

# OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

*Retarded Children*

*Can Be Helped!*



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JANUARY, 1973

## WILLOWBROOK GOES TO TRIAL

### HEW REPORT ON WILLOWBROOK STUDY JAVITS CRITICAL

In a highly critical report on overcrowding and inadequate programs at the Willowbrook State School for the mentally retarded a Federal Team urged New York State in November to develop more community based services as alternatives to large institutions for mental patients.

HEW said it would provide funds for immediate screening of patients at Willowbrook and Letchworth to develop plans for "individualized treatment and return to the community."

The ten member Federal Team lead by Dr. Bertram S. Brown, director of NIMH, studied the state's programs for the retarded at the request of Governor Rockefeller and Senator Jacob K. Javits following renewed public complaints about conditions at Willowbrook.

Its report, based upon a visit to the institution last February, said "a very large number" of more than 5000 patients "received only basic maintenance care. In many wards it said, "care was substandard and inadequate" with "medical service available only when crises occurred" and no individual treatment plans for many patients.

The Federal group contrasted this with the state's smaller Queens State School in Corona where many residents go out daily for work or school in the community. It credited that the State Department of Mental Hygiene was seeking "to de-emphasize long-term institutionalization" while "severely hampered by lack of funds."

In a blast at this October 31st, 1972, Senator Javits had much to say about the failure of this report to provide urgently needed Federal leadership. We herewith quote in full Senator Javits' critique:

"The anxiously awaited Secretary's Special Federal Team report on the New York State Mental Retardation program fails, I regret to say, to provide urgently needed Federal leadership in response to the crisis at Willowbrook State School and the plight of all the mentally retarded. At the request of Governor Rockefeller, I urged the special Federal crisis intervention to assist New York State in improving the distressing situation at Willowbrook and other mental retardation programs within the State.

The report identifies problem areas and the needs of the mentally retarded, yet it falls far short of the mark in failing to establish an appropriate national commitment to redress the tragic conditions confronting the six million mentally retarded persons in the United States.

As a result of the Willowbrook site visit, I pledged myself to the introduction of a "Bill of Rights for the Mentally

### EXPERTS DECRY NEGLECT

#### "CHILDREN, CHIMPS AND 'PENS' "

On Monday, December 18th, the case of the New York State Association for Retarded Children against Rockefeller et. al., the so-called Willowbrook case, went to trial before Judge Orin Judd in the Eastern District Federal Court in Brooklyn. The first witnesses called for the plaintiffs were the parents of retarded children who presented a horror story of neglect, physical abuse, restraints, and the failure to provide even the minimal program for development.

It was the experts, however, who apparently had no "ax to grind" who laid in on the line before Judge Judd.

Dr. William Bronston in charge of medical care in a building at Willowbrook testified that recently, in September and last month, he carried a camera and took notes on his rounds. Here is some of what he described. "This is a picture of Patricia. She had allegedly fallen off the edge of a table and incurred this deep gash" he said.

"This is another patient. Note the punctures and v-shaped cuts. My experience shows that these are caused by (large) keys."

Another picture was of two feet. "Foot infection is enormously common at Willowbrook," Bronston said. "The two causes are lack of adequate care and filthy conditions. Look at the detergent eating away at his feet."

A picture of arms covered with running sores.

"This ulcer is repeatedly kept open because she has nothing else to do on the ward but pick it."

Bronston was one of the first professionals openly to describe his experiences at Willowbrook to reporters and blamed the problems on an inadequate overworked staff.

"The only thing the staff has time to react to are crises. So the residents act up and because there isn't enough staff, I've got to keep 50 per cent of my residents in a stupor on major tranquilizers," he testified.

Whether there is enough staff at Willowbrook is one of the keys to the trial.

The state has had two postponements since March and contends that it is doing its best and needs only time to complete the job.

But Bronston, a supervising nurse and 10 parents said conditions at the school had been deteriorating.

Supervising nurse Inez Stevens, who runs three buildings at night, remembered November 14th in her testimony.

"It was very busy," she said. "At one time I had two lacerations, a seizure and a disturbed patient. I'm the only

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## OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Issued four times a year by

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

175 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10010  
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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

President: **ELLIOT L. ARONIN**

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

## PROGRESS IN "OPERATION GENESIS" AT WILLOWBROOK

According to a March 7th, 1972 draft document from the Department of Mental Hygiene, Operation Genesis is described as an action plan to improve the care and initiate training of older children and adults who are severely profoundly retarded residents of Willowbrook State School. The plan is based on a project approach for one building unit at a time "with the objective of implementing basic and environmental and program improvements within a six month period before expanding the operation to include a subsequent building unit."

Building No. 6, one of the most severely impacted buildings at Willowbrook was chosen as the first building. On November 2nd, Mr. Weingold, a member of the Board of Visitors at Willowbrook visited the project to see what progress it had made and the following is his report which we feel important enough to share with our readers. It is interesting to note that in the draft plan (item #8) it is contemplated that an advisory board will be established which should include "board of visitors". To date, according to Mr. Weingold, no members of the Board of Visitors are involved in this advisory board. The report follows:

"This is the building where operation Genesis is taking place to institute a rehabilitation, care and training program in one of the worst buildings of Willowbrook.

Originally this building had 255 residents. In order to bring it down to a manageable size, 55 residents were removed to building No. 2, the medical building (described in visit of previous month) leaving 200 residents. These are severely and profoundly retarded, about 45 of whom are blind. Rudimentary programs of education, recreational therapy, and occupational therapy have been instituted.

Under the direction of a registered nurse, Miss Kelly, various rooms in the basement and elsewhere have been utilized for these programs.

About 150 of the 200 residents are receiving education, 50 in the school building and 100 within building No. 6 itself.

Unfortunately, building No. 6 is architecturally so unmanageable that there is no flow of program possible.

Staff seems to be very enthusiastic, but laboring under extremely adverse conditions and with extreme shortages in help.

The following shortages were pointed out to us:

There is one supervising nurse, one registered nurse and one practical nurse. There is a need for two more registered nurses.

There are 130 attendants; there is need for 30 more.

There are three (3) recreation workers, there is need for seven (7) more.

There is one O.T. and 3 para-professionals; there is need for 6 more O.T.'s.

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## WHO

In a schizophrenic world, who the mad?  
In a world replete with sorrow,  
Who the gleeful, who the sad?  
In a world to all kindness inimical,  
Who the normal, who the atypical?  
If the answer is, we must conform,  
More important is the question: what's the norm?

J.T.W.

## WILLOWBROOK REVISITED

### AN EDITORIAL BY JOSEPH ALVAREZ, MANAGER OF EDITORIAL SERVICES WNBC

The following is an editorial delivered on August 10, by Joseph Alvarez of NBC, which we reprint here in full.

"An inspection by Manhattan Assemblyman Andrew Stein of Willowbrook Hospital this week indicates that there have been some improvements made there since intolerable conditions were exposed earlier this year.

For example, the work force has been increased by about ten per cent since last January; the number of residents has been reduced by about five per cent. These are pluses.

However, some terrible minuses remain. Living conditions are still pretty bad. In one building, Stein said, seven toilets were found inoperative; in another, one shower to serve about 100 patients was found defective. At times, one attendant had to care for 50 to 60 patients.

Finally, the state has fallen behind in its program to move out inmates to smaller facilities to reduce the Willowbrook crush.

For a while, money was an obstacle, but the state's financial picture is rapidly changing. The Nixon administration has poured \$350 million into the state's coffers. Tax collections are exceeding anticipated revenues. Money should be available in these new-found resources to step up the drive to make Willowbrook — and all the state schools for the mentally retarded — decent institutions."

### GENESIS — (Continued from Previous Column)

There is one social worker, not an M.S.W., and need for 2 more.

There are no speech and hearing people — and there is need for 3.

The building is served by 1/2 physician, whatever that means. This physician has 510 patients under his care. Obviously an impossible task.

According to Dr. Ristig, almost all the attendants for whom there are slots, have been engaged, and most of the professional workers. Does this mean there are not enough slots assigned to building No. 6?

My impression is this is not a building in which the Department is supposed to be throwing all its efforts. Too little progress is being shown too late. One major cause is the failure of the Department to place the staff needed in this area.

On the positive side there is a difference that I see in this population as compared with the same population before operation genesis went into effect. The wards, of course, are less crowded and there is more space between beds. New beds with slide-out closet drawers beneath are on order for some, but have not been delivered.

The place is cleaner than it was, made more attractive through paint and murals; there seems to be much more involvement of staff with residents and morale seems higher, but at the present rate it will take years before this becomes comparable to other wards and facilities that this writer has seen in other parts of the country for the same kind of patients.

In addition, I am disturbed by the fact that 50 residents from building No. 6 are now in building No. 2, without any real viable program because of shortages of help. I think this speaks for itself without further comment."



# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ARONIN WITH REGARD TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

I am sure all of you by now are aware that as of the Fall of 1971, the New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc., was expelled by the NARC, Inc.

There is no point in going into the history of the NARC, which we helped found, its move from New York to Arlington, Texas, and various other indications of its lack of interest in this State.

The differences between the NYS ARC, Inc. and NARC began as far back as 1964, when the National Association, concerned that it was not getting enough money from its member units, enunciated the policy that member units should "obtain" rather than "provide" services. With this we disagreed, and voted in 1965 at a Board meeting, with only one dissenting, that we could not go along with the National policy.

Even after that, we contributed as a state more than double to the NARC that it had been receiving from the individual member units in New York State.

It was when the NARC insisted that we pay more and more almost without limit and refused to guarantee NYS ARC any board representation whatever, that the NYS ARC took a stand.

NARC demand for funds, which we felt unable to satisfy, was aggravated by the fact we were committed to providing direct services which NARC opposed.

Early in 1971, in anticipation of our possible ouster by NARC, Mr. Hodgson, Mrs. Weisenfeld and Mr. Weingold formed a new National Association called — NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE RETARDED, INC. This was done after the regional representative of NARC informed Mr. Weingold, and board members of NARC advised Mr. Hodgson that NARC intended to come into New York State and raise money if we were ousted. It was obvious to us that such invasion by NARC would siphon money out of New York State because none of it would be used for services here, would confuse the public and in fact, be deceitful.

What we had anticipated then happened, with NARC trying to obtain a license in New York City for house-to-house and canister campaign, renting offices in Utica for a similar campaign and trying to invade Elmira in Chemung County.

These efforts were thwarted on the local level by the strong reactions of United Funds as well as our own chapters. In addition, NARC could not qualify to do business in New York State because the Secretary of State said their name conflicted with NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE RETARDED, INC., which we had formed.

As a result of this, NARC has brought a law suit against the new corporation, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE RETARDED, INC. for an injunction to prevent it from using this name and thus closing the door to NARC for fund raising in New York State.

Your Executive Committee, at its meeting, December 2nd, 1972, voted to approve the actions taken by me as president, in hiring a law firm to defend this action and provide funds for doing so.

I am writing this to you so that everyone will understand exactly what is happening and the threat to the mentally retarded who may be deprived of services because of the funds the NARC may siphon off from this State and the confusion they will create in the minds of the public.

It is my opinion this must be resisted to the utmost and I hope I will receive the support of every chapter and every member in this effort.

In conclusion, I might add I think it is a sad day, indeed, when the needs of the mentally retarded children and

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# CHANGING ATTITUDES OF PARENTS STRESSED AT STATE CONVENTION

## ASSOCIATION URGED TO BE MILITANT

"It is important to say — you are always the keeper of the keys — you are an accountable steward," Attorney Dennis E. Haggerty of Philadelphia, told more than 300 delegates and guests at the concluding banquet of the state convention in Olean, N. Y.

A Consultant to President Nixon's Committee on Mental Retardation and co-chairman of the Committee of Mental Retardation and Law of the American Bar Association, as well as a parent of a mentally retarded child, Haggerty stressed two attitudes by the parents who are now demanding "equal rights" for care and education of their children and are turning to the courts from being defeated by the administrators on the administrative and legislative levels. This is the theme that ran through all the workshops at the convention.



Bob Hodgson, outgoing president installing Elliott Aronin at Convention.

This convention saw the end of his service of three years as president by Robert J. Hodgson, who received a special award from the Association. Awards and scholarships were given out by Mrs. Edward Burgess, State Committee Chairman with the Queensbury Inn of Glens Falls named Employer of the year and Mrs. Florence S. Johnson of Wassaic State School receiving a \$500 Arthur W. Pense Memorial Scholarship as an "Outstanding Teacher".

In addition, the outstanding employees from each of the state schools received certificates and checks.

One of the highlights of the convention was a presentation by Mrs. Ernst Briscoe, the president of the New York State Grange Women of a check for the sum of \$1107.08 from the members of the Grange.

The resolutions adopted at the convention reflected the attitude of the delegates in the strongest possible terms. Some of the more significant ones follow:

RESOLVED, That this Association pledge its continued determined efforts to secure the establishment of a separate Office of Mental Retardation.

RESOLVED, That this Association express its deep appreciation and thanks to the news media, and, in particular, to WABC-TV, and to Geraldo Rivera, for the service which

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adults and their families are submerged in this kind of activity, none of which, in my opinion, was of our doing.

We have at all times supported NARC with a membership more than two times greater than any other state, and about three times that of California; have never had more than one member on the Board, although Minnesota and California each have three, and several states have two; have supported legislation in Washington with much of which we did not agree; never received active support for what we thought was necessary, and in fact, never had national help us one iota in any of our struggles in New York State.

We hope all this will eventually be resolved, but we feel we have a moral and legal right and duty to defend the retarded of our state and, through them, the retarded everywhere.



# STATE CONVENTION ADOPTS LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

## CALLS FOR CREATION OF OFFICE OF OMBUDSMAN

In one of the most forthright statements of legislative policy, the State Convention in Olean adopted an 18 point legislative program with emphasis on seven of the items.

One of the new features in this program was the call for the creation of an Office of Ombudsman in the Executive Department, someone who would be able to hear all complaints made by the handicapped or those who speak for them and through whose efforts departments would be made to work together or to provide the services denied to the handicapped. It is noteworthy that this will not be for the retarded alone but for all handicapped.

The Association again stressed the need for a separation of mental retardation from the Department of Mental Hygiene.

The program as propounded by the delegates follows:

### A. STATE SCHOOLS AND SERVICES

\*\*\*1. Establishment of an Office of Mental Retardation in the Executive Department. The Committee will negotiate with other developmental disabilities groups for the purpose of finding a common ground on which all can unite in support of this measure.

2. Elimination of parental liability for fees for children under 21 years of age in the institutions operated by the Department of Mental Hygiene.

