

OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Retarded Children

Can Be Helped!



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SAMPSON CLOSES



(New York Times photo)

Good-By to Sampson 'I Love You. I'll Miss You

OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

issued four times a year by

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**

THANKS FROM A "RESIDENT"

O, dear Lord,
Are You bored
With my plea?
I can only suppose
I have no clothes
Because
You are tired of me.
But thank you, Lord,
For this bare board—
It is so sanitary.
And, God, thank You
For slop and stew
So nourishing.
And, Seigneur, thanks—
[I don't mind the cranks]
I'm flourishing.
Dear God, don't You see
You must love me,
Who's perishing
To be with You
In heaven
As on Earth?
Thank You, thank You, seventy times seven!
J. T. Weingold

SALT IN THE WOUND

In the October 1, 1971 issue of the Mental Hygiene News there is an interesting juxtaposition of two articles.

At the head of the page is an article entitled, "Cooperative Effort Saves Fairmount Children's Center" and right below there is another article entitled, "Transfers Underway at Sampson".

Fairmount Children's Center is a center for emotionally disturbed children which is being kept operating through a combined effort of the State Department of Mental Hygiene, Upstate Medical Center, under contract with the Department, and the community. Fairmount provided day services for 55 children. In addition to 15 professionals provided by the Department of Mental Hygiene, the county will hire 49 to complete staffing of the center, a total of 64 staff for this number of children. Supportive services for the 10 buildings and grounds maintenance will be provided by the department through the Syracuse State School.

On the other hand, Sampson State School serves almost 700 mentally retarded adults and aged, men and women, and has been completely closed. The community has protested vigorously and has offered its help in keeping Sampson open.

Can the main difference between the two decisions be that one is in children's services dealing with the emotionally disturbed, and the other for mentally retarded adults who are deemed expendable?

In any case, juxtaposition of these two articles seems to us a deliberate attempt to irritate the parents of the mentally retarded and peculiar to say the least.

SAMPSON'S LESSON — Editorial

If anything can be learned from what happened at Sampson State School it is this:

The National Association's policy of obtain rather than provide is a hoax and a delusion.

Let all those who think of someone else doing something for the retarded, someone else other than the parent's groups themselves, remember Sampson and what finally happened to the patients and residents and staff at Sampson.

Let all those who speak of combining services for the mentally retarded with services for all children, a most seductive phrase, remember what happens in the Department of Mental Hygiene when the services for the mentally retarded are merely combined with those of the poor, emotionally disturbed and mentally ill. When a budget crunch comes, it is the mentally retarded who suffer the most. When there is a shortage of funds, the least of these are attacked first as those least able to resist.

This, however, is a terrible mistake on the part of government and those who govern and have control over the destinies of these children. What happened at Gouverneur with the militant action of the parents and the Young Lords demonstrates what can be done when there is a will and the power to do so.

We have for twenty some odd years tried hard to cooperate with those who hold the destinies of our children in their hand. Much has been accomplished in this way, but at all times over our heads is held the authoritarian threat that funds will be cut, that other priorities will be set, and that our children will suffer.

We know how much we hurt many of our friends in the Department of Mental Hygiene, when we ask for a separate Department for the mentally retarded, but their's is an unreasoning opposition and not a calm consideration of all the facts. The one thing that must stand out more clearly than anything else that services for the retarded must be earmarked for them, administered by those for whom they are the sole concern and controlled by those who are not seduced into other paths, generally on the false assumption that the retarded are helpless.

Sampson is closed. But the whole future paths for us as parents and a parent group lies ahead of us clear as crystal. For those who oppose what we want, and still talk as if everyone wants what we want, we say what Thoreau said to Emerson, when Thoreau was in jail and Emerson was on the outside looking in at him. Emerson said to Thoreau, "What are you doing behind bars?" And Thoreau answered "What are you doing outside?"

BRICKS AND MORTAR VERSUS HUMAN BEINGS

In a release on October 4, 1971 the Governor announced that the State Health and Mental Hygiene Facilities Improvement Corporation has started construction of a physical and recreational therapy center at Suffolk State School.

Suffolk State School cares for 1,500 mentally retarded children and adults in Melville, Long Island. It is operated by the State Department of Mental Hygiene.

The release describes in detail the water therapy pool, the ramps, motorized lifts, safety bars, lockers, showers and toilet facilities and many other features that are good and necessary.

What the release fails to note, however, is that investigation by the subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee of the Assembly into conditions at Suffolk State School showed residents lying on their faces in buildings with inadequate attendants present, cockroaches crawling over them. It was suggested that the money that goes into a \$394,000 building could well be used for care of the patients instead and that the income derived from medicare and Medicaid would well pay back the money so expended instead of going into paying interest and amortizing bonds for construction.

SAMPSON CLOSED

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Sampson State School is closed.

The 680 middle-aged and old men and women who have been at Sampson State School for 11 years have been scattered over the State to other already overcrowded state institutions and 420 employees have been dismissed.

This is just the bare bone of an epic struggle to make the Department of Mental Hygiene and the Governor's Office behave in a humane way and consistent with the intent of the legislature.

These efforts have failed.

Sampson is closed. The sad patients, the weeping employees, patients on stretchers, the patients who could barely walk, all have been herded into buses and removed far from their homes.

The State Legislature stands frustrated in a confrontation with the Governor, and the Department of Mental Hygiene, their intent completely subverted through the willfulness of a line department and a disregard for human feelings.

Sampson is closed.



The Rev. Alton Stivers, chairman of the Friends of Sampson, read a statement on Rosh Hashana by Rabbi Irving Beigel as John Phillips was taken from the scene by state police.

The story begins with the budget cuts enacted by the legislature. The joint report of the finance committee of the Senate and the Ways and Means Committee of the Assembly required that the State Department of Mental Hygiene, in addition to the cuts imposed, save 3½% of its expenditures in Mental Retardation. The report also stated that this 3½% should be saved across the various services and not directed to any individual service.

The appropriation was passed by the legislature with specific appropriations for Gouverneur State School Division of Willowbrook and Sampson State School. The budget cuts were already incorporated in the appropriations.

Nevertheless, the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, decided after consultation with his staff to save some \$6 million by closing down Gouverneur State Hospital in New York City with about 197 residents and Sampson State School in Sampson, N. Y., Seneca County.

When all efforts to have this reversed were unavailing, the State Association brought an action in the name of Anna Mae Goodman on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated against the State of New York, the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene and others to keep Gouverneur and Sampson open. This action was successful in the Supreme Court when Justice Riccobono ordered a stay for such closing and issued an injunction against them.

(Continued Next Column)

The State appealed to the Appellate Division. In the meanwhile the parents of Gouverneur State School enlisted the support of the Young Lords, who on a confrontation with Dr. Frederic Grunberg, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene for Mental Retardation and Children's Services and Dr. Jack Hammond held them hostage until he agreed in writing that the Commissioner, who had never met with the parents before, meet with the parents of Gouverneur. He promised to do so, and met with them at Willowbrook State School.

As a result of this meeting on July 23, 1971, the Commissioner issued a release to the effect that Gouverneur Annex of the Willowbrook State School will be kept open until April 1972.

The decision to keep Gouverneur open, Dr. Miller said, was made "after careful review of the situation with my staff and other state officials." Apparently the July 14th meeting with the parents had some effect.

In the meanwhile, the Appellate Division had overruled Justice Riccobono and vacated the injunction. Since the decision was made to keep Gouverneur open, and this was the original intent of Anna Mae Goodman and the other parents, their further appeal to the Court of Appeals was abandoned.

Nothing, however, could budge the Department from its decision to close Sampson State School.

Having failed in the state courts, the State Association brought an action on behalf of Eleanor S. Penders for herself and all other similarly situated, parents and relatives of patients at Sampson State School in the federal court on the ground that the rights of these retarded under the 14th Amendment of the Federal Constitution were being violated and that they were being invidiously discriminated against as compared with the mentally ill and emotionally disturbed children under the aegis of the Department of Mental Hygiene.

At the beginning of August, this action was heard before Justice Curtin in a federal court in Buffalo who "refused to second guess the Department of Mental Hygiene and the Commissioner" and refused to issue an injunction. He did, however, continue the stay until an appeal could be made to the circuit court of appeals.

In the meanwhile, the Commissioner finally acceded to the demands of the parents to meet with them and did so in July at Sampson State School where all pleas fell on deaf ears and the decision to close Sampson remained.

The Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Justice Curtin and refused to extend the doctrine of protection of minorities to the handicapped. There was nothing left to do except an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States which would have been moot by the time it reached there as no temporary stay was granted and the Department proceeded forthwith to transfer the patients.

Organized under the leadership of Father Alton Stivers, an Episcopalian priest, parents and Friends of Sampson mounted a vehement protest in Sampson and in Albany, and bodily tried to prevent the removal of the residents.

One man tried to immolate himself and was promptly arrested for interfering with the State troopers in their mission to transfer the patients.

While all of this was going on, the State Association held a meeting with representatives of the Department of Mental Hygiene, Dr. Miller never appearing, and offered alternatives to save the money.

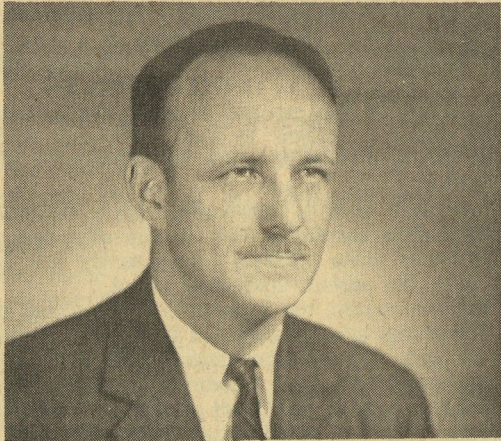
It might be added here that it was not necessary to save the money because of the budget cuts by the legislature but because we were told by Mr. Richard Dunham, Director of the Budget, \$6 million in addition to these cuts must be saved in Mental Hygiene because the income was not forthcoming.

The alternatives offered by the State Association for Retarded Children were as follows:

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HODGSON ELECTED TO THIRD TERM

The delegate body of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc., assembled in Convention at the Treadway Inn in Binghamton, New York, unanimously elected Robert J. Hodgson to a third term as president of the Association. Mr. Hodgson, a partner in the firm of Olin, Damon, Morey, Sawyer and Moot in Buffalo has served on the Board of Governors of the State Association for a two-year term from 1961-63, and then again since 1966.



ROBERT J. HODGSON

Among his activities on behalf of the Association, are included a term as assistant treasurer and treasurer of the Erie County Chapter from 1962-64, and as president from 1964-66. He has served as director of the Erie County Chapter since 1960.

On the State level, in addition to his term on the Board of Governors, he has served as a member of the Legal Committee since 1963, was Western Regional Vice President from 1966 to 1969 and served as senior Vice President of the Association from 1967 till 1969 when he was elected to his first term as president of the State Association.

Well-known for his work in guardianship, Mr. Hodgson had served since 1966 as chairman of the Guardianship Committee of the National Association for Retarded Children.

In addition to these activities, Mr. Hodgson has found time to serve as a member of the New York Health Planning Advisory Council since 1968, a member of the advisory council to the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental and Physical Handicap since 1965, and more currently, is a nominee for the State-wide committee on developmental disabilities.

He is a member of the American Association on Mental Deficiency, and has been a trustee of the United Fund of Buffalo in Erie County and the United Health Foundation of Western New York.

In his report to the Board of Governors, Mr. Hodgson emphasized the difficulty which the mentally retarded are having because of the failure of the legislature to provide beneficial legislation and the resultant difficulties in our relationships with various state departments including the Department of Mental Hygiene.

In addition to Mr. Hodgson, the delegates elected Thomas A. Coughlin, III, Vice President of the Central Region, and he was subsequently elected senior vice president by the Board of Governors, Mrs. Lewis J. Boyce, Vice President of the Western Region, Mrs. Ernest Messier, Vice President of the Northeast Region, Hyman Clurfeld, Vice President of the Southeast Region. Also, Mrs. Evelyn Weisenfeld, Secretary, George G. Hirsch, Treasurer, and Mrs. James F. Reville, Assistant Treasurer.

SHIRLEY EPSTEIN THANKS

Thanks from Shirley Epstein, Chairman of our Institutions Committee, to all you nice people who remembered her with cards, etc. during her recent hospital stay. Shirley is well and back to her duties.

SCHOLARSHIP HONORS DEAR FRIEND

In a new award which was presented for the first time in 1971, the Association hopes to perpetuate the memory of a dear friend who labored long and hard on behalf of the mentally retarded. The award is the Dr. Arthur W. Pense Memorial Scholarship, which was awarded for the first time at our State Convention in Binghamton, to Mrs. Phyllis Gerard of Flushing, New York, a teacher at Willowbrook State School.

Dr. Pense, who had served for many years in the Department of Mental Hygiene as first deputy director of the Division of Mental Retardation, which was created by Dr. Hoch at Dr. Pense's insistence, and then as acting commissioner of Mental Hygiene after Dr. Hoch's death, and was one of the early champions of the plight of the mentally retarded. Upon his death, a number of his friends from the Department made memorial contributions in his honor. Presented with the funds by Charles I. McAllister, the Association Board voted to use the initial memorial funds together with a contribution from the Association for the first memorial scholarship, and then to continue the scholarship annually in memory of Dr. Pense.



Dr. Alan Pense looks on and Senator Dalwin J. Niles observes as Mrs. Phyllis Gerard receives first Arthur Pense Scholarship.

All of the State Schools were contacted and asked to name an outstanding individual in the field of education who would make good use of a scholarship such as this in continuing their training. The responses were marvelous and each of the nominees selected was truly an individual worthy to be considered of the scholarship.

After long deliberation, the Scholarship and Awards Committee selected Mrs. Gerard on the basis of the excellent recommendation received from Dr. Hannah G. Glasser, Education Director at Willowbrook State School. In her nomination for Mrs. Gerard Dr. Glasser wrote,

"During the many years from 1944 to the present time, I have worked in education in many capacities and for this reason have been exposed to various types of personalities. Mrs. Phyllis Gerard, Teacher II, was hired January 1, 1968 and was placed under my supervision. I consider this employee a supervisor's dream which is seldom, if ever, realized.

