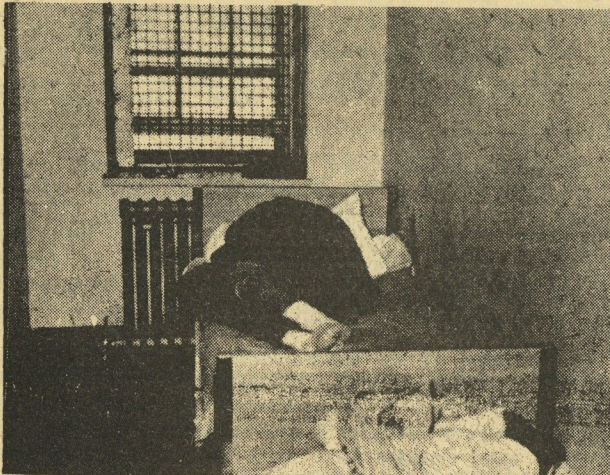
MAY, 1971

HUNDREDS PROTEST BUDGET CUTS

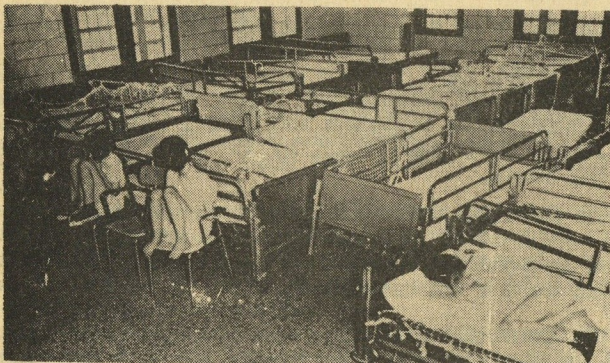
BUDGET CUTS MOST DRASTIC

MILLER APPEALS FOR A RE-CONSIDERATION

The proposals of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee in early March for a cut of some \$50 million in the Governor's proposed budget for the Department of Mental Hygiene was so drastic as to bring an unprecedented protest from Dr. Alan D. Miller, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene.



Even a closet is pressed into service for bed space. This one houses two patients.



Omega House sounds like a college sorority. At Letchworth it is one of the most severely overcrowded and understaffed cottages. 120 female patients, severely retarded, live here. They are cared for by 14 attendants during the day, one or two at night.

PARENTS VISIT LEGISLATORS IN ALBANY

For the first time in the history of the Association for Retarded Children, parents from various parts of the State, but especially from the downstate area, came to Albany by bus and by car to protest in person the severe budget cuts made by the Legislature in services for the mentally retarded.

Heretofore the members of the Association have made their feelings known via letter or individual personal contacts with various legislators. This time, however, the budget cuts are so severe and the implications for the curtailment of services so drastic, that the Association tried to mobilize the parents of the State to come in a body to Albany.

Although the time element was very little, almost 500 parents, friends, and professionals in the field of mental retardation joined together in a display of solidarity that it would hope would impress the Legislature.

Meeting on the steps of the Capitol on Tuesday, March 30th, they divided into smaller committees to visit the legislative leaders, Senator Earl Brydges, Assemblyman Perry Duryea, Senator Joseph Zuretski, and Assemblyman Steingut.

In addition committees were formed to meet with Senator Dalwin J. Niles, Chairman of the Mental Hygiene Committee in the Senate, Senator William T. Conklin, a long time supporter of the aims of the Association, and their own individual senators and assemblymen.

Apparently these efforts had little effect on the legislature, which promptly, the next day, passed a budget which restored very little of the cuts originally proposed. This display of solidarity, however, was an indication of the strength that the Association could muster, and according to a spokesman for the Association, will be repeated next year with more than 2 or 3,000 coming to Albany far in advance of the budget preparation, to make their feelings known about what is going to happen to their children.

Elsewhere in this issue, some of the cuts affecting the retarded will be described and the consequences of such cuts.

At this writing, the supplemental budget has not yet been determined by the legislature, and some of the cuts may be restored, although little hope is being held out in this direction.

According to Frances Reville, President of the Welfare League, Letchworth Village Chapter, this was a worthwhile experience. "It is something that we should have done long ago," said Mrs. Reville, "and should be repeated with greater force so that the legislatures will know that we do not just sit around and suffer, but express ourselves as citizens. There is much being said about a taxpayer's revolt, but the parents of the 600,000 retarded in New York State are also taxpayers who have not been consulted as to whether or not they wish to pay taxes if services are going to be given to their children as the children need."

(Continued on Page 3)

ANNUAL CONVENTION — BINGHAMTON — SEPT. 30 — OCT. 3

OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

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NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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

Chartered by the State of New York
February, 1949

Affiliated with National Association for Retarded Children, Inc.

President: **ROBERT J. HODGSON**

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

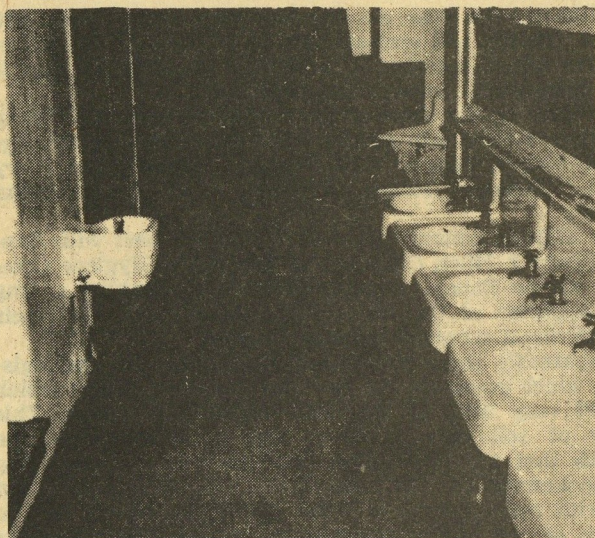
PARENTS PROTEST FREEZE AT LETCHWORTH

Under a freeze on all hiring imposed by the Governor because of budget deficiency before the budget was adopted, conditions that endangered the lives of the children developed at Letchworth Village, one of the State Schools.

Spearheaded by Mrs. Frances Reville, President of the Welfare League, Letchworth Village Chapter of the State Association, and Ben Aceto a member of the Association, a conference of parents and legislators was held at Letchworth Village in February to highlight the dangerous conditions.

As a result of the publicity, and the cooperation of the News/Leader/Independent of Spring Valley, the freeze on Letchworth Village was lifted.

At least this did not worsen conditions in an already intolerable situation.



In this washroom, 80 patients use 5 wash basins. Windows are continually broken—there are only 14 Security Officers; 38 are needed.

The budget cuts, however, will perpetuate such conditions as are demonstrated here in the pictures accompanying this article and which are taken from the newspaper. We quote from the editorial of the News/Leader/Independent, February 24, 1971.

The Editorial is headed, "Wrong Place To Cut." and is accompanied by a cartoon which has a person pulling a window blind in front of his face and saying, "What ya don't see, won't hurt you."

Parts of the editorial follow:

"For parents of retarded children, the decision to send their sons or daughters to Letchworth Village is extremely difficult.

(Concluded Next Column)

"MY REWARD"

B: Frank H. Morrison
Coordinator, Vol. Svcs
Sunmount State School

Today I spent a little time
With a mentally retarded child
And I was amazed at once to find
That he really wasn't wild.
But, rather that he looked up to me
And outstretched his little hand
And I reached with mine and held it
And the feeling it was grand.
And then we played some childish games
Ones I played when I was young
And we even sang those silly songs
That we as children sung.
And, when it came time for me to say
"Goodnight" and then "Goodbye"
I knew he wanted me to stay
By the look within his eye.
And the feeling that he gave me
Made me feel secure and snug
For just before we said "Goodbye"
He gave to me . . . a hug.

FREEZE AT LETCHWORTH

"The great personal tragedy of such a decision, however, is made worse when parents have to worry about conditions at the state institution.

"And conditions at Letchworth give grave cause for worry.

"Originally intended to be a pleasant, uncrowded place where the retarded could live peacefully and quietly, Letchworth has become dangerously overcrowded—and at the same time, terribly understaffed. There are more than 100 staff vacancies for attendants, and more than 200 vacancies for nurses. Each vacancy means that people who often cannot help themselves are not getting proper treatment or care.

"At the heart of the matter are deplorable working conditions at Letchworth and most other State institutions. Their pay scale is usually below the poverty level, even for long-time employees. Housing is scarce. The institution is so remote that most workers have to drive, whether they can afford auto upkeep or not. Like workers at Rockland State Hospital, some make the long expensive trip from New York City every day.

"Overcrowding at Letchworth has not only diminished employee morale, but created dangerous conditions for workers and patients alike. There is only a trickle of state funds for expansion and improvement. These funds, as well as salary increases for employees and budgeted allocations for new hiring have been frozen by Governor Rockefeller's austerity edicts.

"At the same time, funds have been reduced for programs which would train more residents at Letchworth to become sufficiently self-reliant to leave the institution and live and work in the community.

"We know that residents of the institution don't vote. Many don't know who the Governor is, and don't care. But all are entitled to as decent a life as the state can reasonably provide. As citizens we are obligated to make sure our state legislators provide sufficient funds for this purpose.

"One snake pit has already been eliminated in Rockland. Let us make sure that a new one is not created at Letchworth."

It is now common knowledge that the budget for the State institutions have been cut severely and that the hiring freeze, which was supposed to be temporary is going to be permanent for next year.

In a letter distributed to all the legislators on March 8, 1971, the Commissioner stated, "many patients could not receive needed treatment, many would be poorly cared for, some would die. Thousands of retarded children who cannot feed themselves would be poorly fed; thousands more would be denied the personal care they need to live under even marginally decent conditions."

The final budget, although not as drastic as the recommendations of the Ways and Means Committee, cuts some \$37 million from the Department of Mental Hygiene budget. Of this about \$11 million was cut from the Department's operating budget for Mental Retardation and Children's Services. The "Children's Services" are rather confusing since these include mostly services for emotionally disturbed and mentally ill children who have been put under the aegis of the Division of Mental Retardation. They do not directly affect the mentally retarded, but are reflected in the budget cuts.