3. Elimination of the present upper age limit of 5 years in the law permitting the Department of Mental Hygiene, when overcrowding exists in state schools, to place mentally retarded persons who are on waiting lists in private facilities within and without the state at state expense.

### B. COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

\*\*\*1. Provision for reimbursement of communities by the state at the rate of 75% for mental retardation services provided locally.

\*\*\*2. Provision that rent paid to a Mental Retardation Services Company, and interest (not amortization) paid to HFA on mortgage loans for construction under contracts with Mental Health Boards be reimbursable expenses.

3. Provision that fees received for community mental health or mental retardation services from patients be treated as a community contribution for matching purposes.

4. Amendment of §11.19 (deductions) of the new Mental Hygiene Law so that subdivision 2. thereof shall read "other net income realized in the operation of a specified program" be deducted from operating costs to form net operating costs.

5. Provision that Community Mental Health Boards must hold public hearings on their proposed programs prior to their submission to the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene.

### C. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

\*\*\*1. Amendment to the Education Law (§4407) to increase the maximum amount to \$2500 and lower the age limit to 3 years.

2. Provision for weighted reimbursement to school districts for classes for the mentally retarded and other handicapped.

3. Elimination of the requirement of "homogeneousness" for the establishment of a class for the handicapped.

4. Clarification and liberalization of mileage provisions relating to transportation of handicapped children.

5. Permission for school districts to transport persons over 21 years of age to rehabilitation facilities without state aid.

### D. OTHER MATTERS

\*\*\*1. Amendment to the Insurance Law to require insurance companies and plans to include mentally retarded dependents in family health and hospital policies.

\*\*\*2. Amendment of the Criminal Procedure Law in re-

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## CONVENTION — (Concluded from Page 3)

focused attention on the degrading and dehumanizing conditions at Willowbrook and Letchworth Village State Schools.

RESOLVED, WHEREAS, the Governor, the Department of Mental Hygiene, its Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner for Mental Retardation and Children's Services have failed utterly to make substantive improvements in the conditions which prevail in the state schools; and

WHEREAS, the many residents in these institutions continue to be subjected to uncorrected deficiencies in basic care resulting from gross understaffing; inadequate safety standards and medical care; substandard diet; and a general lack of basic services needed to maintain and enhance their physical, intellectual, social and emotional function. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Association deplores and condemns the intransigence of the officials named above, and calls upon them to correct and alleviate these conditions without further delay and that the Association take affirmative action to implement this resolution.

RESOLVED, That this Association call upon the Department of Mental Hygiene to cease from the construction of large and unwieldy institutions, and to pursue workable alternatives including the construction or use of small facilities, and to expedite the development of hostels and group homes.

RESOLVED, WHEREAS, the parents and guardians of institutionalized retardates and this Association retain a legitimate concern for the welfare of these residents; and

WHEREAS, these parents and guardians and this Association, constitute a potentially valuable resource to help bring about more efficacious care of the residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this Association advocates the utilization of representatives of these groups in an advisory capacity, to assist in the selection of state school directors, and in other appropriate areas of planning and programming.

RESOLVED, that this Association censure the Department of Mental Hygiene for the invasion of the private funds of residents of state schools, without prior notification of the parents and guardians.

## TOM COUGHLIN ON STATE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thomas A. Coughlin, III, Executive Director of Jefferson County Association for Retarded Children and senior vice president of the ARC has been appointed with six others to the State Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council.

## LEGISLATIVE — (Concluded from Previous Column)

gard to the treatment of persons accused of crime who are adjudicated incompetent to stand trial to conform to the recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court on the Constitutional rights of such persons.

\*\*\*3. Amendment to the Executive Law in relation to unfair practices in employment, housing, land, and commercial space regarding the mentally and physically handicapped.

4. Amendment of the Social Services Law to provide for payments for mentally retarded persons who are receiving Aid to the Disabled to private institutions without the state that are approved by the Department of Mental Hygiene.

5. Provision for an "Ombudsman" in the Executive Department for all handicapped persons.

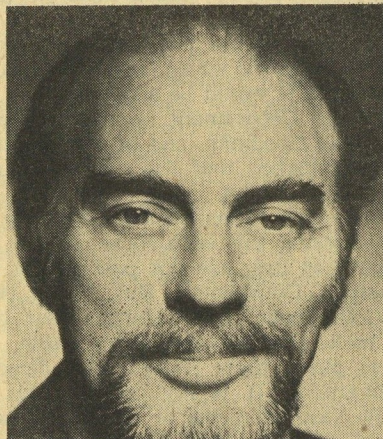
6. To amend the Guardianship Law to grant Guardianship on citation of a non-consenting parent, or to waive citation where there has been abandonment, to permit the court to dispense with the appearance of the mentally retarded person when the certifying physicians or physician and psychologist certify that the degree of mental retardation is such that the mentally retarded person is in fact incapable to understand the proceedings and to permit parents or guardians to make application for stand-by guardian.

(\*\*\*These are the matters stressed by the program.)



## ARONIN ELECTED PRESIDENT

Elliot L. Aronin of Great Neck, was unanimously elected President of the State Association at its convention. He is a member of the Board of Governors of New York State Association for Retarded Children, has served on various committees, Budget and Finance, Task Force Committees, etc. and as Vice President of the Southeast Region.



**ELLIOT L. ARONIN**

He also served on various committees for the National Association for Retarded Children, including Ways and Means and was a delegate at many National conventions.

He has been a member of Nassau County Chapter for 20 years and was president from 1963 to 1967. He is a graduate of City College with a BBA and a member of the firm of Soll and Aronin, CPA's for the past 25 years. He is married to Rose, interior designer and has two children, Peter 22, an artist, and Jane 20, studying at the Boston Conservatory of Music, an actress and musician.

## NEW YORK STATE GRANGE CONTRIBUTES TO ASSOCIATION

It was with a great deal of satisfaction that the State Association received from the New York State Grange a contribution of over \$1000 presented at the State Convention in Olean.



**Mrs. Briscoe presenting check on behalf of Grange to Jerry Weingold.**

"This is a particularly gratifying gesture," said Mr. Weingold, "because the members of the Grange represent the grassroots of rural state. Their service and hospitality committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Ernst Briscoe has been most receptive to us wherever we have gone."

"I remember," he continued, "how the education committee of the Grange years ago at their convention in Elmira passed a resolution supporting our legislation for mandatory classes for the trainable. This was, perhaps, the turning point in that piece of legislation."

In a letter to Mr. Weingold, Mrs. Briscoe wrote "It has been a pleasure to work with you this past year. I am in hopes that I may be of assistance locally as the years go on. Such a worthwhile cause should be furthered in every way possible."

## AS ONE PARENT VIEWED A WORKSHOP AT CONVENTION

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We found the following letter from Mrs. Richard W. Koenig of Armonk Village, N. Y., commenting on a workshop on institutions, so interesting that we are taking the liberty of printing it here in full. The letter follows:

"First — may I congratulate you on the fine job you are doing on behalf of our children and your excellent presentation at Olean (including the horse story).

At the workshop on Institutions I took strong exception to Dr. Scheiner's statement that the Association should not try to press for separation from the Department of Mental Hygiene, as we now know it, and create a separate department for the mentally retarded. Rather he felt we should press only for segregation of ages. My feeling is that a normal child will come in contact with people of all ages at home and at school but will hardly likely come in contact with the emotionally ill. Also our efforts to have the mentally retarded accepted into the community whenever possible will be strongly resisted by communities if they identify mentally retarded with the mentally ill. However, I do not wish to go into the many points I made because it is time consuming but I feel that somehow the parents of patients in the institutions should be made aware that there is a plan to move children from the present institutions for the mentally retarded to institutions for the mentally ill and that in fact some patients have already been moved. Although the hospitals for the emotionally disturbed may have separate units, created hurriedly, to accommodate the mentally retarded there is no doubt in my mind that once the patient is moved he or she will remain there and no efforts will be made by the Department of Mental Hygiene to build facilities for the mentally retarded and bring those patients back again to a hospital intended and designed exclusively for mentally retarded only. That a patient moved into a facility for emotionally disturbed will be identified as an emotionally disturbed person simply because he was a resident of such a hospital. I think this method of relieving the overcrowding of the institutions for the mentally retarded is deplorable. It is taking advantage of the patients who cannot make the decisions for themselves and of the parents who may not consider the implications when approving such transfers.

I have here a request for permission for the transfer of my daughter from Letchworth to Middletown to "decrease the severe overcrowding at Letchworth" but no indication was given me that Middletown State School is primarily a school for mentally disturbed patients. I checked this before disapproving the request for transfer.

I understand that some patients are to be sent to Middletown and some to Monroe. If there is considerable space at both these schools then to me the obvious plan would be to move all the emotionally disturbed from one school to the other thus leaving one school free completely for mentally retarded only and rename the school.

My daughter has been at Letchworth for 13 years and it was overcrowded when she went there. Nothing has been done to relieve it in that space of time. I do not believe for one moment that the Department of Mental Hygiene has any plans now to relieve the situation at Letchworth other than railroad the unfortunate residents into places such as Middletown and Monroe and then forget them.

While I mention my daughter only — I feel far more strongly for those who have no parents to go to bat for them or for those whose parents do not understand what this type of transfer means. I would like to see some publicity on that in the next issue of "Our Children's Voice."

I have worked with emotionally disturbed patients as a volunteer and have some experience with an emotionally disturbed person in my husband's family. There is no way whatsoever that this type of illness and mental retardation can be identified as one. Placing the two together would be the same as moving the inmates of Ft. Leavenworth into the Pentagon to relieve the overcrowding — simply because all wore uniforms."



## ROME STATE SCHOOL DIRECTOR IS HEART ATTACK VICTIM AT 56

Dr. Jack Hammond, 56, director of the Rome State School and former head of the controversial Willowbrook State School on Staten Island, died on January 2.

He was dead on arrival at Rome City Hospital. Coroner Thomas Cox said death was caused by a heart attack.



**DR. JACK HAMMOND**

Dr. Hammond went to Rome in July to succeed Dr. Charles Greenberg who retired last March. Dr. Hammond was assistant director of Rome State School for five years, 1959 to 1964, before his appointment as Willowbrook's director for eight years.

During his tenure, Willowbrook came under heavy criticism in the fall of 1971 after disclosure of severe overcrowding, inadequate staffing and poor conditions for its retarded patients.

Dr. Hammond was not criticized personally, however, and in fact was credited with improving relations with employees and bringing about a reduction in patient population.

State Mental Health Commissioner Dr. Alan Miller described Dr. Hammond as "fully and deeply a physician, gentle with his patients and unwavering in their behalf."

In his statement, Dr. Miller said Dr. Hammond "gave himself absolutely and without reserve. He was a rare and irreplaceable human being. His family, his patients and their families, his colleagues and his friends — all of us — will miss him and never find his like again."

## HOW NEW YORK STATE RANKS IN RESIDENTIAL CARE

In a recent study prepared Edward Eagle, Ph. D. of the Illinois Association for the Mentally Retarded ranks the various states with regard to 5 parameters of residential care in state institutions.

These 5 areas are: Rank for maintenance expenditure per average daily resident; Rank for number of full-time personnel per 1000 average daily residence; Rank for the least number of deaths per thousand number of residents at the beginning and end of the year; Rank for total admissions on the same basis; finally, Rank for net releases alive from the institutions.

Rank 1. signifies "the best" state in the nation for that parameter and 49 is the "worst". (Nevada has no state mental retardation institutions).

New York State ranks 21st for maintenance expenditure; 28th for number of full-time personnel; 33rd for the least number of deaths; 40th for total admissions, and 45th for net releases alive. This is for the fiscal year 1970. Compared to this, California ranks 3rd in maintenance expenditure; 1st in the number of full-time personnel; 46th in the number of deaths; 36th total admissions; and 13th in net alive releases.

Who ranks first? Alaska ranks 1st for maintenance expenditure, and for the least number of deaths. California 1st for full-time personnel, Missouri for total admissions, and for net alive releases.

Copies may be obtained from the State Office.

## THE FUTURE OF GOUVERNEUR STATE SCHOOL

Our readers will recall that Gouverneur State School was one of those that the State Department of Mental Hygiene in 1971 was going to close down, but then agreed to keep open after Commissioner Miller said he had learned more about the situation.

At that time, it was the plan of the Department of Mental Hygiene, to move the whole population of Gouverneur to Howard Park when it would be acquired.

The plans of the Department seemed to have changed and Mrs. Willie Mae Goodman, one of the plaintiffs in the original action is disturbed that the promise of moving the population had not been kept.

In writing to Deputy Commissioner Grunberg, Mr. Weingold said, "In discussing this with some parents at Gouverneur it was clear that they are not pushing for transfer of their children out of Gouverneur. But, if the children are to remain at Gouverneur, some things must be done to strengthen and make that program more viable.

"In the first place, there should be a director totally devoted to Gouverneur. It is my opinion, this should be someone from Physical Medicine or an allied discipline.

In the second place the facility should be improved so that there would be much more room for physical therapy with the necessary therapists to provide a total program.

In addition, there must be a survey made by competent persons with regard to physical space itself in terms of adequate toilet facilities, seats on toilets, separations, etc., etc., that are now being embodied into the new facilities."

On September 29th, Dr. Grunberg answered that Mr. Weingold's letter was essentially correct in stating that it had been contemplated that all the children of Gouverneur would be moved to Howard Park. The decision now is to transfer to Howard Park all residents of Gouverneur who originally came from Queens, but that the ones coming from other boroughs should be relocated in their own borough facility.

"I still believe that Gouverneur State School should be phased out and the residents should be moved to more suitable facilities," writes Dr. Grunberg, "but I also agree that if they are to be kept for a little longer we should improve the programs."

His letter goes on to say that he would be in touch with Mr. Weingold on his return from Montreal the end of September but to date there has been no further action on Gouverneur.

## KINGS COUNTY STATE SCHOOL OPENS

Nine retarded youngsters, age 5-9 who had been in the Willowbrook State School on Staten Island almost all their lives, became the first residents of the new \$27 million Kings County State School at 888 Fountain Avenue, Brooklyn in July of this year.

The facility is under the direction of Dr. Calvin Michael and its major focus is to try to prepare the children for living outside the institution.

The new school on nearly 40 acres of filled-in land in East New York consists of 8 residential buildings, two stories high. Each building will house 72 youngsters, usually two to a room, a few rooms will hold four. The total possible population is 750 residents but every effort will be made to keep it below that. According to Dr. Michael the services are planned to reach at least one-third of the developmentally handicapped population of Brooklyn and about 7- or 8,000 persons. According to Dr. Owen Bernstein, deputy director of the school, "The main thrust is toward normalization rather than institutionalization."