The performance of the above mentioned employee goes deeper than the call of what is expected. Examples are as follows:

- A willingness to accept an assignment refused by others.
- Weekend visitations to residents in her class.
- Taking a child home who does not get a visit.
- Shopping trips at her own expense.
- Suggestions for better resident care.
- A spirit of willingness to give each child an opportunity.
- Improving morale with ward personnel and peers.

Primary Interest: To help those whose needs are greatest."

The Association was especially honored when Dr. Pense's son, Dr. Alan Pense, a professor in the Department of Metallurgy and Material Science at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, agreed to come to the State Convention and present the award to our first winner.

It was a great beginning for what we anticipate will be a fitting remembrance to a great man.

STATE CONVENTION ADOPTS 18 POINT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

HODGSON REPRESENTS PROGRAM TO JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE HEARING

Upon the report of the State Legal and Legislative Committee and recommendation of the Board of Governors, the delegate assembly to the state convention in Binghamton, October 1st, adopted an 18-point legislative program to be pressed in the 1972 legislature.

The delegates also voted to put special emphasis on 8 of the 18.

These follow:

1. Repeal of the provision of the law permitting the Department of Mental Hygiene to institute proceedings in the family court to compel payment of reimbursement. This passed last year but was vetoed by the Governor. The Governor's veto also stated that the Department of Mental Hygiene opposed this, which is incomprehensible to the Chairman of our Legal and Legislative Committee since the recodification includes almost the exact terms of the bill.



SATURDAY EVENING — Senator Dalwin J. Niles speaks to the Convention.

2. Establishment of a separate department or office of mental retardation. It was the feeling of the delegates that under the present set-up where mental retardation is not only in the same pot with mental illness and emotional disturbance, but confused with it in many of the provisions of the law, only a separate department of mental retardation could give the mentally retarded what they need in this state. Since, however, the Constitution limits the number of Departments to 20, in the meanwhile it is urged that an Office of Mental Retardation be established in the executive branch of government. This office would take over all the functions of the Department of Mental Hygiene dealing with the mentally retarded.

3. Amendment to the Mental Hygiene Law to provide that reimbursement to communities by the state for services for the mentally retarded be at the rate of 75% instead of the present 50%.

4. Provision that rent paid to a Mental Retardation Service Company and interest on funds borrowed to finance construction during the time before the state's payments are made be reimbursable items under the Community Mental Health Services Act.

5. Amendment to the Education Law to increase the maximum amount to \$2500 from \$2000 for aid to private schools and lower the age limit when such services can be rendered to three years.

6. An amendment to the Insurance Law to require insurance companies and plans to include the mentally retarded dependent in family health and hospital policies.

7. Amendment to the Criminal Procedure Law to provide that a person accused of a crime who is adjudicated incompetent to stand trial by reason of mental retardation is discharged of criminal process and relegated to the civil commitment procedures under the Mental Hygiene Law.

8. An amendment to the Executive Law in relation to unfair

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NEW RULING EASES BURDEN OF PARENTS OF A RETARDED CHILD

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A new ruling of Internal Revenue Services may have eased slightly the burdens of parents of retarded children.

In a particular case upon advice by a physician the parents put their mentally retarded son in a special school run by a religious order. The main reason was availability of resources there to alleviate his handicap. The school was licensed by the state which also gave the parents financial help by paying part of the tuition, room and board.

The IRS ruled that the payments from the state were a scholarship. Thus they were not taken into account in figuring whether the parents are providing more than ½ their son's support and could claim him as an exemption. The IRS so ruled the part the parents pay as a deductible medical expense.

This has great significance for those parents who are receiving aid under Section 4407 of the Education Law. Further inquiries should be directed to the State Office.

LEGISLATION — (Continued from Previous Column)

practices in housing, land and commercial space with regard to the mentally and physically handicapped — protection of their civil rights.

In testifying before the Joint Legislative Committee in New York City on November 13th, Mr. Hodgson stated "I feel that our efforts represent triumph of hope over reason, when, year after year we find the legislature passing bills . . . and year after year we find the Governor vetoing these measures." He continued, however, that hope still triumphs over reason, but we can now add the failure of the legislature to pass some of these very bills that would seem all men of good standing are agreed on.

In addition to urging the passage of the legislative program of the State Association, Mr. Hodgson also urged the Committee to use all its influence with the legislature and the Governor to bring about the reordering of priorities so that the handicapped will receive top priority in the allocation of limited funds, so that we would not have a situation where children in some of the institutions go naked because the state is not providing any clothes, where there is a waiting list of more than 1500 to get into state schools. "We will not have a situation where the freeze on hiring", said Mr. Hodgson, "has eliminated in some of the institutions as much as 20% of the personnel, with consequent curtailing of necessary program; that, in brief, programs will not be run by a computer in Albany with its dehumanizing effects, but by people with understanding, compassion and love."

He urged that the legislation, especially the appropriations bill, prevent another incident such as Sampson by providing that "no service or facility to which an appropriation has been made by the legislature shall be discontinued by any department without prior consent of the Senate (or Senate and Assembly — or the legislature)".

Mr. Hodgson presented the position of the State Association with regard to Developmental Disabilities objecting to any change in the name of mental retardation to developmental disabilities as a "nice Nellie" designation for a handicap.

He also pointed out that the recodification was far from finished and it should not be passed in its present form. He urged that the good parts of the recodification and major changes be put forth into separate pieces of legislation and that the whole question of community service and other things be examined before there be a complete recodification.

He also pointed out objections to the so-called "unified services" bill that was suggested by the City of New York. This seems to have gotten considerable support, but in its present form, said Mr. Hodgson, it discriminates against community agencies who would only be getting 60% state funding, whereas local government would get 90% state funding.

A complete copy of this statement and the legislative program may be obtained from the State Office.

RECORD NUMBER REHABILITATED IN U.S.

A record 291,272 disabled Americans were rehabilitated to productive activities during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1971 the HEW, Social and Rehabilitation Service reported.

The 1971 figure, up 9% over 266,975 individuals recorded for fiscal year 1970 is the highest yearly total ever reached since the State-Federal vocational rehabilitation program began in 1920.

Nearly three million disabled men, women and youths are returned to productive employment since the Vocational Rehabilitation Act became law on June 2, 1920.

New York State ranked eighth in the total number of rehabilitations, 11,405. This number was exceeded by California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Texas.

In the number rehabilitated per 100,000 population, however, New York State ranked 53, exceeded by every other state and territory except Indiana.

During the year three-quarters of a billion dollars was added to the Nation's economy as a result of rehabilitating a record number of disabled Americans to productive employment in fiscal year 1971. According to John D. Twiname, Social Rehabilitation Services Administrator, the annual earnings of the 291,272 persons rehabilitated increased by an estimated \$770 million over what they earned the year before entering the State-Federal vocational rehabilitation program.

Average earnings of the rehabilitants were \$15.95 a week when they were first accepted into the program. Upon completion, average earnings rose to \$68.86 a week.

Of the total number of Americans rehabilitated 40,321 were public assistance recipients.

No statistics are kept categorically, apparently, and we are unable to find out how many of those rehabilitated were mentally retarded.

A WORKSHOP IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

"Idleness means frustration and deterioration. Work means development, more independence and better citizenship".

With this thought Columbia County Chapter assisted by the State Department of Mental Hygiene has set up a program to rehabilitate and train at least part of Columbia County's 1500 mentally retarded.

The Chapter's community workshop, operated through a \$32,000 budget this year is at 11 Glenwood Blvd., Hudson.

Administrative Director, Anne Burgess, said the term workshop applies to a place where any manufacture of handiwork is carried on. It is operated primarily to provide remunerative employment to severely handicapped individuals who cannot be absorbed readily in the competitive labor market.

The State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation reported on 756 mentally retarded persons who had been rehabilitated through state services. Before rehabilitation 95% never had worked and 80% were dependent on their families for major support.

One of the major operations of the workshop is glass recycling. The workshop participants take glass from a conveyor, soak off the labels, sort bottles into colors, and crush and package the product which will be sold for \$20 a ton to the Coca Cola Bottling Company.

An appeal has been made to the community for glass bottles to leave them at the workshop.

The workshop is also in need of newspapers for its next project, processing of paper.

Members of the Love Association for Retarded Children, a youth group, cleaned and painted the building, formerly occupied by Van's Dairy.

The significance of this project is not that there is another workshop, of which there are a number run by the Association in New York State, but the fact that a small county like Columbia was able to do this on a bootstrap operation.

ASSOCIATION HONORS EMPLOYER, EMPLOYEES

At the Annual Convention of the New York State A.R.C., the Association again honored the outstanding employees from the state schools for the mentally retarded and the employer of the year. As has been done since 1965, the Association presented a certificate of appreciation, a \$50.00 check and a name plate designating the outstanding employee to be placed on the plaques which the Association has given to each of our state schools.



Mr. Oliver Prespare accepts Employer of the Year Award for village of Tupper Lake.

In an unusual twist this year, Wilton State School named a husband-wife team, Mr. and Mrs. Smith Lyke, as their outstanding employee(s) for 1971.

In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Lyke from Wilton, the Outstanding Employees for 1971 were: Mrs. Anna McKenna, Willowbrook State School; Mrs. Marion Hester, Suffolk State School; Miss Helen Louise Filor, Letchworth Village; Mrs. Doris Roberts, Wassaic State School; Albert S. Becker, Sunmount State School; Paul Thorpe, Rome State School; Mary Jane Cornwell, Newark State School; Mrs. Dorothy Preble, Craig State School; Mrs. Judith L. Roberts, Syracuse State School; Dr. George Alker, West Seneca State School; Mrs. Althea Brooks, J. N. Adam State School, and Mr. Paul Munson, Sampson State School, who will apparently be the last Sampson employee recognized by the Association due to the closing of Sampson State School.

Mrs. Edward Burgess, Chairman of our Scholarship and Awards Committee, also presented the plaque designating the employer of the year to Mr. Oliver Prespare who was representing the Village of Tupper Lake, New York, selected as the employer of the year for 1971.

In commenting upon the latter award, Mrs. Burgess said, "The Scholarship and Awards Committee had a very difficult decision selecting the employer of the year for 1971. Each year we are receiving more applicants, and each year the applicants efforts on behalf of the mentally retarded seem more outstanding than those of the previous year. Everyone who were entered in the competition this year certainly represented outstanding efforts on behalf of the mentally retarded and we are grateful to each and every one".

ST. LAWRENCE CHAPTER GETS COUNTY SUPPORT

St. Lawrence County, we have been informed by Richard L. Laurin, executive director of the St. Lawrence County Rehabilitation Facility which is operated by the Chapter, is going to receive \$40,000 from the county to assist them in offsetting their deficit.

"This is a far cry," writes Mr. Laurin, "from earlier efforts of St. Lawrence County and I am quite sure that you (Mr. Weingold) and John (Mr. Bertrand) deserve credit for the position we are in today." The problem of getting county tax support is one that is encountered by every chapter in the state. We hope that this advance in St. Lawrence, one of the north country chapters, will be an inspiration to others throughout the state.

Westchester, please copy.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARINGS

About 75 persons attending a public hearing of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental and Physical Handicap heard the Friends of Sampson ask for an immediate reversal of the decision to close Sampson State School for the Mentally Retarded so that they could offer a viable alternative to the situation.

The Rev. Alton Stivers of Watkins Glen, spokesman for the Friends, said that they are in the process of preparing a new proposal with financial backing which would retain the staff presently at work at Sampson and their program they have developed in the past few years.

Since this writing, however, all of the residents have been moved and the proposal of the Friends has been rejected.



L. to R. Assemblyman Steinfeldt (Rochester), Senator Niles (Chairman), Senator Ted Day, Senator Smith, Joseph T. Weingold, legal consultant, and far right, Tim O'Brien, Research Director, J.L.C.

More than 50 people testified about the need for services for the handicapped and what the legislature could do. High on the list of complaints was that against the budget cuts which virtually crippled many services.

Among those who testified were Dr. Robert E. Hamlich, Commissioner of Tompkins County Mental Health Services, W. Fowler Wilson, Executive Director, Tompkins County Chapter, ARC; John Regan, Executive Director, Monroe County Chapter, and many others.

A second meeting of the Joint Legislative Committee was held in New York City on November 10th with more than 300 people attending. The meeting room at 270 Broadway, the State Office Building, was much too small and had to be moved to another floor. More than 90 people asked to testify and the meeting went late into the evening before almost all were heard.

Senator William T. Conklin, former Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee, and a member, presided over the morning meeting. The whole thrust of the meeting was the budget cuts and how services are being crippled.

Testimony by Pat O'Connell, public relations director of Westchester County Chapter highlighted dramatically what the cut in aid to sheltered workshops and the limited funds for the 4407 programs are doing to services.

Others who testified indicated that the freeze on hiring in state institutions is bringing services down to such a dangerous level that the lives of the patients are being imperilled. Murray Schneps of the Benevolent Society, attorney in the case of Goodman against the State of New York to prevent the closing of Gouverneur State School, was most dramatic in delineating what was happening to patients at Willowbrook State School.

The consensus was that such cuts were shortsighted and in the both short and long run, did not save the state any money; on the contrary, it cost money in the higher costs of care in the community and in the cost of institutionalization.

The Joint Legislative Committee is in the process of outlining the program for this coming year which will be presented to the legislature when it convenes in January.

(Concluded Next Column)

URGE SWEEPING CHANGES IN THE DEPT. OF MENTAL HYGIENE OPERATION

A legislative sub-committee probing the running of the state's mental hospitals wants to see major changes in the operation of the \$613 million State Department of Mental Hygiene.

It is to be noted that this \$613 million is a gross figure as \$200 million of this is received from the federal government under medicare, medicaid, third party payments, etc. The net budget is about \$413 million of tax funds.

Assemblyman Robert C. Wertz, (R-Commack, N. Y.,) who heads the special investigative committee met with Governor Rockefeller and top department officials in the Fall.

Wertz' report calls for:

- Closing "phantom hospitals and state schools" which have paid staffs but treat no in-patients.

- Changing satellite hospitals which operate as independent units on the grounds of major state hospitals into "unitized" operations which do not require independent, high-paid administrative staffs.

