

OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Retarded Children

Can Be Helped!

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CLEANUP ORDERED at WILLOWBROOK

STATE PANEL URGES BREAKING UP OF WILLOWBROOK

CONDEMNS "INHUMAN" CONDITIONS

The special state committee appointed by Governor Rockefeller has recommended that the Willowbrook State School for the mentally retarded, "as it now stands" be dissolved and be reorganized into five independently administered units for each of the boroughs.

Eventually the patients would be relocated in their own boroughs for treatment as new facilities were built. Willowbrook on Staten Island will handle only patients from that borough instead of serving as a center for the mentally retarded from the entire city.

This was one of the major recommendations of a subcommittee of the State Advisory Council on Developmental Disabilities, a 35 member group made up of representatives of state and local public agencies and citizens groups, that was asked to investigate conditions at the institution. The panel's report was made public in February by Governor Rockefeller.

Among conditions cited at the school which was described in lawsuits last year as a "human warehouse" with totally inadequate staffing, were a lack of changes of clothing for children remaining in soiled clothing or no clothing at all for long periods of time, solitary confinement for some, and an "inhumane and psychologically destructive" environment where two or three patients died each week, often from choking on food. These were the charges that the panel set out to investigate.

The group found that the school was "overcrowded, too large, poorly located and ineffectively administered" and recommended that residents of the institution be returned to their home boroughs as soon as feasible.

On its initial visit to the facility last March, the panel found that it was "grossly overcrowded by all accepted standards with some 5,000 retardates living in space designed for 2,970 patients.

They found that the beds in sleeping areas were "often literally inches apart" and that overcrowding made it virtually impossible to carry out habilitation — training in basic skills for the more seriously handicapped who must be treated on the wards.

Other findings and recommendations of the group in its 58 page report were the following:

- Calling the ward environment depressing and dehumanizing, it asked for funds to humanize it even if overcrowding must continue in some wards while the improvement program continues in others.

- The panel found that Willowbrook lacked the trained staff required to provide adequate care and habilitation for the residents, and it recommended affiliations with the Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn and other education

PANEL — (Continued on Page 23)

U.S. JUDGE DIRECTS STATE TO TAKE NINE STEPS TO END "INHUMANE CONDITIONS"

VICTORY FOR THE STATE ASSOCIATION'S SUIT

A Federal judge in Brooklyn has directed the state to remedy the "inhumane and shocking conditions" at the Willowbrook State School for the Mentally Retarded.

Judge Orrin G. Judd ruled in a 90-page opinion that the State Department of Mental Hygiene must take nine specific steps to correct the Staten Island institution's inadequacies.

The basic problems that must be dealt with, the judge said, are the shortages of ward attendants, supervisors, physical therapists, recreation staff, nurses and doctors; the need for a contract with an accredited hospital and the disrepair of toilets.

The ninth step ordered by Judge Judd was the submission of periodic reports to the court on the hospital's progress in upgrading its standards.

The deficiencies now prevailing at the hospital "affect physical safety and the risk of physical deterioration," Judge Judd said.

In Albany, the deputy commissioner of mental retardation and children's services, Robert W. Hayes, said he had not yet seen the decision. On the basis of some information, however, he remarked:

"We need to study it in detail. It seems that the judge is ordering things that are reasonable in terms of what ought to be done."

In his ruling, Judge Judd found that "significant steps" had been taken last year for Willowbrook's improvement. And he noted that seclusion, or solitary confinement had been abolished as of June 15. But he asserted that the abolition did not become fully effective until after a motion was made in court for a preliminary injunction.

Two parallel suits were filed on March 17, 1972 by the State Association for Retarded Children and by parents of the resident children. The suits were later consolidated as a class action and Judge Judd conducted five days of hearings last December and January. The judge then visited Willowbrook on February 12th.

Expert witnesses testified at the hearings that the school was a desolate reservoir of widespread filth, neglect and inadequate food and staff. On July 28th, the court's memorandum described conditions as "largely inhumane."

Lawyers for the plaintiffs, including Bruce J. Ennis of the New York Civil Liberties Union and Robert L. Feldt of the Legal Aid Society, said that the ruling marked the first time that a Federal judge had directed changes in a New York State mental facility.

The judge rejected the plaintiffs' contention that the mentally retarded had constitutional rights to treatment or

WILLOWBROOK — (Continued on Page 3)

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

STATE ASSOCIATION OPPOSES SO-CALLED UNIFIED SERVICES ACT

In a memorandum to the Legislature, the New York State Association for Retarded Children has opposed a so-called Unified Services Act claiming that it is a windfall for some counties and will cost the state between \$12 and \$15 million without any guarantee of an increase in community services or the bettering of institutional services in any way whatsoever.

The memorandum in full follows:

WE OPPOSE ASSEMBLY 7273 —

Assemblyman Robert Wertz

WHAT THE BILL PURPORTS TO DO — The bill purports to amend Article 11. of the Mental Hygiene Law, community services essentially to create a system of funding whereby the local communities will contribute towards the cost of care of patients in the state hospitals and state schools for the mentally retarded in return for which the state will contribute more heavily for the support of community services.

In effect, it is almost solely a different system of funding services in the institutions for the mentally disabled and in the community for the same population. In our opinion it does nothing more than this.

OUR OBJECTIONS. This bill does not require local governments to do any more than they are now doing.

(1) After 20 years of the so-called Community Mental Health Services Act, originally passed in 1954, we think the time has come for a more extensive examination of this section of the law, in the light of this 20 years experience, than the present bill provides. Under the operation of this law, in 20 years we have seen a most disgraceful imbalance between the money spent on retarded in the community and the money spent on mental health, in terms of the contributions of local tax funds.

Although more than 95 per cent of the local share for community services for the mentally ill is contributed by local tax funds, the reverse is true for mental retardation where more than 90 per cent is contributed by the voluntary agencies under contract with local mental health boards.

As long back as 1970 Governor Rockefeller highlighted this when he said the administration would introduce a bill to raise the state share to 75 per cent of community services for mental retardation. This was never done.

The present bill does nothing to redress this imbalance.

As the New York Times article commented on the original bill, there is nothing in it that in any way insures that the local government need do any more than it is now doing in terms of mental retardation or anything else. The fiction that a plan required by this bill will accomplish this is denied by the fact that under the present law such a plan is also needed and must be approved by the Commissioner of Mental

Hygiene. In spite of the fact that such plans are required today and must be approved by the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene nothing radically has changed in the picture so far as community services are concerned.

This bill virtually ignores the private sector delivery services.

Under the present law, as well as this bill, the voluntary agencies under contract with the mental health boards are used as pawns or captive providers of services without any real veto power over plans that are presented and without any power to require local government to contribute a nickel to these services. The present bill compounds this even further because in spite of the fact that it talks a lot about community and voluntary agency input in the development of the plan, the fact is that the plans must be approved only by the local mental health board, the commissioner of Mental Hygiene, and where there is a service under the aegis of the Department of Mental Hygiene in that community, then by the director of that service — in most cases director of a state hospital or a state school for the mentally retarded.

Nowhere is there any power on the part of voluntary agencies who, especially in the field of mental retardation are assuming almost a total burden of financing the community share, to accept or reject the plan.

The fact that a local agency may appeal to the Commissioner for a separate contract where local mental health board refuses a contract has nothing to do with the plan itself.

We object strongly to the fact that a director of a state institution serving perhaps 300 or 400 or 500 people in a community shall have the power to say yes or no to a plan, whereas the local agency such as a chapter of the Association for Retarded Children serving perhaps four or five times as many retarded and developmentally disabled in the community can do nothing about it.

In fact, last year when a simple law requiring the local mental health board to have a public hearing on their plan 30 days before submission to the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene was passed the Governor vetoed it as putting too great a burden on local legislative bodies. What we ask for and we ask for now is such a hearing by the mental health boards and this is the very least we should expect in a bill like this where the voluntary agencies have no power to approve or disapprove a plan which may involve them very heavily.

This bill represents a windfall to three or four counties amounting to perhaps \$12 or \$14 million and increased state aid to a number of other counties, but will hit at least 30 counties quite hard if they accept the so-called Unified Services Plan. These counties will then be left with the option of remaining under the present system which we find inadequate.