One of the many service centers in operation is one in Williamsburgh where the day training center is being operated under contract with the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, New York City Chapter.



## WILLOWBROOK AND OTHERS HAVE LOST MILLIONS, CHARGES BIAGGI

Willowbrook and the 10 other New York State Schools for the Mentally Retarded have lost \$36,000,000 a year in medicaid payments because they failed to meet standards, it was charged by Congressman Mario Biaggi. An affidavit from Morton Chalef, Associate Regional Commissioner, Medicaid Services HEW detailed for the first time the large loss of funds. The affidavit also revealed that Willowbrook alone will lose \$8,000,000 a year in medicaid payments.

According to Commissioner Chalef in 1971 11 institutions including Willowbrook were surveyed pursuant to state and federal regulations and failed to meet the standards as skilled nursing facilities. On June 20, 1972 the 11 state retardation schools were then reclassified from skilled nursing facilities to intermediate care facilities at a subsequent and sizeable reduction in medicaid payments.

Between December 31, 1971 and June 20, 1972 the state attempted to delay the loss of medicaid funds by successfully seeking a court stay, but on June 20, 1972 Judge Port of the U.S. District Court, Northern District (Syracuse) issued an order dissolving the stay.

The main failure was that the state retardation schools could not meet the standards of proper care for the patients, particularly the ratio of nurses to patients which was far below the acceptable rules of the HEW. To protect the loss of the entire \$88,000,000 in medicaid payments that they had been receiving, the state asked HEW to reclassify the 11 institutions as intermediate care facilities with lower standards of care, numbers of nurses and personnel, and resulting in a lower medicaid rate per patient care.

"The acceptance of lower standards resulted in a loss of \$36,000,000 in medicaid payments, a tragic situation since the 11 schools were already under attack because of their uncivilized 'warehouses' and neglect", said Biaggi. Biaggi charged that this was a deliberate loss of \$36,000,000.

At the end of the fiscal year, 3/31/72, Willowbrook received \$24,732,686.20 in medicaid reimbursements. Under the intermediate care facilities rating for fiscal year, Willowbrook will only receive \$16,458,161.60. More than 90% of the patients at Willowbrook and the other schools are under medicaid payments.

## TIGHT TO THE VEST AT SUFFOLK

The following is a memorandum from our Suffolk Chapter to all members on the rumor that Suffolk State School had a planned lay-off of 75 employees.

"We have received recently many inquiries about several Long Island press releases announcing a planned 'lay-off' to 75 Suffolk State School employees.

After checking with Suffolk State School authorities, we learned that this information was inaccurate. The information we received is as follows:

After the State freeze was lifted, Suffolk State School was given permission to recruit and hire 230 employees. After doing so, the institution was told by the State that it had "overhired" by 36 staff. It was then indicated that there would be no firing procedures, but that the original 230 staff additions would be reduced by 36 through attrition, that is, when someone quits, resigns, is transferred, retires, etc., he would, simply, not be replaced.

It was also indicated that this reduction of 36 would not affect direct resident management areas, for example, attendants, food service, etc., or vital support systems, such as, pharmacy, nursing, x-ray and others."

### Comment

This is all very good. But it seems that at a time when state school staffing should be enriched, if not, totally maximized, a reduction of any kind at this institution is detrimental to the welfare of residents there. Why is the State reducing staff, whether the process of 'attrition' or anything else, when it should, in fact, be adding personnel?

We encourage our Suffolk friends to be in touch with their state Legislators and ask them these questions.

nurse on duty. I didn't know where to go. It's just too much for one person."

Conditions at Willowbrook are so chaotic, Miss Stevens said, that she was placed in charge of the building last September without formally being instructed of her responsibilities.

Bronston said that overworked plumbers did not have time to fix stopped-up toilets and overworked attendants did not have time to flush those that do work.

"And since there are no water fountains, most of the residents drink directly out of toilet bowls filled with excrement," he said.

Two expert witnesses testified that the treatment of residents at Willowbrook was "thoroughly inadequate" and led to mental and physical deterioration. Both criticized the school as a definite reservoir of widespread filth, neglect and inadequate food and staff.

Dr. James Clements, president-elect of the American Association on Mental Deficiency said that he spent three days in November and the Sunday before his testimony in December he visited 16 of the 27 buildings. Dr. Clements is director of the Retardation Center in Atlanta and a former consultant to the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene. He said that he believed that patients at Willowbrook deteriorated both mentally and physically. He described his last visit to a so-called baby building for children under 10 years of age which he called a very tragic situation.

A young Roman Catholic priest paced in circles about one of the four enclosed "pens with youngsters clutching his arms and legs, eager to make verbal contact," he said. "The children," he went on, "being dragged through their own feces."

No attendant entered any of the four pens which measure 10 by 20 feet and contained about 25 children, each he reported. Rather the attendants on the perimeter of a four foot wall "pushed back" those children who tried to climb over it.

Dr. Clements said he saw a child "covered with vomit". The residents only entertainment was a television set for each pen, but the children did not watch . . . the employees did. He said he did not inspect the other baby buildings because the nurse in charge of the other units told him that building 16 was the best of the baby buildings.

Babies and young children kept in pens, said Dr. Clements had the same behavior as chimpanzees kept in boxes and deprived of any outside contact.

Both exhibited head banging, whirling in place and other compulsive behavior, he told the court.

The floors are covered with urine and feces and the children are lying on the floor banging their heads on the walls, spinning on their backs and just staring at the ceiling, he testified. He said that a normal three year old child would deteriorate in the same way if kept in a pen similar to that at Willowbrook. Another expert witness was Mrs. Patricia C. McNelly, director of nursing at Central Wisconsin Colony and Training School in Madison and a consultant to several mental retardation programs in the nation. She called Willowbrook "one of the worst I have ever seen." She spent three days there in November.

"There is no use of new techniques or approaches," she said. "There is not enough staff. There is not enough food and supplies. It's filthy."

Mrs. McNelly who also evaluates institutions for the Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation found that residents "were just allowed to deteriorate."

In rebuttal Dr. Frederick Grunberg, Deputy Commissioner for M.R. and Childrens Services, testified that the population of Willowbrook had declined to less than 5000 and personnel was being hired. On cross examination he stated that only about 1/3 of the positions had been filled and that there was no written plan for Willowbrook.



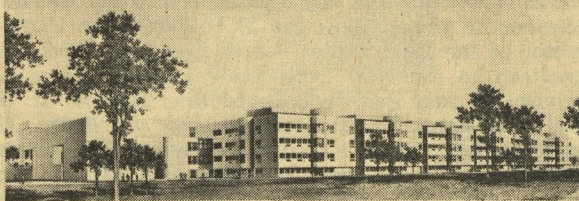
# 8 DR. MILLER DESCRIBES SERVICES AT NEW BRONX STATE SCHOOL

At the invitation of the Association, Dr. Alan D. Miller, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene has sent in a write-up of the objectives of the Bronx State School for which ground was broken recently as reported in this issue.

The full statement follows:

## OBJECTIVES OF BRONX STATE DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES AND PROPOSED USE OF BRONX STATE SCHOOL

Bronx State Developmental Services (BSDS), of which the Bronx State School will be an important part, intends to provide a broad range of services for children and adults with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. The primary goal is to help create or provide services that are not currently available in the community.



RENDERING OF NEW BRONX STATE SCHOOL

The overall long-range plans include the development of the following services in collaboration with New York City, voluntary agencies and consumer groups: (1) short- and longer-term residential services, including crisis intervention, respite, extended care, group homes, and foster care; (2) inpatient and outpatient active rehabilitation programs for the multiply handicapped; (3) programs for preschool handicapped and retarded children, including day-care services for infants, preschool nurseries, home-management training programs; (4) a variety of adolescent services, including residential, counselling, recreational and vocational services, sheltered workshops, and day programs; (5) home-management programs, not only for infants and preschool children on waiting lists for current programs, but also for older persons; and (6) nursing homes for the aged retarded.

To achieve these goals, the core staff of BSDS is currently participating in the development of a variety of community services throughout the Bronx. These community services will form part of a network of programs which will be coordinated with those provided at the central residential and day treatment center.

### Use of the Facility

The final determination of how space will be used will depend on the needs of the community.

The current intention is to use the center, with its 384 residential spaces and large habilitation space, to serve at least 1,500 retarded and other developmentally disabled children and adults.

The basic residential space is easily convertible to use for day programs. Individual subunits are convertible into family living units. Furthermore, living units can be so arranged that they permit serving together, where appropriate, clients of different age groups and with varying degrees of disability.

Residents will not be restricted to the center but will move between the center and other community facilities.

### Use of 384 Residential Spaces

There will be 96 long-term extended care treatment beds for moderately, severely, or profoundly retarded children who are in crisis, awaiting alternate placement, or in need of long-term extended rehabilitation. Another 72 beds will be used to provide long-term extended care treatment for adolescents and adults. The program for these 168 resi-

dents will include physical, occupational and speech therapies; behavior modification or shaping techniques; special education; recreational therapy; and supervised socialization and prevocational training.

There will be 24 transitional beds for adolescents or adults. Emphasis here will be on training and preparing retarded clients to live in the community. Skills such as learning to travel independently, self-care skills, group living, homemaking and some vocational training will be emphasized.

Forty-eight beds will be used to provide short-term intensive treatment for children and adolescents requiring admission for several weeks or months to undergo extensive diagnostic investigation or to achieve specific rehabilitation goals.

Forty-eight more beds, or the equivalent space, will be used for day training for adolescents and adults. Emphasis here will be on day training and rehabilitation for clients living at home and coming to the center during the day. Adolescents and adults living in hostels or foster care homes could attend to receive specialized physical rehabilitation, recreation habilitation, vocational training or other programs not otherwise available at their local setting.

The remaining 96 beds, or the equivalent space, will be used for children as follows:

—An infant (up to 18 months) day program will emphasize stimulation and infant physical rehabilitation techniques for grossly retarded and handicapped infants identified in the community. No such program currently exists.

—A day treatment program for up to 18-month-old "high risk" mildly retarded or deviant children will emphasize innovative treatment techniques, including sensory stimulation, sensory feedback programming, and reinforcement techniques. It will also provide concomitant parent counseling and training to apply treatment techniques at home.

—A day program will be conducted for 18- to 36-month-olds, mostly physically handicapped and retarded children in need of intensive physical or occupational therapy and language stimulation to improve their functional status.

—A day treatment program for 3- to 6-year-old multiply handicapped children (who are not usually accepted in other programs) will emphasize special sensory training for sensory-impaired children, physical rehabilitation for the multiply handicapped, and any other necessary habilitation or educational techniques.

### Central Classroom and Therapy Areas

The central education and habilitation space will be used for all the above programs. In addition, some innovative special educational programs are being planned in collaboration with local community agencies and graduate schools of education which will use the available classroom space.

### University Affiliations

Affiliations with Albert Einstein College of Medicine and its newly designated university-affiliated Training Center for Training in Mental Retardation, with research scientists at the Rose F. Kennedy Center for Research in Mental Retardation and Human Development, and with the graduate schools of Yeshiva University will enable Bronx State Developmental Services to make the Bronx State School an outstanding model for services for the retarded and other developmentally handicapped. These relationships will also enable BSDS to emphasize training of staff to serve the needs of the developmentally handicapped in the community.

### Summary

The creation of the Bronx State School will provide a vital component in a broad range of needed services for the Bronx. The school will not be set apart from other programs in the community, and its clients will not be cared for in isolation. The school will become an integral component of all services for the handicapped in the Bronx so that the school and its related community services will help the retarded and other developmentally handicapped to become useful and productive citizens.

## PLAN NOW - STATE CONVENTION - OCTOBER 11-14



# MENTALLY RETARDED AND OTHER HANDICAPPED NEGLECTED BY STATE

## FLEISCHMANN REPORT SCORES EDUCATION

At least 200,000 mentally, physically or emotionally handicapped children in New York State are waiting out their childhood years at home untreated, or are lingering undetected in classrooms, listening to lessons beyond their comprehension, according to the Fleischmann Commission Report.

In the chapter on "Children with Special Needs" in its three volume study of elementary and secondary education in the state, the commission paints a dark picture of inadequate care for the state's estimated total of 459,000 handicapped children. It criticizes ineffectual and sometimes inaccurate diagnostic systems, administrative red tape, bureaucratic timidity, "unforgivable" public indifference and racial and cultural prejudice affecting the handicapped and children in state homes and training schools.

"Conditions for the handicapped are so deplorable, with half of the children not cared for at all, it has to have the highest priority," the Commission chairman, Manly Fleischmann, said at a news conference on the report.

The Commission proposed that the state spend \$1.2 billion this year for a program to correct deficiencies. This is \$360 million more than the state has allowed in its budget.

The money would be used to reorganize and expand the administration of state programs for the handicapped, to recruit and train new diagnosticians and special teachers, to seek out the "invisible" handicapped and to break down the isolation of children requiring special help.

The commission stressed that the figure of 459,000 handicapped children in the state was a minimum one, based on a conservative estimate in the 1970 census that 9.3 per cent of people between the ages of 5 and 20 nationwide suffer from disabilities ranging from minor hearing problems to crippling physical disorders compounded by mental and emotional problems.

Other estimates by the commission, based on Federal census figures and other sources place the proportion of handicapped children as high as 35 per cent.

About 40 per cent — or 85,175 — of the state's enrolled handicapped children live in New York City, where the school system "does a better job than most in serving handicapped children," the commission said. But the report added that there were at least 20,000 handicapped children in the city who had not been identified and were not being helped.

Noting that the first step in helping disabled children is knowing who they are, the commission recommended establishing regional offices of the Department of Education, each equipped with a computerized central registry of the handicapped.

And once handicapped children are diagnosed, the report said, they often are not retested at the required two-year interval, so that some children become "lost" in special programs they may no longer need.

Similar shortcomings in the testing system have resulted in a disproportionate number of black and minority children being sent out of normal schools to special classes.

"Special classes may have become a convenient place for children who are not really wanted in the public school," the report said. "Local districts seem to dispense with unwanted minority group children by diagnosing them as handicapped" and "sending them to special institutions."

Once in operation, the commission said, the mobile diagnostic teams would retest each child at frequent intervals with tests that take language and cultural differences into account, as a safeguard against inequitable treatment of minorities.

The commission said the goal of its recommendations was to insure that each child in need of help would have the opportunity or special classes at state expense, within his or her local school district.

(Concluded Next Column)



The Onondaga and Jefferson County Chapters joined forces in September, when Tom Coughlin (Jefferson ARC Executive Director) and Susan Morse (Onondaga ARC Public Relations Director) made a joint guest appearance on Syracuse's WHEN T.V. Channel 5. The half hour program, "Dialogue," was hosted by WHEN's News Director, Andy Brigham (left). The conversation centered around institutions and community alternatives in the Central New York area, and the work of ARC in the two counties.