- Cutting out "administrative fat" by reducing over-staffing in some areas of the department.

Wertz who believes the department could save \$100 million a year by making the recommended changes, held hearings on Long Island in July, investigating charges of patient neglect, mismanagement and irresponsibility in the state mental hospitals.

Testimony by top hospital officials revealed questionable handling of funds, threats to the safety of hundreds of patients because of lack of staff and a bureaucratic slashing of jobs which left men who had worked for the state more than 20 years without a job simply because they had recently been promoted and lost all seniority.

At the hearings Wertz complained that the legislature voted to cut back staff in the Department of Mental Hygiene intending to get a 3 or 4 per cent cut back across the state, mostly in non-patient care personnel.

Instead, the department instituted massive cuts at a few hospitals and state schools and closed a state school for the retarded, causing mass transfers of patients.

Wertz commented that the Rome State School farm makes \$128,000 profit but they want to transfer patients out of there.

The state schools and hospitals with no patients because there are no such buildings cost \$13 million to run last year, he said.

Theodore C. Wenzl, President of the Civil Service Employees Association held a conference at which he stated two elderly patients in Creedmoor State Hospital in Queens choked to death recently when they tried to feed themselves. He said both patients should have been spoon-fed.

However, Mr. Wenzl did not reply to a request from the New York State Association that his union take some action with regard to the closing of Sampson State School which would mean the firing of hundreds of well qualified personnel and the transfer of almost 700 aged mentally retarded to places where they did not know anyone which might in fact prove fatal to others.

The job freeze still continues and conditions are getting worse and worse at the state schools, reaching a point of dangerous crisis in many of them.

Protests of the State Association go unheeded by the Governor and the Commissioner.

(Continued from Previous Column)

Speaking on behalf of the New York State Association, Robert J. Hodgson, President from Buffalo, stated, "it is curious that we have to protect our rear and flank before going into a positive program." He was referring to legislation which the Association opposes and which will be discussed in another article. In addition, Mr. Hodgson presented the total program of the New York State Association which includes, among other requests, a separation of Mental Retardation from the Department of Mental Hygiene.

COURT BIDS PENNSYLVANIA PROVIDE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR ALL RETARDED CHILDREN

A special three-judge Federal panel ordered Pennsylvania on October 8th to provide a free public education to all retarded children in the State.

Mrs. Patricia Clapp, president of the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children hailed the ruling as a "landmark" that would lead to "similar civil action in other states across the nation."

The Association sued the state in a class action beginning in January, last, charging that Pennsylvania unconstitutionally discriminated against retarded children by permitting school psychologists to determine whether each child was educable.

The court ruled that all are capable of benefitting from an education and have a right to one.

The panel ordered the state to identify within 90 days every retarded child not now in school and begin teaching them no later than next September 1st.

The Pennsylvania case showed, that most retarded persons could achieve self-sufficiency through education and the rest could attain some degree of self-care.

About 3% of the school age population in the country is retarded. Pennsylvania alone has more than 100,000 retarded children. Thomas K. Gilhool, attorney for the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children estimated that half of the retarded children in the state were not receiving a public education.

The ruling overturned several sections of the state's public school code including provisions that a school psychologist could relieve the school of its obligation to educate a child by finding him "uneducable and untrainable" or finding a beginner had not reached "the mental age of 5".

The panel ordered Pennsylvania to "cease and desist" using such provisions to deny access to a free public education for the retarded.

Governor Milton J. Shapp, who took office since the complaint was drawn up, praised the ruling at a news conference and said, it "recognized the relative ineffectiveness of I.Q. tests as a gauge of the development potential of a retarded child".

The Governor said it would save the taxpayers money in the long run because it would reduce the need for a long term institutionalization and in the short run, because many children now would live at home and go to public schools.

The court ordered the state to place all retarded pupils in regular or special classes in the public school system unless exceptional handicaps required training elsewhere.

The decree makes retarded children eligible for schooling from the ages of 6 to 21, and earlier in districts where others begin earlier. It prohibits any school from postponing entry; from excluding a child after the usual graduating age of 17; or from changing a child's educational assignment without notice to the parents and an opportunity for a hearing where the parents may adduce testimony and cross examine witnesses.

In New York State special classes are mandated for the mentally retarded from the ages of 5 until the end of the year when the child reaches the age of 21. Educable are defined as those between I.Q.'s of 50 and 75, and trainable below I.Q. 50 with no lower limit. In addition, New York State provides for the payment by the state to private schools for the education of children whose handicaps are so severe or whose multiplicity of handicaps are such that the public school cannot handle them. This is limited to \$2000 for the year and is the famous Section 4407 of the Education Law.

(Continued Next Column)

RETARDED CHILDREN FORGOTTEN, ONEIDA CHAPTER CLAIMS

At a meeting of the Oneida County Chapter together with all parents of the handicapped in the community, the omission of programs from the new construction of BOCES Oneida #1 covering Oneida, Herkimer, and Madison counties was vigorously protested.

BOCES went to the voters on November 30th with a bond issue for 4.7 million dollars to build a complex that will house occupational education and administration only.

Dr. Johnson, Superintendent of BOCES claims that the original plans included a complex for the mentally retarded and other handicapped but that Albany could not agree on the plan. Rather than wait with rising costs, BOCES board decided to go to the voters with what they called Phase I. The intention according to Dr. Johnson is to go back to the voters later with Phase II of about 2.4 million dollars for the handicapped.

At present the handicapped are housed in a building that is being leased from Utica College's downtown campus.

It was the contention of the meeting that such a bond even if passed, would be a deterrent to a further bond issue later on in the present temper of taxpayers.

Furthermore, said the spokesman for the parents, no bond issues should go to the voters without a full program including the handicapped which is a primary responsibility of BOCES.

At a meeting by Mr. Weingold and Walter Falk, President of Oneida Chapter, with Dr. Johnson, Supt., Mr. Paul Stratton, Assistant Superintendent of BOCES and members of the staff, the staff agreed to go to the public and explain this situation.

This, however, was unacceptable both to the ARC and to the parents of the special education children's PTA represented by Gabrielle J. Rich, Jr.

Mr. Weingold moderated the meeting at the headquarters of the Oneida County Chapter.

A motion was made, and duly carried, that the Oneida Chapter of the New York State Association for Retarded Children ask BOCES to withdraw its referendum of November 30th until such time as a full complex of services, including the handicapped could be included in a building program; failing that, the Chapter went on record as opposing the referendum in its present form.

It was brought out at the meeting that the BOCES Board of Education is not responsive to the community needs because they are appointed by the component school districts and not elected by the community.

It is the position of the New York State Association for Retarded Children that all plans of BOCES must include facilities for the handicapped.

"It is inconceivable," said Mr. Weingold, "that the State Department of Education would permit this kind of a referendum without adequate facilities for the handicapped. The blame must be put on the State Department of Education as well as on the BOCES of Oneida 1."

The referendum was overwhelmingly defeated.

COURT — (Continued from Previous Column)

Although the parents do not have the absolute right to question decisions in the local school districts, under the Education Law in New York State they may appeal to the Commissioner of Education and follow a procedure very similar to that ordered in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Weingold, interviewed by Dr. Klebanoff, editor of the Exceptional Parent, recently at a meeting in Boston warned that the Pennsylvania Decision was decisive for Pennsylvania only and could only be influential in other states.

Dr. Herbert Goldstein, head of the Department of Special Education at Yeshiva University, New York City, was appointed Master by the court to oversee the implementation of the order in Pennsylvania.

WESTCHESTER BREAKS GROUND FOR RENOVATION OF CENTER

Groundbreaking ceremonies took place this week for the new Center for the Retarded run by the Westchester Association for Retarded Children. This facility, open to handicapped residents of Westchester County, will house a Sheltered Workshop, a Vocational Training Program, a school, and the central offices of the Association.



L. to R. Milton Findelman, Michael Marcellino, Mayor Richard Hedney, Edwin Michaelian, and Dr. Robert Jaslow.

"We are so pleased that we have finally begun renovation of our building as it will mean we can better serve the retarded," stated Michael Marcellino, President of WARC. He went on to explain that the building was purchased in June, 1968, and that the Federal and State governments are participating in the renovation with the Association.

The facility will have a new entrance which will be structured for wheel chair use. On the first floor, though plans are flexible, an area has been set aside for adult recreation. The second floor will house eight classrooms for approximately 70 children. These children now attend WARC's school in leased quarters in New Rochelle.

The third and fourth floors of the building will be used for Sheltered Workshop and Vocational Training Programs. Population of these two programs is expected to be 250 individuals. The third floor will also be the location of an evaluation center which is a vital aspect of Vocational Training.

An expanded Food Services Training program will be located on the fifth floor as well as a cafeteria and meeting room for 250 people. A "model apartment" also found on this floor will enable the Association to train individuals in home-making skills; as nurses' aides; etc.

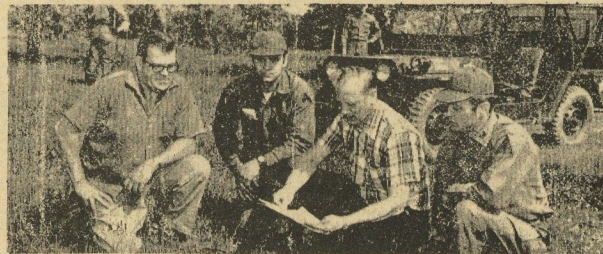
The sixth floor will continue to be used for administrative offices and will also hold a clerical training program.

Completion of the building is expected in August 1972.

Those participating in the ceremony were Edwin Michaelian, County Executive; Richard Hendey, Mayor of White Plains; Robert I. Jaslow, Director of the new Westchester State School; Michael Marcellino, President of WARC; Eugene C. Laughery, Executive Director of WARC; Dr. Judith Rettig, Assistant Commissioner of the Mental Retardation Division of the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene; Dr. Phillip Kamins, Associate Program Analyst of the Mental Retardation Division of the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene; Anthony J. Lombardo, Chief of Habilitation Services of the Westchester State School; and Herbert Katzenberg, WARC Board Member; and Milt Finkelman of State Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

NATIONAL GUARD CLEARS LAND FOR RETARDED CHILDREN CAMP

In a full page spread in the Lockport New York Union-Sun and Journal the project of the National Guard Unit and Board of Cooperative Educational Services students is described, helping the mentally retarded.



Looking over plans at the site at which a pavilion will be situated are, from L. to R., Charles D. Shenberger, donor of the land; 1st Lt. Frederic L. Gylmn; Dean R. Wolfe, President, and 1st Lt. Daniel L. Haas, project coordinator.

A summer day camp for retarded children was built in the town of Ridgeway, east of Lyndonville, thanks to the efforts of a land donor, the National Guard Unit and the Board of Cooperative Educational Services students.

The camp located on Townline Road, was operated in August and served about 20 children according to Dean R. Wolfe, President of the Orleans County Chapter for Retarded Children.

Ten acres of land for the campsite have been donated by Charles D. Shenberger of Oak Orchard River Road, Lyndonville. Working to clear the land has been Company C, 104th Engineer Battalion, New York Army National Guard. The Lockport - based guard unit volunteered about 80 men with 1st Lt. Daniel L. Haas in charge of the operation.

"The Chapter asked us if we could clear the land at no cost," said Sgt. Eugene F. Lanighan of the unit. "We're an engineering outfit so this was good training."

Constructing a pavilion to accommodate the youngsters was a task of the BOCES students in Medina.

The students made a pre-fabricated building which was ready by the end of the month before camp and then transported to the camp site.

SWIMATHON RAISES \$7,000

The Fulton-Montgomery Community College swim team set a state record for marathon swimming by a junior college when it completed 50 hours of continuous swimming on June 2nd, 1971.

Billed as a "swimathon" for the Lexington Training Center building fund, the event raised, according to Paul Nigra, the center's executive director, in excess of \$7000.

The swimathon began at 5:00 p.m. Friday afternoon with 10 team members continuing around the clock in hour shifts, swimming collectively more than 122 miles. The team has set a 100 mile goal.

The money raised was in the form of cash and check donations, and pledges telephoned to the center, where 13 telephone operators worked in stages throughout the weekend except during the night, taking pledges.

At the pool, where spectators visited throughout the swimathon, numbering an estimated 300 at the climax, collection jars had been put out. Over \$2000 came in just from the fishbowl, Nigra said.

It is estimated that at least 100 persons helped on the swimathon including a great many FMCC students. The telephone pledge receivers were students, as were many who worked on preparations at the college.

Remarking on the swimathon at its conclusion, Dr. William L. Gragg, president of Fulton-Montgomery Community College said, "This is one of the finest things that a group of students at this college has ever done."

A REPORT ON RESIDENTIAL CARE

The International League of Societies for the Mentally Handicapped has issued a report on residential care as a result of their conference in Frankfurt, Germany, September 1969.

The report is full of the usual attitudes that all retarded children and adults are basically human beings, and efforts must be directed at irradiating dehumanizing conditions, retarded individuals should be treated so as to promote emotional maturity, happiness should be fostered, that the most appropriate model for mental retardation programming is the developmental model, maximizing human qualities, etc., etc. Nowhere is there any indication as to how this should be done although there are some symposium conclusions.

Of interest to all our readers, however, should be the state rankings in five parameters for residential care in state institutions for the mentally retarded in fiscal 1969.

For maintenance expenditure Nebraska ranks first and New York 23rd.

In rank for the number of full-time personnel, per 1000 average daily residents, Arkansas ranks first and New York ranks 31.

In rank for a total number of admissions per 1000 average daily residents, Missouri ranks first, and New York ranks 42nd.

Rank for net releases alive from institutions on the basis of per 1000 average daily residents, Missouri again ranks first and New York ranks 34th.

Finally in the rank for the least number of deaths per 1000 average daily residents, Arkansas ranks first and New York ranks 34th. It is interesting to note that California, the State nearest to New York in population ranks 4th in one, 22nd in the second, 29th in the third, 16th in the fourth, and 44th in the last.

WILTON SCHOOL DELAY HITS TAXPAYERS POCKETBOOKS

More than a year has elapsed since cracks first appeared in the walls and foundations of the partially constructed Wilton State School for the retarded.