WHAT WE PROPOSE:

(1) That the voluntary agencies under contract with the mental health boards, certainly in the field of mental retardation, shall, through a spokesman chosen by them, have the same powers as the directors of institutions to approve or disapprove a plan.

(2) Any funds siphoned into the community over and above now being given by the state shall be on condition that the imbalance now existing between the expenditure of local tax funds on mental health and mental retardation be redressed and that the bill expressly state that the Commissioner shall have the power to refuse state aid unless, in his opinion, this imbalance has been corrected.

(3) There are technical amendments which have been introduced through separate bills and ought to be incorporated in this bill if we are to take care of the problems that now exist.

A. Section 1103, subdivision 11 under Operating Costs should include the phrase "operating costs shall include that part of rental paid to a mental health or mental retardation service company that represents interest on a mortgage held by an agency of the state (HFA)".

(Continued Next Column)

UNIFIED — (Continued on Page 22)

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ACT INCLUDED IN OMNIBUS HEALTH EXTENTION BILL

On March 27th the Senate approved by a vote of 72-19 a bill (S. 1136) providing for a one year extension of the eleven federal health acts which are scheduled to expire on June 30, 1973. Among the authorities which would be extended by this bill is the Developmental Disabilities Act.

S. 1136 simply extends existing appropriations authority for the programs without making any changes in the basic statutes. Several of the programs covered by the bill — Hill-Burton Hospital Construction, Community Mental Health Centers Act, and Regional Medical Programs, however, are on the Administration's list of programs to be eliminated or phased out over the next year. For this reason it is felt that a Presidential veto is a virtual certainty if S. 1136 is passed by the House.

The Congressional strategy at this point seems to be to challenge the president in an attempt to override the anticipated veto.

During the floor debate on S. 1136 Senator Jennings Randolph (D-W. Va.), Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on the Handicapped defended the need for a one year extension noting that "a great number of concerns have arisen with respect to the operation of the act." These concerns, he said, center around "the methods by which funds are being allocated, how funds are being spent, and how the law has been implemented and administered." Randolph concluded that his Subcommittee has initiated an in depth study of the programs and asked the General Accounting Office to provide "detailed answers to a rather lengthy list of questions."

Our Executive Director, Joseph T. Weingold testified before Senator Randolph at the hearings on the extension of the Developmental Disabilities Act.

In a related development the Administration has forwarded to Congress its recommendation on the Developmental Disabilities Act. The draft bill prepared by H.E.W. contains the following modifications: (1) elimination of the requirements for federal approval of construction projects and 90 per cent matching for projects in poverty areas; (2) provision for a single declining federal matching ratio for both construction and service projects (70 per cent in FY '74, 60 per cent in FY '75, and 50 per cent in FY '76); (3) revision in the definition of "developmental disabilities" to include autism as a covered condition; and finally, (4) inclusion of the cost of land acquisition in construction costs.

Despite the receipt of the Administration's recommendations little action is expected on DDSA legislation depending on the outcome of efforts to enact an omnibus extension bill.

In this connection, the Association has asked the legislature of the State of New York to vote \$1,400,000 matching funds for the federal amount under DDSA that is coming to New York State. At present, the Developmental Council has \$6 million worth of applications, most of them worthy, with only \$1,400,000 to spend.

WILLOWBROOK — (Continued from Page 1)

rehabilitation, holding that their rights must rest on protection "from harm". It was on this ground that he ruled that the Federal Court had jurisdiction.

At present, he wrote, the staff at the facility "is indisputably inadequate by any standards."

Judge Judd ordered the immediate hiring of additional ward attendants sufficient to assure a 1 to 9 ratio of staff to residents and thus insure the resident of protection from physical harm. He called, also, for the hiring of at least 85 more nurses, 30 more physical therapists, 15 additional physicians and the hiring of sufficient recreational staff.

In addition, he ruled that periodic reports must be made concerning the state's progress in meeting these requirements.

Mr. Hayes agreed with the judge's statement that money was "not the immediate problem" in the remedies set forth.

SOCIAL SECURITY AMENDMENTS OF 1972

In the concluding days of 1972 Congress passed HR 1, Social Security Amendments of 1972 and to the surprise of many, the President signed the legislation. Many of the provisions in this act relate directly to handicapped individuals including those who may be undergoing rehabilitation. Some of these are:

1. The present state programs for aid to the blind and disabled will be replaced, effective January 1, 1974 with a new wholly federal program which will be entitled Supplementary Security Income for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled.

2. All individuals receiving benefits will be required to qualify on the basis of their income and resources. Individuals eligible will qualify for a minimum income of \$130 monthly. A couple may qualify for \$195 per month. In addition, the first \$20 per month of Social Security or other income would not cause any reduction in the supplemental security income payments, and there would be an additional disregard of \$65 monthly earned income plus one-half of earnings above \$65. The purpose of this latter provision, of course, is to encourage those drawing public welfare benefits to earn as much as they can.

These programs are to be federally administered.

The legislation provides that the states will make the determination of eligibility to receive such benefits in a manner in which the states now make determinations for the Social Security Administration with respect to individuals applying for Social Security Disability Benefits which means that the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation must be involved.

3. Medicare benefits are extended to individuals drawing Social Security Disability Benefits, beginning two years after they are entitled to such benefits. The waiting period is reduced from six months to five months for all applicants. A person now drawing disability, social security benefits on the basis of the principle wage earner's social security will be entitled automatically to medicare hospital and upon payment of the usual monthly fee, medical as well.

There are other elements in this bill that may be of interest to us, but these are the highlights.

ARC CRITICIZES INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES REGULATIONS OF HEW

At the request of Mrs. Bernice L. Bernstein, Regional Director of HEW, Region II, the ARC has commented on the proposed regulations with regard to Intermediate Care Facilities. Some of the criticisms were:

That the regulations postponed for almost three years, the need to meet the standards established by the Accreditation Council for Facilities for the Mentally Retarded and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals.

Exception was taken to setting up a staff ratio of 1-2, which would mean that in an institution such as Willowbrook, with a population of about 4500, there would be no more than 2250 employees, far below what Judge Judd had indicated in the case of New York State Association vs. Rockefeller. Objection was also taken to the regulation that states that the number of residents in multi-resident programs not exceed 12. The maximum should be eight.

Exception was also taken that the minimum of 60 sq. feet per resident was too far below all professionally recognized standards.

The same could be said for toilet and lavatories for each eight residents. This should be for four residents and the same for bath facilities.

In accepting these comments Mrs. Bernstein wrote:

"We are extremely grateful for the time and effort that you and your staff devoted to reviewing the proposed ICF regulations.

"We have used your comments to develop a regional position. We have also submitted all the material you sent to us to the National office where final decisions will be made."

ARC ANALYSES BUDGET

(The following is a testimony presented to the Finance Committee of the Senate and Ways and Means Committee of the Assembly in Albany with regard to the Governor's budget, Feb. 14, 1973.)

Mr. Chairman and members of the Finance and Ways and Means Committees. My name is Joseph T. Weingold, I am the executive director of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc., an organization of parents and friends of the mentally retarded with a membership of about 28,000 family members covering 95 per cent of the state's population and geographic area.

Through our 56 chapters in the year 1971 we served over 16,000 mentally retarded persons with a budget of over \$14 million. The services that we operate, many of them under contract with mental health boards, some supported by Education through Section 4407 of the Education Law, and by O.V.R., as well as the Department of Mental Hygiene, range from clinical services to pre-school, school age, vocational rehabilitation and residential facilities. In fact, if we could consolidate all these programs in one place, we would have for the mentally retarded a cradle to the grave program including guardianship.

I have appeared before your committees in previous years and, if I have not been able to persuade the committees to increase the budget requests of the Governor, at least I don't believe my testimony has ever resulted in a decrease.

A detailed analysis of the Governor's budget shows that, except for the Department of Mental Hygiene, and even that we believe is misdirected in some instances, the mentally retarded are once again getting the short end of the stick as compared with the mentally ill and with other handicaps. Although the budget calls for considerable increases to the Department of Mental Hygiene imbalances between what is being given to the emotionally disturbed and the mentally retarded is so apparent as to be shocking.