## STATE LEGISLATION AFFECTING EDUCATION OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Following are some of the major N.Y. bills passed and signed into law in 1972 affecting the education of the handicapped.

1. Adult volunteers on buses for the handicapped, Chapter 179, Laws of 1972 amends the Education Law, §4404 to allow boards of education to permit adult volunteers serving without compensation to act as attendants on school buses used to transport handicapped pupils.

2. Elimination of State Education Department register of handicapped children, Chapter 855, eliminates the requirement that the Education Department maintain a register containing the names, ages and addresses of all handicapped children within the state.

School districts, however, are still under obligation to collect such information but are relieved of the administrative duty of transmitting such information to the Department except on the request and in such form the Commissioner may prescribe. Each school district must maintain a register indicating whether such handicapped children are being educated within the public schools of the district or elsewhere.

3. Architectural Barriers bill, in limited form is finally passed and is Chapter 656, Laws of 1972. This adds a new Article 4-A to the Public Buildings Law to require future construction of public buildings, including schools, which are likely to be used by physically handicapped persons, to conform to the requirements of the State Building Construction Code relating to facilities for the physically handicapped. Such State Building Construction Code is quite strict in eliminating Architectural Barriers.

### M.R. — (Concluded from Previous Column)

Statistics compiled by the Fleischmann Commission show at least 25,000 educable and trainable mentally retarded children are not receiving service. This is an underestimate according to the Association for Retarded Children, but certainly demonstrates the problem very, very strongly. Among other recommendations the Fleischmann Commission recommended that the state aid be at 2.05 for classes for the handicapped which means doubling state aid, a measure that has been recommended by this Association for many years.

The situation with regard to the M.R. was presented to the Commission by formal testimony of Mr. Weingold.



## ROCKY GREETES ONE OF OUR CONSTITUENTS



**Nicki Greco, 5, of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children's Day Training Program learns about the New York State Seal from an expert, Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller, Honorary Chairman of Suffolk's 1972 Candlelight Ball. The Ball is AHRC's largest fund raising event of the year. It was held November 4th at the Colonie Hill in Hauppauge.**

## COURTS IN DISPUTE ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Conflicting decisions by two Federal judges concerning the rights of the mentally retarded and the mentally ill have reached the first stage of an appeal. A decision by the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit is expected in six weeks to three months. The appellate judges must reconcile decisions of District Court judges in Alabama and Georgia.

Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., of Montgomery, Alabama, handed down a series of decisions starting early in 1971 holding that any person committed against his will to a state mental institution had a constitutional right to "adequate treatment from a medical standpoint."

Later the judge wrote a detailed set of guidelines that the state must meet in the state schools for the retarded in treatment from a medical standpoint."

In a virtually identical case initiated in Georgia, however, Judge Sidney L. Smith of Atlanta rendered a very different decision last August, holding that there was no constitutional right to medical treatment and dismissed the case.

Both cases were consolidated and appealed for purposes of argument before judges John Minor Wisdom, James P. Colman and Griffin Ball.

All arguments concentrated on the issue of involuntary commitment. At one point Judge Wisdom asked if "the assumption that they will be treated is what makes their method of commitment acceptable." Charles Halpern, an attorney, supporting Judge Johnson's decision, said that it was.

Robert Johnson, the Justice Department attorney, argued that detaining a mental patient without adequate treatment "would be like taking him to a desert and saying 'we are going to leave you here until you build a house'. If we do that we must provide him a hammer and nails."

State attorneys contended, however, the issue was not one of civil liberties but a threat to the concept of federalism. "Whether a state shall provide a particular governmental service," wrote Alabama's attorney general William J. Baxley, "and if so, what amount . . . are the questions which address themselves exclusively to state law."

## CONGRESS ENACTS SOCIAL SECURITY AMENDMENTS

The most important piece of legislation approved by the 92nd Congress in relation to MH-MR programs is the Social Security Amendments of 1972, P.L. 92-603. Stripped of controversial welfare reform regulations, the final approved bill will be the basis of many changes in mental retardation program operation. The most important impact on the mentally disabled is an extension of medicaid and medicare benefits for in-patient hospital and intermediate care facilities for the mentally ill. This was done in several ways including:

Mentally ill aged are now eligible for intermediate care under medicaid.

Individuals under 21 are now eligible for in-patient psychiatric hospital service under medicaid,

And persons eligible for disability insurance are now eligible for in-patient medicare benefits regardless of age.

Effective July 1, 1973 the law authorizes a  $\frac{1}{8}$  reduction in Federal matching payments for long-term stay in hospitals, nursing homes, intermediate care facilities and mental institutions if the state fails to have effective programs of control over the utilization of institutional services or where they fail to conduct the independent professional audit of patients as required by law.

Probably one of the most important elements in the bill is that it will replace the present state program of aid to the aged, blind, and disabled by January 1974 with a whole new federal program of supplemental security income. It is important to know that under the new \$2.5 billion ceiling for 75% Federal matching funds, the mentally retarded and drug and alcohol problems are in categories where states may spend allotments on an unlimited basis. Mental health is not.

## PRESIDENT VETOES REHABILITATION ACT AND HEW LEGISLATION

One of the presents the mentally retarded received last year was President Nixon's veto of the Health, Education and Welfare budget as well as the Rehabilitation Act of 1972.

Previous issues of O.C.V. have described how broad ranging the rehabilitation act is, with special emphasis on dropping the word vocational and including the severely handicapped, a form of help for independent living.

The President stated in vetoing the bill that it would "seriously jeopardize the goals of the Vocational Rehabilitation program and is another example of fiscal irresponsibility. Its provisions would divert this program from its basic vocational objectives into activities that have no vocational element whatsoever or are especially medical in character." So much for the President's understanding of rehabilitation.

In a letter sent to his constituents, Senator Harrison A. Williams, Jr. of New Jersey stated, "My colleagues and I on the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee intend to reintroduce this bill at the convening of the next Congress, and I expect that hearings will be held very early in the session."

The veto of HEW appropriations leaves in limbo funds for developmental disabilities as well as the various titles under 89-313 for programs for the retarded in public schools. The in-service training program for the State Association which it has been operating for the last four years is in doubt at this point. The very fine Camp educational program that was financed by the State Department of Education, Division of Handicapped Children is also in limbo right now.

We can only wait to see what the Congress will do in the next session.

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## PENNSYLVANIA SEPARATES MENTAL RETARDATION FROM MENTAL HEALTH

### "IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME COMING"

The Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children, through its president, Mrs. Harry Clapp, announces that finally the Office of Mental Retardation is being separated from the Office of Mental Health.

Assurances have been given to Mrs. Clapp that the Governor would establish a separate Office of Mental Retardation.

The Commissioner of Mental Retardation will report directly to the Secretary of the Department of Public Welfare Office;

That the budgets would immediately be separated;

That the administration would report deficiency appropriations which provides \$12 million for those items previously deleted, most of which were for M.R. services.

The Pennsylvania Association compares this split to that of the Greek Orthodox Church from the Roman Catholic Church 1053 A.D. We don't quite get the similarity, but certainly it has taken as long.

## SUPREME COURT RULES ON ABILITY TO STAND TRIAL

The whole New York State procedure under the Criminal Procedure Law with regard to commitment of a person who is unable to understand the nature of the proceedings in a criminal case is called into question by recent Supreme Court ruling. In the case of Jackson vs. Indiana the court has returned the case to the trial court for further proceedings.

Jackson, a 27 year old deaf mute with a mental age of three to four years, was accused four years ago of stealing \$9.00 in two separate robberies. Although he denied the charges, he was never brought to trial because he was found to be incompetent and unable to assist in his own defense. The court committed him to a state mental institution until he could stand trial and he has been in the institution for almost three years because the nature of his condition would probably have been for life.

It is contended that his confinement under these conditions deprived him of his equal protection under the laws, his right to bail, and his right to a speedy trial.

In the opinion of the Supreme Court on June 9, 1972 "A person charged by a state with a criminal offense who is committed solely on account of his incapacity to proceed to trial cannot be held more than a reasonable time necessary to determine whether there is a substantial probability that he will attain that capacity in the foreseeable future." The court went on to say that if this is not the case the state must institute customary civil commitment or release the defendant.

Under the direction of Jack Bernstein, the ARC is preparing legislation to amend the N.Y. State laws to conform.

## LOWER LEGAL AGE OF ADULTHOOD TO 18 SUGGESTS WEINGOLD

In a letter to Louis J. Lefkowitz, Attorney General, Mr. Weingold, Executive Director, suggested that the legal age of adulthood in New York State should be lowered to 18.

The rationale for this is the Constitutional amendment lowering the legal age for voting from 21 to 18, which, in effect, states that a person of that age is an adult.

The effects of lowering the legal age of adulthood to 18 are many, but, especially for the retarded, it would affect liability of parents for fees to the state for patients both in the institutions and in the community. Parent assets would be eliminated in assessing eligibility for Aid to the Disabled.

A call from the Attorney General's office informed Mr. Weingold that there is a Commissioner studying this matter now and he would receive a letter from the Albany office of the Attorney General. This has not been received to date.

## GROUND BREAKING IN BROOME COUNTY



Edwin L. Crawford, Broome County Executive and Mrs. Elaine Shillington, Chairman of the Tioga County Legislature wielding the shovel to break ground for Broome-Tioga mental retardation building in Binghamton. Also in the picture are Dr. Ellen Birchall, Assistant Commissioner, NYS Department of Mental Hygiene and Mr. Alan Pike, Senior Program Analyst, NYS Department of Mental Hygiene.

## JUDGE CRITICIZES WILLOWBROOK

### SAYS HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING

A family court judge has blasted the "horrible, dreadful" conditions at Willowbrook State School and called on the state to move quickly to remedy them. But he "regretfully" ruled that he had no authority to intervene on behalf of any neglected children at the Staten Island institution.

In a decision made last week and served on the parties yesterday, the judge, Ralph J. Cory, dismissed a suit brought by the Staten Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The society had asked him to act on behalf of neglected children at Willowbrook and order the City Welfare Department to contribute toward their support.

Ira J. Raab, an attorney for the society, said he will file a notice of appeal, and called the decision a partial victory. He said it was the first judicial finding of neglect at Willowbrook.

Cory, assistant administrative judge of the family court for Staten Island, said state laws provide that a neglect charge can be brought against a parent or "other persons legally responsible" for a child with food, shelter, education or medical or surgical care."

But "not even by the most strained or liberal rules of construction" could the law be interpreted to include state institutions such as Willowbrook, he ruled.

But he said he could not help expressing his feelings about the "horrible conditions at Willowbrook", where the "most helpless and defenseless of our citizens" have often been consigned to "inadequate warehouses." Public apathy is now a renewed danger because the "gloryseekers" who exploited the problems for what he saw as publicity purposes "have long since fled the scene," he warned. He urged the Legislature not only to appropriate enough money for Willowbrook, but to authorize a state court to intervene.

The State Department of Mental Hygiene, which runs Willowbrook, "in effect is prosecutor, judge, and jury in its own domain," he charged.

Miodrag Ristic, acting director of Willowbrook, said no one denies that "deplorable conditions" exist at Willowbrook. But he said a program is in effect to eliminate such conditions within 20 months.

He said the federal courts do have jurisdiction over conditions at Willowbrook and that a similar suit is pending in Brooklyn Federal Court.



## <sup>12</sup> EXCITING PROJECTS AROUND THE COUNTRY

### LEGISLATURES REACT IN MANY STATES

Some very exciting things are happening around the country to develop alternatives to institutional care and to improve the quality of life for the retarded who are housed in institutions.

Colorado is using funds from three federal hospital improvement grants as "seed" money for the establishment of more community based homes. The seed money is being used to stimulate community service agencies to provide group home residential services which may become self sustaining, giving Aid to the Disabled, for example, as part of the basic operating expenses.

The State of Washington, Developmental Disabilities Office, has joined forces with the State Human Rights Commission in an effort to safeguard the personal rights and dignity of residents in five state institutions for the mentally retarded.

Virginia, through a grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of HEW, is seeking new and better alternative living arrangements for mentally retarded adults. The demonstration project is exploring five types of living situations with each resident getting special attention.

An adult basic education grant, funded by the U.S. Office of Education, is assisting the residents of Higginsville State School and Hospital in Missouri to leave institutional life and become productive members of society. A new program called Home Start has been initiated in Elkhart County, Indiana by the Elkhart County ARC, through early home intervention in a case where a mentally retarded child comes into a family. The objective of the program is to encourage early stimulation and intervention which will enable the child to achieve his own maximum level of development within a family setting. Since January of last year 26 families have received services through a staff consisting of a coordinator, two half-time teachers and a consulting psychologist. Referrals are usually received through doctors and concerned friends.

A patient advocate has been added to the staff of Fergus Falls State Hospital in Minnesota. His function is to provide residents with a recognizable and immediate method of appeal. Another tool used at Fergus Falls to insure residents' rights is the Humane Practices Committee. Chaired by the patient advocate, the committee's role is to openly discuss resident problems and to recommend solutions to the administration.

On the legislative front Massachusetts legislature enacted a bill which prohibits insurance companies from refusing to issue life insurance policies to mentally retarded persons between 3 and 21 years of age who are otherwise eligible. The New York State plan to continue the retarded on family health and hospital plans beyond the usual limiting age has been adopted by Georgia, Wisconsin and Ohio.

Funds for the development of group homes system in Pennsylvania have been doubled over the last fiscal year. Contracts have lead to the development of 96 homes.

The California Legislature passed a law which provides for uniform application of fire and safety codes throughout the state as they affect homes and institutions used for protective living purposes, and forbids local jurisdictions to adopt and enforce contradictory ordinances.

Illinois appropriations bill doubled last year's funds for mental retardation community living facilities. \$2.3 million has been appropriated for the operation of mental retardation community residences, a 23 per cent increase for day treatment centers.

In Massachusetts, the whole Education Law with regard to the handicapped has been recodified to insure every child an appropriate educational service with the state picking up 110 per cent of the state average for such expenses.

Kentucky has caught up with the rest of the country

(Continued Next Column)

## JUDGE THREATENS TO JAIL OFFICIALS IN CASE OF "GIRL NOBODY WANTS"

Indicating the frustration of Family Court Judges and even Supreme Court Judges with regard to orders directing state agencies to do something for the handicapped, Family Court Judge Douglas Trost in Buffalo threatened jail for a number of officials if they did not find a place for a mentally retarded girl of 15 who was also a discipline problem. Acting on a Supreme Court order of Justice Walter J. Mahoney, Family Court Douglas Trost took jurisdiction over the girl in order to find her a place to be.