Little work has been done at the site since that time and the controversy surrounding the complex of buildings remains unsolved.

When full-scale construction will resume on the project is still very much up in the air. The completion date, once scheduled for the summer of 1971 is now pure speculation. Ground was originally broken in 1969.

The mystery at Wilton has posed a number of questions one of which is being answered, and another which will go unanswered, at least publicly for the time being.

Who will pay for increased costs because of delays? The answer apparently is the taxpayers and it could be to the tune of \$4 million or more above the \$11.9 million original cost estimate.

The question that goes unanswered now is who is to blame? A spokesman for the State Health and Mental Hygiene Improvement Corporation said, "no statement will be made for the record now since it could prejudice future litigation."

Cozzolino Brothers Construction Company of Albany, the contractors, claim that the Wilton project is a classic textbook example of design failure, which would place the blame with the New York City architectural firm of Conklin and Rossant.

The architects, on the other hand, assert that a report of Union College's Potter Laboratory confirms that "the contractor did not use reinforcing steel in certain of the beams as called for on the drawings."

Both the Health and Mental Hygiene Facilities Fund and the Cozzolino attorney, William Conway, are optimistic that the differences over a revised contract can be resolved soon.

And what happens to the retarded in the meanwhile?

WHEEL CHAIR BUS AT WEST SENECA

Sixteen residents of West Seneca, all confined to wheel chairs, took their first ride in a brand new wheel chair bus bought with funds collected during a community campaign organized by the Rev. John R. Auriello, Catholic Chaplain at West Seneca.



Dr. Samuel Feinstein, Director of West Seneca State School, cuts the ribbon at a ceremony dedicating the School's new wheelchair bus. Looking on are, from L. to R., Carl Stone, Chairman of the Father John Fund Purchase Committee; Dr. Nicholas Argen, of the medical staff at West Seneca; Larry Cronin, member of the Father John Fund Board of Trustees; Dr. Nestor Procyk, Assistant Director; Richard Merges, business officer, and Father John Aurelio.

The need for a wheel chair bus became evident to "Father John" when the residents of the school could not make a trip to the circus because they were in wheel chairs and no way to get them there.

This is a recurring problem in the community as well where many severely physically involved persons are on "home instruction" because the community does not want to spend the money to get the vehicles to take them to where they should be educated with their age peers who are not physically handicapped.

Some 35 employees of the school and interested outsiders mailed some 10,000 appeal letters to friends and organizations. Newspaper articles, radio announcements and television appearances helped to inform the people of western New York about the campaign.

The response was overwhelming with the CSEA of West Seneca State School leading the way with the first big gift of \$1000.

Father John explained the bus is being leased to the school at a cost of one dollar, with the understanding that any community agency for handicapped persons can also schedule its use.

The State of New York did not have enough funds to buy such a bus.

PATIENT DEATH AT LETCHWORTH

On October 1st, William Byers, a resident of Letchworth Village, was fatally scalded when showering in his cottage.

The cottage has no thermostatic control. The water is regulated in the power house and the control there was broken. Although an attendant was with Byers, he could not be pulled out fast enough to avoid scalding.

He was removed to Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, where he died on October 10th.

"Repeatedly, maintenance items had been requested for Letchworth Village and repeatedly deleted by budget. 'This is not economy,'" wrote Frances W. Reville, President of the Welfare League to Governor Rockefeller — "this is gross neglect. The Medical Examiner's verdict was 'accidental death — no criminal negligence' — we do not agree. The neglect was definitely not that of anyone at Letchworth Village, but of the State — and it is criminal!"

"It is a pity", said Mr. Weingold, executive director of the State Association, "that only a holocaust will bring the powers that be to see the necessity for more help for these helpless people."

PROGRESS REPORT ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION

The federal appropriation for mental retardation and rehabilitation services in general were considerably increased this year over last. This does not mean too much as last year these appropriations were very meager indeed.

Following are some of the appropriations that have been made:

Hospital improvement program (HIP) \$6,900,000 the same as last year.

Vocational rehabilitation \$617,761 as against last year \$535,600. The most important part of this is \$560,000,000 against last year's \$513,000,000 for direct services.

Developmental Disabilities Services Act formula grants \$21,715,000 as against last year of \$11,215,000. This, of course, is almost miniscule as New York State will get a little over \$1 million, a drop in the bucket compared to the need.

Developmental Disabilities University affiliated facilities \$4,250,000 against zero last year.

It is interesting to note that the Community Mental Health Centers received staffing grants of \$135,100,000 as compared to the total meager \$21,715,000 for Developmental Disabilities.

As for the Comprehensive Child Development Programs there are at least three bills before the Congress none of which has been passed.

In addition there are a number of child advocacy programs none of which meets the criterion set by this Association of an adversary approach versus the Departments of the State and the State itself.

OCV is not large enough to go into detailed explanation of all these bills. The hope is that although the appropriations are there the administration will also release the funds and not hold back on the basis of economy.

Sidney Marlan, Jr., Commissioner of Education, has designated education of the handicapped as one of the five major priorities of the Office of Education for fiscal 1972. He called for a national goal to provide full educational opportunity for every handicapped child in the United States by 1980. In discussing the need for mounting a Nationwide effort, Marlan noted that only 40% of the 6,000,000 school age and 1,000,000 pre-school age handicapped children receive any special education at all. Yet the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped has estimated that 50% of the children could develop in regular educational classrooms if they had the support of part-time special education services.

INSTITUTIONAL CHILDREN IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT WILTON

Thirteen residents from the Wilton State School are currently enrolled in special classes at BOCES on Henning Road, Saratoga Springs, according to Gertrude Van Dusen, a member of the Board of Visitors of Wilton State School and prominent in our Warren-Washington Chapter.

They are a part of the 15 classes in the special education department of the School where Helen Hogan of our own Saratoga County Chapter teaches, and reportedly have adapted themselves very well to the new situation.

Both Dr. Emanuel Rechter, director of the Wilton State School, and Mr. Donald F. Myers, superintendent of the BOCES school term the program very successful and look forward to more cooperative programs in the future. Mr. Myers is a member of the Board of Visitors at Wilton and a member of the Saratoga County Chapter ARC.

The residents of Wilton State School attending public school is not accidental. This has been urged by the State Association for years and when Wilton was designed, part of the land was deeded to BOCES on condition they would accept the children from Wilton in public school, using Wilton State School as their home base.

(Continued Next Column)

THE MENTALLY RETARDED AND THE WELFARE REFORM BILL

11

The following are some of the provisions of H.R. 1, the Welfare Reform Bill, as passed by the House of Representatives June 1, 1971 that affect the mentally retarded.

I. Under present provisions Medicare (hospital and medical insurance coverage) now is available only through Social Security beneficiaries and certain others over the age of 65.

Under H.R. 1 this coverage would be extended to beneficiaries under 65 who receive benefits because of disability. This coverage would begin with the 25th month after he begins receiving the regular disability benefits. Persons who go off Social Security and then come back on will have to undergo a second two year waiting period.

II. Income maintenance payments to the adult categories, (aged, blind, disabled) now are made under state plans, by state agencies, with federal partial reimbursement.

Under H.R. 1 this program will be "federalized". A new title XX covers this program.

The determinations of eligibility and payments will be made through the offices of the Social Security Administration. Needy children under 18 who are disabled will also be included in this system.

H.R. 1 will require that all persons receiving disability payments be referred to the state Vocational Rehabilitation Agency and HEW will reimburse the state agency for the full cost of evaluation and rehabilitation services rendered to public assistance applicants.

Uniform national standards of eligibility and payments will be established with a monthly base payment of \$150 for an individual living alone with no other income (by 1974 and thereafter). The same standard, of disability will be applied for public assistance as now applied for social security. Some earnings (up to \$85 a month) will be disregarded. Also one out of every two dollars above \$85 up to the phase out point, will be disregarded. Assets must not exceed \$1500.

An eligible disabled couple will receive \$200 a month beginning in 1974 (somewhat smaller amount before then); similarly, a disabled child (over or under 21) living with his family will receive \$100.

Resources of parents of disabled children under 21 may be considered in determining whether child is eligible for disability assistance. Resources of spouses of disabled persons are also considered.

Persons in public institutions will receive no public assistance under Title XX except that those in medical institutions which qualify under Title XIX, may, if otherwise eligible, receive \$25 a month.

Persons having a plan for becoming self-sufficient through rehabilitation may continue to receive public assistance for as long as 9 months while on "trial work" status.

States may supplement the basic payments made by the federal government, but since the federal levels in the program for the disabled exceed what the majority of states are now paying, this will be a relatively unimportant consideration here.

There are other matters of tangential importance to the retarded, but one we should like to mention is an increased appropriation for foster parent adoption. Adoption will include subsidization of adoptions of handicapped children by families of modest means. Foster parents is defined to cover any "child for whom a public agency has responsibility" and includes payment to any agency institution or person providing such care in accordance with standards set by the Secretary. Costs are 75% reimbursable up to the limit of the state's allotment. Authorization proposed for 1975 is \$200 million.

WILTON — (Continued from Previous Column)

This is one of the most innovative programs at this point in the state and deserves every support and continuation in other state schools throughout the state.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS TOP 25,000

As of December 1, 1971, the membership of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc., had broken the 25,000 barrier for the first time. A goal for which we have been striving for the last few years, the magic number was narrowly missed in the 1970-71 membership year in which a total of 24,766 memberships were submitted.

It is a tribute to the hard working membership chairmen of the chapters who surpassed their goals that the increase to a total as of December 1st of 25,436 memberships was reached, in view of very substantial losses in membership by two of our larger chapters. Green County Chapter still had not reported any memberships for 1971-72, which also affected the total in view of their 183 membership total for 1970-71. This loss was partially offset by the outstanding job done by our new Dutchess County Chapter which as of December 1st has submitted 160 memberships directly to the State Association.

The 18 chapters who surpassed their membership goals are listed below, in numerical order of their number-of-members-increase.

Chapter	1970-71 Final	1971-72 Goal	1971-72 Memberships	Increase
N.Y.C. -----	4,687	5,000	5,045	358
Rockland -----	346	400	520	174
Nassau -----	6,295	6,400	6,440	145
Sullivan -----	136	170	252	116
Jefferson -----	364	400	473	109
Chemung -----	227	260	332	105
Willowbrook -----	1,020	1,100	1,115	95
Albany -----	204	225	288	84
Delaware -----	68	90	147	79
Rensselaer -----	226	250	291	65
Putnam -----	98	110	162	64
Genesee -----	78	110	114	46
Cattaraugus -----	56	75	100	44
Otsego -----	95	110	131	36
Steuben -----	446	75	76	30
Madison -----	228	250	257	29
Montgomery -----	92	110	121	29
Herkimer -----	73	90	95	22

In addition to the above, honorable mention should go to the following chapters which made substantial membership increases although they did not reach goals which were set for them: Erie County, an increase of 52 memberships, to 286; Niagara County, an increase of 95 to 271 memberships; and Suffolk County with an increase of 112 to a total of 852 memberships.

ELLEN MAROUN AMONG "OUTSTANDING YOUNG WOMEN"

Mrs. Camil Maroun, President of our Franklin County Chapter, and the mother of three children, has been selected for inclusion in the 1971 edition of "Outstanding Young Women of America" as the nominee of Court Mary Loretto 332, Catholic Daughters of America.

The women so honored have distinguished themselves for outstanding achievements in their professions and civic activities and annually, from their number 50 are selected, one from each state — as their state's "Outstanding Young Woman of the Year".

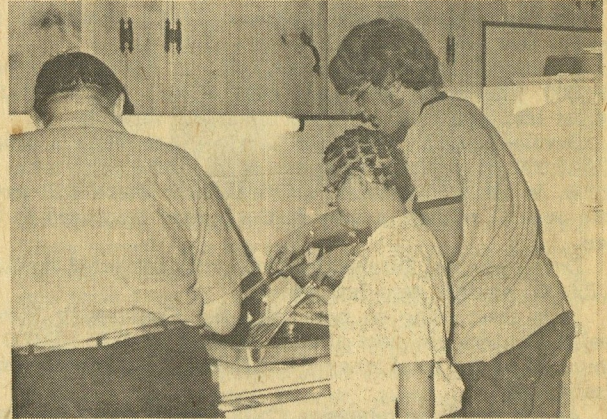
Ellen is also a member of the Board of Governors of the State Association and is institution liaison for the State Association at Sunmount State School. She has served as our director on the Franklin County Mental Health Association, Co-Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Tupper Lake Community Center under the sponsorship of the Office of Economic Opportunity — and finds time to work one afternoon a week at the Tupper Lake Public Library.

Ellen became interested in work on behalf of the retarded after the birth of her second child, Gina, — born with cerebral palsy as a result of the 1964 German measles epidemic.

Gina is now a resident of Sunmount State School.

WESTFALL HOUSE IN SCHENECTADY NOW OPERATIVE

The Schenectady County Hostel for retarded young adults has been named the Westfall House in honor of the late Clifford Westfall, a former member of the New York State Board of Governors, Northeast Vice President for many years, and whose efforts for ARC goals are known throughout New York State.



COOKING WITH GAS AT WESTFALL HOUSE

Since its opening, Westfall House, which has ten residents, has reached its goal in providing a home-like atmosphere for mentally retarded adults. Applications for residency are open to all mentally retarded adults from 17 up.

Those adults who are presently residing at the Westfall House have applied from within ARC membership or have applied for resettlement from state institutions.

Mr. Robert D'Alessandro is project coordinator and Mr. and Mrs. Louw Shiang Liu, are the house parents.

SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER BUYS A BUILDING

The Suffolk County Chapter has purchased the Lincoln Elementary School in Huntington, New York to be used as a facility for the mentally retarded in the western Suffolk regional region.

On June 29th, in a referendum the voters of UFSD #3 Huntington passed 4-1 the sale of the Lincoln Elementary School to the Suffolk Association for Retarded Children for \$150,000. The sale provides for interest-free yearly installments over ten years after a small down payment.

The Lincoln facility will be used for 120 mentally retarded persons from 3-17 years of age. Children under 5 years of age will be transported by Suffolk County.

In addition, the Lincoln School program will provide training services for retarded young adults and adults in areas of child care and porter maintenance.