In the field of education, the Governor's budget does not recognize any cost of living increases in the services being rendered by community agencies for mentally retarded or physically handicapped children, other than the blind and the deaf. The Fleischmann report is completely ignored in terms of more state aid for special classes. Vocational rehabilitation to maintain severely retarded in sheltered workshops is being starved to death.

We believe that there is enough money in the state to do all that has to be done this year and we hope by facts and figures extracted from the budget itself to demonstrate this to your honorable bodies.

A. MENTAL HYGIENE — The Mental Hygiene budget for the mentally retarded is increased by about \$25 million from \$218 million to about \$243 million for state purposes, but how is this money being spent? The major focus is on the institutions and even here we do not address ourselves to the points of critical concern such as Willowbrook in anywhere near the strength that we should. For example, Willowbrook now is going to receive for personal service \$31,071,370 and assuming that all the increase in the budget is for personal service it means an increase of \$1,189,126 or less than 5 per cent. This is to serve, according to the Governor, (page 292) 4,919 residents which may be reduced now by another 100 or 200. In effect this means an expenditure of about \$6,000 per resident.

Compare this with what is being spent on the Bronx Psychiatric Unit for emotionally disturbed children which operates under the same Division of Mental Retardation and Children's Services. There the expenditure for personal service is \$1,873,920 for 32 residents or about \$60,000 a resident. The claim that the Bronx Psychiatric Unit is serving hundreds, if not thousands, perhaps millions of people in the community leaves us cold, because, if they are, this is a duplication of the services that the Community Mental Health Board in New York City is supposed to be doing. It

is interesting to note that the state is funding its own services at 100 per cent whereas the City of New York only receives 50 per cent for the same or similar services. We claim that this is a terrible disproportionate spending of money allocated to institutions.

As if this is not bad enough, we find that in local assistance it is even worse. Local assistance means the money the state puts up to aid local communities in the development of community services, as alternatives to institutionalization. Year after year we come before this body and before the Legislature and before the Department of Mental Hygiene and the Governor and say that the answer to the institutional problem lies not only in the institution but in the community and much more money must be put into the community if we are going to have the alternatives necessary to prevent institutionalization as well as get the residents out of the institutions.

The Governor recommends \$66,400,000 for all community services, an increase of about \$6 million over last year. How is this divided (page 294)? \$58,432,000 for mental health programs and \$7,968,000 for mental retardation programs. The Governor himself in October, 1970 issued a press release that the imbalance between these two programs must be redressed and he was going to recommend that the state put up 75 per cent for programs for the mentally retarded in the community regardless of the size of the county. Nothing ever came of this. There are bills now before the Legislature and have been last year to this effect but have never gotten out of committee. This is a pity because unless these services are supported and pressed forward we will never solve the institution problem. We say that if we have about 24,000 patients in the state schools as compared to 48 — 50,000 in the state hospitals that the least we could expect is the same proportion of allocation of local funds for the community: namely, out of \$66,000,000 at least \$22,000,000 should be for mental retardation programs. We are not trying to take away from the mental health programs, but we must see an increase in the mental retardation programs if we are to get anywhere.

This lack of understanding of the dynamics of institutionalization is borne out still further by the allocation for hostels.

The Governor now says we should allocate about \$800,000 for the acquisition of houses by the state for the use of community agencies for residences for the mentally retarded to prevent institutionalization and about \$250,000 to make-ready. This is for 15 more hostels in addition to the 12 that are now being operated. This is highly unrealistic. The Department has letters of intent now for more than 30 hostels for the mentally disabled, but is merely asking for 15. The state of Michigan last year appropriated \$6 million for the acquisition and operation of hostels. Can New York State do any less? We are going to spend about \$21 million for an institution in the Bronx for 380 mentally retarded residents. This is about \$60,000 a bed. 38 houses in the community at a tenth of that price per bed and with an expenditure of 40 per cent of the \$8,000 a year it costs to maintain a person in an institution would provide better services.

RECOMMENDATIONS: (1) That the budget for hostels be tripled or quadrupled to \$3,000,000 and that the red tape involved in acquisition and make-ready be cut through so that we can do the job that we in the community are ready to do.

On page 283 of the Governor's budget under Developmental Services and New Facilities \$8,236,080 is recommended to provide for "continued activation of new facilities including the developmental services of Eleanor Roosevelt, Monroe and Brooklyn. Eleanor Roosevelt and Monroe haven't a single resident in the institution, and even if all the bed capacity were filled, we would have 1,000 beds. It is obvious that these beds are not going to be filled this coming year. Against this \$8,236,000 we find the state appropriating less than \$8 million for all community services now serving the mentally retarded in the community, some 16,000 by our Association alone in the year 1971.

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BUDGET — (Continued Next Page)

(2) We also ask at least \$22 - \$25 million be allocated for local services for the mentally retarded.

(3) That the state aid for the mentally retarded be increased from 50 - 75 per cent.

(4) The allocation to an institution like Willowbrook be increased by at least \$5 million to bring it in line a little bit with what is being spent on the emotionally disturbed in the small psychiatric hospitals, many of them with very few patients. Last year I antagonized people in the field of mental health by calling these hospitals and institutions without any patients "phantom institutions". I repeat this charge today in spite of the fact that it will not win me a popularity contest. We must take a hard look at how the dollars are being spent and where. It may be that with no increase in the total budget we can have a reallocation of funds that will be much more meaningful to what we are trying to accomplish.

B. EDUCATION: The education budget as presented by the Governor is another indication of how low on the totem pole mental retardation is. No attention at all is paid to the Fleischmann Commission report that state aid for special classes for the handicapped (all the handicapped) be raised by a factor of 2.05. The Board of Regents in its request for funds and budget asked that it be doubled to 2. The big six have presented to this Legislature over and over again the fact that it costs them 2-3 and 4 times to educate a handicapped child over what it costs to educate a normal child.

RECOMMENDATION: The budget contains a provision for this increase of state aid to the schools operating classes for the handicapped. It is interesting to note that before 1965 when we had the Heald Formula the state paid all the excess cost of educating a handicapped child over the cost of educating a normal child, figuring a class for normal children at 25. When the Diefendorf Formula came in, it purported to cut out categorical aid, which in fact it didn't, and we were left with a mandate for special education but the state aid was not there.

Now let us turn to the budget itself. In the budget on education the Governor asked for \$750,000 increase "cost-of-living increases" not granted since 1971-72, to the private schools operating facilities for the blind and the deaf. We have no objection to this. We think this is a good request. But on the same page for those agencies operating classes for the handicapped who are too severely handicapped to go to public schools under Section 4407 of the Education Law, not only doesn't the Governor ask for an increase of the \$2,000 which has been in existence since the law went into effect, but he asks that the budget remain at \$14.3 million for 7,150 children and then recommends that if more than 7,150 children come in there be a decrease of \$100 for each child in order to make up the additional funds needed. Is this the way they should be treated?

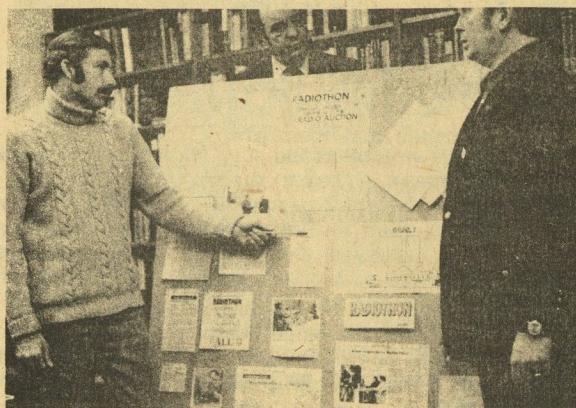
RECOMMENDATION: We recommend that not only should this budget not remain at \$14.3 million but should be increased by at least 25 per cent. To educate the same child in a BOCES class the state spends as its share much more than \$2,000 and we are not so sure that we are not doing as good if not a better job as BOCES. We in the voluntary agencies should not be penalized.

C. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION: There was a definite increase in the vocational rehabilitation budget and we are happy to see it. We hope it will be still more when the Congress passes over the President's veto the Rehabilitation Act.

But what is being done about that part of the population in vocational rehabilitation who are the prime candidates for institutionalization, the more severely retarded.

Some years ago the Legislature passed a law providing for up to \$1500 for each such person in a sheltered workshop for the mentally retarded. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation reduced this amount arbitrarily to \$1250 and when the freeze came on last year and the year before this was reduced to \$1,000 and the numbers served from 1600 to about 850.

(Continued Next Column)



The Rev. Richard Dutton, left, radiothon coordinator, John Zaines, WALL radio manager, and John Degnan of the Middletown Elks Club, right, discuss the success of the radiothon to aid the Association for the Help of Retarded Children (AHRC) after Elks contributed \$500 during the week. After the Elks turned in their check, cash in hand totaled \$14,000 with over \$25,000 pledged, \$3,000 above the goal.

Now we are in a period of expanding prosperity. What does the budget now provide? The same \$1,000 a year, whether it costs double that or not, yes, there is an increase of \$275,000 in the budget, but this is to serve an additional 275 persons at this same \$1,000.

A mentally retarded person is in a program under Section 4407 until the age of 21. The parents, and the agency through the parents, receive \$2,000 a year. But the day that person becomes 21, he suddenly becomes a half person and is worth only \$1,000 for services. How come? Furthermore, to get this \$1,000 he has to wait a year before Vocational Rehabilitation will okay him for this funding.

RECOMMENDATION: We recommend that each agency receive at least the \$1500 if not \$2,000 per client for the 2,000 clients that it is going to take care of and that the budget be increased by another \$1,000,000.

The Department of Mental Hygiene, - Vocational Rehabilitation projects has an increase of \$2,945,230 for 94 new positions for vocational counselors in the institutions to help reduce the institutional population. This is all very well and good, but what is the counselor going to counsel these people to if there aren't the services in the community. And the services in the community cannot exist without financial aid. I submit that it is penny-wise and pound foolish to spend the money this way.

CONCLUSION: We don't think this is an either or proposition, but we insist that the emphasis in the budget is askew. Surely we must improve conditions in the institutions and, parenthetically, I might say that we see nothing improved in Willowbrook in the last year, by the same token we must increase and improve the community services by encouraging public schools through more funding to start special classes, encourage vocational rehabilitation and the agencies offering such rehabilitation to take in more of the mentally retarded by more state aid, encourage the communities to start more services for severely handicapped children through increasing state aid under 4407 and finally, by a real crisis push for community residences of all kinds by increasing the hostel budget.

What will the total cost of all this be? All I can say is it will be considerably less than \$61 million that the Governor has in his budget for aid to private schools which has been ruled unconstitutional a number of times and I predict will be ruled unconstitutional again. So the money is there and it won't mean any increase in the budget if we realign our sights and understand that this crisis of the mentally retarded is not going to disappear by using more money in the same counterproductive way over and over again.

SUIT ASKS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TO HALT ALLEGED PEONAGE IN MENTAL INSTITUTIONS

Two national organizations and three mental patients sued the Department of Labor in March to end what the plaintiffs called widespread peonage in mental institutions.

The civil suit, filed in United States District Court in Washington, D.C., charged that thousands of residents in non-Federal hospitals and other institutions were working daily at menial jobs and receiving either token pay as low as one cent an hour or no pay at all.

This is not only unjust, but also harms the patients psychologically and financially, spokesman for the two national organizations said.

The two groups, the National Association for Mental Health and the American Association on Mental Deficiency, called a news conference to explain the suit.

Dr. George Solyanis, executive director of the latter organization, said there might be tens of thousands of such patients at work in mental institutions in this country. He said that some critics had called them institutional slaves who received neither wages, fringe benefits nor status for their long hours of labor.

The suit charges, for example, that one of the three individual plaintiffs works 11 hours a day, five days a week in the kitchen of an institution in Ohio. On the other two days, the suit states, he works five and one-half hours in the kitchen and four hours doing housecleaning and yard work for retired state employees in the vicinity. For the kitchen work, the suit charges, he is paid \$2 a month from the state payroll.

The complaint noted that this was less than one cent an hour. For the outside work, the patient receives from \$2 to \$3 a week, the document said.

A spokesman for the institution declined to comment on the case.

The suit asks that the Secretary of Labor and four of his officers enforce a Fair Labor Standards Act amendment, approved in 1966, that extended minimum wage and overtime pay guarantees to cover work done by hospitalized patients.

Those who spoke at the news conference said it was not possible to say what the minimum wage should be for individual patients because the law allows variations in pay depending on how far below normal competency patients are judged to be.

Irving H. Chase, immediate past president of the National Association for Mental Health, said at the news conference that there were certainly more than 100,000 such institutionalized workers, and possibly as many as 200,000.

The availability of this large pool of cheap labor, he said, is one factor in keeping many large mental institutions in operation even though many persons in the mental health field believe that patients would be served better in smaller institutions or in community mental health programs.

The practice of having patients work at such institutions is sometimes defended on the ground that it constitutes therapy and allows the patient to help pay for the cost of his care.

Mr. Chase and others at the news conference disputed those defenses. They also said that the failure to pay wages to the patients made it impossible for them to gain coverage under such programs as Social Security and Workmen's Compensation.

They said the purpose of the present suit was not to collect damages for the specific patients involved, but to halt the practices nationwide.

Mr. Chase said it was his impression, although it was virtually impossible to prove, that some patients were kept in institutions longer than necessary simply because they were useful workers. He described one case in which, he said,

INSTITUTION COMMITTEE CONCERNED WITH FOOD IN THE INSTITUTIONS

In answer to a letter from Thomas Coughlin, Chairman of the Institutions Committee of the Association, the following reply was received as to how much money is being spent on food for the residents in the state schools.

"Dear Mr. Coughlin: Because of the technical nature of your inquiry, Dr. Miller has referred your letter of February 27th to me for reply.

We, too, are concerned about the food budgets of our institutions in view of the inflationary pressures to increase food costs; and we are constantly monitoring this major cost center of our budget.

The current average daily per capita expenditure for food is \$1.0161. We are preparing our 1973-74 food budgets with an average daily per capita of \$1.0594 for Mental Retardation facilities.

The 1973-74 Food Plan meets, and in most cases exceeds, the Recommended Daily Dietary Allowances as established by the National Academy of Sciences. For example, our regular diet and eleven modified diets exceed the recommended diet in Protein content by 70 per cent, vitamin A. by 41 per cent, thiamin by 34 per cent, riboflavin by 59 per cent, niacin by 106 per cent, and vitamin C by 124 per cent. The Food Plan provides a daily caloric intake of 2700 calories, and we meet the recommended allowances for calcium and iron.

Food commodities, listed in our Food Plan, are purchased, centrally received and warehoused and automatically shipped through the Supply Support System to our institutions, based upon their actual feeding populations (residents plus employees who eat at the facility).

Under no circumstances do we intend to serve less than that which is provided by in the Food Plan. Additional funds to meet the needs of the Food Plan are requested when unusual inflationary pressures increase the costs of food above our original estimates.

Our Bureau of Nutrition Services will continue to monitor individual food commodities to assure that the greatest nutritive value for our residents is received from the \$27.5 million which will be expended for food in the 1973-74 Budget. Very truly yours, William E. Byron, Associate Commissioner, Office of Administration and Fiscal Management."

The question we are asking is "How can one dollar and a little over one cent or even five cents a day be sufficient for adequate feeding (a) in the light of inflation, (b) the Department itself spent a \$1.20 a day for camp food two years ago.

PEONAGE — (Continued from Previous Column)

a woman was kept in an institution in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., for more than a decade on a diagnosis of alcoholism and psychosis, but she was released at about the time an operation for a serious eye ailment compromised her ability to work.

Dr. Lewis F. Bartlett, a psychiatrist on the staff, of a state hospital in Haverford, Pa., said the ordinary patient-worker in a state hospital was not paid, was rarely thanked and received nothing for his efforts that would help build his self-esteem. He said such labor could not be described as therapy.