He reminded officials they were dealing "not with some phantom" but with blood, bone and emotion. Unable to get the state hospitals to take the girl in as a resident, the Judge finally agreed to accept the offer of a foster home from the Services for the Mentally Retarded of Erie County even though he did not consider this the most appropriate place for her.

"We've been monitoring this little girl for four years," said the Judge, "in and out of foster homes, in and out of sleeping in doorways, and they keep bouncing this child back to us."

"She can't live in the community. She will not be in the community eventually."

The Judge said it was inconceivable that a room full of officials with powers, particularly directed to the Department of Mental Hygiene which is supposed to handle the mentally disabled under the Mental Hygiene Law, could not find a place for this one girl.

## TRANSPORTATION OF CHILDREN BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS UNDER 5 AND OVER 21 PERMITTED

An opinion by counsel to the State Department of Education agrees with the contention of this Association that school districts may transport children under the age of 5 and over the age of 21, without state aid.

This, of course, applies to handicapped children and will be of great importance in transporting children to day training centers and adult programs operated by our Association. The inquiry came from our Cayuga County Chapter where they are fortunate enough to get the local boards to declare this as an official policy.

## FAMILY CARE RATE RAISED BY MENTAL HYGIENE

In September of 1972, the Department of Mental Hygiene announced that it had received approval from the State Division of the Budget to increase foster family care payment per patient from \$165 to \$195 a month, effective October 1st.

The increase was authorized by the last session of the legislature.

According to the Department of Mental Hygiene, over 5,000 patients at state psychiatric hospitals and residents of state schools for the retarded are now receiving care in family settings.

## PROJECTS — (Concluded from Previous Column)

in many respects by implementing the Mandatory Special Education Act of 1970. So has Ohio.

New Mexico has passed a bill requiring school districts to provide education programs for all handicapped children within five years and doubled the state's normal special education reimbursement for the education of trainable retarded youngsters.

To date the 1973 Jt. Leg. Comm. on Mental and Physical Handicap has addressed itself to a so-called "unified services" bill, a funding device. No hearings have been held on other programs.



# MARCHES IN ROCHESTER, ONONDAGA CO. PROTEST CUTS

## DEMONSTRATIONS BRING RESULTS

Early in September of 1972, the Monroe County Legislature presented their budget for the next fiscal year. It proposed a 9.8% cut in funds for mental health agencies contracting with the Board of Mental Health.

The proposal was discussed at the September meeting of the Coordinating Group on Mental Retardation of Monroe County. The group was alerted to the fact that over 100 clients would have to be dropped from programs at the Day Care Training Center and the Monroe County Association for Retarded Children should the reduced budget be adopted. It was mandated that the chairman of the group, Lillian Courtheoux, set up an ad hoc committee to register their concerns to the legislators.

The committee was organized and it was decided to use three methods to protect the proposed cuts in funds:

1. A letter was sent to the membership of each agency asking that they contact their legislators and register their objections to the reduced funding proposal and what it would mean in terms of individuals eliminated from program.
2. Several parents and agency executives were designated to speak at the budget hearing.
3. A protest march was organized to demonstrate our concern.

September 30th, the day of the budget hearing, was cold; it was raining, and it was windy and penetrating. However, a sizeable group of brave marchers, young and old, carrying home-made signs, demonstrated in front of the County Office Building while inside the Court House a number of persons presented position papers.

After the hearing several legislators said that they would "look further" into the proposed allotments — and they certainly did. They had been influenced by the combined efforts of many individuals and groups. In late October, a new budget was presented, with most of the mental health cuts restored, and it was approved.



Picketing the Legislature to show our concern.

Onondaga County Association for Retarded Children members attended a Ways and Means Committee public hearing of the County Legislature in October to ask that a \$25,000 cut in county funds be not only restored but that the county increase from 25 to 40% its ratio of funding support of the Onondaga Center for Retarded Children.

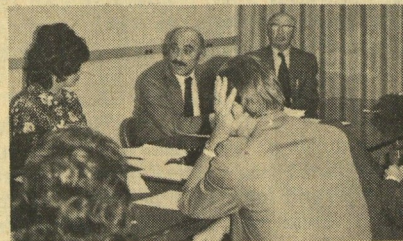
Said Tom Scholl, President of the Chapter "We cannot survive with all our programs and staff intact unless the 40% ratio is agreed to and the \$25,000 restored. We have proven over the past twenty-years that community services to the retarded are far more economical than the alternative of lifetime institutional care. Feeling that the human needs of our agency should take priority over many of the items in the county budget, we ask that county residents support us by attending the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m., Friday night, Oct. 6."

He added: "In a year when the scandalous conditions at Willowbrook State School for the Retarded have been exposed, disclosing how children are suffering because of the lack of educational programs, enormous overcrowding, under-

(Continued Next Column)

# WESTCHESTER LAWMAKERS TOUR FACILITY

As a planned program, the Westchester County ARC had as its guests incumbent state legislators from Westchester at one time and their opposition at another before election time to tour the facilities of the Chapter on Westmoreland Avenue. Accompanying the legislators were Eugene G. Laughery, Executive Director of the Chapter, and Jerry Weingold of the State Association together with Midge Scannell, president and Tory Lagana, legislative committee chairman of the Chapter. The visit received wide coverage in the newspapers of Westchester and an editorial which was also widely distributed appearing in the Gannett Group. We quote from the editorial that appeared in the October 12th newspaper as follows:



Mrs. Tory Lagana, Mr. Weingold, Herbert Katzenberg, veteran WARC Board Member addressing Westchester State Legislators.

"Anyone who visits the building of the Association for Retarded Children in White Plains is impressed by the efforts being made to give training to children and young adults so that they can function usefully in the community or at least be productively occupied under sheltered workshop conditions.

No exception was the group of incumbent state legislators who toured the building last week. Legislative candidates are visiting the place today, and county legislators will drop in next week.

The immediate fallout from these inspection trips is predictably one of concern and promise of cooperation. The trick is going to be to maintain that concern and cooperation under the pummeling of other issues and pressures.

The one fact that should remain indelibly programmed into the officials throughout processes was the statement by the ARC State Executive Director, Joseph T. Weingold, that it costs \$7,800 to keep a retardate in a state school but only \$4,000 to accommodate him in a community facility.

It has always been an irony that citizens unthinkingly pay a premium to have problems like retardation, mental illness and rehabilitation of various sorts kept far from their doorstep. Institutions, sometimes remote from the homes and families of the inmates, have been expensively built and staffed.

But that concept is changing as we get more sophisticated and more knowledgeable about these things. Families of the afflicted are becoming more vocal, too, and insisting on retaining better ties with the treatment and rehabilitation programs."

Weingold presented the men with 19 legislative proposals of the Legislative Program of the State ARC.

## (Concluded from Previous Column)

staffing and gross unsanitary conditions, residents of Onondaga County can be proud of the fact that no Willowbrook exists in this community. Since 1951 the Association for Retarded Children has been committed to providing quality services in education and vocational training for those retarded children and adults who are excluded from all other public programs."

Attending the press conference were officers, directors and members of the Association for Retarded Children, and parents and staff of the Onondaga Center for Retarded Children.

On Wednesday, following the hearing, the money was unanimously restored.



# Chapter News

**ROME STATE SCHOOL CHAPTER** — very pleased to see from their newsletter that the Chapter already has their entire 1973 program planned. For the benefit of those who may have missed it we repeat it here — regular meetings March 18th, April 15th, June 17th, Sept. 16th, Oct. 21st and Nov. 18th. Annual Banquet Saturday, May 19th, Family Picnic, Aug. 15th, that's the kind of planning we like to see . . . **HERKIMER COUNTY CHAPTER** writes through Mrs. Marion Reed Publicity Chairman, "First and foremost is the hiring of our new Executive Director, Mr. Randall Soffer. The Board has also hired Sister Deborah Beck as evaluator. They are presently hard at work interviewing clients for the new training center and also settling on a site for same. The Little Falls Rotary Club presented us with \$650 proceeds from an auction for the benefit of the training center. We received \$120 from the Little Falls Summer Recreation Commission. Mr. Andre Cavallo of Dolgeville directed and produced two variety shows, all proceeds going to the Day Camp fund for needy retarded children. Our Day Camp ran for 5 weeks this summer, very successfully. The Chapter is also holding bowling classes and religious classes in Dolgeville and Herkimer . . . **ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER** — They are continuing the up-grading and expansion of their staff with the hiring of a full time speech therapist. The major emphasis of their program will be development of communication skills. One of the most exciting things in **ORANGE COUNTY**, however, has to be the October breaking of the ground for their long awaited center. The picture of the ground breaking appears elsewhere in this issue and we can only say, "Congratulations **ORANGE COUNTY**" . . . We did not get the chance earlier to comment on the reminiscing done by John Weems, Program Director of **CAYUGA COUNTY CHAPTER**, about the growth of the agency. In an issue of the Chapters Newsletter several months back John was reviewing the fact that in 1964 when he arrived the Chapter had just moved into their workshop. In 1966 they moved into the cafeteria and started the Vocational Training Program. In 1967 a Day Camp began and now they are going to add to their present building and have the Cerebral Palsy Association joining them under the same roof. The budget has increased from \$29,000 in 1964 to \$154,000 in 1972 brought about largely by the expansion of their Vocational Training Programs and the operation of their own summer camp, Camp Columbus . . . We join **CAYUGA**

ter's program. We join **CAYUGA COUNTY CHAPTER** in saying "Our lives are richer for the knowing — Our hearts are saddened by his going . . . **WAYNE COUNTY CHAPTER** — certainly going into many new activities all the time. One of the most interesting, a drum and bugle corps competition, which they sponsored last summer called "Music for Wheels" the idea behind the competition was to raise money for a bus for the Chapter's very active program. The competition was covered in a four page supplement of the **WAYNE COUNTY Star** and really was outstanding journalism both in terms of telling our tale to the public and covering the event . . . Barbara Pyle, Chapter Director, further writes



**Young (4-6) clients swimming at the YMCA in Wayne County**

that one of the new programs is a homemaker to provide a liaison between the parents, community and Day Training Center. These services include group sessions with new mothers entering into the program, showing them the techniques used at school and how to follow through at home, with regular visits to their homes for follow-up. She calls on parents of young infants and pre-schoolers who are too young to participate in the program, setting up a program for parent and child at home and bringing the parents and child into the Day Training Program to utilize facilities there. New programs also include swimming and bowling for all, gross motor development for all, behavior modification for all, socialization for 14 to 18 year olds and work activity group for those 18 to 25 . . . **MADISON COUNTY CHAPTER** — moving right along and writes recently in their newsletter about a new physical education program which is developing through the use of the Cazenovia College Pool. Tuesday and Thursday mornings youngsters in the ARC program are permitted to use the college pool and a good deal of development has been seen. In addition each of **MADISON COUNTY'S** Centers now has a trampoline to help the children's physical development. The **MADISON COUNTY ARC** workshop has reached enrollment of over 26 trainees . . . Paul Nigra of the **FULTON COUNTY CHAPTER** writes to say that the new exercise class for the has reported that beginning the new exercise class for the mentally retarded attending the center has proven to be very successful. The class was initiated in September, and at that time was a 5 minute class, but it has been expanded to 15 or 20 minutes. The class is conducted every Monday morning, and deals with fundamental, basic exercises. It was noted that this had been lacking with the clients and a noticeable change has resulted in their co-ordination and in many cases has also greatly helped the general attitude of the person. The class is conducted in the Center's activity center with more than 20 mentally retarded persons participating. It was originated and is conducted by a volunteer . . . Thanks from us and **RENSSELAER COUNTY CHAPTER** to the Union National Bank who loaned the Chapter a 10 x 50 ft. trailer which had served the bank as a temporary office in order to provide additional space for the Chapters' Pine-woods Center. The trailer, which the bank had transported to the Center property, is being used for office space, speech therapy and parent counseling, thus freeing space in Pine-woods Center for additional classrooms. Thank you, Bank! . . . Beverly Leigh, President, says **ORLEANS COUNTY**



**Two members of Local 195, Auburn Police, stopped by the School for Retarded Children to hand out complimentary tickets to Roy Radin Vaudeville Show at Auburn High School. The show is sponsored by and for the benefit of Local 195, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. From left are Tom Gauthier, Robert Gentilcore, Patrolman Thomas Burger and Patrolman Thomas Weed, Chris Cole and Jill Levek.**

**COUNTY CHAPTER** in mourning the passing of Mr. Fred J. Wiggins. Mr. Wiggins, who was retired from public service has worked for the last several years as an employee of **CAYUGA COUNTY CHAPTER**. Primarily concerned with Vocational Rehabilitation programs, Mr. Wiggins was largely responsible for the development of that area of the Chap-



# Chapter News

CHAPTER is sponsoring a program for retarded children, ages three to seven, who are not currently enrolled in a regular school program in ORLEANS COUNTY. A teacher, highly qualified in special education has been hired and will begin her duties as soon as present applicants have been screened. A one day week session will be carried out until January 1st, when a two day session is planned. We feel that the readers of Our Children's Voice would be interested in ORLEANS COUNTY CHAPTER's newest venture . . . MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER has moved their center, Liberty House, which started out in a building in downtown Amsterdam, to the Fort Johnson School. As the President said in the October newsletter, "This month's meeting is to be an historic one. The first in our new home, the former Fort Johnson School. A very up-to-date building it certainly is, and very well maintained. Still, it is hard to believe that changes can be accomplished with ideas! Nerve! Imagination! Come and see for yourself." We are assured they invite you all to do so . . . WILLOWBROOK CHAPTER beginning a new and interesting program this summer in which the parents visiting committee meets one half hour before regular meetings to hear specific parent complaints. A good way to get down to specifics . . . The Chapter very pleased over the results of the Festival in the gether with New York City Chapter and several other groups Park for the Retarded (one to one) of which they, to-were beneficiaries. Should also be smiles all over the place at the job which was done by the Chapter in their night at Yonkers Raceway last April. A recent issue of the Chapter's newsletter reported that some \$10,000 had been realized by the Chapter from that night. A tip of hat to Irwin Bier for that one . . . we like the slogan which continually crops up in WILLOWBROOK CHAPTER'S newsletter because we think it is so important and worth repeating — "remember the children" . . . STEUBEN COUNTY CHAPTER getting super efficient under Executive Director and Editor Joan Mayer. Producing a monthly newsletter which is most informative. Chapter operating four classes at present. They are involved with work-study students from Corning Community College. Had a most interesting president's report, and, like ROME STATE SCHOOL CHAPTER they have their calendar for 1973 already printed . . . PUTNAM COUNTY CHAPTER was recently featured in a full page spread in the Mt. Kisco Patent Trader telling the story of their workshop. One interesting job that they have been doing for some time is the manufacture of special chess sets for the blind . . . ULSTER COUNTY CHAPTER — has recently opened its own Recycling Center patterned after the job being done by COLUMBIA COUNTY. New Executive Director Joseph Ryan was active in organizing a community in the COLUMBIA COUNTY Program and has brought his experience to ULSTER . . . from ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER comes news from Susan Morse. The Chapter held its first annual Christmas Silver Tea and Christmas Bazaar on Sunday, November 26th. Featured was a Christmas Concert by Our Lady of Pompei Choir in Syracuse, and visits by area TV personalities. Chapter's Summer Camp program was a tremendously successful endeavor. There were five weeks of Day Camp at the ONONDAGA Center for Retarded Children and one week of overnight camping at the Salvation Army's Jefferson Park Camp on Lake Ontario. Camp Director was Rick Sagar, who did an outstanding job . . . We wonder if OSWEGO COUNTY CHAPTER was successful as a first time participant in the Fulton Community Fund . . . NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER of the Association has again launched its fall Bowling program. For all youngsters 13 years and up it meets at 1 P.M. on Saturday at four different locations and provides the instructions along with the program . . . also pleased to learn that AHRC has named Randolph Rosenthal, President of Rona Dresses as the Association's Man of the Year. Well known for his charitable efforts, Mr. Rosenthal has for