Two years ago the New York State Legislature at the request of Senator Smith passed a bill permitting the state to sell to the Association several acres of the excess land from Suffolk State School. When, however, this got into the Executive Branch of government General Services asked \$9,000 an acre, equivalent to the asking price of prime land by a private owner. This the Association for Retarded Children rejected and went to Huntington for the building there.

According to Robert Sansone, Executive Director, "The Lincoln school program will represent an important advance in the control, effect and maximization of ARC service delivery to the mentally retarded in western Suffolk. Immediate program concerns, of course, must be directed to the regionalization possibilities for our very excellent programs currently operating in the central and eastern sectors of the county."

NASSAU ROSE BALL FIGURE OVER \$200,000

LOUIS SILVER HONORED

With the record breaking gross figure in excess of \$200,000 the Eighteenth Annual Rose Ball, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Charles Merinoff, soared to new heights as the outstanding social and financial event in the entire history of the Nassau County Chapter.



Louis and Martha Silver beam approval of the bronze head of Mr. Silver as they pause to admire the Humanitarian Award with Sculptor Monte Belden and Nassau County Chapter Executive Director Mrs. Helen Kaplan.

The memorable evening in June marked the presentation of the Eleventh Annual Humanitarian Award to Louis Silver, as a tribute to "... his extraordinary generosity and constant dedication (which has) brought opportunity to thousands of retarded children."

More than 1200 people filled the Grand Ballroom of the New York Hilton, strikingly and beautifully decorated by Mrs. David Forbes.

The sum raised boggles the imagination of us poor folk, but we are happy to be in this resplendent company.

ONONDAGA CHAPTER IN EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH ARUBA

When Dr. Al Falcone, past president of the Onondaga County Chapter, visited Aruba earlier this year, little did he know that it would result in a student exchange with Aruba.

Dining at a famous restaurant on the Island he noted that the menu which was quite ornate was available for a \$2.50 donation to the local retardation movement. Querying the owner, Mr. A. Cohen, he found that one of the needs in Aruba was for more trained teachers. As a result of this the Onondaga County Chapter agreed to accept two teachers from the Island for a six month session at the Onondaga County Center and to attend special education classes at Syracuse University.

Volunteers enlisted by Helen Kaplan, executive director of the Nassau County Chapter met Miss Grace Boreno, 26, and Mauricio Wever, 26, when they arrived at the Kennedy Airport and helped them transfer to a Mohawk airline to bring them to Syracuse.

It is probable that without the help of these volunteers from Nassau we would not have had the exchange students from Aruba within the six months period that they were going to spend there.

The pair will observe classes at the Onondaga Center, study new technics in special education and attend select classes at Syracuse University.

The students are being cooperatively sponsored by the Association for Retarded Children in Onondaga County and Syracuse University School of Special Education, and its International Student Affairs Department.

CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN CONTEST

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The New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc., will sponsor its First Annual Christmas Card Design Contest in preparation for Christmas 1972. The contest rules are as follows: (1) Competition is open to all mentally retarded persons, at home, in community programs, public schools or institutions. (2) Drawings depicting a Christmas scene or idea should be submitted. (3) Drawings should be on heavy white paper with a minimum size of 11" x 14" and a maximum size of 16" x 20". (4) Use only thick poster or tempera paint. (5) Pencil may be used for outline, but not to trace designs.

All entries must be submitted to the State office (175 Fifth Avenue, NYC 10010, room 1000) by FEBRUARY 1, 1972. Each entry should contain the name of the artist and the name and address of the facility from which the design is being sent.

The prizes are as follows: 1st prize — \$100 U.S. Savings Bond; 2nd prize — \$50 U.S. Savings Bond; 3rd prize — \$25 U.S. Savings Bond.

The three top entries will be used on Christmas cards to be placed on sale by Chapters of the Association in 1972.

All entries become the property of the NYS ARC, Inc., but all except the winners will be returned upon request.

ARC WESTERN REGION HOLDS MEETING

The Monroe County Chapter ARC and the Monroe County Youth ARC'ers were co-hosts for a Western Regional Conference which took place at the Al Sigl Center for Rehabilitation Agencies in Rochester, New York, Saturday, November 6th, 1971. A unique characteristic of this conference was that all chapters in the Western region were represented.



At the Conference (l to r) Robert J. Hodgson, President, N.Y. State A.R.C., Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director, Mrs. Lewis J. Boyce, Western Region Vice-President, N. Y. State A.R.C. and Mrs. H. E. Goodnough, Livingston · Wyoming Counties Chapter State Board Member.

The all-day Conference was devoted to Rap Sessions around topics such as membership development, guardianship, funding resources, relationships to local mental health boards, Youth-ARC, etc.

Simultaneously, Monroe County - ARC'ers conducted tours of their Saturday morning recreation, swimming, and arts and crafts programs which take place at the Al Sigl Center year round.

Robert Hodgson, President and Joseph T. Weingold, executive director of the State Association were guests as well as participants of the Conference.

Mrs. Lillian Boyce, Reg. V.P. chaired the meeting.

Chapter News

DELAWARE COUNTY CHAPTER will lead off this issue. We salute the Chapter on their varied activities as reported in their most interesting newsletter. It appeared that they have been the recipients of many financial contributions in the past several months, but we were particularly interested in the new wrinkle which they initiated at their county fair. For a donation of \$1.00 a person could place their name and address on a pre-paid postcard, tie it to a helium filled balloon and release it with the balloon being returned from the farthest distance before a certain date winning a prize, together with a prize being given to the sender. The winning balloon was returned from Olmsteadville, New York in Essex County. Also reading with interest the activities of **DELAWARE COUNTY's YOUTH** group. **CHAUTAUQUA'S** programs growing by leaps and bounds as there are now 47 clients in the workshop in **JAMESTOWN** and 28 in **DUNKIRK**. Many thanks to the Western New York Foundation which contributed a 12 passenger van to the Chapter, which increases the number of clients from rural areas who can be brought to the shop and has also made it possible for them to expand into more sub-contracting as they can now do their own transporting. In addition, the Chapter has 10 youngsters in its **DUNKIRK** Day Training Center, 8 in the **JAMESTOWN** Day Training Center, and sent 28 youngsters to Camp Cornplanter . . . No wonder John Beynart, President of **COLUMBIA COUNTY CHAPTER** is smiling in the newspaper picture we have of him. The Chapter's recycling program is moving ahead by leaps and bounds, and they recently received a \$700.00 check for all of their glass recycling to date. This is going to be a great, growing area for the Chapter. Fifty-nine children attended **COLUMBIA COUNTY's** summer day camp . . . **CORTLAND COUNTY CHAPTER** reported 60 youngsters involved in their summer day camp program, a new high for a fine program . . . **SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER's** busy summer was summed up by Muriel Herbrecht in the following release: "Over 350 members and friends of the **SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER**, including many county, state and local government officials attended the Chapter's Annual Dinner. Senator Bernard Smith conducted the installation of 1971-72 officers. Dr. Herbert Brandt, Director, Suffolk County Mental Health Board presented the Humanitarian Award to Florence Hildesheim of Mattituck, New York, Reginald Minor, past president of Association for Retarded Children presented the Life Membership Award for outstanding volunteer service to Margaret Howard of Huntington Station, New York. A slide presentation of the **SUFFOLK ARC's** programs was given by Robert Sansone, executive director of the **SUFFOLK CHAPTER**. In recognition



Henry Frued, representing Sportsotron, accepting congratulations from Robert Sansone, Executive Director of Suffolk Chapter, on receiving their Employer of the Year Award.

for presenting the opportunity for the development of human potential, the employer of the year award was presented by Mr. Sansone to Sportsotron Company of Hauppauge. Mr.

Henry Frued, representative of Sportsotron Company accepted the award." . . . **ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER's** executive director, Peter Young, putting his newspaper background to good use with the most news we have seen flowing forth from **ORANGE COUNTY** in some time. Pete indicates that over 100 young people participated in the Chapter's summer programs, and included among the highlights of the program was an informal performance by about 70 young people of the area "Up With People" group. **ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER** really bubbling over the progress on their new building that we have been discussing for so many years. We are looking forward, with the Chapter, to seeing this come to fruition . . . Congratulations to **WELFARE LEAGUE-LEITCHWORTH VILLAGE CHAPTER** on two fine undertakings in recent date. The first was their contribution of \$3,000 for the purpose of keeping the swimming pools at Leitchworth Village open during the summer months. The second was for their marvelous November 13th luncheon which we understand was a grand affair . . . What a marvelous way for the Olean Auxiliary Aerie 616 Fraternal Order of Eagles to celebrate their fourth anniversary. They contributed \$1,000 to the **CATTARAUGUS COUNTY CHAPTER's** Rehabilitation Center in Allegany, New York. **CATTARAUGUS COUNTY CHAPTER** sponsored 55 campers at Camp Cornplanter this summer . . . **ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER** grateful to the Rosamond Gifford Foundation who presented the Chapter with a grant making possible the purchase of a 60-passenger school bus and the first year's full time salary for the bus driver. Thank you! . . . **FRANKLIN COUNTY CHAPTER** very happy over the Village of Tupper Lake having won the Association's Employer of the Year Award. Had assistant director, John Bertrand, at their second annual membership dinner on November 14th. A very interesting affair where ladies are invited to bring friends from the community to learn more about ARC. A very fine representation was present for an excellent buffet at the Traveler's Inn in Tupper Lake . . . **WILLOWBROOK CHAPTER** recently had a special dedication of 21 special wheelchairs to Willowbrook State School. The chairs were presented to the **BENEVOLENT SOCIETY** by Apex-Jovial Lodge #587 Knights of Pythias. The special chairs will enable residents long bed-ridden to leave the confines of their wards. Thanks to these nice people . . . The October 1971 **ALBANY COUNTY CHAPTER** newsletter carrying interesting information, not only of the many activities of the Chapter including the work of its new hostel committee, a benefit dinner-dance, and a fashion show, but word that our dear friend Joe Tholl is now the bookkeeper with **ALBANY COUNTY CHAPTER** . . . **OTSEGO COUNTY CHAPTER** reporting many activities during the summer months as they, like Delaware County, suspend activities for the cool, upstate winter. One of the interesting sidelights, the beginning of a new parents group at Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown. These parents' counseling sessions are held monthly with some of the hospital staff and provide an opportunity for the parents of retarded children to come together for discussion and assistance. The Chapter discussing the possibility of getting together with Chenango and Delaware Counties for the hiring of staff to begin to provide more services to **OTSEGO**. We also note that they were the recipients of advance sales from the movie "Wild Child", with benefit performances being held at both the Oneonta and Cooperstown Theaters . . . **SCHENECTADY COUNTY CHAPTER** printing the names and phone numbers of a number of their **YOUTH** group who are interested in doing baby-sitting for members of the Chapter. An excellent service, **SCHENECTADY YOUTH**. Why don't you become part of the State **YOUTH** organization too? Many thanks to the regional manager of Burger King Restaurants who is Mr. Bob Trezona, who is going to contribute 25% of the total monies received through sales at his four regional restaurants on December 19th to **SCHENECTADY COUNTY CHAPTER**.

Chapter News

Schenectady's neighbor, SARATOGA COUNTY CHAPTER issuing their thanks to the Ballston Spa Junior Women's Club who acquired 219 books of triple "S" blue stamps in order to present the Chapter with a 16mm sound motion picture projector . . . Several chapters using the booklet



PRESENTATION TO SCARC — Members of the Ballston Spa Junior Women's Club presented a Bell & Howell 16mm sound motion picture projector to the Saratoga County Chapter of the Association (l-r) Miss Nan Walsh and Miss Helen Hogan, representatives of the county chapter, Mrs. Robert Dohney, chairman of the drive and Mrs. Fred Dreher, club president.

put out this summer by NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER of the Association called "Family Fun Enroute" which provides a number of interesting games which can be played by families including their mentally retarded children while traveling. A great travel aid, we're sure. In addition, the Occupation Day Centers of the NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER held their annual bazaar this past summer. This interesting annual event was described as follows: "The attractive and interesting arts and crafts items were displayed on tables which were manned by the trainees who made the products. Among the items for sale were multi-colored candles, leather goods, greeting cards, and tie-dyed scarves. In addition to the fine arts and crafts display, visitors were entertained by a multi-media show capturing highlights of recent program activities, and an interesting photographic display of trainees from all five centers. Visitors snacked on fried chicken, hot dogs and lemonade prepared and sold by the trainees. They also purchased the many fine baked



Shopping for bargains at O.D.C. Bazaar.

goods made by the trainees. Judging from the smiling faces of the visitors, staff, and trainees, the bazaar was a success for all." . . . GREENE COUNTY CHAPTER proudly announces the beginnings of the first non-summer program for the mentally retarded in this county. On October 12th, a day training center for children between the ages of 3 and 8 began. With the Eleanor Roosevelt Center providing the staff, the program is operating four days a week for 2½ hours a day. Congratulations to GREENE COUNTY on their first program . . . A quickie from ALLEGANY COUNTY as they indicate that they have sent 50 youngsters to Camp Cornplanter this past summer . . . Great good news in HERKIMER COUNTY where Leona Perkins has been carrying the ball for a mental health board contract for quite some time. It appears that the contract will be in effect for 1972 and that a county contribution of \$9,000 will be forthcoming toward the total budget. Good work Leona and HERKIMER COUNTY . . . Word has drifted down from the north woods

that a gentleman who teaches at the Campus School at Buffalo State University has organized a floor hockey clinic for retarded children in his area . . . How about those great United Commercial Travelers Glen Falls Council #417. As they have so often, they came through again this year contributing \$150.00 to the WARREN WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAPTER . . . GENESEE COUNTY has received approval from the Department of Labor to operate a sheltered workshop and work activity center for the mentally retarded in their county. We hope to see that new project on its way soon . . . Thanks to the Sweet Adelines of Dansville who assisted in buying equipment for the LIVINGSTON-WYOMING COUNTY CHAPTER's new day training center . . . BROOME COUNTY CHAPTER continues to bubble with activity but perhaps is most bubbly about the fantastic success of the recent State Convention hosted by BROOME COUNTY CHAPTER. We really must tip our hat to convention chairman Robert Salankiewicz because from all comments heard, together with the feeling of the staff of the State Association, with all due respect to every past convention, the Binghamton Convention this fall was really the best we've ever had . . . STEUBEN COUNTY CHAPTER writes to indicate that they now have a new full-time director, Mr. David Ryan, who came to the Chapter from Chemung County ARC on October 1st. Also, the fact that the Chapter has planned some very interesting monthly membership meetings highlighting speakers from all over New York. Included in the year's programs are Mrs. Lillian Boyce, Western Regional Vice-President, Mr. John Regan, Executive Director of the Monroe County Chapter, and Mr. Michael Gordon, Executive Director of the Chemung County Chapter, plus a representative from YOUTH-NYS ARC. Way to go, STEUBEN . . . WAYNE COUNTY CHAPTER writes to say that they have 37 young children involved in their day training program. Their transportation is provided by the local school districts. They have 5 classes and are included in an educational program. What marvelous strides forward WAYNE COUNTY is making. Also they write, "Due to the expansion of our