In addition to a 10% across the board cut in the administration of the department, the legislature also imposed a 3½% cut in the services of the Department for mental retardation and a 4% cut for mental health. This will mean a loss of thousands of positions needed for the care and treatment of the mentally retarded.

Some examples of the cuts are as follows:

- Six new half-way houses were deleted, saving \$130,500.
- A general reduction of 3½% in the operation of State schools and children's units, saving \$6,681,372.
- Thirty new positions for the Institute for Basic Research deferred \$144,700.
- Capital construction assistance cut \$2,254,000.
- Schools for nursing to be phased out, saving this year \$500,000.
- Suffolk State School air conditioning refused, \$2,055,000.
- Acquisition of construction of new hostels, \$500,000.
- Funds for the construction of a new state school in Nassau County repealed, \$20,664,000.

In addition, the budget cuts made in aid to local services and to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will severely impair, if not cripple, such services with the result that there will be more and more candidates for institutionalization. This is a situation being met by the State and the Department of Mental Hygiene by just closing down intake. Aid to the communities for local services for mental retardation are cut some \$9 million or approximately \$5 million less than was spent by the State last year, which was \$65 million.

In addition, and perhaps one of the biggest blows to the program of prevention of institutionalization, was the cut of \$1,700,000 from the Governor's proposal of \$2,700,000 for aid to sheltered workshops giving long-range employment to mentally retarded adults.

Last year this budget was \$1,000,000 with the assurance from Senator Brydges and Dr. Norman Hurd, then Director of the Budget, that the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation could spend what is needed to implement the programs.

According to the State Department of Education, they spent \$1,133,750 in the fiscal year, 1970-1971 to implement this program.

59 agencies were supported. Expecting that there might be a slight increase in the number of agencies or the number of individuals beyond the current estimate, the minimum request of the Department is at least \$1,800,000 with \$2,000,000 being more realistic.

If the Department were to pay the \$1500 permitted under the law then the budget would have to be \$2,150,000. The cut by the legislature of more than 60% from the Governor's request is a callous disregard for programs that will prevent the enormous increases in the Mental Hygiene budget for institutionalization.

It is hoped that some of these cuts, especially the cut in vocational rehabilitation, the \$500,000 in hostels and the \$5 million in local services may be restored through the supplemental budget.

(Concluded Next Column)

In a letter to President Hodgson of our Association, Mrs. M. de Leon of New York City bitterly attacks charges made for care in the institutions and suggests that parents take their children home to deprive the state of the income they now have and redirect their energies into the community.

Although there are many reasons why parents cannot take their children home from institutions, we find the letter so interesting that we print it here in full.

It follows:

"Dear President Hodgson: I have just received your bulletin of February 23, 1971, which was sent to me by AHRC.

I believe that many parents of retarded children do not realize that institutions are just like many doctors — they don't do anything — **THEY JUST TAKE YOUR MONEY!** It is a well-known fact that Governor Rockefeller is mainly interested in supporting the Bonds that people bought to build institutions — so that the return of interest will be profitable. Therefore, when a few years ago, a new law was put into effect by the Department of Mental Hygiene, that parents pay according to their income, it was strictly a financial coup to get more money, but the care and maintenance of the hapless patients inside the institutions, did not improve. The care remained the same if not worse for the parent who paid \$500.00 per month to the parent who paid nothing.

In view of the above, it is my advice to all parents of retarded children to bring their children home, and thereby forcing the money into the Community, instead of supporting Bonds to those looking for financial gain at the expense of the poor hapless patient in the institution, who in reality is a pawn.

A retarded child at home — no matter how poor their condition — fares better and is more likely to succeed.

I met a man on the street who told me he just had word that his son was killed in Viet Nam. He also lost another son a while ago. I had my retarded child with me, and I said "how would you like to have something like this that doesn't do anything." He replied "She's alive, where there is life there is hope." That man made me feel good. At least my child was alive and progressing at home.

Therefore, if enough parents would bring their children home, then institutions would eventually die out, when the money would be re-directed to the community, and thereby the community would be much more able to provide the necessary day care, services, workshops, schools, baby sitters, etc. that are needed.

There is no other way, no other hope, but to force the money into the community and it is up to the parents to do this. Take on responsibility instead of shirking their duty. There is no care like home care. Those patients who are more of a hopeless nature will probably remain, but I think the majority of patients could function in the community and the **MAJORITY** always rules! Most Sincerely, Mrs. M. de Leon."

(The matter is not as simple as Mrs. de Leon states, but certainly the money derived from patients does not all go back into direct services. Editor).

PARENTS PROTEST (Continued)

It is interesting to note that the cuts in Mental Hygiene are particularly unjustifiable in the light of the fact that the Department of Mental Hygiene generates more income than any other Department in the State. For the year 1970-71, through medicare, out-patient services, payments by parents, spouse, etc. the Department received \$197 million. For the year 1971-72 they will have received \$222.3 million.

The cuts that the legislature has passed may mean sharply reduced income from the Federal government and will not represent a net saving in the long run.

INCIDENT AT WEST SENECA

The State Mental Hygiene Department has been asked to make an investigation by the District Attorney's office to determine if there was any criminal intent in the burning of a patient's blouse by a female attendant at West Seneca State School (Erie County).

Two district attorney investigations were reported at the School recently.

A statement released about the same time by the School's acting director, Dr. Nicholas Argen, asserts that the Feb. 23rd, 1971 incident caused slight damage to a patient's blouse but no injury.

On Feb. 23rd residents told a supervising attendant on the 3 to 11 P.M. shift that they would not go to bed because they feared an attendant who "had set a resident's blouse on fire with a match and thrown the match away," Dr. Argen stated.

A supervising attendant found the blouse at the bottom of a trash can and notified superiors who returned at 11 P.M. to interview the attendant who gave the following written statement:

"I (name withheld) while attending to resident (name withheld) on Feb. 23, 1971, at approximately 5:45 to 6 A.M. accidentally struck a match, burning her blouse, as she became very hyperactive, tearing her clothes and very foul-mouthed previous to this particular incident.

"The blouse did catch fire and was immediately removed with no apparent injury to the resident."

Dr. Argen's statement continued as follows:

"There is serious question regarding the origin of the fire as to whether it was an accidental or intentional act on the part of the employee. Therefore, I am forwarding the report of the investigation to the district attorney's office today in the event any further action is warranted on his part."

A thorough investigation is being made by the district Attorney Michael F. Dillon.

It is interesting to note that the district attorney said that there was no legal requirement for such matters to be reported to his office by school officials and said he had not been officially informed whether the incident was reported to the West Seneca Police. The police there told the Courier-Express that they had not been called in the matter by school officials.

PATTON AND FORDE ON NEW DMH ASSIGNMENT

The appointment of two career state employees to key positions in the State Department of Mental Hygiene has been recently announced by Dr. Alan D. Miller, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene.

Robert E. Patton, Associate Commissioner for Program Planning and Coordination, has been promoted to Deputy Commissioner for Local Services. He succeeds Dr. Hyman Pleasure who has been appointed Director of Rockland State Hospital.

James A. Forde, Assistant Commissioner in the Division of Local Services, will succeed Mr. Patton as Associate Commissioner for Program Planning and Coordination.

In his new post Mr. Patton will direct the Department's efforts to promote and develop local state collaboration on behalf of mental health and mental retardation services in cooperation with public and voluntary agencies throughout the State.

Mr. Patton started his career with the State in 1949 and joined the Department of Mental Hygiene five years later as an Associate Statistician. He was named Director of Statistical Services in 1956 and remained in that post until his appointment as Associate Commissioner in 1966.

Mr. Forde was named Assistant Commissioner in the Department in 1968 after having served as Director of Budget Services since May 1967. Previously, he served for five years as Director of Planning and Procedures for the Department.

CONDITIONS IN MENTAL HOSPITALS ASSAILED

GOODMAN CALLS CONDITIONS DISGRACE WHAT IS NEEDED FOR STAFFING STATE SCHOOLS

In a report to the State Association as of November 1970 the following statistics reveal the need for staff at the State Schools, if indeed we are to provide the services necessary.

The total available positions were 18,881 of which 17,022 were filled, leaving vacant 1,857.

There are vacancies in every category, physicians, psychologists, social workers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech and hearing, recreation, rehabilitation, education, nursing, attendants, other clinical and support.

The failure to fill these positions is due in great measure to the isolation of many of these institutions, the low rate of pay for attendants, with a consequent large turnover, and a severe shortage of para-professionals such as nurses, O.T., and P.T.'s.

Projected as additional jobs needed were 14,339. We need but point to the budget cuts to show how severely crippled the services will be for the mentally retarded.

State Senator Roy M. Goodman charged recently that conditions in Manhattan State Mental Hospital on Wards Island were an outrageous disgrace with inadequate staffing, a serious shortage of medical equipment and generally filthy conditions.

Senator Goodman charged that patients were allowed only one change of underwear a week and that sugar, condiments and toilet articles were scarce or unavailable. He said that some patients went barefoot and that the maintenance crew was inadequate.

The Manhattan Republican said that in the last four months he or members of his staff had made three unannounced visits to the hospital, where they had spoken with administrators and other hospital personnel.

Senator Goodman said he would demand an immediate review of these conditions.

Mr. Goodman said that the underlying cause of the deplorable conditions was a lack of funds and that the conditions would become even worse if proposed cuts of between \$49 million and \$83 million in the Department of Mental Hygiene's budget were adopted by the Legislature.

Senator William T. Conklin, a Brooklyn Republican, said that while he was not familiar with actual conditions in Manhattan State Hospital, the problem of lack of adequate staff was a problem at all the hospitals in the system.

"The lack of personnel is evident to anyone who visits the hospitals," he said. "This is a general condition. Instead of attempting to cut the budget by \$49 million, this is the amount they should be adding to the budget to give more humane services."

Senator Goodman said that at Manhattan State Hospital during the day there was only one medical doctor for every 900 patients, and that during the evenings and on weekends, there is only one doctor on call for all of the patients which number more than 3000.

Bad as these conditions are, they can be matched in the State Schools for the mentally retarded. According to Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc., "The conditions in the State Schools are even worse than in the State Hospital. Under the mandatory law for education, there are children who are not being educated; when we talk about humane conditions for food and clothing, only 67 cents a day is being allowed for food."