**Michael Gainey, 9, is welcomed at Madison Square Garden by New York Raiders (l.) Alton White, (ctr.) Norm Ferguson and (r.) Bobby Sheehan. He is one of a group of 50, from the ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, who attended a game.**

many years been on the Board of a number of Charitable organizations and will receive an award for his efforts on behalf of the mentally retarded from the Chapter at the 9th Annual S. Irene Johns Dinner. Noted with pleasure that the City Chapter has taken a note from WILLOWBROOK and is producing a Column in Spanish for their members . . . From NIAGARA COUNTY the good news that the Rotary Club of the Tonawandas turned over the keys to a mini bus to NIAGARA COUNTY CHAPTER in November. Thanks to these men . . . COLUMBIA COUNTY CHAPTER — invited everyone to Open House in their new quarters at 360 State Street in Hudson in September. They are now serving over 80 clients in their workshop . . . Speaking of Open House MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER also participated in the Seventh Annual Open House at Al Sigl Center in November. Featured at the Open House were tours of the Workshop, Day Training Programs and its Annex at 291 Westfall Road and Hostel. In addition, the Chapter presented awards to eight firms who were outstanding in offering training and work experience of Chapter trainees. One company so nominated, B. Forman Company received an award from the President's Committee to Employ the Handicapped, reported elsewhere in this issue . . . CHENANGO COUNTY'S WORKSHOP growing by leaps and bounds receiving a big write up in the October 17th issue of the Norwich Sun. A good way to reach the community . . . SARATOGA COUNTY CHAPTER, meeting with State Executive Director Jerry Weingold to discuss a possible new building. Also very active with WILTON STATE SCHOOL in a foster grandparents program. My every-issue frustration — trying to pick up the Newspaper of SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER and find, a few items for the Chapter News Column. Really, SUFFOLK has so much good news running through their big paper that it is difficult to tell where to begin. Let's just suggest that OVR has provided them with a rehabmobile. A portable unit, it comprises two offices, two restrooms and a self contained food service unit in addition to the actual working area required to evaluate client progress. This can be moved about the County to provide evaluation services required. The Friars Club of New York presented a 14 passenger mini bus to the Chapter for which we thank them. Also, the United States Government has presented the Chapter with 10 acres at Brookhaven for a regional center. We extend every good wish to WELFARE LEAGUE - LETCHWORTH VILLAGE CHAPTER not only on their very successful luncheon which was held on November 18th but on their anniversary. LETCHWORTH VILLAGE CHAPTER is now 33 years old, and we wish them many more. That's all for this time.

**C'MON UP - ALBANY - CONVENT**



## ORANGE COUNTY SIGNS BUILDING CONTRACT — CONSTRUCTION STARTS

On Tuesday, September 26, 1972 the Orange County Association for the Help of Retarded Children signed a contract with Roy C. Knapp and Sons, Beacon, N. Y., to build a new Community Mental Retardation Center on Mt. Hope Road, Town of Wallkill. The signing culminated almost ten years of dreaming and planning for a truly adequate Center to serve mentally retarded children and adults of Orange County.



**Henry Cox, president, Orange County Chapter ARC, Jeanne Vasseur, student, Middletown ARC school.**

The new building will serve as a basic Evaluation and Consultation Center for all of Orange County, and serve all school age severely retarded children not eligible for BOCES or other schools. It will also serve the adult retarded and pre-school children of western Orange County. AHRC will continue to have a pre-school program in Port Jervis, and pre-school and adult programs in Newburgh. They presently serve over 90 clients daily in all facilities.

Total development costs for the new center are \$1,020,000, including construction costs of approximately \$875,000. The New York State Department of Mental Hygiene has arranged for a \$290,853 contribution from the state. The Federal Government, Department of Health, Education and Welfare will provide \$278,754. The remaining \$450,393 plus approximately \$50,000 in additional items not included in the contract will have to be raised through local funds.

The Community Mental Retardation Center will consist of eight classrooms, a motor development center, offices for the executive director, supervising teacher, director of adult services, psychologist, nurse, speech therapist, social worker, bookkeeper and secretary, a multi-purpose room and commercial kitchen, a mental retardation library, a personal care and daily living center and sheltered workshop for adult retardates. There will also be an arts and crafts boutique and farm.

## TWO ACRES OF U. S. LAND TO CITY CHAPTER

In October, 1972 the federal government turned over two acres of land in Brooklyn's Manhattan Beach area to the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, New York City Chapter. The land is on the Atlantic shoreline, formerly occupied by the Sheepshead Bay Reserve Training Center and Manhattan Beach Hospital. The 15 acres were divided into three parcels, one going to the Menorah Home and Hospital for the Aged and the other two to the Kingsborough Community College and the Association. The land transfer was made through the Department of HEW, Office of Surplus Property Utilization.



**Dr. Irving Caminsky (3rd from left) accepts the deed for land. Looking on are (l to r) Fred Krause, Executive Director of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation, Senator Jacob Javits, Gerald Turetsky, Regional Administrator, General Services Administration and Minna Bober and Minna Rosenfeld, Founders of "Blue Feather".**

Senator Jacob K. Javits said at the ceremony that he hoped the National Health Plan with participation by private agencies would be enacted by the government in the near future. Fred J. Krause, Acting Executive Director of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation brought greetings from President Nixon.

On this parcel of land, the City Chapter plans to erect buildings to house a comprehensive day training center for severely and profoundly retarded persons. Cooperative programs with Kingsborough Community College and the Menorah Home for the Aged would be developed.

The acquisition of this property marks another milestone in the New York City Chapter's march of progress to serving the retarded. This Chapter's Blue Feather Auxiliary shares fully in this latest accomplishment through whose leaders the availability of the acreage was brought to the attention of the Chapter.

## SUFFOLK RECEIVES 10 ACRES FROM U. S.

The U.S. Government has given Suffolk ARC more than 10 wooded acres formerly part of the Brookhaven National Laboratory property in Upton, Long Island for the construction of a comprehensive regional center for the mentally retarded.

In a formal ceremony in Manhattan, September 29th, president Nicholas Messina of the Chapter accepted a certificate of transfer from Dr. Joseph Cosand, deputy commissioner of higher education for the Department of HEW. The presentation was sponsored jointly by HEW and General Services Administration.

Secretary Elliot Richardson called the Chapter's proposal for a regional center "a meritorious proposal" and Arthur F. Sampson, acting administrator of GSA said the property transfer, "represents an important step in President Nixon's program to return excess federal property to the people for uses which better serve the public."

## BE THERE - CONVENTION - HYATT HOUSE - ALBANY



## NASSAU ROSE BALL TOPS \$200,000

### HONORABLE MARTIN GINSBERG CITED

Once again the gala Nassau Rose Ball broke all records in gross receipts, exceeding last year's figure of over \$200,000! The only sad note of an otherwise perfect evening was the absence of the woman who had done so much to



Helen Kaplan (l) and Monte Belden share a moment with Martin Ginsberg.

make the event the great success it was — Chairman Mrs. Charles Merinoff who spent that Saturday night in Long Island Jewish Hospital battling pneumonia.

The evening marked the presentation before 1200 guests of the 12th Annual Humanitarian Award to former Assemblyman, Judge of the Family Court, Martin Ginsberg, as a tribute to his "constant devotion to the welfare of the mentally retarded" as Chairman of the State Assembly Health Committee. An original work in bronze overlaid in gold, the award was sculptured by artist-member Monte Belden.

## A RETARDED MAN VOTES

We are in receipt of a letter from Betty Pendler telling how one retarded man voted and what it meant to him and his family.

"I think the following has much human interest and might be good for that wonderful paper of yours.

On advice from you that a retardate could vote as long as he could sign his name Ester Ashkenas had her mongoloid son Alan register. He is a very verbal youngster and appeared to know all about the issues and the candidates, and on his way home from the Occupation Training Center, he passed a busy corner where all the candidates spoke the last week before election, and Alan proudly shook their hands and announced this year he was going to vote and when election day came, I think his mother was far more nervous than he. What would the people waiting in line say — how would he know which lever to pull, would the "ladies" working for the election board comment etc., etc., but Alan had none of these fears — he knew whom he wanted to vote for, and kept insisting that he better be there early — and so he got to the local precinct to vote. Despite the crowd, the people must have noticed the happy look of anticipation on his face, everyone was most courteous, friendly, and appeared rather interested. As usual with parents' unwarranted fear about many of our retardates, Alan very confidently pulled the curtain, voted right down the party line of his choice, and although he did take a little longer than his mother wanted him to, one of the poll watchers reminded her that many people take a long time. He pulled open the curtain with a look of accomplishment on his face.

I think this should get publicized not only to help give other retardates this wonderful sense of satisfaction, but to allay the fear on the part of parents, thus hopefully serve to educate the public in one more area of what retardates can do."

(The election law permits someone to accompany a handicapped person into the voting booth — Editor)

## DR. ETLING SURPRISES COMMUNITY LEAGUE

On October 22, Community League was holding one of its open Sunday meetings at Wassaic State School. It was the occasion of the induction of the officers and Board members for 1972-73.

Many interesting events took place during the afternoon. Among them was a description of the YOUTH Volunteer Program, Co-ordinated by Marjorie Young and toward which the Chapter has contributed some \$6000; a report on new medical services and a review by the Director, Dr. George Etling of the progress he felt had been made in the increasing of staff and decreasing of resident population at Wassaic.



Dr. Etling presents plaque of appreciation from Wassaic State School to Community League. Michael Styler, president, accepts.

Michael Styler, President of Community League, presented a certificate of appreciation from Community League to the entire Wassaic Staff for their loyalty and dedication to the residents of the school. This was especially apparent during this past year when they gave priority to care of the retarded above self interest.

Then came the surprise! In a turnabout move, Dr. Etling presented Community League with a plaque in recognition of the Leagues twenty-one years of meritorious service to residents of the school. It was a pleasant way to close a lovely day.

## WESTCHESTER ARC OPENS SECOND HOSTEL

Four town houses leased by the Westchester ARC are now providing a second community residence for 18 persons.

Each townhouse, housing approximately four people, is an autonomous unit in which the residents make decisions concerning their living arrangements.

This residence is an addition to the Davis Avenue residence, the first hostel in New York State. This is located in White Plains.

Ed Moran, director of the Recreation and Hostel Department of the Chapter envisions 15 to 20 community residences around Westchester County located close to regional training centers.

The State Office was informed by the Department of Mental Hygiene that they have received more applications for hostels from ARC units than ever before. It is contemplated that some 24 more may be opened in the very near future.

## NEWS FROM LEWIS COUNTY

We, too, have judges, writes Louise Cooke of Lewis County. Supreme Court Justice J. Robert Lynch and George Davis, Judge of the Family Court, are members of the Lewis County Chapter and have been for some time.

Judge Lynch's wife is an active member, writes Louise, and Mrs. Jane Allen, past president of Lewis County Chapter is on the Rome State School Board of Visitors.

## HYATT HOUSE - LET'S COUNT YOU IN

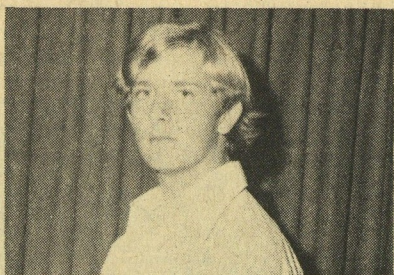


# Y.O.U.T.H.

## YOUTH ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

William Ickes of the Northern Brookhaven Junior Auxiliary of Suffolk County was elected the president of YOUTH New York State ARC at the annual YOUTH Convention held at the Sheraton Inn Hotel in Albany September 22-24.

Bill becomes the fourth president of the State YOUTH organization, succeeding Ray Ann DePrisco of Nassau.



**BILL ICKES**

Elected together with Bill were Thom Briggs of Monroe County as Western Region Vice President and Senior Vice President, Terri Beynart of LARC (Columbia County) as Northeast Region Vice President, Michael Drake of Chemung County as Central Region Vice President and Carolyn Fetter of New York City as Southeast Region Vice President.

Paula Scagnelli of Newburgh (Orange County) was elected Secretary and Thomas Bazow of SHARE (Cattaraugus County) was elected Treasurer.

Mary Reardon of LARC and Mary Jo Brown of Chemung County were elected to the Northeast and Central Regional Representatives respectively, each for a two year term. Molly Kluss and Shelly Juskowitz continue on into their 2nd year as Regional Representatives for the Western and Southeast Regions respectively.

The YOUTH conference was spent with considerable debate over the question of YOUTH-NARC, with the resolution again being that individual groups may belong as they choose, but that the New York State ARC will not participate as part of National.

A number of workshops were presented by the YOUTH for the benefit of their fellows, but the workshop which received the highest acclaim was that put on by Dr. Robert Guthrie of Buffalo.

Plans are now underway for the 1973 YOUTH Conference in Rochester, and from all indications there is no question that this will be the most well planned and successful YOUTH conference we have had to date.

Additional information on the program as it develops will be forthcoming from regional Vice President Thom Briggs who is heading up these activities.

## BURGESS RESIGNS

It was with much regret that the State Association received the resignation of State YOUTH Advisor Anne Burgess from that position in December. Citing the increased workload as the Executive Director of the Columbia County Chapter, she indicated that she felt she just could not continue to do justice to both positions.