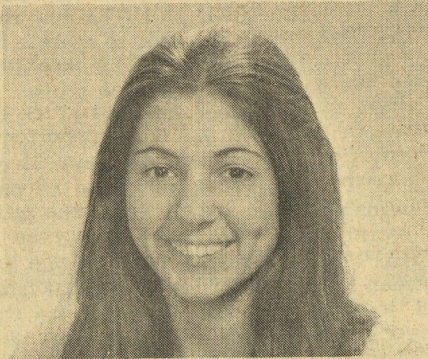
Up and over in Wayne County's new gym program.

teen program we have added a teen coordinator to our staff. We have also added a physical education instructor and aide to the staff for physical education which is funded through a federal grant." The teens go bowling and swimming once a week and every class in the school receives physical education every day . . . A few fast thank you's — from RENSSELAER COUNTY CHAPTER to the Howard and Bush Foundation which contributed funds for a 12 passenger bus for Pinewoods Center . . . On behalf of PUTNAM COUNTY CHAPTER to the Mahopac Italian American Club for their kind contribution of a slide projector and last, but by no means least, from our SCHOHARIE COUNTY CHAPTER, we want to especially recognize and thank the St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Middleburgh which contributed \$200.00 to the building fund of the Chapter. It is a wonderful thing when a church which has to itself exist on the contributions of its members will share with our retarded children from its funds. We are sure that this will be the beginning of an outstanding building program in SCHOHARIE COUNTY . . .

Y.O.U.T.H.

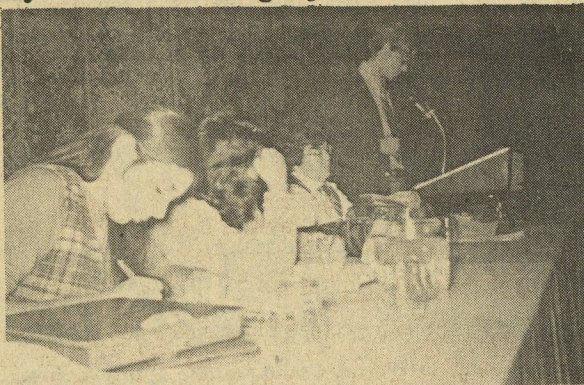
NEW YOUTH OFFICERS ELECTED

At the Convention of Y.O.U.T.H.-N.Y.S.A.R.C, held in connection with the Association's Annual Convention in Binghamton, New York, our State Y.O.U.T.H. organization elected new officers for 1971-72.



Ray Ann De Prisco

Those chosen by the Y.O.U.T.H. delegates were: President — Ray Ann De Prisco, Nassau County YOUTH; Senior Vice President and Northeast Regional Vice President — Thomas Cranna, LARC-Columbia County; Vice President, Western Region — Ed Bazow, SHARE-Cattaraugus County; Central Region Vice President — Cheryl Button, Chemung County YOUTH; Southeast Regional Vice President — Jerry Reed, Newburgh YOUTH; Secretary — Andi Wolfson, Nassau County YOUTH Treasurer — Karen Dorst, Babylon Jr. Auxiliary. Regional Board representatives, Northeast Region — Terri Beynart, LARC, Columbia County; Southeast Region — Shelly Juskowitz, HOPE-Suffolk County; Western Region — Molly Kluss, Monroe County YOUTH. No regional representative was elected from the Central Region as there is only one active YOUTH group there.



Jim Freitag presides as Anne Burgess listens, Melody Argentine watches and Ray Ann De Prisco takes notes on what a president should do.

In addition to conducting business on a number of items including consideration of various by-law changes, the group appointed the following as committee chairmen; Ed Bazow, Membership; Thomas Cranna, Newsletter; James Freitag, Convention; Shelly Juskowitz, Public Relations; Karen Dorst, Finance; Andi Wolfson, Institutions; Cheryl Button, Rules and Regulations.

The following YOUTH were elected to the nominating committee: Western Region — Tom Freitag, D. Chalmers; Central Region — vacant; Northeast Region — Mary Rear-don; Southeast Region — Jim Olsen, Rita Bigliani. Jim Olsen of Nassau County was selected as chairman of the nominating committee.

The YOUTH group is looking forward to an independent convention next year.

MARATHON RUN FOR RETARDED

Sore muscles, blisters, turned ankles, bee stings and sun burn did not stop the "SHARE" ARC Marathon runners from completing their goal.

They arrived Sunday morning at West Seneca State School for the Mentally Retarded. There, they presented two checks: one for \$100.00 from the ARC to be used for recreation, the other, a check for \$50.00 was for the Father John Fund, a fund started by Father John, a Catholic Chaplain, and Reverend Batell, a Protestant Chaplain at the School. So far they have raised enough money to buy a bus for wheel chair patients, so that they would not be left out of trips to the Aquarium, ice follies, etc. They are now raising funds for wheel chairs for some children who do not have them and either stay in bed or sit in a chair. The bus is called the "Happiness Bus," and any organization from Western New York may use it for trips for the disabled by calling the West Seneca State School.



These 10 joggers took off from the Olean YMCA on a 70 mile, three-day run to gain support for Retarded Children. The end of their jog was West Seneca. The teenagers are Shirley Beckwith, Bonnie Freitag, Samuel Morrie, Lance Blade, Carla Blade, Karen Painter, Brenda Blade, Joseph McBride and Lee Seewalt, ages 14 to 18.

The checks were presented to Mr. James Ward, Associate Director of Services at the School. Food and beverages were ready for the runners; Cottages 43 and 47 were made available for showers. The runners then hobbled and limped to cars for the return to Olean.

Share members making the entire 70 miles were Bonnie Freitag, Tom Freitag, Lee Seewaldt, Lance Blade, Carla Blade, and Brenda Blade. Running for 50 miles before being stopped for sprained ankles were Sam Morrie and Karen Painter. Joe McBride, Jack Simon, Ed Bazow, Tom Bazow, and Terri Walburn ran the last day for those who were made to stop because of sprains.

Mr. Louis Struble, and Shirley Beckwith, the two adults running with the group made the 70 miles with ease. Mr. Struble, Youth Director of the YMCA acted as chairman, advisor, and coach to the runners from SHARE.

Paula Crosson and Peg Ried carried lunches to the group each day. Mrs. Fritz Hennig, Mrs. Onolee Juvenal, Mrs. Ed Bazow Sr., Miss Chris Schwab, Mr. Richard Thomas, Mr. Ed Simon, and Jim Freitag drove the Marathon runners to their destination each day and patrolled the route making sure each runner was all right and giving water and first aid. One runner, Lee Seewaldt, a Bonaventure student, came from North Java, New York, to make the run.

Over \$600.00 has been realized in donations and pledges. The money will be used exclusively for the mentally retarded to provide recreation such as dances, parties, and camping for those mentally handicapped in the Olean area.

Their slogan is "We believe in the worth of every human being and have fun in proving it."

The Share members have also proved their own worth.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

In Orange County: Mr. Henry Cox, President of the Orange County Association for the Help of Retarded Children, presented special scholarship awards to members of the Newburgh Area YOUTH for Retarded Children. Miss Lorraine Lopez and Miss Maria Fussella were each given a check for \$150.00 and a certificate of Award for their outstanding volunteer work with retarded children. "The Scholarship Award is a small way of A.H.R.C. giving encouragement to young people planning to enter the field of special education," noted Mr. Cox in making the presentation. Miss Fussella will be attending Mt. St. Mary's College and Miss Lopez will be attending Purdue University. Scholarship funds were made available through a spaghetti supper held by the A.Y.R.C. in Newburgh.

In Columbia County: Anne Burgess, Columbia County's YOUTH advisor writes, "We have a very active YOUTH group, LARC (Love Association for Retarded Children) which is comprised of about 70 teens, dedicated to aiding the mentally handicapped in Columbia County. They recently received a Parent's Magazine YOUTH group Achievement Award for outstanding service to the community. They conduct their own sessions with retarded children, twice a week: once on Sundays for two hours, where they work with a child on a one-to-one basis. They have arts and crafts, sports, educational games and just good companionship. Then, on Tuesday evenings, they have an hours swimming program with the children. It's just great to see the youth participating in these programs — they are our future!"

In Nassau County: For the fourth consecutive year, the annual Nassau County Chapter Teen Drive broke all records when more than 7,000 teens collected \$64,000 for the capital drive toward the new AHRC vocational training center in Freeport, Long Island. Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Joseph Gunther and her committee of more than 50 auxiliary chairmen, the teen volunteers virtually blanketed Nassau County with the sale of shares in a 1971 Dodge sedan.

The drive was highlighted this year by WABC disc jockey Bruce Morrow who served as honorary chairman. Mr. Morrow, who obviously loves the youngsters as much as they love him, M.C.'d a gala "thank you" rock festival given by the AHRC at their educational center. More than 2,000 teens attended the festival.



Four who tied as All County Top Teens are (l-r) Susan Klos of North Massapequa, Ray Ann De Prisco of Port Washington, Michael Metelenis of Floral Park and Barbara Rosenblatt of Plainview. With them at presentation ceremonies are (l-r) Teen Drive Chairman Mrs. Joseph Gunther, Nassau County Chapter Executive Director Mrs. Helen Kaplan and Honorary Chairman WABC disc jockey Bruce Morrow.

Several months prior to the drive, teen workers were treated to an AHRC Rock Rally at the Calderone theater in Hempstead. M.C.'d by Bruce Morrow, the show featured a teen fashion show by A & S Hempstead store's Junior Beat Department under the direction of special events director, Jennings Dennis and A & S teen coordinator, Cathy Daley. Music was provided by Shades of Grass and Mid-Island Transit of Massapequa.

(Continued Next Column)

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE YOUTH PRESIDENT

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Hi! Your State Y.O.U.T.H. Board and I would like to share a few concerns with you. Last year I was corresponding secretary for State Y.O.U.T.H. and editor of the newsletter, so I became oriented to the communication difficulties between Y.O.U.T.H. groups in the State. Therefore, one of my ultimate goals is to make an idea exchange between members a commonplace thing; projects established will no longer be mysterious secrets.

A new regional structure on our committees should help them function better this year.

One of these committees is the newsletter committee. Its value cannot be explained in a few words, for the newsletter is a media for idea exchange, letters, literary work, and more. I hope that this will be the key to unlock the doors between groups. Along the lines of communication is the public relations committee. One of its purposes is to help trample communication barriers between the public and Y.O.U.T.H. These are the two branches of communication, very briefly sketched.

One of the tasks I will undertake this year is to help establish new Y.O.U.T.H. groups. For a couple of years I have been speaking for church and school organizations. Unfortunately, the radius of these talks has been small. There is one favor that I am asking of everyone. If you know of an area that might want to start a group, notify me or our State YOUTH advisor, and we will be very happy to speak or help them out in any way that we can. The retarded people need more friends.

We are helping retardates to learn, but we, too, must learn. There are many institutions in New York which service the mentally retarded. We have found it advantageous to learn about the institutions. The institutions committee will write reports about institutions, which will be put into the newsletter.

To have summed up State Y.O.U.T.H. in one page surely means that I have missed a lot. There are four other committees, finance, rules and regulations, membership, and convention. I hope that these committees, and the ones mentioned previously will be outlined in OCV.

Through OCV I want another communication outlet to become a reality, this one with the adults. If there are any questions about State Y.O.U.T.H., or me, for I definitely have not covered everything, do not hesitate to call on me. My mailing address is 30 South Linwood Road, Port Washington, New York 11050.

Sincerely,
RayAnn DePrisco

YOUTH NEWS — (Continued from Previous Column)

The efforts of many people helped make the Teen Drive successful and we are grateful to all of them. But our hats are off to the thousands of students who are the Teen Drive and therefore merit every accolade we can offer them.

In Suffolk County: Suffolk Chapter Association for Retarded Children announced a walkathon was held by 11 junior auxiliaries on Monday, October 11th. This was a county project and over 100 young people participated.

The walkathon began at the Century Theater in the Smith Haven Mall in Smithtown at 9 A.M. and ended at the Walt Whitman Mall in Huntington.

Solicitation with canisters and pledges for mileage of the walkathon took place during the march.

In Rensselaer County: Although the Rensselaer County Chapter has not as yet established an affiliated YOUTH group with the ARC, the June 17th issue of the Troy Record devoted a full page to the work which is being done by volunteer students who are providing services in a primary class, swimming and physical education programs and weekly social hours and the adult workshop and who expected to be helping provide a backbone of the staff for the Chapter's summer camp.

ARC DEVELOPS POSITION PAPER AND POLICY STATEMENT ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The Board of Governors assembled in Binghamton, October 1971 adopted the following position paper and policy statement on Developmental Disabilities:

"Since the passage of P.L. 91-517, the Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction amendments of 1970" considerable confusion has developed as to the services to be rendered to the various disabilities.

In our opinion, the law is very clear on definition of developmental disabilities and in no way divorces developmental disabilities from mental retardation. The definition follows: "(1) The Term 'developmental disability' means a disability attributable to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or another neurological condition of an individual found by the Secretary to be closely related to mental retardation or to require treatment similar to that required for mentally retarded individuals, which disability originates before such individual attains age eighteen, which has continued or can be expected to continue indefinitely, and which constitutes a substantial handicap to such individual."