The plaintiffs, in addition to the two organizations, are Edwin Leedy, a 62 year old resident of Haverford State Hospital; Nelson E. Sounder, 47, a resident of the Orient State Institute, Orient, Ohio, and Joseph Langone, 32, a resident of the Pennhurst State School and Hospital, Spring City, Pa.

The Mental Hygiene Law as amended January, 1973 in New York State requires that all patients in State institutions be paid at the minimum Federal standard. This is the subject of another article in this issue.

Efforts to learn why the National Association for Retarded Children, Inc., was not a party to this suit have been unproductive.

(Continued Next Column)

RETARDED RESIDENTS DROPPED FROM JOBS

A recent article in the New York Post indicated that 200 residents of Letchworth Village who had previously been working at jobs in the institutions had been dropped when the new Mental Hygiene Law was passed.

Section 15.09 of the recodification of the Mental Hygiene Law requires that any resident of the institutions who is engaged in work must be paid at the federal minimum wage level. We print herewith the answer from Commissioner Miller in response to a question from our executive director concerning this situation.

According to Mr. Weingold, it is inconceivable that the work of these residents became unimportant and meaningless in terms of the maintenance of the institution merely because they had to be paid at the federal minimum wage.

"This is obviously a failure of the Division of the Budget and the Governor's Office," said Mr. Weingold, "to provide the funds to pay these people." Their placement in so-called vocational rehabilitation programs, continued Mr. Weingold, is in his opinion a dodge to escape the need to pay them as they should be paid.

"I fear that they will be continuing under this facade," he concluded, "to be doing the work that they did before and still not be paid."

Commissioner Miller's answer follows:

"This is in further response to your letter of January 15, 1973, requesting comments on the recent article in the New York Post, concerning the loss of payless jobs at Letchworth Village.

In accordance with Section 15.09 of the Recodification of the Mental Hygiene Law, all unpaid work assignments in the Department of Mental Hygiene facilities were terminated effective January 1, 1973. At Letchworth Village approximately 600 residents were involved. Since these residents contributed significantly to the operation of the facility, a limited number of them have been temporarily reassigned so that vital services can be maintained.

You can appreciate, however, that the retention of some residents for so-called essential work to maintain vital services does not necessarily serve the habilitation needs of these residents, even though it may temporarily ease some of the facility's need for workers. Our objective for those of our residents capable of living in the community is to prepare them for community resettlement and place them into the community, not to find reasons for keeping them in the facility. To that positive end, we will utilize all our program and other available resources.

Another factor worth mentioning is the impact on staff who have in some instances been more involved in 'supervising' working residents, rather than doing the tasks themselves for which they were hired, particularly in support areas. We look for improved employee accountability as the resident work force continues to decrease, but cannot completely terminate all resident work assignments without seriously handicapping our operations at this time.

Therefore, funds to meet the cost of work done by residents from January 1, 1973 to March 31, 1973 have been provided to the institutions, through the reallocation of existing resources.

It is the Department's goal that by April 1, 1973, institutions will be in a position to hire employees to do this work. The need for additional support positions to replace the resident workers is currently being evaluated, and a request for additional funds to meet these essential staffing needs is being prepared for the 1973-74 Supplemental Budget.

To meet the needs of residents previously assigned to unpaid work activities, the institutions have been directed to plan and develop suitable alternative vocational habilitation programs. We are also in the process of preparing a request for funds to meet the needs for staff, which are essential

(Continued Next Column)

NASSAU VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Mrs. Joseph E. Gunher, right, is shown accepting the award citing her as Volunteer of the Year of the Nassau County Chapter, "... in grateful recognition of her unselfish devotion and her outstanding record of accomplishments in behalf of the mentally retarded." Making the presentation at the Chapter's 15th Annual Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show is Nassau's executive director Mrs. Helen Kaplan, second from right. Former award recipient Mrs. Sidney Drucker, left, served as Mistress of Ceremonies and Mrs. Thelma Kanzer, second from left, was Chairman of the event which attracted close to one thousand women.

IT HAPPENS IN OTHER STATES AS WELL

An article by Mr. Joseph Weiler, a reporter for the Commercial Appeal in Memphis, Tenn., appearing in the Watertown Daily Times, discloses that a Senate Investigating Committee in Tennessee, looking into child abuse in the state institutions for the mentally retarded was more concerned with the facts leaking to the press than changing conditions.

After the Committee finished three days of hearings, into child abuse in a mental hospital near Memphis last September, one of the senators concluded, writes Mr. Weiler, "there was no need for state employees to report cases (of misconduct) to the news media, they are going to report it to the state".

Although ordered to show why he should not be held in contempt and jailed for not publicly disclosing who had told him about this widespread abuse, Mr. Weiler resisted and was finally vindicated.

There had been rumors of abuse at the Arlington Hospital and School for the Mentally Retarded since it opened three years ago, but nothing apparently was being done.

Upon checking his information, Mr. Weiler found that eight employees of the Arlington Hospital and School for the Mentally Retarded had been fired as a result of an investigation into reports of child abuse at the state-run institution.

He wrote of children being left in the cold, placed in solitary confinement and beaten.

As a result of the publicity and public concern by the Senator's own admission, they would not have investigated had these articles not appeared in the newspaper.

This is in some way similar to the situation at Syracuse State School that will be reported elsewhere in this issue where but for the efforts of our Onondaga County Chapter the beating of a child would have been probably concealed.

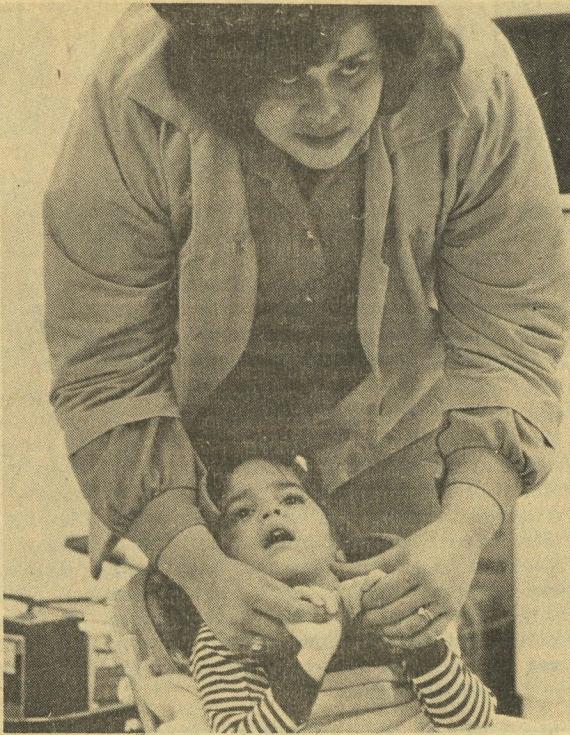
JOBS — (Continued from Previous Column)

for implementation of these programs.

Until the necessary programs can be established, Letchworth Village is making every effort to include the unemployed residents in ongoing vocational and recreational programs. For those who have the potential, and where it is appropriate, community job placements are being sought.

I hope the above answers any questions you might have. Sincerely yours, Alan D. Miller, M.D."

It really does not!



Tender hands help muscle development as Mrs. Leona Hoffman aids a youngster in the day training center of the Saratoga County Association for Retarded Children.

WHY WAS CHARLIE IN AN INSTITUTION SO LONG

In contrast to what the Department of Mental Hygiene is doing in terms of paying employees for work in the institutions, our Chenango County Chapter shares with us the reaction of Automecha Ltd., a manufacturer in Oxford, N. Y., who employed a mentally retarded person on referral from the community workshop operated by our Chenango County Chapter.

We cannot improve on what Mr. Joseph J. Spano writing for Automecha says about their employee.

The letter follows in full:

"The Community Workshop has evidenced itself as an organization of people helping people find purpose in being and meeting the challenge to become. Automecha, Ltd., as an employer in Chenango County witnessed the justification of the preceding statement through the employment of an individual from the workshop.