"We hear a great deal," said Mr. Weingold, "of the cuts in the welfare appropriations for food from \$1.01 to 90 cents but we do not see any great outcry over the fact that the children in the State Schools and the patients in the State Hospitals have been living on much less than that for years."

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE IGNORES WAITING LISTS

In the January 8, 1971 issue of Mental Hygiene published by the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene the statement is made that for the first time in history the resident population of New York State Schools for the mentally retarded had decreased appreciably, dropping below the 26,000 mark in December, 1970 the lowest figure in nearly a decade.

What the Department of Mental Hygiene fails to mention is that in 1967 there were no waiting lists, whereas in 1971 there are waiting lists of at least 2,000 admitted by the Department of Mental Hygiene, all critical cases, and probably well over 3000 if the basis for admission is the same as it was in 1967. We agree with Mr. Robert Hayes, Associate Commissioner for Mental Retardation, when he says that any decline is due to the availability of community services.

Unfortunately, community services for the mentally retarded are virtually starved in comparison to community services for the mentally ill under the Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services Act, according to Governor Rockefeller.

In a release in the Fall of last year the Governor stated that he would ask the legislature to amend the Mental Hygiene Law to provide for 75% instead of the present 50% reimbursement for community services for the first two years of such services with a 5% reduction annually thereafter, until it got back to 50%.

To date no such legislation has been introduced by the administration.

The legislation introduced through the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental and Physical Handicap to raise the reimbursement for mental retardation services to 75% languishes in the finance committees with little hope of movement.

In general Mr. Hayes says 80% of persons admitted to State Schools during the past year have been under 21 years old and 90% of those have been in the profound to severe range.

These factors, he said, together with the opening of new facilities for the retarded, have resulted in a drop of overcrowding in State Schools to less than 1700 compared with about 5000 a few years ago.

Most of this drop in overcrowding, however, is in a few of the State Schools with overcrowding at Letchworth, Wassaic, and Willowbrook still being very severe.

The waiting lists are still with us and in some instances parents are waiting more than 3 years with a profoundly retarded child to gain admission into a State School.

Did we mention that the maximum rate now is \$21.40 a day or about \$7700 a year, the highest in the country by far?

CONSTRUCTION ON WILTON STATE SCHOOL ORDERED HALTED

All construction work on the \$11.9 million Wilton State School has been suspended until beams in the unfinished building can be shored up against possible collapse.

The order to stop work was issued by the state corporation on the recommendation of the architects for the project, Conklin and Rossant of New York City.

Larry O'Kane of the facilities corporation said the architects alleged the reports "confirm that the contractor did not use reinforcing steel in certain of the beams as called for in the drawings."

The beleaguered project has been subject of a running controversy dating back to last April when cracks were discovered in walls and beams of the residential buildings rising on the site in the town of Wilton.

The prime contractor for the project, Cozzolino Construction Co. of Albany, has taken the position that the architects are at fault.

IMMUNIZATION IS REPORTED IN SERUM HEPATITIS TESTS

RETARDED AT WILLOWBROOK CONTRIBUTE

Researchers at New York University Medical Center reported recently that they had apparently succeeded in immunizing a small group of children against serum hepatitis in a series of continuing experiments.

Serum hepatitis, one of the two basic forms of the liver-damaging disease generally known as hepatitis, can be spread by blood transfusion.

The serum type is said to affect more than 150,000 Americans each year and kills about 3,000, often those weakened by other diseases.

The report was made by Dr. Saul Krugman, head of the research team, to an excited audience of hepatitis experts, physicians and medical students who packed the center's auditorium at 550 First Avenue.

Dr. Krugman is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the Medical Center. His co-workers were Dr. Joan Giles, a research pediatrician, and Dr. Jack Hammond who directs the Willowbrook State School.

Much of the understanding of the distinction between the types that make Americans sick has resulted from studies done by Dr. Krugman's group at N.Y. University and at Willowbrook during the last 15 years. The patients, with parent consent, have been volunteers in the program.

Willowbrook has had a chronic epidemic of hepatitis since 1949. A total of 5,500 adults and children live in close contact at Willowbrook, which Dr. Krugman said was the largest such institution in the Country.

Crowded living conditions contribute to the higher rates of hepatitis and dysentery that exist at institutions such as Willowbrook.

The ethics of the studies, Dr. Krugman has done at Willowbrook has been criticized in the past by legislators like Senator Seymour R. Thaler, Democrat-Liberal from Queens, and by some physicians such as Dr. Henry K. Beecher, of Boston.

When reached in Albany after Dr. Krugman's announcement Sen. Thaler hailed the research and said he was now persuaded that it was being properly conducted.

Dr. Krugman emphasized that his team had obtained written informed consent for the experiment from the parents of each of the children at Willowbrook. Also, he said the studies always had been reviewed beforehand with government officials in New York and Washington, D. C.

The researchers emphasized that the results were preliminary, that they had injected just a few children for investigational purposes only and that more time was needed to evaluate the duration of the protection provided.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

The total number of handicapped children in the school age population 5 to 19 for the year 1969 represented 10.035% of all school aged children?

That those handicapped were speech impaired, emotionally disturbed, mentally retarded, learning disabled, hard of hearing, deaf, crippled or other health impaired, visually impaired and multihandicapped? Of these 2.3% were mentally retarded, more than any other category, except speech impaired which was 3.5% and in which there may be an overlap?

Between the ages of 5 and 19, there were 1,388,300 mentally retarded.

Between the ages of 0 to 4 there were 309,000 mentally retarded?

And from 0 to 19, 1,697,000 mentally retarded.

That 703,800 mentally retarded in the year 1968-1969 were served in public schools, and that there were 64,600 teachers? And that we need an additional 66,000 teachers? Just for the mentally retarded!

The source material for the above is available from the Office of Program Planning and Evaluation, Bureau of Education for the Handicapped, U.S. Office of Education.

COMBO ROCKS TEEN PARTY



Abraham Booth Company, a Teenage Rock Combo, donated their services at the Association for the Help of Retarded Children's Queens Youth Group Party, held for the trainees, at their workshop (86-18 Broadway, Elmhurst, L.I.). This group is made up of teenagers who volunteer to help the Mentally Retarded.

THE RETARDED ON JOBS

The Newsletter, "Tips and Trends in the Employment of the Mentally Handicapped", issued by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped has some interesting items on jobs for the retarded in the January 1971 issue.

For example, in an article in "Mental Retardation" by Salvatore G. DiMichael, Director of the Institute for Crippled and Disabled, he states that jobs for the mentally retarded will not dry up in the future, because:

"For the first time in history expert job finding assistance by counselors and educators is available to them.

"In these days of high employment, the retarded generally don't have to compete with the non-retarded for lesser-skilled jobs.

"Automation may eliminate some jobs the retarded can do, but it also will create new jobs.

"Service occupations are increasing at a faster pace than almost all other employment categories."

Unfortunately this must have been written before the rate of unemployment began to soar as it has in the last year. We wonder what will happen to the retarded when unemployment is very high.

In the same issue, two dozen mentally retarded workers employed by Government agencies in Wayne Co. Michigan, were surveyed and the findings were that on the basis of attendance, punctuality, common sense, safety and personal grooming, 54.5% were average, 14.5% were below average, and 31% were above average.

And finally, in a follow up of 54 retarded men and women who went to work in a variety of jobs in Cleveland, Ohio, after having been trained in workshops operated by the Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Retardation, it was found that:

Younger workers adjusted to jobs more quickly than older workers.

IQs had little relation to job success.

Yet there were real differences between educable and trainable retarded workers. The educable showed more promise, but created more problems in social adjustment. The trainable tended to plug away, minding their own business, without problems of social adjustment.

And, retarded workers from the slums made better job adjustments than those from middle-class neighborhoods.

SENATE PASSES WAGNER - O'DAY AMENDMENTS

SHELTERED WORKSHOPS TO BE AIDED

On March 25th the Senate passed Senate 557, a bill to amend the Wagner-O'Day Act introduced by Senator Jacob Javits of New York.

Originally passed 33 years ago the Act provides for preferred contracts to the blind for the manufacture of certain products.

The amendment extends this preference to other handicapped as well as the blind, giving the blind first preference and also opens up the whole area of services with the blind receiving preference the first five years.

This measure was supported by every rehabilitation agency in the country, including the National Association for Retarded Children.

It received its impetus, however, from the New York State Association for Retarded Children and our own Executive Director who brought up the subject with Senator Javits a number of years ago.

It was the intent originally to extend this privilege to all handicapped without any favor, but the resistance of the blind and their insistence on first priorities led to an accommodation in the bill which brought the support of the agencies for the blind.

In introducing the bill, Senator Javits stated:

"For the past 33 years, the Wagner-O'Day Act has stood without amendment. In the intervening years, techniques for utilizing the innate talents of the blind and other severely handicapped have continually improved and the realization has grown that these persons can pursue useful, productive lives rather than being institutionalized or becoming burdens upon their families. This bill involves no added cost to the Government."

A companion bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Craig Hofmer, Calif., and a group of his colleagues from both parties.

Last year this amendment passed the Senate unanimously but too late to be considered by the House of Representatives.

It is contemplated that there will be a national committee on products of the handicapped which will administer this bill for the benefit of all the handicapped.

Mr. Weingold sees this as an answer to the contract procurement problem of shops working with the severely handicapped.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONTINUES FIGHT ON RUBELLA

In its continuing effort to wipe out rubella as a scourge of childhood, the Department of Health is continuing its public education program.

The most recently distributed piece of literature is, "Rubella — Stop the Spread from Child to Mother".

This small four page leaflet has been re-distributed by the Association to all of its chapters in the hope that it will be widely disseminated to the general public. According to the pamphlet, birth defects occur in about 50% of the babies born to mothers who contract rubella during their first few weeks of pregnancy. It may result in brain damage, deafness, cataracts, heart defects, enlarged liver, or bone malformations.

Those with highest attack rate, children of elementary school age, should receive rubella immunization first.

All children should routinely be immunized at one year of age.

Further information on this program may be obtained from New York State Department of Health, 84 Holland Avenue, Albany, N. Y.