At this writing, the search for a new State YOUTH Advisor goes on, and choice will be announced in O.C.V. as soon as possible.

The entire Association, and the State YOUTH organization want to publicly express their thanks to Anne for her hard work during her tenure as State YOUTH Advisor. We are very grateful for the efforts that she put forth and the leadership she offered to the State YOUTH organization. We know we will continue to see her active on behalf of the mentally retarded through Columbia County Chapter.

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

### MONROE COUNTY

Monroe County received a write-up in the Volunteer Section of the Rochester Times Union as follows:

There are many mentally retarded young people, 13 to 25 years old, throughout the county whose lives could be made happier and brighter through the companionship of someone about their own age.

Someone who would take them to a movie once in a while or read to them or go bike riding. Someone who would simply be a friend.

The Buddy Program of the Youth Association for Retarded Children (Youth ARC) tries to fill that need. Youth ARC is an organization of young people who plan and carry out activities for retarded children.

The Buddy Program involves a one-to-one relationship between a young volunteer buddy and a young retarded person who both live in the same geographical area.

"You get to meet a lot of other kids," said Diane Baker, 16, program chairman. She is a junior at Irondequoit High School and lives at 159 Belcoda Drive, Irondequoit. "You get to understand retarded kids better. You bring them out into society more."

The program has about 40 volunteer buddies. More are needed.

### PUTNAM COUNTY

Putnam County — The Community Service Program at Mahopac High School has attracted 50 seniors who volunteer their time and service to aid community programs. Featured in an earlier issue of Our Children's Voice, they have been doing tutoring with many handicapped children. In addition to work with the Putnam Community Hospital, Sheriff's Office, Cerebral Palsy Foundation and Board of Health, several students work with the retarded children at the PUTNAM COUNTY ARC Center and as a result of their work with PARC, several intend to enter the field of special education.



A Jefferson County Chapter of YOUTH ARC was formed with election of officers. The officers, from left, Dan Burns, vice president; Bill Tinsley, Jr., treasurer; Jay Maloney, president, and Shauna Zajas, secretary.

### COLUMBIA COUNTY

L.A.R.C. — Columbia County's Youth Group conducts a swimming program every Wednesday for mentally retarded children ages 7-18.

Have weekly recreation sessions on Sundays, first one, a Hayride on Nov. 5. Teens work on a one-to-one basis with the children.

Volunteer in the sheltered workshop and pre-primary class.

Three of L.A.R.C. teens conducted a workshop on Oct. 28 at the Convention for the teachers of the mentally handicapped. Sue Dickerson spoke on how locals are helping in the work of aiding the mentally retarded. Sue is Vice-President of L.A.R.C. and on the Board of Director's of the Special Olympics. Mary Reardon, Northeast Regional Representative spoke on State Y.O.U.T.H.'s functions. Ann Foster,

(Concluded Next Column)



who is now a sophomore at Geneseo State University and a major in special education, spoke on how L.A.R.C. helped her choose a career in working with the mentally retarded.

Anne Burgess, State Youth Advisor was the moderator. Slides and a movie were shown.

#### NASSAU COUNTY

Nassau County's Teen Drive, the annual fund raising event undertaken by Nassau County Youth Group, this year again broke all previous records. The County Teens collected over \$72,000 in the Fifth Annual Teen Drive, to raise capital funds for construction of the Occupational Day Training building at the AHRC Educational Center in Brookville.

Seven thousand teen-agers from 44 communities blanketed the County with the sale of shares in a 1972 Dodge sedan. WARC disc jockey Bruce Morrow again served as Honorary Chairman, of the Campaign.

Awards for outstanding work in the drive were presented to Diane Berenzy of Oyster Bay and Brain Ganin of Great Neck who were named the Top Teens in Nassau County.

#### SUFFOLK COUNTY

Suffolk County — over 150 teen-agers from Suffolk Junior Auxiliaries participated in the 2nd annual Y.O.U.T.H. walk on Columbus Day. They walked 20 miles from the Smithhaven Mall in Lake Grove to the Walt Whitman Mall in Huntington Station to raise money for programs oper-



**MALL TO MALL** in record time of under 4½ hours for the 20-plus mile walk are Kenny Carroll and Paul Fischer of Huntington Junior Auxiliary. Brian Mott of Smithtown Junior Auxiliary arrived at a different spot on the mall at about the same time.

ated by the Association. The teens had received pledges by friends, neighbors, parents and others in return for their completing the gruelling walk. As they passed morning shoppers, pedestrians and motorists stopped for lights, they solicited contributions. Many left the group to enter stores or businesses, asking for contributions everywhere they went. The entourage had not gone far before the faster walkers began moving out ahead of the others. As the day wore on, the group became separated, first-to-last, by more than five miles. Small groups and individuals used different tactics in their fund raising sweep, so the group spread out all along the route of march. In only four and a half hours the first walkers reached the terminal.

After the walk, the marchers enjoyed what to many of them must have been the best part of the day as they boarded the bus supplied to take them home over the same road they had just walked.

### WELCOME!

The State YOUTH organization continues to grow and prosper and we are very pleased at the addition of several new YOUTH organizations.

At the State Convention, the RENSSELAER COUNTY YOUTH group submitted all of the necessary materials to complete their affiliation and were accepted into the State YOUTH organization. Subsequent to that time we have received the completed application of the Putnam County YOUTH organization, and we welcome Putnam as the newest member of the State YOUTH family.

This brings the total number of active YOUTH groups in the State Association to 29.

## HANDICAPPED KIDS WIN BUS MATRONS

The city, after being sued by the parents of three mentally retarded youngsters, has agreed to comply with a year old city law to provide matrons on all school vehicles transporting handicapped children.

According to the Board of Education, Director of Pupil Transportation, Mr. George Calvert, three to four weeks will be needed to revamp 300 present routes affecting roughly 5000 handicapped city youths, and, he added, funds to pay the escorts have not yet been appropriated, even though mandated by law.

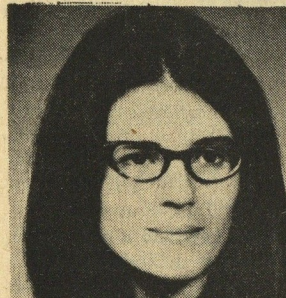
An out-of-court arrangement was reached in September when it appeared likely that the city would be forced by the court to obey the law anyhow.

The lawsuit filed last June was brought by the parents of three retarded pupils aged 5 to 7 but with mental ages between 18 and 30 months, who attended the Guild for Exceptional Children, a private nursery school. As a result of their riding to classes in an unsupervised nine-passenger van, said a spokesman for the school, "The school program is virtually worthless to them".

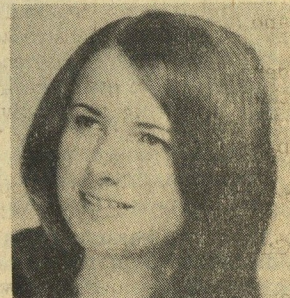
The statute was passed unanimously over a mayoral veto by the City Council in February 1971. An amendment to the city's Administrative Code also included provision which has already been met that safety belts be installed on all the vehicles.

## WEINGOLD SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Joseph T. Weingold Scholarship, given annually in honor of the years service by Executive Director Joseph T. Weingold, to students in special education, were awarded for 1972-73 to a student at the State University College at Buffalo, and, for the first time, to a student at Marymount Manhattan in New York City.



**VALERIE WILMOT**



**DOREEN T. SODEN**

Valerie Wilmot, a resident of Suburban Rochester is the second of five children in her family. She has a 3.51 over-all grade average for courses taken at the State University in Buffalo and received a recommendation from her advisor as follows:

"I feel that Valerie is deserving of this scholarship because she has a sincere commitment to help the retarded. She possesses many qualities that will insure her success in this field. She is reliable, dependable, conscientious, compassionate, patient and sensitive to the needs of other people. I think that through her fine academic record, Valerie has shown that she is serious about teaching the retarded and has the skills and ability to do so."

Doreen Soden, of Woodside, New York, is the first winner of the Weingold Scholarship from Marymount Manhattan.

Another outstanding student, Doreen's recommendation from her advisor read: "Miss Soden is an excellent student in her courses pertaining to Special Education. Her class assignments show evidence of excellent thought, resourcefulness, preparation and organization. In class, she demonstrates a well versed knowledge of special methods, techniques and curriculum practices for teaching mentally retarded children. She has the patience and sympathetic understanding that will aid her in establishing a warm rapport with her pupils."



# CAMP CATSKILL: AN ADVENTURE FOR THE RETARDED

"I haven't had anyone come to see me for years," said a woman in her 40's. "Here I know lots of people."

"I live at Wassaic State School," said a middle-aged woman waiting for the supper bell. "Sometimes we go outside at Wassaic, but here we are always doing something."

A hundred and fifty severely mentally retarded boys and girls, men and women from three institutions, Willowbrook, Letchworth, and Wassaic, and three hundred from the community had a camping experience many of them had never had before last summer at Camp Catskill.

Camp Catskill is one of three camps owned by the State of New York and operated until two years ago by the Department of Mental Hygiene. When funds were cut, the camp ceased to operate. Last year the New York State Association for Retarded Children applied for permission to operate Camp Catskill and it was granted.

In three 3-week sessions, 450 severely retarded individuals were served and enjoyed an experience which was probably unique in their lives.

The idea for the operation of Camp Catskill came initially from the American Legion Auxiliary, which made a \$14,000 grant to the State Association. This could not be utilized in 1971 due to lack of facilities. It was not enough to operate a camp as large as Camp Catskill and help was sought from the state through the Developmental Disabilities Services Act. A grant of \$35,000 was made to the State Association.



Weingold presenting plaque to Ann Robinson, Past Pres., American Legion Auxiliary who donated funds and flagpole. (Left) Carl Calkins, Director.

This, too, was not enough and an application was made to the State Department of Education for an educational program for those children who were in 4407 programs operated by the state ARC (chapters) who would be going to the camp. Zelda Kaye and Ray Simches of the Division for Handicapped Children had the vision to see this go.

With this grant of a little over \$23,000 for educational purposes, the Developmental Disabilities grant, help from the American Legion and the funds provided from the chapters and the State Association itself, Camp Catskill opened.



Football on the baseball field.

Philosophy at Camp Catskill was probably unique that we insisted that the campers be severely retarded. Under the direction of Carl Calkins, a doctorate student at Peabody, the camp got off to a flying start. Aided by Norman Rothleder, Director of Recreation for New York City Chapter, the program was developed and began with in-service training of the counselors and assistant counselors, many of whom came from the ranks of our youth groups.

Some came from as far away as Denmark and England. The highlight of the camp program was a presentation to the camp by Ann Robinson, past department president of the American Legion Auxiliary, of a new flag which had once flown over the Capitol, in a ceremony marked by loud music to dance by and with very few speeches.

"The camp expectations never played down to the popular concept of the mentally retarded" said Mr. Calkins. "Each camper was an individual and we sought competence to do things they had never done before. To this they responded."

Their activities included music and drama, arts and crafts, waterfront, the development of skills they never knew they possessed.



LOOK MA, NO HANDS!

"What impressed me most," said Mr. Weingold, Executive Director of the New York State Association, "was the concern of staff for the campers. I remember on one occasion coming to the camp unexpectedly, I found a couple of them coming up from the lake. One of the counselors was carrying a young girl in his arms who obviously had not had a bathroom ready when she needed it. His concern for her and the tender way in which he carried her was one of the most impressive things that I saw."

The cooperation between the Department of Mental Hygiene, operating through Walter Schofield, and the ARC is what really made the camp go. The fifty prospective campers from each institution were screened in advance by camp personnel who visited the institution, saw how they lived and assessed their potentials. The grounds were made ready by the state who also fixed up the olympic swimming pool, provided laundry service, linen and bedding from Letchworth and even some of our kitchen help from Letchworth Village (whom of course we paid the prevailing wages).



Camp is indoor fun too.

At this writing it is the intention of the Association to operate Camp Catskill once more next year (1973) if funds can be obtained. What we need more than anything else at this point is a large enough grill to make pancakes for breakfast for everyone. Please contribute.

We also hope to have as good people as we had last year such as Fred Hinze, waterfront director; Joyce Stricklin, herself blind, music and drama teacher; Karen Auherbach, arts and craft coordinator; Jean Gortise, recreation supervisor; junior counselors, the activity counselors, everyone else who made this a meaningful experience for the campers, a wonderfully gratifying experience for the personnel of the Association.

Oh, yes, one camper was lost during the camp season. It took about seven hours to find him because everyone was looking away out there, when he was sitting behind the cabins all the time.

Oh, here we go again!



## 1972 DISABILITIES PROGRAM GRANTS

A total of \$1,318,540 in federal funds have been awarded to local public and private agencies to operate programs for persons handicapped by mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy or other neurological diseases, the New York State Advisory Council on Developmental Disabilities has announced.

The awards are to help operate 19 service projects which are being funded for the first time and to continue eight other projects which were approved earlier by the advisory council.

The agencies and the amount of the new grants include:

Services to the Mentally Retarded in Erie County, Inc. \$162,000, to support countywide coordination of services to adult retardates; a countywide registry to retardates; the coordination of work activity program for the retarded.

Association for Brain Injured Children in Albany, \$15,500, for a comprehensive program for pre-schoolers with developmental disabilities. In addition, this agency also received a \$5,000 grant to provide home care and respite services to parents of developmentally disabled children, using student volunteers.

Greene County Association for Retarded Children, \$6,000 to expand services for pre-schoolers.

Columbia County Council of Churches, \$10,000 to support services for pre-school children.

Rehabilitation Programs, Inc. of Dutchess County \$6,711 to expand its services to pre-schoolers.

Westchester County Association for Retarded Children \$22,500 to expand services for pre-school children.

St. Jude's Habilitation Institutes, Westchester County, \$25,125, to expand services to pre-schoolers.

Rockland County Association for Retarded Children, \$3,900, to support a summer camp program for pre-schoolers.

United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, \$63,862 to provide services for pre-schoolers.

Bronx County Association for Brain Injured Children, \$75,275, to provide services for pre-schoolers.

Association for the Help of Retarded Children, \$105,000 to support comprehensive services for adults in Bronx County.

Albert Einstein College of Medicine, \$105,000, to provide mobile diagnostic and evaluation services for infants, plus a day training program.

Brookdale Hospital Center, \$88,111, to provide diagnostic and evaluation services in the Brownsville area of Brooklyn, plus treatment services for pre-schoolers.

Epilepsy Foundation of New York, \$86,238, to expand comprehensive services for epileptics in New York City.

Association for Brain Injured Children, Queens, \$57,581 to provide comprehensive services to pre-school children.