Readily we noticed this individual's conscientiousness to do a good job along with the ability to do one. At first it seemed strange, a mentally retarded person adapting so well, even socially there occurred no hinderance. In a matter of weeks Charlie adjusted wonderfully doing a number of tasks along with his usual maintenance work. Why then was Charlie in an institution for so many years? Here the message is much deeper than an individual adjusting to society because most likely from the beginning with some guidance this person could have attained this same level of achievement. What I have realized is that I, we, society had institutionalized someone who perhaps never needed to be in such a place. Here is the true value of the Workshop conveying to us a knowledge and realization that previous beliefs and attitudes toward mental retardation can no longer build barriers impeding human achievement."

**STATE CONVENTION — OCTOBER 11 - 14 —
HYATT HOUSE — ALBANY**

ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER EXPOSES BEATING AT SYRACUSE STATE SCHOOL

It wasn't until Onondaga County Chapter of the Association for Retarded Children (Syracuse, N. Y.) called a press conference to reveal that a retarded boy at Syracuse State School was severely beaten that the police were called into the case. This was about 3 days after the beating had taken place.

Following the ARC's role as child advocate, Tom Scholl, president, called for a full investigation and said, "Something is radically wrong with the system of delivery of care in institutions when children and staff are constantly placed in jeopardy because of inadequate staffing of these facilities."

Dr. Theodore J. DiBuono, agreed that the boy was a victim of inadequate staffing.

He also said that the policy of not notifying police will be changed, but did not admit that the beating was done by a staff member.

"It's impossible to maintain supervision with our inadequate staffing," said Dr. DiBuono.

"We have 350 retarded people and at times the ratio is three staff to 24 children."

"We're just not up to standards, and the standards aren't even high enough", said DiBuono.

The youth underwent surgery for a ruptured intestine.

The attendant who is suspected of beating this child is the same one who last year ordered a former resident, age 12, to remove his clothing and remain naked in the closet for 20 to 30 minutes.

In a letter to the Board of Visitors who, under the new Mental Hygiene Law, have the right to investigate such charges, and even subpoena witnesses, Tom Scholl called upon them for an immediate and thorough investigation and "report by the Syracuse State School Board of Visitors regarding a recent incident in Ward 3A1."

Jerry Wilbur, the resident in question attends the ARC center as a day student.

"The Association is extremely upset about the implications of this sad and tragic episode," wrote Tom Scholl, "and feels that the Board of Visitors has a vital and responsible role to fill in investigating the circumstances in reporting its findings to the ARC."

WILLOWBROOK MUST EDUCATE WOMAN: SUPREME COURT

A Supreme Court justice ruled in January that state officials had been "derelict" in their duty to train and care for a retarded woman at Willowbrook and he ordered them to begin educating her to the limit of her abilities.

Justice Vito J. Titone said the State Department of Mental Hygiene has violated the state's mental law requiring that retarded persons be given treatment of "high quality and effectiveness." He gave state officials 30 days to devise a program to teach the woman the "elementary functions that she is capable of."

Although the decision applied to only one Willowbrook resident, Adrienne Renelli, 22, legal experts said it had implications for many Willowbrook residents who are given essentially custodial care and little or no training.

The Justice, sitting in Sater Island, where Willowbrook is situated said, placing Miss Renelli in Willowbrook without attempted treatment was unconstitutional, constituting "imprisonment." She was "warehoused and ignored," he said, and tested only once for educability.

That was when she entered Willowbrook in 1960.

Rep. Mario Biaggi (D-R-C-N.Y.), who brought the action nearly a year ago on behalf of Miss Renelli's parents said he would apply to Justice Titone to expand the ruling to include every Willowbrook resident.

Titone rejected charges by the Renellis that their daughter had been abused physically. He said there was insufficient evidence to support the contention.

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE CONTRACTS WITH U.C.P.

THERAPY SERVICES TO MULTIPLE-HANDICAPPED AT WILLOWBROOK ARC'S REQUEST TO SERVE WILLOWBROOK IGNORED

Governor Rockefeller has announced that the State Department of Mental Hygiene has contracted with the United Cerebral Palsy Association of New York State to provide therapy services to multiply-handicapped residents of Willowbrook State School for the mentally retarded on Staten Island.

The total amount of the contract is \$144,000.

The Governor said that under the terms of the agreement United Cerebral Palsy Association will send "mini-teams" of physical, occupational, speech and hearing therapists and other rehabilitation specialists to Willowbrook to work with residents, and at the same time train Willowbrook ward service employees in new techniques of meeting the needs of multiply disabled people.

Dr. Alan D. Miller, State Commissioner of Mental Hygiene stated UCP's help was asked because of Willowbrook's inability to attract an adequate number of professionals in these fields because of its size and location.

At the time of the hearings more than one year ago, held by HEW into the conditions at Willowbrook, the New York State Association for Retarded Children offered to contract with the state of New York to operate building 6, and one of the other buildings for severely retarded persons at Willowbrook as well as Tau building at Letchworth.

This offer has been ignored.

FOSTER CARE AT CREEDMOOR IS HIT

Senator Frank Padavan (R-Queens) charged recently that some former employees of Creedmoor State Hospital are "unconscionably exploiting the mentally ill" by collecting money for foster care of patients by leaving them unattended for days in private homes. He called for an immediate investigation by Attorney General Lefkowitz.

Padavan said his staff had found a dozen houses in the Laurelton and Cambria Heights districts of Queens where several patients were left alone. He said one owner who was collecting \$230 a month for each of four persons, came by "once a week and dropped off groceries for them."

"There are more than 400 out-patients from Creedmoor, in my district," he said, "and fewer than 95 licensed foster homes. I leave to your imagination the deplorable conditions existing in the numerous unlicensed homes in this area."

Padavan, a freshman Senator said he believes the practice is widespread.

PROGRESS AT LETCHWORTH VILLAGE

Frances W. Reville, president of Welfare League, Letchworth Village Chapter of the ARC, writes us that 200 former residents at Letchworth Village now living in family care were recently recalled to Letchworth Village and given a complete physical and dental check-up.

"I believe," she writes, "this is the first time that such treatment has been given and what could be accomplished at Letchworth was done and the rest recommended when they returned to their respective residences. The social service workers will follow up to see that the treatments prescribed are carried out."

In addition she wrote that former working residents were given examinations conducted by the Personnel Department at Letchworth Village. Eighteen passed and were

STATE SCHOOLS FOR RETARDED SHOW DECLINE IN POPULATION

According to the Department of Mental Hygiene, the resident population in state schools for the mentally retarded dropped to its lowest point in nearly eleven years.

The latest state school census (as of February) shows the current population as 23,809 which is 1,426 under the figure of a year ago and 3,745 under the peak figure of 27,554 in 1967.

The Department attributes the change to an increase in a number of placements in the community and family care programs and a reduction in the number of admissions due to closer screening of applicants and development of more community sponsored services.

The question that this Association has raised with the Department is: where are the people who have been released from the institutions? Charges have been made in the Western part of the state that the Department is dumping these people into the community without back-up services. This has been verified in some instances by the Association and been taken up with the Commissioner.

We have informed every director of a state school that unless there is an absolutely acceptable plan in writing for every person released and something happens to that person after release we shall, under the Mental Hygiene Law, hold the director personally responsible.

In a recent letter to the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene we asked: "that before release a written plan involving the community agency that is to render back-up services be drawn up for every person to be released. This plan must include where he is going to be placed, who is going to supervise the placement, who is going to follow up, what back-up services are needed, who is going to provide them and who is going to pay for them.

To date we have had no answer to this. In addition, we should like to point out that there is a long waiting list of over 2,000 and growing every day for institutionalization. Should we not consider this waiting list a part of the institution population?

AND WHAT OF THE WAITING LISTS

A little known and well concealed statistic is the one about the waiting lists for those waiting to get into institutions for the retarded.

The latest count, according to the Department of Mental Hygiene is 2,553, of whom 1787 are in New York City alone. And what are we to do with these?

RESIDENTS NOT REPRESENTED — CHARGES ASSOCIATION HEARINGS ON ABUSE HELD WITHOUT RESIDENTS PRESENT

In a letter to Mr. Hyman M. Forstenzer, Second Deputy Commissioner, Department of Mental Hygiene, Mr. Weingold, executive director of the Association demanded a review of the procedures when an accusation is made against an attendant or any other employee of brutality or assault against a resident.