STATE CONVENTION — TREADWAY INN — SEPTEMBER 30 THRU OCTOBER 3

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES APPROPRIATIONS TOO LITTLE

"SOLD DOWN THE RIVER," SAYS WEINGOLD

All the great hopes for the Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Act (P.L. 91-517) have gone by the way with the meager appropriation of this program.

Although \$60 million has been authorized to be appropriated for this program in fiscal 1971, in fact only \$11.2 million has been appropriated. Although \$105 million is authorized for the fiscal year 1972, the same \$11.2 million is appropriated for 1972.

Of this sum the State of New York receives some \$760,000 only up to 1/2 of which can be used for construction. The other 1/2 must go for planning, staffing, and helping other services.

It is evident from these meager appropriations that very little will be done with the Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Act which is supposed to be an extension of 88-164, Mental Retardation Facilities Construction Act.

In order to qualify a State must provide an adequately staffed state planning and advisory council. The council must include representatives of each principle state agency, local agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned with services to the developmentally disabled; at least 1/3rd of council must consist of consumer representatives. The council must review and approve the state plan at least annually and submit necessary modifications to H.E.W. The secretary of H.E.W., however, may waive the requirement for appointment of an advisory council during fiscal year 1971.

In addition, there must be a national advisory council on services and facilities for the Developmentally Disabled effective July 1, 1971.

According to advices from Washington, the amount appropriated for Developmental Disabilities, which now include not only mental retardation as such, but also cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and other developmental disorders associated with mental retardation, is somewhat less than what was appropriated previously for mental retardation alone.

According to Mr. Weingold, Executive Director, New York State Association for Retarded Children, who opposed this legislation from its inception, the legislation is a hoax and all those interested in expanding services for the retarded will end up with less, not more services.

"The Congress is playing games with us," said Mr. Weingold, "All this talk about hundreds of millions of dollars is just nonsense when the appropriation is in fact so little."

U.S. FUNDS FOR CHILD HEALTH STUDY CUT

The Administration has ordered a sharp cutback in one of the largest studies every organized to find causes of such health problems as mental retardation, nervous system defects and childhood behavior disorders.

The study is administered by the National Institutes of Health, and is being conducted at major medical institutions in 11 cities throughout the country. It has been in progress about 12 years at a cost of roughly \$100 million to date.

The project is now in its final stages, with about two years of its originally planned length to run. It is estimated that its funds for the fiscal year 1972 will be cut about 25% to a level of roughly \$5.5 million.

Some scientists involved in the efforts believe the cut, in combination with stringent budgets of the last few years, will hamper the research at the stage at which some of the most important gains are to be made.

"This is the best longitudinal study of child development that has ever been done," said a New England doctor who directs a part of the big collaborative effort.

"All this is our tax for the President's \$100 million," said a doctor in another region after discussing the cutback.

(Concluded Next Column)

TOTAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM INTRODUCED

After a series of hearings throughout the State, the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental and Physical Handicap, with Senator Dalwin J. Niles as Chairman, has introduced one of the most sweeping legislative programs for the handicapped in the history of the State. Consisting of about 30 measures, it ranges across mental hygiene, education, insurance, executive law, criminal procedure, tax law, and public authorities.

Some of the innovations are proposed amendment to the Executive Law to prevent discrimination in housing and the leasing of commercial space with regard to the mentally and physically handicapped; to amend the Education Law to increase the distances that school districts must transport handicapped children: to exempt orthopedic appliances for personal use from the sales tax; to raise state reimbursement for Section 4407 classes from \$2000 to \$2500; to lower the mandatory age for the education of handicapped children from 5 to 3; and finally to establish a temporary commission to study the transportation needs of the physically handicapped.

Other measures such as architectural barriers, eliminating liability of parents for minor children in the State institutions, weighting average daily attendance of the handicapped in public schools for reimbursement to school districts, insurance law to provide for coverage of the mentally retarded physically handicapped under health policies, to eliminate the power of the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene to resort to the Family Court for support order, where parents do not pay a reimbursement fee, and others that have been introduced in previous years are part of the program.

Since many of these require funds, it is evident that those will not have too much chance of getting out of committee. At this writing one bill has already been passed, the amendment to the Mental Hygiene Law to provide that Boards of Visitors may investigate the charges of mistreatment of patients made against any employee (now limited to investigation of directors only) and that every Board of Visitors of a State school shall have on it a parent of a mentally retarded child.

This is now before the Governor who once before vetoed a similar bill.

All other measures are in limbo with the budget stringency casting a pall over the whole program.

The reference was to the proposed \$100 million appropriation for cancer research.

The study of child development is called the collaborative Perinatal Study. It is described as prospective and longitudinal in that it began before any of the children were born and was designed to continue until they were all at least eight years old. The purpose was to match events during pregnancy with the outcome in terms of the child's health.

For example, if a baby proved to be mentally retarded, physically defective or abnormal in other ways, the mother's record — and stored samples of her blood — could be examined to see what influences might have caused the damage.

Between 1959 and 1965 about 58,000 women were enrolled early in their pregnancies. They were examined and interviewed and blood samples were taken periodically. The children born to these women have been examined periodically ever since.

Specialists involved in the study said it had already made important scientific contributions. For example, it has provided strong evidence suggesting that it is often unwise for a woman to keep strict limits on her weight during pregnancy — a common practice in this country.

As another example, the collaborative study has been credited with substantially increasing knowledge concerning the capacity of the rubella virus for causing birth defects and other damage to the unborn baby.

The metropolitan areas from which the study population have been drawn are those of Boston, Buffalo, New Orleans, New York, Baltimore, Richmond, Minneapolis, Portland, Philadelphia, Providence and Memphis.

GREENE COUNTY YOUNGSTERS TOP ARTISTS

Under the leadership of Mrs. Edward A. (Karin) Burgess, Chairman of the Scholarship and Awards Committee, the New York State ARC held its third and most successful competition in the NARC Christmas Card Design Contest.

Over 250 entries were received for the 1971 competition from 10 local Associations for Retarded Children, 6 public schools, 3 State institutions and 2 private facilities, making the largest group of entries ever submitted.



L. to R., Mrs. Arthur Neumark, Mrs. Edward Burgess, and Miss Margaretta Salinger hold the winners for the camera: First, second and third place respectively.

In an unusual turn of events, both the first and second place winners came from one public school. Barbara Brown, age 9, who submitted a cheerful Christmas tree, and Bolh-rick Oakley, age 8, with a snowman scene were the winners of 1st and 2nd place respectively. Both are from the Cox-sackie-Athens Central School (Greene County). 3rd place, a colorful winter scene, went to Jane Burrows, of Fillmore Central School, Fillmore, N. Y. (Allegany County).

Each of the top three winners will receive a \$25.00 U.S. Savings Bond.

Miss Margaretta Salinger, Assistant Curator, European Division, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Mrs. Arthur Neumark, one of the Museum's patrons served as judges.

The contest is to select three top pictures from the State to be entered against winners from other states for consideration as one of the designs to be used on cards distributed through Metropolitan Fine Arts Co. of Everett, Mass. Each year, the three top designs in the country go on cards placed on sale through local Associations for Retarded Children, with both the local unit and the National A.R.C. research fund receiving contributions from the sales.

Special mention was given to 4 others whose works were among the final group considered by the judges. These were: Danny Rozelle—Geneva J. H. S. (Ontario County); Enrique Suarez—Sunmount State School (Franklin County); Henry Keiser—Fillmore Central School (Allegany County); Betty Melanson—Waterford-Half Moon H. S. (Rensselaer County).

WHO IS KIDDING WHOM?

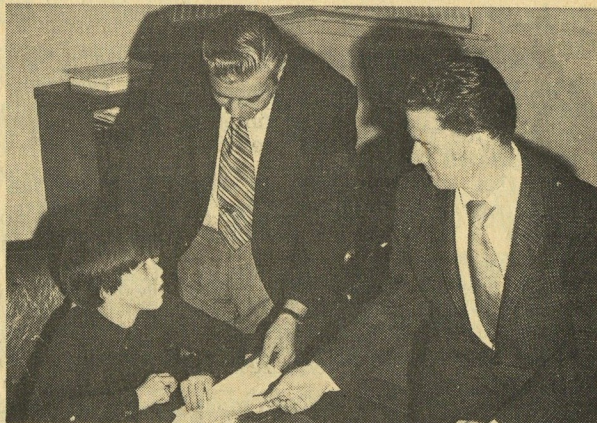
The Legislative Newsletter put out by the National Rehabilitation Association has this interesting paragraph on the appropriations for the Developmental Disabilities Act.

"The bill contains \$11.25 million for formula grants to states to finance the Developmental Disabilities Act, passed by this Congress, but the earmarked construction appropriation was deleted. (A proportion of the formula grant appropriation can be used for construction.) Actually, the total appropriation for developmental disabilities for 1971 is slightly less than was available for mental retardation programs under the expired legislation."

We repeat the head of this article, "Who is kidding whom?"

NEW YORK STATE ARC FIRST IN MEMBERSHIP

In statistics recently released by the National Association for Retarded Children the New York State Association for Retarded Children ranked first in membership size with about 25,000 members most of whom are family members.



HELPING HANDS

John de Simone, 14, son of Anthony and Ruth de Simone of Monticello, accepts membership fees for the Sullivan County chapter of the Association for Retarded Children (ARC) from Monticello Mayor David Kaufman, right, and Liberty Mayor Marvin L. Magid. The freshmen mayors joined to kick off the membership drive conducted by ARC Chairman Mrs. De Simone.

The statistics released indicate that 64% of the members are parents, 11% professionals and 25% other persons.

5% are aged below 21 years, 41%—21 to 42 years, 45%—43 to 63 years, and 8% age above 63.

Other characteristics indicate that 34% are white collar workers, 33% blue collar workers, 28% housewives, and 5% retired.

Across the country only 5% are non white Americans.

The New York State Association has always felt that membership is the very foundation of its strength. It has, therefore, involved its chapters in membership drives annually, resulting in spectacular increases from time to time, but in any case, very steady progress.

PARENTS ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE, NEW YORK CITY

In September 1969, a volunteer group of parents of retarded children, all members of AHRC, New York City Chapter, organized the Parents Assistance Committee. The aim of this committee is to give support to other parents of retarded children who need the help of a person-to-person approach. In order to reach these parents, the Parents Assistance Committee contacts professional people in the community to whom parents turn for advice. Such professionals are urged to refer the parent who has recently discovered that his child is retarded, to a member of the Parents Assistance Committee.