On a practical level, the Developmental Disabilities Act only is a vehicle for funneling federal funds into the states. At no time has this ever been a significant factor in the development of services in this state whether it be under P.L. 88-164 or the present law. The state of New York spends a hundred times or more on mental retardation of its own money than it receives from the federal government.

To change the name of any division or service to Developmental Disabilities would indeed be having the tail wag the dog, as mental retardation afflicts more children and adults than all other handicaps put together.

At best the law merely defines etiology of mental retardation and whether such mental retardation results from epilepsy, brain injury, cerebral palsy, mongolism or anything else this Association is committed to in trying to provide the services for those so afflicted.

To remove mental retardation's name from the agencies dealing with mental retardation primarily, would be to negate the public relations effect and the education of the public that has occurred in the last twenty five years. We have fought hard and long to educate the public that mental retardation is not a term of opprobrium. We believe we are winning this battle. To retreat now would mean that we feel defeated, which we do not.

In accordance with this, and fully recognizing that no disability associated with mental retardation should be excluded from the services for the mentally retarded, the Board has adopted the following policy:

"From our very inception, we have committed ourselves to the service of the mentally retarded whatever the etiology and whatever additional handicap to mental retardation they may have. Thus, we have always served the mentally retarded whether also cerebral palsied, epileptic, brain injured, and in many cases, even blind and deaf. Our Charter limits us to the service of the mentally retarded. This we are doing, and will continue to do, whatever the accompanying or additional handicap.

This Association is unalterably opposed to any change of name of departments, divisions or services, which would substitute developmental disabilities for mental retardation and or other handicaps now mentioned by name."

FLASH!!!

WNBC-TV (Channel 4 New York) will present a special show on Mental Retardation in its weekly New York Illustrated Feb. 29, 10:30 to 11 p.m.

Let your legislators know about it and when you have seen it react by letter to them.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTED

On November 12th Governor Rockefeller announced the appointment of 19 members of a Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council.

The function of this Council is to advise state officials on creating and updating a state plan to aid persons suffering developmental disabilities such as mental disabilities; enable New York State to share in federal funds for planning, providing services, and building and operating facilities for persons with these disabilities.

The Council is formed pursuant to the United States Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Act of 1970 which has made \$750,000 available for New York State's program. Funds are allocated to the states on the basis of population, per capital income, and need.

The Governor has designated the Department of Mental Hygiene as the agency for administering grants for construction under the state plan.

Although he has appointed 19 members to the unsalaried Council, the Governor said he ultimately intends to increase the membership to approximately 35 persons. Among those appointed interested in mental retardation as such are Robert J. Hodgson, president, New York State Association for Retarded Children; Joseph T. Weingold, executive director, New York State Association; Joseph V. Shostak, executive director, Shield of David Institute for Retarded Children; Dr. Margaret J. Giannini, head of the famous Clinic at Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital; Mrs. George E. Craig, member of the New York State Association from Rochester.

The first organizing meeting of the Council was held in New York City on December 15th.

GEORGE HIRSCH NAMED TO COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH

Recently Mayor Lindsay announced the appointment of a 71 member board that will govern the City's new community-based comprehensive health planning agency.

George G. Hirsch, Treasurer of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc., one of the pioneers in the movement for retarded children in the state, was named to this board by Mayor Lindsay.

The new agency, required by federal law, will begin operations October 1st financed by a \$500,000 federal grant and \$600,000 in city funds.

In line with federal and state guidelines, the majority of the board members will be consumers of health services. The central board will be an umbrella over 30 district boards throughout the city.

Although we are extremely glad that George Hirsch, a member of the ARC has been appointed to this board, we regret, upon examination of the board, we find no other representative of the consumers or the consumer himself of services for the mentally retarded.

"With the mentally retarded representing at least 3% of the community," said Mr. Weingold, executive director of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, "we feel that this is a grave omission by the Mayor."

The chairman of the central board will be Mr. Gordon Chase the City's Health Services Administrator.

ARC MEMBER FAMILY COURT JUDGE

We are happy to report that Honorable Charles F. Graney of Batavia, New York, has been elected a Judge of the Family Court for Genesee County.

At this time we have two active members of the Association as Family Court Judges, Judge Graney and Robert F. Wagner of Monroe County, who is formerly the President of the State Association.

The Association extends its congratulations to Judge Graney and best wishes for a successful tenure.



Margaret Howard of Huntington Station accepts the Life Membership Award from Reginald Minor, Past President of the Suffolk Chapter A.R.C. This award is given for outstanding dedicated volunteer service to the retarded in Suffolk County.

FEDERAL GRANT TO ULSTER COUNTY CHAPTER

The Ulster County Chapter has received a federal grant for music therapy in the amount of \$6,400, according to Daniel J. Leahy, executive-director.

In addition, the Chapter is requesting financial aid from the county to push for special legislation for the mentally retarded there.

He adds, also, that three more persons have been added to the workshop program and they have advertised their workshop products nationally in the well known Yankee Magazine.

Congratulations to Ulster County.

HOPE IS A WATCH WORD OF ALBANY COUNTY CHAPTER

Under the direction of Anne Schroeder, executive director of the Albany County Chapter, broad programs for the retarded are being planned and implemented in Albany County.

The Association operates a school and workshop at 419 Madison Avenue geared to the trainable, especially the "low trainable".

Their mental handicaps are often accompanied by physical disabilities, including blindness, inability to walk or chew or toilet train.

Subcontracts for the workshop include sanding gaskets for the General Electric Co., mailings for agencies including the Department of Insurance, laundry for the YMCA and hooking rugs.

The laundry assignments from the YMCA have been particularly successful with the Y being especially pleased with the quality.

Five classrooms feature special equipment focused on gross motor, fine motor perceptual language and pre-vocational development for the 5-21's. Many of the students are not ambulatory.

Innovative small scale experimental programs described by Miss Schroeder are aimed at helping parents and children even earlier than the age of 5.

"The program will try to identify mentally retarded 3-year-olds to new-borns and to provide support to the parents. This year will mostly be a gathering of information, because we must define the needs of these parents. Maybe they just need someone to stop by and ask how things are. Maybe they need something else that we as a service organization could provide, that we are not doing now. This is a crisis time in a family period".

The following is a letter that Eleanor C. Pattison, President of our Rensselaer County Chapter sent to the editor of Our Children's Voice after returning from the State Convention in Binghamton.

"Sir: It was my privilege to recently attend a most memorable State Convention held in Binghamton, N. Y., October 1st-3rd.

As is so often true, words that should have been spoken, opinions that should have been expressed, and stands that should have been taken are formulated on the way home — hindsight is always easier than foresight!

My thoughts center now around the workshop — 'Institutions — Promises, Promises'.

Caught up with the emotion of obvious injustices and indignities existing in our state institutions today, I did not speak out, in the role of devil's advocate as I feel I must now, on behalf of those dedicated men and women in the Mental Hygiene Department who are also working to bring a total humanistic approach to retardation in every area of focus.

Is it possible, that because we care so much, we lose sight of the progress that has been made? Do we find ourselves more likely to cry out in anguish than praise those accomplishments which deserve such a reaction?

Frustrations in all causes, whether it be against war, for civil rights, for women's liberation, or for the cause of the retarded, are a way of life. Realistic acceptance of the facts of frustration does not, however, indicate that we are willing to accept the status quo. These frustrations should never reduce our zeal in striving for those goals and dreams so necessary to our cause.

Nevertheless, if we are to be truly effective, we must not forget that all men are not supermen — that good and bad exist on both sides of every cause — and most of all, that tolerance, understanding, and COMMUNICATION will serve us far better in the end.

Eleanor C. Pattison

(Mrs. Edward W. Pattison).

(The editor welcomes comments on this letter.)

HOW NEW YORK CITY SPENDS ITS MONEY ON MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION

1500% MORE ON MENTAL HEALTH

In a breakdown of the total budget expenditures from July 1, to June 30, 1971 of the City of New York on mental retardation and mental health of a total of \$111,904,962 spent, only \$7,342,740 was spent on mental retardation.

In Manhattan of the \$54,900,000 spent, only \$1,900,000 or 3.6% was spent on mental retardation.

The breakdown does not show how much city money goes into this, but a follow-up has elicited the information that of the \$104,562,222 spent on mental health, over 90% comes from city tax funds. Of the \$7,342,740 at most \$260,000 comes from city funds and most of this is for administration, not for direct services. The rest comes from community agencies raising their own money or to grants from other agencies in the state.

Although this is an extreme case, it is indicative of what is happening in many parts of the state and led to last year's memorandum from the Governor asking that state aid for mental retardation services be increased to 75% because of this imbalance. No legislation to this effect, however, was ever introduced and was promptly forgotten in budget crush.

In the meanwhile the retarded and those who are serving them, are the victims of an imbalance, a disregard by the state and the community and remain, as has been said, low man on the totem pole.

ROCKY URGES CONSERVATION OF STATE FARMLAND

CONDEMNS STATE SCHOOL FARMS AT SAME TIME

Although Governor Rockefeller proposed to the legislature last session to permit tax sheltered districts to conserve the state's farmland, at the same time the state Department of Mental Hygiene condemned the farms in a number of state schools including Rome, West Seneca, and Syracuse.

The Governor's proposal aimed to conserve valuable farmland and open spaces.

"Unless action is taken soon," Rockefeller said in a memorandum, "vast amounts of New York's best agricultural lands will be lost forever for agricultural purposes. The loss of this land would strike a severe blow to the environment of the state and deprive New Yorkers of a vital supply of open space and green belt areas."

Nevertheless, the Department of Mental Hygiene, obviously under orders from the Governor's office, decreed the closing of the farm at Rome which has been in existence for many years, more than self-sustaining according to Joseph Abissi, chairman of the board of visitors of Rome State School, the farm at Syracuse State School and the slaughtering of cattle in one of the state hospitals in the western part of the state.

"It is interesting to note," said Mr. Abissi, "that while the inmates at Attica were complaining that they had no fresh vegetables, cabbages raised by the patients and residents at Rome State School farm were rotting on the ground for lack of help in gathering them."

RETARDATION TESTS SPED BY NEW DEVICE

Equipment that may some day allow doctors to simultaneously check a dozen block indicators for signs of mental retardation in babies has been developed by a government biochemist.

Dr. John A. Ambrose, who developed the equipment at the United States Center for Disease Control, is now using it to check for two indicators, but he says the testing capacity of the device could be greatly expanded within five years.

The importance of his equipment, said Dr. Ambrose in an interview, is that it will soon be feasible for hospitals easily and quickly to check the newborn for the first time for a wide range of signs that indicate various types of retardation.

"In many cases adjustment of a child's diet makes the difference between an idiot and a productive member of society," said Dr. Ambrose. "But, to alter his diet, you've got to know that he has the problem and that it can, in some cases, respond to a certain diet."

Similar in some respects to that used to diagnose metabolic disorders in adults, the equipment chemically analyses a tiny speck of blood and records its findings on a graph.

Existing methods of detecting abnormally high blood levels of phenylalanine and tyrosine, two amino acids whose imbalance can cause severe retardation, take 24 hours and tests must be separately run.

The equipment developed by Dr. Ambrose for detecting high levels of the acids does the job simultaneously, takes an hour and requires but one blood sample, said the chemist.

TOM KENNY, JR. MAKES IT

Thomas J. Kenny, Jr., of Geneva, a student at Geneva High School, handicapped with brain injury, one of five Herald-Journal American carrier boys of Syracuse newspaper, enjoyed a day in Rome recently including a sky tour of Central New York in a jet, as part of National Newspaperboy Day.

Kenny was on a special honor roll of the school and during the Summer served as a junior counselor in a day camp sponsored by the Ontario County Chapter Association for Retarded Children.

AT WELFARE LEAGUE ANNUAL LUNCHEON



(l-r) Mrs. James F. Reville, President, Welfare League, Dr. Frederic Grunberg, Deputy Commissioner, Division of M.R., Dr. Oleh Wolansky, Director, Letchworth Village, David Roth, Luncheon Chairman.

WILLOWBROOK WALKIE - TALKIES

A hearing aid which works as a walkie-talkie was donated to Willowbrook State School earlier this year by the Benevolent Society for Retarded Children, Willowbrook Chapter of the New York State A.R.C., Inc. Fund raising for the equipment, valued at \$6,500.00, was arranged by the Benevolent Society by running a "Night At The Races" at Yonkers Raceway, which was attended by 1,150 guests.

The chief advantage of the hearing aid is that it enables as many as ten deaf persons to get around on foot together. Earlier equipment with its cumbersome wires required that they stay riveted to their classroom sets.

The portable aid frees them and makes outings to the community store, to a show and other places possible; it opens up new sounds and brand new experiences.

Deaf students can tune in their guiding instructor with one ear and with the other to their environment surroundings. In many instances, this instrument makes outmoded the use of hand language which people with hearing difficulty traditionally use. Their hand language enabled them to communicate effectively among themselves, but tended to isolate them from the rest of the world.

The hearing aid introduces new sounds of the world and broadens the scope of the deaf person. Sounds such as a car honking or a chair scraping have to be taught to be understood. Many deaf persons have never associated the honking noise with a car.

Dr. Jack Hammond, Director of Willowbrook State School, called the gift a magnificent contribution to the school program. "We and the children appreciate it very much," Dr. Hammond praised B.S.R.C. for the wonderful work it was doing and was sure that the Benevolent Society would remain in the forefront of the fight to continue to help our children.

AT ROCKLAND COUNTY ANNUAL DINNER



(l-r) John W. Bertrand, Assistant to the Executive Director, NYS ARC, Dr. Frederic Grunberg, Deputy Commissioner, Division of M.R., Dr. Margaret Giannini, guest speaker, Benjamin Aceto, Chapter President.

SEEN AT THE STATE CONVENTION

21



WELCOME DUTCHESS COUNTY — President Hodgson hands our certificate of recognition to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sellers.



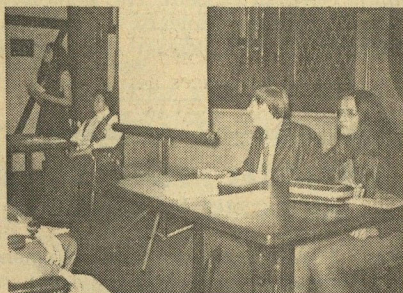
Father Tom talks, Henry Cox smokes and Pat Maynard grabs a quick cup of coffee.