"The present procedures," he wrote, "seems to give all the protection to the employees but I see nothing in here of the rights of the retarded to have a lawyer or to be present and have his family or guardian or lawyer present at hearings, whether conducted by a hearing officer or as it may be after January 1st, by the Board of Visitors."

Mr. Weingold quoted the instance of a Letchworth Village resident who was questioned alone and not apprised through his family or guardian of his right to an attorney for a hearing, in fact was not represented by anyone.

'DUMPING' AT STATE SCHOOLS FOR RETARDED CHARGED

PARENTS AFRAID TO VISIT WEST SENECA

Parents hesitate to visit West Seneca State School and other state residential institutions for the retarded because of administrative pressure to remove their children, Robert J. Hodgson, past president of the State Association for Retarded Children has charged.

Mr. Hodgson charged that the State Mental Hygiene Department has adopted a dumping policy.

"Parents are scared of the department or the directors of the schools," said Mr. Hodgson.

"Many of our parents who used to go out to West Seneca every weekend and to take children out for holidays, won't even go on the grounds now."

"They are so afraid the doors are going to be closed. Social workers have been on the phone asking them to talk about taking the child home."

West Seneca has announced that it hopes to place the retarded in what administrators consider the more normal environment of the community when this is possible and in the best interest of the resident. Dr. Louis G. Huzella, director, believes more than half of the 1700 adults and children in institutions could live outside.

Mr. Hodgson observed that although 85 per cent of the mentally retarded can become self-sufficient, he believes that 26,000 will remain fairly constant as the number who must be maintained in state schools.

But most communities have much to accomplish before they can offer the in-community schooling, sheltered workshop programs and living arrangements that now exist in some European countries, he said.

As an example of the pressures put on parents there is one case in Services for the Mentally Retarded in Erie county records in which a mother of a mentally retarded adolescent girl in Craig State School thought she was signing papers for a home visit and found she had agreed to discharge.

The record shows that the woman, who had three other retarded children at home, contacted Craig and "was given no satisfaction except that her name would be placed on the waiting list."

The girl was placed in West Seneca on an emergency basis.

"Albany was contacted and Craig State School agreed to readmit under the condition that two doctors' statements be obtained stating her functional level," the report adds.

Mr. Hodgson also was opposed to foster home care that could not be properly supervised.

"Do you think somebody is going to be able to exercise meaningful supervision over a kid living on top of a hill two miles outside of some town?" Mr. Hodgson asked.

"Who is liable if these kids burn up a foster home. They haven't thought of this. It is just dump, dump, dump."

STATE ARC AMICUS CURIAE IN CRUELTY CASE

APPELLATE DIVISION REVERSES SUPREME COURT

The State Mental Hygiene Department has won a battle to have a 12 year employee of the Rome State School fired for allegedly mistreating mentally retarded children.

The state had appealed to the Fourth Department Appellate Court, to overturn a ruling by former Supreme Court Justice Eugene Sullivan who had ordered Mrs. Edith Merchant of Rome, reinstated and reprimanded, after Dr. Greenberg, former school director had ordered her dismissed after a hearing.

The charges against her alleged that on March 31, 1971, she had hit one child in the head, slapped another on the back and kicked or nudged another with her foot during the dinner hour while attempting to put 15 children to bed, the

(Continued Next Column)

ARTS AND LETTERS IN NEW YORK CITY



Artie Shaw, Chairman of the "Arts and Letters" Committee of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, New York City Chapter, with three committee members (r) actress Maureen Stapleton, (center) actress Tammy Grimes, and (l) author Nancy W. Faber, who is also on the Board of Directors of the Association, at a gala shindig given for the committee, which is made up of people in the communications profession who are interested in helping spread the necessary information about the mentally retarded and the role of the A.R.C.

FRED GRUNBERG RESIGNS

Dr. Frederic Grunberg, who headed the mental retardation services for the state, has resigned as of March 31st to accept a faculty position at Albany Medical College and Medical Center.

Dr. Grunberg has been Deputy Commissioner for Mental Retardation and Children's Services since 1967.

Mental Hygiene Commissioner, Dr. Alan D. Miller, announced that he was promoting Associate Commissioner Robert W. Hayes to succeed Dr. Grunberg. Mr. Hayes, a public health administrator but not a psychiatrist, joined the department in 1969 after 16 years as administrator of Pacific State Hospital for the retarded in Pomona, Calif.

The state's mental retardation services have recently been under attack at Willowbrook, State School on Staten Island and at other facilities, because of understaffing and other severe problems. However, a department spokesman said Dr. Grunberg's departure was not related to these problems.

Dr. Grunberg had planned to leave a year ago but delayed because of the Willowbrook crises. Dr. Miller said he "deeply regretted professionally and personally" Dr. Grunberg's resignation and said his top retardation aide "leaves our state program a far better instrument of human service than he found it."

Dr. Grunberg will retain a professional affiliation with the department through a staff appointment to the Capital District Psychiatric Center.

CRUELTY — (Continued from Previous Column)

appeal decision showed.

The hearing officer, though agreeing with the facts, ordered that she be fined \$100 and reinstated. Dr. Greenberg refused and fired her, whereupon the action was brought to the Supreme Court who ordered her reinstated.

Upon the request of the Attorney General, the New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc., acted as amicus curiae in the Appellate Division case which reversed the Supreme Court.

The majority of the court said that Mrs. Merchant had violated the treatment program to which she was assigned. The school director in dismissing her took the action "to enforce strict compliance with his instruction". In an almost identical case the Appellate Division reversed the Supreme Court order for an attendant who had been dismissed at West Seneca and here again the New York State Association for Retarded Children acted as amicus curiae. At this writing the Seneca case has been appealed to the Court of Appeals and once again we are acting as amicus curiae.

LEGISLATION FOR SEPARATE DEPARTMENT RE-INTRODUCED

BROADENED TO INCLUDE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The legislation for a separate office of Mental Retardation passed last year unanimously in the Senate with only four dissenting votes in the Assembly and vetoed by Governor Rockefeller, has been reintroduced.

The sponsor in the Senate is Senator Schermerhorn (R-Orange) with a number of other sponsors (S. 4234) and in the Assembly by Assemblyman Riccio (R-Kings County) (A. 49). It is interesting to note that the Assembly bill has 60 co-sponsors, probably as many co-sponsors as any bill has ever received. This year, mindful of the objections of some of the groups serving other handicaps, the bill has been changed to read Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. In the body of the bill the mental disabilities are mentioned by name throughout the bill so that there will be no question of these disabilities being part of the program in this separate Office.

A number of other states have already created separate departments for mental retardation. It is the opinion of this Association that this must happen in the future if we are to break away from what is the medical model for the delivery of services. As someone has said, the individual cannot do anything if the system is geared against him.

LEGISLATURE PASSES BUDGET — SOME IMPROVEMENT FOR MENTALLY RETARDED

The budget passed by the state Legislature accepts almost in full the recommendations made by the Governor. Included in the budget are some \$25 million additional funds for the Department of Mental Hygiene, earmarked for mental retardation. These are divided among the various institutions and services.

Also included, \$833,200 for hostel operation and about \$1 million for acquisition of new hostels. The intent is that there be 15 new additional hostels as well as 15 additional half-way houses.

Section 4407 of the Education Law receives the same amount as last year — \$14,300,000 for a little over 7,000 students. At \$2,000 a year this would cover 7,150 children ages 5-21. The Governor recommends, however, that if the number of children exceeds 7,150, the \$2,000 per year would be cut by \$100 to make up the deficit.

It is interesting to note that on the same page as this there is an increase of \$700,000 for private schools for the deaf and blind as a cost of living increase.

Local Services — the funds used by the Department of Mental Hygiene to match local funds are increased from \$60 million to \$64 million, about a 5 per cent increase against the Governor's request of 66.4 million. The Governor's budget earmarked about \$58 million of this for mental health and a little more than 7½ million for mental retardation, but this alignment is not in the legislature's budget. The budget also includes \$8.2 million for 1512 positions for new facilities — Kings County, Manhattan, Broome State School, Monroe, Wilton and Syracuse.