During the first year of its existence, the Parents Assistance Committee has given direct help to 36 families who were referred to them by doctors, nurses, social workers, school psychologists, and others.

While the Committee, at this time, confines its activities to the Borough of Queens, it is planned to develop similar committees in the other boroughs. Experience has shown that this person-to-person approach can be extremely helpful, especially to parents who have recently been informed that their children are retarded. The advice that the members of the Committee give is based upon their own personal experiences.

Other chapters, please copy.

GLOVERSVILLE COMES THROUGH COMMON COUNCIL APPROVES HOSTEL FOR RETARDED

Recently a great deal of interest was stirred up in Gloversville when some citizens opposed the creation of a hostel for the mentally retarded that our Fulton County Chapter had proposed.

There was a great deal of ferment about this, due probably to the lack of knowledge that the immediate neighbors and others who might be affected by the hostel had concerning the project.

After a considerable time in educating the public finally the following resolution was presented to the Common Council of Gloversville on March 2, 1971 by Alderman Zeitler and seconded by Alderman Cairo.

"WHEREAS, the Fulton County Association for Retarded Children, Lexington Training Center, has made plans to establish a hostel in the City of Gloversville; and

WHEREAS, a certain petition has been filed with the City of Gloversville in opposition to said hostel; and

WHEREAS, on March 2nd, 1971, representatives of the Lexington Training Center, presented their position to the Common Council; and

WHEREAS, the Lions Club of the City of Gloversville, the Kiwanis Club of the City of Gloversville, the Gloversville Chamber of Commerce, the Gloversville Rotary Club, the Gloversville Police Benevolent Association, the Gloversville Clergy Association and others have unanimously endorsed the establishment of a hostel for the Lexington Training Center; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council now determines that it is in the best interests of the people of the City of Gloversville that hostel be established in Gloversville; and

WHEREAS, the future well being of the mentally retarded citizens of Gloversville is of paramount importance to this Common Council; and

WHEREAS, this Common Council recognizes that the young adults for whom this hostel is intended have been and are an integral part of our community life; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a hostel in a neighborhood in the City of Gloversville would contribute to the quality of the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, those in opposition to this hostel have been given an opportunity to present their point of view; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Gloversville wholeheartedly approves and overwhelming supports the establishment of a hostel in the City of Gloversville."

This was passed unanimously on March 16th, 1971 and is a fine example of how a community can be educated to understand what a hostel means and how it will affect favorably the community in which it will be located.

Congratulations to Gloversville, the Common Council, and our Fulton County Chapter.

CLINTON COUNTY PLANS FOR HOSTEL

According to a communication received from Steve Goldstein, Executive Director of Clinton County Chapter, the Clinton County ARC hopes to have a hostel in conjunction with its sheltered workshop by early Summer.

Community meetings as well as various State representative meetings have been held to ascertain public opinion in the need for such hostel.

Several sites have been considered with the result that two have been inspected by a NYS engineer and Dave Baumstein of the Department of Mental Hygiene with final selection being their decision.

The proposed hostel will house between twelve and fifteen individuals, both males and females, and provide them with easy access to all that is representative of community participation.

A SAGA OF PROGRESS IN PUTNAM

The Putnam Chapter of A.R.C. in one brief year has been revitalized in areas of programs and services to a remarkable degree.

Following the opening of the Chapter's PARC Center for an Adult Activities Program last September in Carmel, is the Chapter's first pre-school program which opened in January at St. John the Evangelist Church in Mahopac.

Present membership in the Chapter has tripled in one year and its March 1971 membership drive goal is set for 500 members, with the drive culminating at the Chapter's Second Annual Dinner-Dance in April at the Putnam Country Club.



Look! No cavities! Mr. Edward J. Tangney, Executive Director, Mrs. Jay Migliaccio, Pre-School Teacher, Mrs. Nancy Lewrick, Chairman of Putnam ARC Volunteers.

The Chapter has rapidly been gaining community and county support, as well as obtaining in going services for the retarded and their families from Family Counseling Services at Catholic Charities and New York State Medical College.

The Chapter is now formulating plans to join forces with the Wassaic Community League in affording the institutionalized retardates at Wassaic greater visitation by the Chapter's own membership; especially during week-days when family visitation is limited. Likewise consideration is now being given by Wassaic State School in setting up family care homes in Putnam County, where retardates from Wassaic now are ready to enter the community, could do so and use the PARC facilities.

Due to curtailment in D.V.R. funding for staffing grants, the Putnam Chapter must necessarily forfeit for the present a Sheltered Workshop, although it will receive high priority because of its rapid progress in adult programs in the ongoing feasibility study being made by a recent federal grant to the Dutchess County Committee for Economic Opportunity. The grant is studying the feasibility of such workshops in rural areas such as Dutchess and Putnam.

ARONIN APPOINTED TO NASSAU COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Nassau County Executive, Ralph G. Caso, announced the appointment in January of former President of the Nassau County Chapter, Elliott L. Aronin, to fill a vacancy on the Mental Health Board in Nassau County.

Mr. Aronin, a resident of Great Neck, has been active in the Chapter since 1952, as well as in the New York State Association. He was president of the chapter from 1963 to 1967 and has served as vice president of the State Association and is a member of the Finance Committee of the National Association. He is presently a member of the Board of Directors of the Nassau County Chapter.

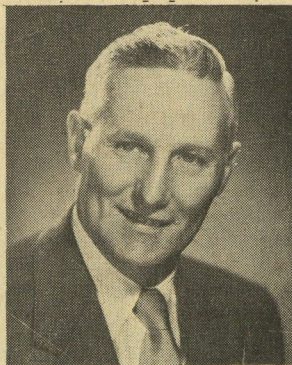
Editorially, we wish him a minimum of frustrations.

MAKE PLANS NOW — WE EXPECT YOU — STATE CONVENTION BINGHAMTON

CHARLIE McALLISTER IS HONORED AT RETIREMENT

On Saturday, February 27, 1971 Charles I. McAllister, Assistant Commissioner of Education Services, Division of Mental Retardation of the State Department of Mental Hygiene, was honored on his retirement by about 200 employees of the Department of Mental Hygiene and representatives of the New York State Association for Retarded Children.

In addition to the many gifts that Charlie received the Association presented him with a plaque expressing its appreciation for his years of devotion and love for the children.



CHARLES I. McALLISTER

In commenting on Charlie's career, Dr. Miller said, "Charlie McAllister always brought to his work dedication, skill, and humanity. These qualities made him a ray of hope for thousands of mentally retarded children and adults throughout New York State."

Joining the Department in 1953 as Director of Educational Services, he has witnessed a 400% increase in special education classes for the mentally retarded in State Schools.

Before entering State service, Mr. McAllister was with the Bureau for Children with Retarded Mental Development of the New York City Board of Education for 17 years, becoming a Supervisor of Classes for retarded children at some 50 schools in Queens and Richmond.

Since he joined the State the number of classes in State Schools has increased from 85 serving 750 children to 407 with an enrollment of 4,307.

In writing to the Association, Charlie acknowledged the plaque in the following terms, "I thought I would express to you and your membership my profound thanks and appreciation for the splendid plaque you presented me last week.

"This is one of the things I am very proud of and Elaine and my family share my profound thanks and appreciation in receiving it. Please tell everyone how appreciative I am.

"It is getting to be, and it is, a long time since we first met. This is one of the great beauties of our association for the friendship we have for one another increases in value each year.

"Again, thank you and John and your Association for your friendship and your good deeds. All of you will always be in my thoughts. Sincerely, Charles I. McAllister."

READER'S DIGEST ASSOCIATION CONTRIBUTES

We are happy to report that the Reader's Digest Association has made a contribution to the New York State Association for Retarded Children which was designated as one of the beneficiaries of corporate philanthropic donations. The donation was sent in by Miss Mary J. Giorgio of 14 Sands Street, Mt. Kisco, New York.

RESERVE THE DATES — STATE CONVENTION —
SEPTEMBER 30, OCTOBER 1, 2, 3

CHENANGO COUNTY FIGHTS THROUGH TO WORKSHOP

A small workshop has been operating since September 1969 in Oxford, New York under the sponsorship of the Chenango County Chapter. Due to very limited funds, supervision has been entirely by volunteer staff. It has served clients of varying mental and physical disabilities. As of February 1, 1971 Mr. John Gilroy was employed as fulltime director. Mr. Victor Hutchings assumed fulltime employment as Shop Manager as of February 22, 1971. Since this is the only facility of its kind in Chenango County, which has a population of 45,000, the future plans include a gradual expansion to serve 75 to 100 clients. Workshop officials are hopeful their rehabilitation program will allow some of their clients eventually to be able to assume normal work in outside industries and trades. Many will have to remain in outside industries and trades.

Chenango County Chapter president, William Fowlston of Oxford states, "It is hoped with State assistance the Association will become involved in a hostel program." He said this type of program will allow living facilities for workshop clients in an area near the workshop. He called this portion of the organization long-range planning. A hostel will enable the workshop to overcome the transportation problems which plague the clientele.

The hiring of Mr. Gilroy and Mr. Hutchings are initial steps in an enlarged program made possible by a \$48,000 operating budget for the current year.

The budget, first of its kind in this county, is funded by \$24,000 in State funds; \$15,000 in county funds, and \$9,000 in local chapter monies.

DR. ETLING HONORED BY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

Dr. George F. Etling, Director of Wassaic State School for the Retarded since 1954, was honored by Community League, the Wassaic Chapter of the N.Y. State Association for Retarded Children, at their 19th annual Luncheon in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria on March 27th.

The League, which has been concerned for the past twenty years with the welfare of the institutionalized retardates at the School, arranged through the direction of Miss Dorothy Vine, the Luncheon Chairman, to have the Wassaic Choral Group perform as a special feature of the afternoon's program.

Among the speakers were Dr. Allan D. Miller, Commissioner of the Department of Mental Hygiene of New York State, and Dr. Frederic Grunberg, Deputy Commissioner for Mental Retardation, NYS. Mr. Michel Styler, President of Community League, greeted the seven hundred relatives and friends of the Wassaic retardates who gathered to join in this tribute to Dr. Etling whom they highly esteem for his effective and compassionate administration of the School.