Staten Island Aid for Retarded Children, \$60,000 to support sheltered workshop and vocational rehabilitation services for adults.

New York State Association for Retarded Children, \$35,000, to operate Camp Catskill for mental retardates from downstate communities and state schools.

United Cerebral Palsy Association (state) \$24,000 to provide a statewide coordinator for services and to develop a statewide referral and follow-up system.

## ARC EXEC. LEADS RECYCLING SEMINARS

Anne S. Burgess, Executive Director of The Columbia County Chapter recently completed five Seminars conducted by the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation on Solid Waste Recovery. Miss Burgess spoke on how locals can help in the problem of Solid Waste Recovery. The Columbia Co. Chapter operates a recycling center, as a part of their Sheltered Workshop. At the center, glass is either deposited there by the public or picked up; by the Chapter's 1972 Ford stake truck at various landfills in and out of Columbia County. Green Co. also operates with the center

(Continued Next Column)



Hempstead Town Presiding Supervisor Francis T. Purcell (r) and James Kelly (l) regional manager of the Reynolds Metals Company, help unload truckload of aluminum cans at our Nassau Center in Freeport as the center's director, Milton Levine, looks on. The town is contributing all of the aluminum cans it receives at its two recycling depots to our Freeport Training Center.

## "DREAM HOUSE" AT SIGL CENTER

Through the efforts of many volunteers and the generous gift of Mr. John Riedman, the Riedman Insurance Agency and members of the Riedman family, a dream has come true for the ARC horticulture group and all other agencies of the Al Sigl Center: a greenhouse of our own!

On October 19, 1972 the sun shone, almost as a benevolent omen, on the heart-warming out-of-door ceremony held to dedicate this newly completed dream house. Mrs. Arthur Herz, President of the Monroe County Chapter, Association for Retarded Children, expressed everyone's pleasure and gratitude when she presented Mr. Riedman with a certificate of appreciation. Monroe County Family Court Judge Robert Wagner, an ARC Board member and former President of the Association, spoke of the many benefits to be derived by the handicapped from this project. Finally, standing beneath a giant bow made up of rosettes from ARC's own bow-making business, one of the horticulture trainees cut the red ribbon encircling the building as a signal for the visitors at the ceremony to follow Mr. John Regan, ARC Executive Director, through the greenhouse.

The structure measures 42 feet long, 18 feet wide and 9 feet high at its peak. It has wide aisles, a lead-in ramp, automatically controlled sprinkling system and heating unit, unusually low light switches and other features to accommodate wheelchairs and to meet other special needs of the handicapped.

Among those involved in conceiving and conducting the horticulture program are Mrs. Jeannine Sauerhafer (a former co-chairman of an ARC parents' group); Kirkwood Personius (Monroe County Extension Service); Thomas Van Hall (retired florist); Alvin R. Grant (Monroe County Parks Director); Mrs. Peter Bruinsma (parent and volunteer); and Mrs. Marsha Dumka (part-time staff worker assigned to the project).

The greenhouse project has received enthusiastic support from the Monroe County Legislature, various departments of the County Government, the Harris Seed Company and from Lauweret's, Blanchard and Schum florists.

## SEMINARS — (Concluded from Previous Column)

by the fact that the Village of Catskill brings over four truck loads of glass and paper each week.

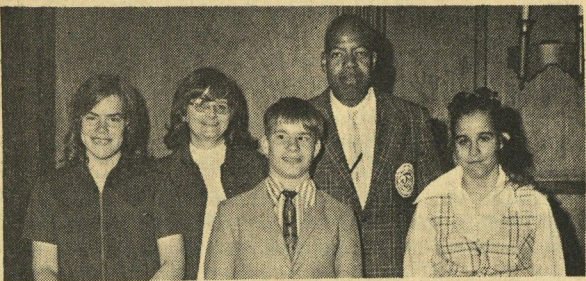
The Seminars were conducted at five different locations; Hofstra University, Albany, Rochester, Syracuse and Buffalo. Other people participating were legislative representatives, State and Federal and Industries who are doing research into the problem of pollution. It is the hope of Miss Burgess, that other Chapters will also become actively involved, as it is a great project for the mentally retarded.



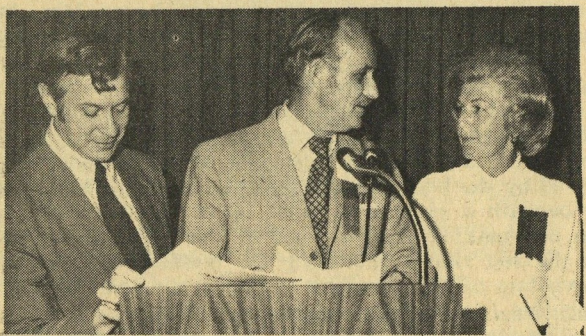
# SEEN AT THE STATE CONVENTION



Dennis Haggerty, main speaker delights, (l. to r.) Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director and Robert J. Hodgson, outgoing president.



The wonderful musicians from West Seneca State School that delighted the banquet.



Grand chairman, William Burdsall, (left) failing to get the attention of outgoing president Bob Hodgson admiring outgoing secretary Ev Weisenfeld.



Getting to know you. New president Aronin and secretary Martha (Martini) Jewell becoming acquainted.



Left to right, Bill Ickes, John Bertrand, Gus Jacobs, Helen Kaplan, Dorothy Vine and Jack Bernstein ready to perpetrate guardianship play.



Panel on Title IV-A and XVI — Bob Fatton, Bob Hodgson, Harry Dworkin, Fred White.

## HEW — (Continued from Page 1)

Retarded". Thereafter, I introduced a bill — with the bipartisan co-sponsorship of 27 Senators — for the safeguarding the rights of the mentally retarded which has the strong support of professional organizations and parent groups across our country. My bill (and its companion measures in the House) would for the first time establish strict high quality standards to protect the human rights of the mentally retarded and, at the same time, stimulate the development of alternative programs of community care. Although these measures — which would establish a benchmark in the effective care and treatment of the mentally retarded — are cited in the HEW report as expressions of Congressional concern, the report regrettably fails to take a position on the legislation. Thus, the force and effect upon Congress and the Nation, of HEW support to establish a national commitment for a Bill of Rights for the Mentally Retarded is forfeited. I pledge to fight for passage of this bill and predict that the Bill of Rights for the Mentally Retarded will be enacted into law next year.

The report does identify what I believe to be one of the most critical needs — the importance of parents and

(Continued Next Column)

consumer groups input into the decision making processes on behalf of the mentally retarded. Unfortunately, there is no clear cut HEW recommendation or support for effectuating this goal. Off-handed criticisms of previous ad hoc efforts to assure parent group input is not enough. At the Federal level, we need an unequivocal commitment to the parent groups' intimate involvement at all levels of mental retardation programs.

No one could have personally experienced Willowbrook where many were left to vegetate without sufficiently well trained staff to care for them and receiving substandard care, totally inadequate to respond to their basic health and hygiene needs and not expect an immediate and effective Federal response. The generic recommendation of HEW project grant support for studies which explore how to overcome the identified areas of concern is not enough.

I believe the Federal government has an obligation to make funds available to New York State which will allow the State to implement and honor the commitment to provide humane care and treatment to the institutionalized mentally retarded and to deemphasize long-term institutionalization."



## CONFERENCE ON SEXUALITY AND THE MENTALLY RETARDED

### WEINGOLD DELIVERS MAIN PAPER

A conference on "Human Sexuality and the Mentally Retarded" was recently held at Potsdam University. The conference was co-sponsored by Planned Parenthood of Upper New York and the Association for Retarded Children of Jefferson County among others.

Speakers for the session included Dr. Sol Gordon, Professor of Family and Child Development at Syracuse University, Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of New York State ARC, Dr. Joseph Meyerowitz, Assistant Professor on Psychiatry at Baylor University, and Mrs. Winifred Kempton of the Planned Parenthood Association of South-eastern Pennsylvania.

The main speakers, Dr. Gordon and Mr. Weingold both called attention to the fact that the mentally retarded are probably the most neglected portion of our population.

In his talk, Mr. Weingold questioned the motive of those interested in sexuality of the mentally retarded. Are they really interested, asked Mr. Weingold because they believe that the mentally retarded as much as the general normal population has a right to fulfill itself sexually or are they interested only because they feel that sexuality among the mentally retarded will produce problems for community agencies.

In this respect he asked how successful was the community in dealing with the problems created by sexuality of normal teenagers and others and whether indeed the mentally retarded presented greater problems than this.

He did not, however, minimize the need for sex education and this was generally seconded by Dr. Gordon who has written extensively on the subject.

Copies of Mr. Weingold's talk are available from the New York State Office.

### REHABILITATION IN '72

A record 326,138 disabled Americans were rehabilitated to productive activities during fiscal year ending June 30, 1972 according to a report of HEW's Social and Rehabilitation Service.

The 1972 figure, up 12 per cent over 291,272 individuals recorded for FY 1971, is the highest yearly total ever reached since the State-Federal vocational rehabilitation program began in 1970.

Edward Newman, Commissioner of SRS's Rehabilitation Services Administration, noted that "over three million disabled men, women and youths have returned to productive employment since the Vocational Rehabilitation Act became law June 2, 1920."

New York State with 13,717 rehabilitations ranked fifth in the U.S. Rehabilitations per hundred thousand. In rehabilitations for 10,000 disabled population, New York State had 145 and ranked 49th.

Statistics do not break down the rehabilitations by handicap and therefore it is impossible to say how many of these were mentally retarded.

### WEINGOLD RECEIVES LEADERSHIP AWARD

Region X of the American Association on Mental Deficiency honored our executive director, Joseph Weingold with the Leadership Award from the Region at the annual conference held in Montreal in September.

"As one who has known you for many, many years," writes Harold Michal-Smith, Ph.D., Chairman of the Northeast Region X, "I can truly say it is a recognition well deserved and earned. The Awards Committee also deserves an accolade for acting on my recommendation."

## DON'T MISS THIS CONVENTION

## CARDS SALES OUTSTANDING '73 CONTEST UNDERWAY

After an outstanding response to the 1972 Christmas Card Program sponsored by the New York State Association for Retarded Children, we are now in the midst of final preparations for judging the 1973 entries. While the entries at this writing seem somewhat slower than the record setting 1972 group, we are sure that we shall have some gorgeous designs for our 1973 competition.



Executive Director, Joseph T. Weingold looks at our exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art with Lowery Sims of the Department of Community Programs at the Metropolitan and, (l to r) Susan Miller, Regina Defeo and Joanna Alb, students from Marymount School.

The 1972 designs, which were placed on the cards sold by the Association really made a hit during the course of the year. The design by Raymond Hugaboon from Rome State School, our "Blue Partridge" was really outstanding. Fifty thousand cards of this design were made, and at the present time there are only 200 cards left in existence at the State ARC Office.

Other designs by the retarded were also good sellers, almost totally exhausting the supply which was prepared.

Some improvements that the committee is hoping to make in the 1973 card sales include a colored brochure which will more attractively display the cards available, and a less expensive card, which we hope will appeal to those Chapters who felt they could not participate in this year's program.

For those who may be interested in obtaining a box of the designs done by our retarded youngsters, the State Association still has a small supply of the 3 designs from the 1972 competition, Style 269-2, 270-2 and 271-2 available. Those of you who wish to buy for next year, or did not have an opportunity to obtain the card of your choice during the 1972 sale, may obtain these cards by writing directly to the State office on the form provided below. As a post holiday bonus, the State Association will supply the cards for simply the card cost, with the State office absorbing the cost of the postage.

| No. Boxes         | Style & Price                                 | Message   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| 50 Cards @ \$5.90 | 269-2 Blue Partridge in Pear Tree             | May Happiness Brighten your Holidays and remain with you throughout the New Year. |
| 25 Cards @ \$4.95 | 270-2 Snow Scene of boy with tree and snowman | Greetings of the Season and sincere good wishes for your happiness.               |
| 25 Cards @ \$4.95 | 271-2 Children Singing                        | May our Gift this Season be that of Peace and Love to all God's Children.         |

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



## 24 A ONE-TO-ONE FESTIVAL GREAT DAY AND NITE FOR RETARDED

August 30th, 1972 was an unforgettable day and night for the mentally retarded in New York City.

Thousands of retarded children and adults strolled hand in hand with volunteer companions in a one-to-one festival in Sheep Meadow in Central Park.

The festival was largely the work of Geraldo Rivera of WABC-TV "Eyewitness News", and Geraldine Fitzgerald, the actress, to raise funds to help personalized care for the retarded.



The thousands on the Sheep Meadow, Central Park.

Four organizations shared in the funds, each one receiving as of this writing \$62,500 to help sponsor community residences for the retarded. These organizations were: New York City Chapter, Association for the Help of Retarded Children, The Benevolent Society, Willowbrook Chapter, an organization called, Working Organization for Retarded Children, and Catholic Charities, Division of the Handicapped.

Performing at the concert were John and Yoko Lennon, Stevie Wonder and the group, Sha-nan-na. Mr. Rivers told the people who showed up to hear them: "I love everyone in this building." The checks were distributed at City Hall in a ceremony at which Mayor Lindsay officiated.

## CAMP CATSKILL FLASH!

We will be operating Camp Catskill again this summer. If you wish to send a child, please write for a brochure.

N.Y.S.A.R.C. — Camp, 175-5th Ave., NYC 10010

## BOOK ON STATE ASSOCIATION A MUST ALL ARE URGED TO PURCHASE A COPY

A new book, probably the first of its kind, about the State Association, has just been published by Dr. Herbert J. Lerner, University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Its 373 pages are jammed packed full of the history of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, the parent's movement in the state of New York and its relationship to New York State government from 1948 to 1968.

It is probably a unique document in the social history of the development of mental retardation services in this country and will probably be a text book in the future.

"State Association for Retarded Children and New York State Government, 1948 — 1968" is a detailed analysis of the dynamics of growth of an organization such as ours, the personalities involved, how the establishment was approached through the various layers of government, including the legislature and the governor, and finally an analysis of the stature of the Association as compared with other voluntary organizations in the same field in New York State.

We are sure that our readers will find extremely interesting the recommendations of the Planning Committee on Mental Retardation put before the governor in 1965. These 191 recommendations are there for all to see and to judge. In addition, there is a wonderful index making it easy to find what you are looking for.

The bibliography is extensive and interesting, but not overwhelming.

We urge every member of the Association and all who read this newspaper to purchase a copy.

ALL OF YOU NOW SEND IN YOUR ORDERS. WE HAVE ONLY 1,000 ON HAND AND THEY SHOULD BE GOING RAPIDLY.

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copy/copies

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