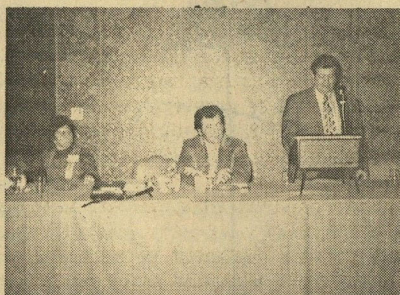
FROM SAMPSON, L. to R. — Catherine Frail (hidden); Michael Grady, Rev. Alton Stivers, Harvey Greenstein, Roger Robichard.



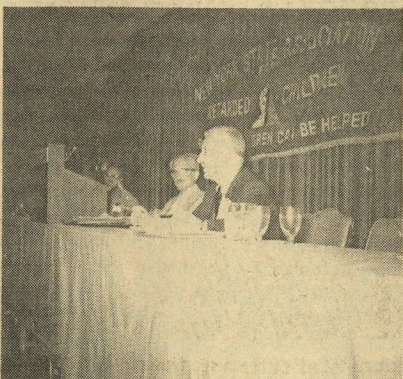
Jacobs, Messier & Weisenfeld ponder the Weingold wisdom in his orange polka dot shirt.



Y.O.U.T.H. TELLS THE ADULTS. Ann Foster, Ann Burgess, Tom Cranna, Heather Thomas.



INSTITUTIONS PANEL, L. to R. — Mrs. Rose Silverman, Thomas A. Coughlin, III; Milton Kaplan, D.M.H.



GUARDIANSHIP PANEL, L. to R. — Robert J. Hodgson, Leo Fixler, Augustus M. Jacobs.



SUNDAY MORNING, NEW MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD, L. to R. — Michael Falk, Oneida Co.; W. Fowler Wilson, Tompkins Co.; Mrs. Kate Klein, St. Lawrence Co.; Fred Sellers, Dutchess Co., John Moore, Chemung Co.

22 ORANGE COUNTY COMPLETES PLAN

FOR BUILDING ARKIE MAKES HIS BOW

On eight acres of land purchased by the State Association for the benefit of the Orange County Chapter for \$12,005 (the \$5 being the fee for filing the deed) from the Middletown State Hospital, our Orange County Chapter has completed its plan for a 17,500 sq. feet building.

There will be an educational wing with eight classrooms and individual play areas, a diagnostic and evaluation wing, an adult center including arts and crafts and boutique, commercial kitchen, work activities, etc. and a large playground and produce farm.

Construction costs are estimated at \$840,000 with total development running to \$1,025,000.

To start off their drive for almost \$½ million, the chapter has developed a new entity, "Arkie" a picture of whom appears herewith. Arkie is now speaking for the AHRC in Orange County and we wish him every success.



QUEENS YOUTH PUMP GAS



A portion of the Queens YOUTH Group who helped the New York City Chapter by pumping gas at the B & H Service Station, located at 131-10 101 Ave., in Richmond Hill.

AT RENSSELAER COUNTY CENTER



A SOCIAL TIME — Each Thursday, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., a social evening is held at the center under the direction of volunteers for any area retarded over the age of 16 years.

ARC AIDS MOVE TO INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS

Called upon by the International Association of Rehabilitation Facilities to add the strength of the New York State Association for Retarded Children to the move to increase the appropriations for vocational rehabilitation and developmental disabilities, the New York State Association polled the New York State Congressional delegation in the House of Representatives in votes for the Giaimo (representative from Connecticut) amendment to raise the developmental disabilities to over \$21 million and vocational rehabilitation increase by \$82.4 million.

The victory was especially surprising and significant in view of House action defeating the proposal to add funds to the National Institutes of Health.

Unfortunately, not all of the New York State delegation voted for the Giaimo amendment. Those who voted against it were: Representatives Barber B. Conable, Jr., (R. from Alexander, N.Y.); James J. Delaney, (D. from Long Island City); Hamilton Fish, Jr., (R. from Millbrook); James R. Grover, Jr., (R. from Babylon); Carleton J. King, (R., Saratoga Springs); Norman F. Lent, (R., East Rockaway); Alexander Pirnie, (R., Utica); Howard W. Robison, (R., Owego); John J. Rooney, (D., Brooklyn), and John H. Terry, (R., Syracuse).

ARC TO INTERVENE AS AMICUS CURIAE TO AID MENTAL HYGIENE TO ENFORCE ANTI-CRUELTY MEASURES

The State Department of Mental Hygiene, taking cognizance of an increasing number of incidents of mistreatment of residents of the State Schools, issued very strict regulations with regard to the conduct of personnel vis a vis the residents.

In keeping with this policy, recently several employees of state schools at J. N. Adam division of West Seneca, and at Rome were dismissed by the Department of Mental Hygiene after a hearing of charges of brutality against patients.

Aided by their union, these employees went to the Supreme Court, not really to say that the incidents did not occur, although this was also claimed, but to claim that the punishment of dismissal was too severe for the deed.

The Supreme Court in two of the cases held, that although the facts of mistreatment were not disputed, in view of the long service and previous good records of the employees, the dismissal was cruel and unusual punishment and the state was ordered to reinstate these employees with full back salary and to fine them \$50.

The State Department of Mental Hygiene has decided, with the concurrence of the Attorney General, to appeal these decisions and to try to make the dismissal stick.

The support of the New York State Association for Retarded Children was enlisted and the State ARC is asking permission of the Appellate Division to intervene as an amicus curiae.

LEARNING BY DOING

(A Book Review)

A new book, "Learning by Doing" has been brought to our attention by Mrs. Ann Rogovin, the author.

It is an illustrated handbook for parents and teachers of children who are mentally retarded and extremely well covered by Mrs. Rogovin, a graduate of the State University of Buffalo with a Master's Degree in Special Education who has taught educable and trainable retarded children since 1941.

The handbook is well organized into topics including natural sciences, health, language arts, citizenship, arithmetic, reading, home economics, music, art and others and is profusely illustrated with pictures drawn by mentally retarded youngsters.

Based on many years of experience and a practical knowledge of the needs of these children, the book must help teachers as well as parents, too, to learn to do things meaningful in the daily lives of the children such as crossing streets, using telephones, mailing letters, etc. It goes further than that in helping them to learn to carry on household tasks, prepare to make a living, job training, and does not neglect fun, games, music, etc.

The present courses in the field of special education can present only main principles in working with children; they do not attempt to give any main methods to achieve results.

Thus, teachers and parents must work with the children daily to find out means for creating the bond for each child according to his individual need.

"It is fascinating to note that the drawings were made by Carole Zill, a student from one of my special classes" writes Mrs. Rogovin. She continues "other than classes in school, Carole has received no formal training in art. Her vivid imagination and unusual perception baffle lay people and professional people alike."

The book is published by Mafex Associates, Inc., 111 Bawron Avenue, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15906.

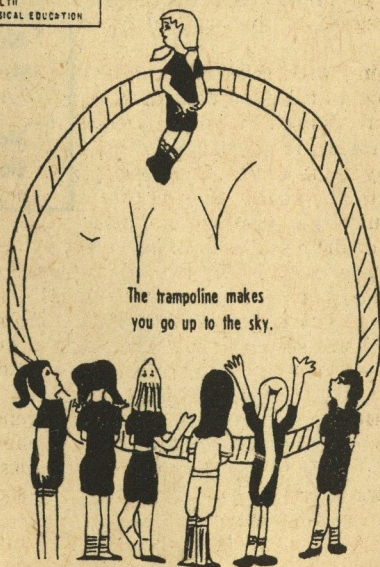
The book sells in a vinyl looseleaf notebook binder for \$8.50 and paperback edition for \$4.95. We urge everyone interested in teaching the retarded, and even parents who also are interested to try to get a copy of this book by writing directly to the publisher.

I cannot end this review without a special tribute to Carole. Carole had a one woman show in the Educational Division at Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, Tuesday, September 21st through Sunday, October 31st.

At the moment Carole is involved in job training at the ARC in Buffalo where she works five days until 4:30 p.m.

"All of this recognition" Mrs. Zill said, "is really doing something wonderful for my little girl."

HEALTH
PHYSICAL EDUCATION



INDIANA INCREASES APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE RETARDED AND OTHER HANDICAPPED

23

We cannot resist the temptation to contrast what the last session of the legislature in Indiana did (1971) and what was done in New York State for the handicapped.

In spite of the overall gloomy picture for general education, the special education reimbursement in the state of Indiana to local school corporations showed a substantial increase amounting to 139%.

On the budgetary items, the 1971 general assembly increased the bi-ennial reimbursement to local community retardation programs by 72%. The Mental Health-Mental Retardation Community Construction Program was given an increase of 50%, for the coming biennium.

The family care program of the Department of Mental Health which pays for the living situations for patients released from the mental hospitals and mental retardation training schools is up 40% over the last biennium.

The state's share of the funding of the Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Program was increased approximately 28%. It is noted that each dollar of state money earns approximately \$4 of federal money in the vocational rehabilitation program. (New York State legislators please copy)

All of the mental retardation hospitals received increases in their biennial operating budgets with Muscatatuck leading with an 11% increase.

Indiana Association newspaper notes, however, that the funding for residential services in light of expanding economy and inflation must be regarded as almost standing still, even though there have been some percentage increases. (*What can we say in New York, editor?*)

CHAPTERS ACQUIRE NEW STAFF

OCV would like to join five local chapters of the Association in welcoming new staff members to their positions.

The first is the Ontario County Chapter where Mr. Robert Rosenberg became executive director in early October. Mr. Rosenberg replaces Mr. Robert Varney who had served the chapter on a part-time basis for the last three years. Prior to his employment with Ontario County Chapter, Mr. Varney had been director of the Tompkins County Chapter of the Association.

Also adding new executive directors in October were our Chautauqua and Steuben County Chapters. Mrs. Patricia Meyers, former director of Steuben, was replaced by Mr. David Ryan. Mr. Ryan came to Steuben County from a position as educational director of our Chemung County Chapter, Steuben's next door neighbor.

In Chautauqua County, James DePonceau who had been serving as the Chapter's executive on a part-time basis since 1965 was replaced by a full-time director, Mr. Michael Trowbridge. Mr. Trowbridge has his B.A. degree from Sam Houston State University in Texas and a master's degree in social work from the University of Buffalo. Mr. Trowbridge came to the Chautauqua County Chapter from a position as evaluation-placement specialist with our Erie County Chapter in Buffalo.

After a long period without staff, the Niagara County Chapter hired Mr. David Williams as their executive director in early November. Mr. Williams replaces Mr. Gilbert Duguay who had been serving Niagara County Chapter since 1964.

In the final change to be reported at this time, the Madison County Chapter has hired its first full-time director, Mr. Gerald Mathews. Mr. Mathews began his new duties with Madison County Chapter on November 29th. Mr. Mathews went to Madison County Chapter after a very successful period as the assistant director to Paul Nigra in the Fulton County Chapter of the Association.

We welcome all of these men to their new positions and of course are very pleased to see that so many of them have come up through the ARC.

SAMPSON — (Continued from Page 3)

To close Bronx Children's Psychiatric Hospital with a budget of \$1,650,825. This has a staff of 157 and serve only 21 children who could be moved across the grass to Bronx State Hospital which has over 1400 employees for less than 700 patients.

To close West Seneca Psychiatric Hospital with \$1,512,734 budget with 42 patients from Binghamton Psychiatric Hospital, and 23 patients in residence, the total saving would be \$1,800,000 since Binghamton with a budget of \$304,000 was already closed. These together would have made a saving of \$3,468,306, far more than an amount to keep Sampson open. Only 80-some odd children would have been affected against the 680 in Sampson. The State Association suggested a hard look at the "phantom" state schools with no patients at all. These are:

Broome State School: no patients — 4 staff — \$176,498.
 Monroe State School: no patients — 15 staff — \$264,313.
 Oswald Heckt in Schenectady:
 no patients — 8 staff — \$472,946.



SON, ROBERT, comforts Paul Fitzsimmons outside Sampson State School for the Mentally Retarded in Willard, N. Y. The father set himself afire in protest over closing of the school because of state budget cuts.

Westchester: no patients — 3 staff — \$210,465.

This is a saving of more than another \$1 million.

Against the overcrowded and understaffed State Schools we also posed to the Department the following:

Sagamore Children's Psychiatric Unit in Suffolk State School. Budget \$2,593,534 — 181 patients — 274 staff.

All these were rejected out of hand with the statement

(Concluded Next Column)

SENATOR BARCLAY NAMED MENTAL HYGIENE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Senator H. Douglas Barclay of Pulaski has been named to succeed Senator Dalwin J. Niles of Johnstown as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Mental Hygiene.



Senator H. Douglas Barclay

An attorney, he is a member of the county, state and American bar associations, a partner in the law firm of Hiscock, Cowie, Bruce, Lee and Mawhinney, in Syracuse.

Senator Niles continues as Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental and Physical Handicap as well as Chairman of the prestigious Codes Committee in the Senate.

SAMPSON — (Concluded from Previous Column)

that the Association seeks to undermine the services for the emotionally disturbed children. No attempt was made to counter the statement that no patients were being served in the phantom hospitals and that very few would be affected, and that only temporarily in the psychiatric units.

A comparison was made between the emphasis on mental health by the Department as compared with the neglect of the mentally retarded. An example was given of Bronx State Hospital with 694 patients, 1469 staff and a budget of \$14,549,000 as against Willowbrook with 5500 patients, 3,196 staff, and \$29,143,675 budget.

Nevertheless, Sampson was closed. The anguished cries of the parents, the anguished cries of relatives, the fervent protest of the Council of Churches, and the friends and relatives of Sampson, the vehement protest of the legislators, and the subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee under Robert Wertz of Suffolk investigating the charges against the Department of Mental Hygiene — all were to no avail.

This was a famous victory for the Commissioner, for the Governor, for the Budget Director, for those on the Commissioner's staff who agreed with him, and for all the forces in the community who have neglected and mistreated the mentally retarded all the years that we have been in this business.

The battle is over, but the war continues.

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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