LOST RETARDED CHILD FOUND THROUGH N. Y. CITY NEWSLETTER

The newsletter published by the committee of the New York City Chapter dealing with the public schools has found a new use besides giving information concerning school problems to the parents. An eight year old retarded boy was found in New Jersey. The police were at a loss to find out who the boy was inasmuch as he had a speech impediment and knew no English. He had no identification on him except a copy of the newsletter put out by the New York City Chapter for school news.

The police began calling the various committee members and reached Betty Carubia of Brooklyn. Mrs. Carubia did her own detective work and with the aid of phone calls and the New York City police, the parents who live on the Westside of Manhattan were located.

So, if you haven't got a copy of the newsletter to give your child to carry around at all times, don't forget to put an identification tag around his neck.

PLEASINGLY AT HOME IN A 'SPECIAL' "FAMILY"

The following article is a reprint from the Newsday article in Nassau County concerning the Nassau county hostel.

"The aroma of spareribs and sauerkraut wafts from the cheerful kitchen. Candles gleam warmly on the flowered dining room tablecloth, being set with daisy-patterned dishes. Chatting and laughing over the day's doings, the family sits down to dinner.

It is an unusual family. Seated at the table with Jaap and Janet Wielhouwer (he's of Dutch descent), a pleasant, average young couple, are seven men who live with them. They range in age from 19 to 45. All are retarded.



Barry Cohen sets the table for Mrs. Jaap Wielhouwer: doing chores like other members of large families, but more cheerfully than most.

The Wielhouwers serve as houseparents in the men's hostel at 536 Front Street, Hempstead, opened last Spring by the Nassau County Chapter of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children. The program provides family living for handicapped grownups who, for one reason or another, can no longer live with their own families.

The object is to keep them in the community, says AHRC hostel director Murray Fried.

Every morning the seven men pack their own lunches and set out from the big white frame house — undistinguishable from all the other well kept family homes on the treelined street — to their jobs in the AHRC's sheltered workshop (all except Ronnie Glade, 35, who holds a private job as a salesman's helper). During evenings at home, Charlie Black burrows in his newspaper. Seymour Blumengarten, Eddy Black and David Markowitz let off steam on the drums and accordion in the soundproof den. The others sit around talking in the brown-carpeted living room. Sensitive human beings, they are now safe from the teasing and torment of the outside world.

And like other members of large families, but more cheerfully than most, they help set the table, peel potatoes (Black and Bobby Brager compete for the job) clear off the dishes, sweep the dining room floor and take out the garbage (Glade's specialty).

"The men have a real family feeling; they care about one another," says Mrs. Wielhouwer, the pretty auburn-haired housemother who is younger than most of her "family."

When a problem comes up, she says, we all pull up chairs and have an informal encounter session. We talk frankly about their retardation and always emphasize that they are full, deserving human beings. They are all so happy to be here."

But tensions mount in the best of families, and when rumblings started last Spring, the Wielhouwers packed their brood into the Ford stationwagon (a gift of the Five Towns AHRC Auxiliary) and headed for their cabin in the Poconos where the men could shout out their feelings to the echoing hills.

In addition to coping with their handicap, retarded persons often have to learn to handle psychological problems that prevent them from functioning at their highest level. And parents often unwittingly hamper their retarded child

(Concluded Next Column)

RETARDED "EXCESSED" IN N. Y. CITY'S DECENTRALIZED SCHOOL DISTRICTS

11

At the height of the difficulties at P.S. 146 in New York City in late November, the District Eight School Board took emergency steps to move the 300 children of the decayed portable classrooms into the main school building.

One of the steps involved making space in two classrooms by moving one class of 14 retarded children and one class of 12 youngsters to another school — "excessing" them, in Board of Education terminology.

Such "excessing" maneuvers throughout the City have long been protested by the central school board's Bureau for Children with Retarded Mental Development and the New York City Chapter of the ARC. Officials in the Bureau and the ARC assert that the retarded too often are considered "dispensable" and too often are shuffled about as a matter of convenience.

Ultimately the Bureau bowed to the local board's insistence and transferred the retarded children out of P. S. 146, but instead of moving them to two classes intact to P.S. 93, as directed the Bureau transferred 18 of the 26 children to 5 intermediate and junior high schools in the area. This was done, a bureau spokesman said, because all the children involved were at least 12 years old, and for emotional reasons should be with others of roughly their own age. P.S. 93 goes only to the 4th grade.

The teachers of the two classes, Alvin Dicker and Linda O'Brien, disagreed with this tactic, asserting that the children probably suffered more harm from the sudden shattering of the personal relationships that had been built up in the classes.

Beyond that, for reasons unclear, many of the 26 children were transferred out of P.S. 146 before they or their parents were notified and before Mr. Dicker and Miss O'Brien had time to move to P.S. 93. Some parents say they still had not been notified of the transfers two weeks after they were ordered.

As a result of the P.S. 146 episode and others similar to it, Dr. Harvey B. Scribner, the City School Chancellor, ordered that the practice of moving retarded children about at will be stopped, directing that approval for such transfers henceforth be requested from his office in writing.

When the original decentralization bill was introduced, at the insistence of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, Senator Marchi amended it to leave the administration of classes for the handicapped under a central bureau and in the central board of education. Apparently this has little meaning in the New York City mess.

SPECIAL FAMILY (From Prev. Column)

by doing too much for him — while at the same time worrying about what will happen to him when they're gone.

On his first night in his new home, Seymour, for instance, looked helplessly at the heaping platter of roast beef set before him. Jaap Wielhouwer understood. He reached over and cut Seymour's meat. But the houseparents soon saw to it that Seymour learned the simple mechanics of life that his aging mother had insisted on doing for him.

Now, like the others, Blumengarten, 45 and handicapped by cerebral palsy, cooks his own hot cereal, scrambles eggs and does his own laundry. His friends say he looks 10 years younger, walks straighter and has found a girl friend in the workshop.

The youngest of the group, Barry Cohen, silent when he came into the program and regarded as unable to learn to count, recently reached his 19th birthday. A fellow resident slyly asked how old he would be in 19 more years. "38, of course," Cohen replied nonchalantly.

Care for the retarded in the family-type hostels costs \$1,800 (this is the state's share. The total cost is \$3,600. Ed.) a year per resident compared to \$5,000 (now \$7,700. Ed.) a year in state institutions. According to Fried, the Hempstead house, a \$50,000 former doctor's residence purchased with state funds, is the first of a planned group. He hopes to open a woman's hostel soon.

Chapter News

We lead off this time with news from our smallest chapter which reports that 220 special class children from throughout ALLEGANY COUNTY along with their parents and other members of their families attended the Christmas party which was sponsored by the ALLEGANY COUNTY CHAPTER. The whole County must have been there A few other quickies — the GENESEE COUNTY CHAPTER were recipients of \$1,055 from the Second Annual Road Toll sponsored by the Le Roy Jaycees. The Jaycees set up 4 toll stations on main corners of the town of Le Roy and collected tolls from passing motorists for our program MADISON COUNTY CHAPTER held their second annual candle sale last fall. The sales undoubtedly are helping the new swimming program that the Chapter has undertaken. Working hard now for the establishment of a sheltered workshop for MADISON COUNTY'S clients . . . Although the clippings are a little dated and the contract is already, no doubt, in effect, it was exciting to see a \$48,000 contract with the Mental Health Board being considered for our STEUBEN COUNTY CHAPTER. . . . Mrs. Sherrill Holley, YOUTH advisor in PORT JERVIS also helped with a cocktail party for the Chapter's building fund. Sam Levenson, the noted entertainer, and two bands were on hand to help make it a big affair . . . We can still probably locate a little tomato sauce in the hair and behind the ears of the members of JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAPTER who made 7,500 pizzas at their last annual pizza sale and netted some \$5,000 SCHENECTADY COUNTY CHAPTER had their annual covered dish supper in March. Set up a very interesting schedule in which David Schulman, brother of TV's Billy and one of our ardent YOUTH workers, held morning and afternoon sessions the week of March 15th-18th at 9 different locations around the County. Loved SCHENECTADY'S green March Newsletter in honor of St. Patrick's Day, no doubt NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER announces that the Knights of Pythias, Astoria Lodge No. 761 came up with a unique idea for the Association. They gave a party, the price



Warming up cycle for the Yamaha Silver Cup competition at Madison Square Garden are two members from the Association for the Help of Retarded Children. They are Martin Striar (ctr.) of Douglaston, and Bernice Stewart (R.) of Jamaica. With them is racer Sammie Dunn who, on behalf of Yamaha, extended the invitation to a group of Retarded Children to see the first indoor motorcycle competition ever held in New York City.

of admission being one new toy per couple and then donated the toys to the Chapter for redistribution to handicapped children. In addition, 25 youngsters from the AHRC were invited to the International Camper and Trailer Show in Madison Square Garden where the youngsters wandered through the 72 models of 1971 trailers which were on display . . . CATTARAUGUS COUNTY'S newsletter indicating

their great interest in a Hostel. They are meeting on April 19th with Chemung and Broome Counties to discuss the possibility of creating a hostel in each of their respective areas. David Baumstein of the Department of Mental Hygiene will be showing them the way. Making plans to send over 50 children to Camp Cornplanter, their residential camp in Pennsylvania Three separate blessings on ALBANY COUNTY CHAPTER from our State Office. One to Chapter President Mary Caniano for supplying the bullhorn we needed at our March on Albany, another because they were one of the Chapters who sent out the notice about the march to every member, and another because we understand the Burger King in Latham, Albany and Schenectady donated 25 percent of the purchases made on a Sunday in December to the SCHENECTADY COUNTY CHAPTER and we didn't hear Albany complain We note that SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER, still producing one of the sharpest looking newsletters around, welcomes an old friend from the Department of Mental Hygiene, Robert Sansone, as their new Executive Director effective March 15th. We are certainly glad to have Bob back as a part of the ARC family. Many of you will remember him from when he directed the educational programs of our Nassau County Chapter. SUFFOLK's one of the leading lights in our new State YOUTH program with many new auxiliaries being formed at present OTSEGO COUNTY CHAPTER's monthly newsletter bringing information on many new activities in that area. I particularly enjoyed the report of their All-County Educational Meeting which was held on January 19th. They had a panel including representatives of Local Services, Department of Mental Hygiene, Hostels, social workers at State Schools, and local social workers together with representatives of the local Board of Supervisors, Chairman of the Mental Health Board, supervisors from BOCES, the Chapter President and Director of a local private facility. An excellent idea BROOME COUNTY CHAPTER very busy, not only with their day to day activities but making preparation for having Binghamton host the New York State Special Olympics and, of course, our State Convention in October . . . The ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER reporting a fine profit from their bingo receipts. Might be something for others to consider. A special tip of the hat to 4 members of ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER who traveled from Syracuse to Albany for our March on the Capitol. Came the furthest of any upstaters. Always thrilled by the fact that ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER continues to be one of our last bastions to hold out against United Fund. Raised \$27,000 plus in their 1970 fund raising campaign. Just proving that it can still be done. Good for you ONONDAGA ONTARIO COUNTY CHAPTER welcomes its new president Mr. William Eberhardt. Mr. Eberhardt replaces Tom Kenny who served for 7 years in the president's chair. We join ONTARIO COUNTY CHAPTER in a salute to Tom for his years of hard work . . . MONTGOMERY COUNTY going great guns with Liberty House. President Sollecito reports that one measure of growth might be the difference in the budget from the time he became President, early in 1969, to the present, with the budget having jumped from \$12,000 to \$66,000. MONTGOMERY COUNTY is serving 25 clients at Liberty House which is a wonderful thing to see . . . TOMPKINS COUNTY CHAPTER, after having to struggle to stay alive continues to make news with its projects. Must be just about the barons of the Central New York bird seed market by this time with their new packaging program. Enjoyed the story in the Cornell Daily Sun on the Chapter's Attic Shop CHEMUNG COUNTY continuing to grow in program and activities, striving very hard to consider a new building. Got a real kick out of the new headline for their newsletter which is called CHEMUNG COUNTY'S ARC with the last 3 letters over the shape of a boat. I wonder if Noah is turning over in his grave? . . . COLUMBIA

Chapter News

COUNTY very much interested in a workshop and getting closer to its establishment all the time also making news. Two somewhat belated items of interest would include the fact the COLUMBIA COUNTY Restaurant Association made a contribution to the Chapter and that the Chapter in turn has honored Mrs. William Caswell, the first special education teacher in Hudson City School System and one of the early lights in the beginning of the COLUMBIA COUNTY CHAPTER. YOUTH group in COLUMBIA going great guns, making John Bertrand very happy by adopting his suggestion that they collect glass as a fund raiser. I haven't heard reports of any injuries yet, nor any profits but hope that they have none of the former and much of the latter.



Teenagers work on paper flowers to sell at first spaghetti supper in Wayne County.

... You've just got to love the newsletter from WAYNE COUNTY CHAPTER which strikes you as a combination of all the brotherhood you ever saw when the March issue opens with a big picture of a shamrock advertising the Chapter's spaghetti supper. That's what you call togetherness. Director Barbara Pyle reports that the Chapter was honored to have Association President, Robert J. Hodgson, as the speaker at their fourth annual Volunteer Banquet; that they will again have a summer school program under a federal grant and are hoping to enlarge their teenage group next year to build this up into a pre-vocational training center and a sheltered workshop. ... Our busy Chapter in CAYUGA COUNTY reports that they also had David Schulman to speak to the youth of their area in the month of March. Their meetings always sound so interesting because it appears they specialize in dinner meetings. Looking forward to begin fund raising for their camp, Camp Columbus We were especially pleased to see that the Chapter was the recipient of a contribution from the Diocese of Rochester under the Knights of Columbus fund. ... CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY CHAPTER really excited about their



Working on new jobs at the Jamestown workshop.

new location. They have moved just a few doors up Main Street from number 11 to number 21, but are doing much better in their new and larger location. It appears from their

newsletter that the contracts in their workshops are coming in better too. We welcome their YOUTH group from Dunkirk-Fredonia as the newest in the State group. Our thanks to the Eagles Auxiliary of Jamestown who contributed a sound projector to the Chapter. ... One of my favorites is always the newsletter from HERKIMER COUNTY. The Chapter is working right now trying to consummate a mental health board contract with their local community mental health board. We don't doubt that they will be successful. We always have admired Leona Perkins' spunk and a recent letter we got from her was a joy to read, "We are now organizing another County-wide drive in hope that we shall raise more than double what we collected in our November 1969 drive". That's the way to go HERKIMER. Keep up the good work. ... DELAWARE COUNTY now publishing DELAWARE COUNTY CHAPTER NEWS, the first official newsletter of the DELAWARE COUNTY CHAPTER of the Association. An excellent little sheet, it talks about DELAWARE COUNTY's plans to continue their summer recreational program, a religious education program, and the fact that the Chapter's membership has already reached 97, a new high for the County. Congratulations! DELAWARE also planning to begin some services shortly. Looking forward to opening a day training center very soon. ... SCHOHARIE COUNTY writes to say that SCHOHARIE COUNTY CHAPTER is progressing with its building plans. Last year land was purchased near Middleburgh for an ARC Center. Federal, State and Appalachia funds have been secured for this project. Local funds are being collected at present. This month, bids are being let and construction should begin this spring. It is hoped that classes will commence in the new center before the year is out. Classes for retarded children have been held in the Zion Lutheran Church hall for the past two years with Mrs. William Southard as Director. Approximately 50 youngsters are helped in the spring and year round program. ... We certainly hope that all members of WELFARE LEAGUE have a good time at their upcoming Night at Lincoln Center. Sounds like it will be an outstanding event. Congratulations are in order to those members of WELFARE LEAGUE who, under the leadership of President Mrs. James F. (Frances) Reville, met with members of the Department of Mental Hygiene and worked vigorously to have the freeze on employment lifted at LETCHWORTH VILLAGE. ... Fun to see PUTNAM COUNTY CHAPTER following in the steps of Rockland earlier and doing polishing of silverware and bronze for a project for their adults. Like their catchy phrase, "Give your silverware the PARC gleam". Doing door to door campaign for the first time in some years up in PUTNAM. A very fine undertaking. They might add that three Councils of the Knights of Columbus provided \$600 for PUTNAM COUNTY CHAPTER. It is always exciting to see many of our smaller counties making such fine headway. ... All our friends in BENEVOLENT SOCIETY — WILLOWBROOK CHAPTER looking forward to their annual luncheon on May 7th. We hope it will be a fabulous success. ... Last, but by no means least, we must comment on the fine large clipping which our OSWEGO COUNTY CHAPTER received in the Fulton Patriot. It was a very fine article, of course we are always pleased to see projects such as the OSWEGO COUNTY project flourishing. Perhaps the article was impressive, however, because it so well described so many people in ARC when it said "In these days politicians and others use the word 'dedicated' altogether too lightly, but it is the best word I can think of to describe these staff workers. They are everlastingly patient, friendly and deeply interested and sympathetic but firm and they make every part of the day's activity a learning process." That's our people. ...

C'MON STATE CONVENTION —

SEPTEMBER 30 THROUGH OCTOBER 3

Y.O.U.T.H.

NEW YOUTH CHAPTER IN DUNKIRK

YOUTH HELP THE YOUNG AT SIGL CENTER

The following are excerpts from an article by Judy Bennett of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle about the youth volunteers at the Al Sigl Center in Rochester operated by our Monroe County Chapter.

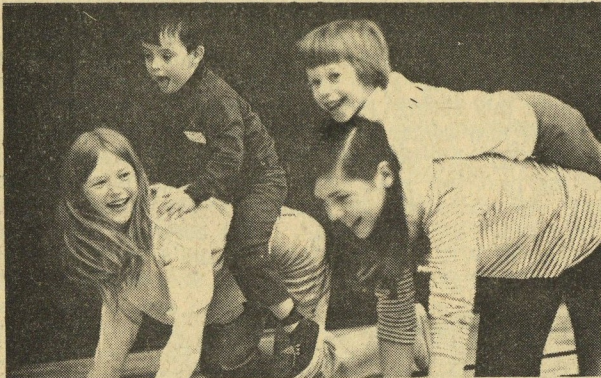
We wish to share with our readers the warmth of this movement of youth and the feelings of those involved. The excerpts follow:

"It's Saturday morning at the Al Sigl Center, and the children are caught up in the spirit of games, artwork, swimming and singing. It's a bright world. Everything a child could ask for.

"Except there's a difference with these children. They are mentally retarded.

"A little girl, blonde and pretty, shyly declines to put on her bathing suit, and then goes so near the water that she gets splashed, and her clothes must be dried out.

"A freckle-faced boy is singing with the others, and enjoying every minute of it. One song calls for the children to give a "stomp, stomp, stomp." His feet and legs are paralyzed, but he manages by raising a leg with his hands and making his foot stomp down with the rest.



Diane Baker of Barker Road Jr. H.S. is volunteer pony for children at the Al Sigl Center.

Such Saturday mornings at the Sigl Center are an experiment in human relations, bringing together Rochester and Monroe County mentally retarded children and a group of young volunteers who have completed a series of orientation lessons on working with the retarded.

"On one hand are some 70 to 80 youngsters, ages 6 to 16, who were reached through their special education classes in the city and county schools.

"On the other hand are about 45 young people, ages 13 to 25, who have volunteered for YOUTH-ARC.

"The letters stand for Youth Organized and United to Help ARC. The recently formed local group, and affiliate of the Monroe County Chapter of Retarded Children, is part of a growing national program to involve normal young people in helping retarded people.

"One of the first steps of the Rochester area planners, after the program began to take shape here in February, was to name each of the two groups for easy reference — "the givers" and "the receivers".

"But now since the program has gotten under way, more than one "giver" insists that he is indeed a receiver—getting more himself than he is giving.

"I was excited about this program during the orientation course," a young giver said at the close of a Saturday morn-

(Concluded Next Column)



Discussing the ways they can reach out and help mentally retarded persons, the above young people and their advisors have organized a Dunkirk Chapter of Youth-ARC, a group established to reach their goals. Pictured, L. to R are (First row) Peg Reid, President of the Cattaraugus County Chapter; Edward Bazow, Portville High School Vice President, Cattaraugus County; James Freitag, State Youth-ARC President; Thomas Freitag, Vice President of the Western New York Region; (Back row) Debbie Chalmers, Fredonia; James V. Deponceau, Executive Director of the Chautauqua County Chapter for Retarded Children; Mrs. Ellis Delahoy, President of the Chautauqua County Chapter; Mrs. Mary Andrews, Director of the Dunkirk ARC Workshop and Adult Advisor to the Youth Group; and Marcia Westling of Fredonia.

YOUTH (From Prev. Column)

ing session. But now that I'm actually working with these kids, it's even greater than I thought. I can't wait to come back next week.

Two Rochester women who have been keeping closer watch than most on the progress of the program, are Mrs. Victor Pappas, a housewife and mother of two, and Mrs. Judith Yurman, widow and mother of four.

"Joan Pappas, a registered nurse, originally from Cleveland, Ohio, moved to Rochester in September. She called the Sigl Center to ask if she could be of help, and soon was assistant leader of an arts and crafts program. YOUTH-ARC was formed a few months later and its immediate need was for someone to be adult chairman and adviser. Many people thought of Joan Pappas.

"Judy Yurman is a career woman, in recent years the assistant to the executive director of the Monroe County Chapter. Her group, ARC, is the parent group to YOUTH-ARC. She says, "We call it our new baby", and Joan frequently consults with Judy.

"Mrs. Yurman, also a registered nurse, keeps a small plaque reading "You are loved" in her office at Sigl Center. She says, "We think the young can bring a great deal to other young ones. Our hope is that it will help both those receiving and those giving and bring a new dimension into their lives."

"As another example, Judy Yurman speaks of her goal to organize a group whose members will be trained as babysitters for parents of retarded children.

"It would be a real service," she says, "to make it possible for these parents to have a time away from the house together, a night out, knowing that their child is in capable hands."

The local YOUTH-ARC has elected officers: Jean Hultenschmidt, president; Sue Crane, vice president; Robin Lawton, secretary, and Chris Allen, treasurer. Jean and Sue are also two of the four group leaders in the Saturday programs, and the other two are Nancy Klein and Kathy Farden.

YOUTH EXPANDING RAPIDLY

Since the first convention of the YOUTH — New York State ARC group held in Syracuse last September, there has been a fabulous spurt in the growth of our State YOUTH organization.

Downstate areas are leading the way as our original group of active young people has been joined by both Queens and Bronx Division YOUTH groups in New York City and by the Bay Shore and Three Village Junior Auxiliaries in Suffolk County. In addition to these four additional groups, information has been received indicating that we will very soon have additional groups in Dunkirk-Fredonia (Chautauqua County), and five new Suffolk County groups, Deer Park-Dix Hills, Southern Brookhaven, Hope Jr. Auxiliary, Oakdale-Sayville and Mid-Island Jr. Auxiliaries. This will almost double the 13 YOUTH groups who were affiliated at Convention time last year.

More inquiries and applications are coming in to the State office all the time and it will not be long before we anticipate the State YOUTH group will pass the 5,000 mark in membership.

SMITHTOWN YOUTH SHOW THE WAY

The YOUTH of Smithtown Junior Auxiliary in Suffolk County, showed the rest of the State their interest in the State YOUTH organization when they sent a \$50.00 contribution toward the operation of YOUTH — New York State ARC. Smithtown's was the first contribution made by a local YOUTH organization to their own State treasury.

Larry March of Smithtown is the President of the Junior Auxiliary and Mrs. Donald Mott of Commack is the advisor.

CAN A RETARDED TEENAGER COMPETE

If you were a retarded teenager, how would you like to win a trip to Spain? If not a trip to Spain, how about a movie camera? Would you have a chance if you were in competition with other boys of average or above average ability? My son, Tom, age 15, who is mentally retarded proved that he could be a winner.

Tom, a special class student at our local Junior High School, has been a carrier boy for the Syracuse Herald American for the past fifteen months. When Tom was first offered the job, he was apprehensive. However, Mr. George Baroody, supervisor of the carrier boys, said he would give any child a chance. Tom cannot subtract. However, he memorized the change he would give his customers. Tom's route covers five miles extending into the nearby countryside — a long walk on a cold February day. During the time Tom has been a carrier, he has not received one complaint from a customer.

In January the Herald announced a Columbus XV contest open to all carrier boys with the winner going to Spain. People would write letters stating why they feel a particular carrier was deserving of the trip. The carrier received points according to the category of the writer, ie, a merchant letter was worth 30 points; clergyman, teacher or law enforcement officer, 20 points; and a civic leader, customer or relative was worth 10 points.

Tom and I immediately went to work soliciting letters. At the end of the six weeks contest, Tom, who had accumulated over 1000 points, was the third prize winner. We were gratified so many people felt Tom should be the winner. Was he disappointed he didn't win the trip to Spain — no, he is very happy with his movie camera. He looks forward to taking pictures on his trip to Washington, D. C. in the spring.

I feel Tom is an inspiration to other retarded youths. Tom is proof the retarded can be helped!

Thus writes Janet H. Kenny, mother of Tom, from Geneva, New York where she and her husband have been so active in the ARC.

STATE CONVENTION — BINGHAMTON

BRUCE VAN DUSEN NAMED OUTSTANDING TEENAGER

Bruce Van Dusen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Van Dusen, R.D. 1, Sunnyside Rd., Glens Falls, was selected Glens Falls Jaycees Outstanding Teenage Young Man by a panel of judges meeting recently at the Family YMCA.



Bruce D. Van Dusen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Van Dusen, (second from left), was judged Glens Falls Jaycees outstanding teenage young man by a five-member panel. Shown from left are Patrick R. Gautier, Co-Chairman, and Nicholas E. Pissare, First Alternate. Van Dusen won over 16 local Seniors.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Van Dusen are members of the Association for Retarded Children, Sidney being member of the State Board and his wife Gertrude, Chairman of the Northeast Regional Institutions Committee.

Bruce received a \$50.00 U.S. Savings Bond and an opportunity to compete for state winner for a prize of \$750 scholarship.

He is a senior at Queensbury High School, ranks second in a class of 137, has been active in athletics, school activities, named to the National Honor Society, and winner of a New York State Regents Scholarship.

He was named to Boys' State last year, has served as a guest member of the PTA executive board, is chairman of the ushers committee of Oneida Community Church and serves a co-chairman of the 16-school Inner-Student Council.

Probably following in his father's political footsteps.

YOUTH DRIVE IN NASSAU



Nassau County Chapter Teen Drive Chairman, Mrs. Joseph Gunther with Y.O.U.T.H. (Youth Organized United To Help) Presidents Diane Gordon of Port Washington and Michael Metelinis of Floral Park at a recent meeting with WABC Disc Jockey of the Year Bruce Morrow. Morrow, who has been named Honorary Chairman of the drive will M.C. a Pre-Teen Drive Rock Rally at the local Calderone Theatre. A fashion show of teen styles will be presented by Abraham and Straus Hempstead Store in addition to music provided by local Rock groups. A "thank you" Rock Festival is also being planned for this summer.

\$200 MILLION STATE AUTHORIZED FOR NARCOTICS GOES BEGGING

Despite the concern over the narcotics-addiction problem, no local government or private agency in the state has applied for funds to build or purchase treatment facilities under a 10-month old state program making \$200 million in low interest loans available for that purpose.

This in spite of the fact that State contributions towards such construction would be 50% as compared to only 33 1/3% for mental health or mental retardation facilities and that debt service and interest on loans is a deductible item as an operating expense while it is not so deductible for mental health or mental retardation services.

In addition to this \$200 million for construction, the legislature last year appropriated some \$65 million for local community aid for narcotic programs of which a mere pittance was used. The legislature has cut this back this year to \$20 million of which we predict just as little will be used.

In the meanwhile local aid for community services for mental health and mental retardation has been cut by \$9 million this year.

A spokesman for the Association suggests that the \$20 million for narcotic addict treatment might well be used for mental health and mental retardation to prevent some of the parents from going on drugs while waiting for services for their children.

N. Y. CITY OVERRIDES MAYOR'S VETO

The New York City Council voted unanimously recently to override the first veto of Mayor Lindsay's second term.

Councilmen grinned and burst into applause after voting to restore a measure requiring escorts and seat belts on buses carrying handicapped children to school.

The overriding of the veto was the fourth on a non-budget item since Mr. Lindsay has been Mayor. It was the first bill the Mayor vetoed during the 14 months of his second term, which has been characterized by efforts to work out prior arrangements with the Council on legislation.

Mr. Lindsay said afterward that the law was "unnecessary" since, he said, the Board of Education already provides escorts on more than 100 buses carrying the handicapped.

And he challenged the Council "to provide these funds" presumably serving notice that his proposed budget for the next fiscal year would not contain the \$4.8 million he says will be needed to implement the law.

The law, to take effect at the start of the next school year, was passed unanimously in December after a handicapped child was killed in a bus accident, and there was never any real doubt that the votes were there to override the veto.



FIRST MEMBER to sign up for this year's membership drive of the Sullivan County Chapter of the Association for Retarded Children is Norman Bleach, Sullivan County Commander of the American Legion. Mrs. Ruth De Simone (center), membership chairman, and Mrs. Ruth Bennett, member of the board of directors of the NYS Association, accept his check.

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT

The report, called "The Decisive Decade", covers the institutions, malnutrition as a cause of mental retardation, research, education, employment, state services, additional legal rights of guardianship, manpower, etc. Of necessity, a quick brochure of 24 pages can only cover highlights of these areas.

For the most part, the expressions of concern are those that have been voiced by parents groups, and others, for the last 20 years.

What is missing from this report is implementation: how can these good wishes be translated into action on the State and National fronts. It is one thing to say that malnutrition causes mental retardation; it is quite another to tell you how we can overcome malnutrition in our population.

It is quite one thing to say "the model residential environment should provide a warm, stimulating, social setting, devoid of dehumanizing conditions"; it is quite another matter to tell us how to do this when for over 20 years we have been striving with not inconsiderable force to accomplish this end. It is evident that there is little relation between the recommendations of the President's Committee and the appropriations of the Congress as evidenced by the Development Disabilities appropriations of \$11.2 million for the whole country for each of two years.

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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