The state schools, such as Oswald Hecht and Bronx with no residents continue to be funded at a high level. The same imbalance exists between the funding of small psychiatric units for children and the state schools as has existed until now. No effort has been made to redress these differences. At this writing we see nothing in the legislature to increase state aid for public school special classes. Many bills to increase state aid for 4407 at various levels have been introduced, but none has come out of committee. The Fleischmann report apparently is not persuasive.

"On the whole", said Mr. Weingold, "we should be thankful that we have not gone backwards. At a time like this when money is plentiful, indeed, we should be leaping forward in terms of budget allocation for the handicapped".

TWO BILLS TO HELP HANDICAPPED INTRODUCED

Two bills, one aimed at pinning down the Department of Mental Hygiene to a plan to change the face of institutions for the mentally retarded as they now exist and the other to create a place where the handicapped, all handicapped, can come with their complaints and get an attentive ear with some power to do something about it have been introduced in the legislature by Senator William T. Conklin (R-Kings) and Assemblyman Stanley Steingut (D-Kings).

The first bill, S. 4244; A. 6946 calls upon the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene by March 1, 1974 to come up with a plan to, in effect, phase out the institutions for the retarded as we now know them by offering alternatives for those who need not be in institutions and different programs for those who are either too old or too handicapped ever to leave an institutional program.

The bill calls for a plan to say how many community facilities will be needed to get the population out of the institutions who need not be there, how much these will cost, where approximately they should be located and a time table. As for those in the institutions the bill calls for a plan that will have a total rehabilitation program available and utilization of nursing homes and other physical rehabilitation facilities in the community now available or hereafter to be created. This bill has been reported out in the Assembly.

The second bill is one to create an Office of Ombudsman in the Executive Department, an Ombudsman for all the handicapped (S. 5643-Conklin and A. 7269-Steingut).

It seemed to this Association on the basis of the Governor's thrust for inspectors general for social service and even for education that there should be at least some place which will be overlooking the services for the handicapped everywhere and will be able to act as an advocate for them, in a sense, when complaints are received.

These bills are still in committee.

NIXON RELENTS ON SOCIAL-SERVICE CUTBACKS

In response to a flood of letters on the proposed regulations, the Nixon administration apparently is backing down on its plans to cut federal outlays for state and local services, including mental retardation services.

One of the major objections was to the regulation prohibiting the use of private charitable contributions as local matching money in state and local applications for federal funds. In effect, this would mean that the local share contributed by ARC's as matching money may not be used by government to obtain any federal funds. This would absolutely be fatal to some of the programs that are contemplated under HEW Social and Rehabilitation Service.

According to Casper W. Weinberger, Secretary of HEW, the administration has abandoned this proposed ruling.

Senator Jacob K. Javits, a principal sponsor of the Senate legislation to nullify the regulations said that they would seriously jeopardize social services in New York State. The bill to this effect has been introduced and supported by 40 or more Senators in both parties.

ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS LAW IN NEW YORK STATE

The New York State Architectural Barriers Act became effective in September of last year. The act mandates that all public buildings designed and built in whole or in part with municipal or state funds must be accessible to the handicapped. Residential and public housing structures are excluded. This was the fourth attempt to pass legislation; the Governor vetoed three previous bills. New York became the 47th State to enact such legislation.

Ahead of Nevada, Mississippi, and North Carolina and the District of Columbia.

GENESEE SHELTERED WORKSHOP GOES INTO PRODUCTION

The opening of the Association for Retarded Children Sheltered Workshop in Genesee County has brought a long time dream to fruition.

The retarded adults of Genesee County are now functioning in the Achievement Center in the county building on West Main Road.



Genesee Clients In Production

Through the vigorous leadership of Tom Rick, program director, the workshop utilizes vocational evaluation job training and sheltered situations to prepare clients for gainful employment in the community.

Thirty clients can now be served in the Center.

The workshop existence is due to the efforts and cooperation of the Genesee County Legislature, Genesee County Highway Department, Genesee County Planning Department, Director of the staff at BOCES, Dr. Roy Dexheimer and the Batavia Board of Education, WBTA, the Batavia Daily News and Joseph L. Mancuso.

This is being put into OCV as a special article because of the pride we take in the development of such facilities in the less populated areas of the state and the absolute necessity for a network of such services in every county of the State of New York.

NIXON VETOES REHABILITATION BILL AGAIN; OVERRIDE VOTE FAILS IN SENATE

President Nixon vetoed a \$2.6 billion vocational rehabilitation bill (S. 7) on March 27th saying that the measure would increase federal spending by some \$1 billion over the next three years. While declaring his continued support for the rehabilitation program, he described S. 7 as one of several bills before Congress "which masks bad legislation beneath alluring labels."

The Senate leadership, in spite of all efforts of ARC members across the country, was unable to rally the required two-thirds majority on April 3rd to override the President's veto. The final vote was 60 in favor of override and 36 against.

Our New York State Senator Buckley voted with the President while Senator Javits voted to override the veto.

The vetoed bill was practically identical to a measure which was "pocket" vetoed by the President as reported in the previous issue of OCV. One key feature of the measure, which had come under administration attack was the addition of a new Title II to authorize grants to assist states in providing services to handicapped individuals "for whom a vocational goal is not possible or feasible . . .".

A new bill has been introduced by representatives Marvin L. Seach and John N. Erlenborn, (R. from Michigan and Illinois respectively) that would reduce the program authorizations and eliminate demonstration programs for spinal cord injury, etc. It also removes Title II authority for non-

(Continued Next Column)

ONE CLIENTS' STRUGGLE

Thomas Phalen, a Supervisor in our Chenango County Chapter Workshop recently did an article on how he went with one of his clients, out trying for a job. There was a great deal of feeling in Mr. Phalen's article and very quietly, but effectively dealt with some of the problems our clients must face when they go into job situations. We are reproducing it here for the interest of our readers.

"Recently the Workshop placed a man in an on-the-job training program, in the food service area, with Chenango Memorial Hospital. Through my Personal Adjustment Treatment traineeship, I was put in charge of the man's training. For a week the two of us went to work together in the Cafeteria and kitchen of the Hospital.

After punching in at 6:30 a.m. (which wasn't easy for me — I'm not used to going to work in the dark and most of that darkness was caused by the fact that I couldn't get my eyes open) the new employee was put in charge of making toast. At first it sounded easy until he was handed a list that read something like this:

70 plain buttered	14 whole wheat buttered
10 plain no butter	12 plain salt free butter
6 whole wheat no butter	4 Italian buttered
16 cinnamon raisin buttered	2 Italian no butter

After some confusion he did very well with only a few mistakes the first day and none since then.

After the breakfast was served to the patients we were allowed to have breakfast ourselves. This, incidentally, is one of the fringe benefits of the job — free meals. We had toast ! ! !

His next duty was to package silverware to be put on the patients trays. Approximately 170 packages are needed for every meal. This was slow at first, with but just a little practice, he has now become very efficient at it.

Next came the job of cleaning and polishing the eleven food carts used to deliver meals to the patients. Each cart must be cleaned inside and out with soap and water and then polished with chrome polish after every meal.

At lunch time he was placed in charge of putting salads and breads on the patient's trays as they moved down a conveyor belt. This sounded easy at first too, but as it turned out, there were five different salads, two different butters and six different type bread to serve and each tray required something different. It was confusing for him at first but after a few days he got the knack of it.

When he is not doing these major jobs, he is running errands for the dietitians or taking single trays to different parts of the hospital, or working in the dish room either loading or unloading the dishwasher, or cleaning floors, etc. etc. etc.

I enjoyed the week very much for a couple of reasons. First of all it was a break from my regular routine in the Workshop and secondly it brought me back a few years to the summer of 1963 when I was one of the best kitchen men Lourdes Camp has ever seen. But actually the big reward was to see a person graduate from the workshop into a full time job he really loves.

I would like to thank all the hospital personnel involved in placing our man with them and special thanks to the kitchen staff who have shown patience and concern in their new co-worker. I hope in the months to come that I can give similar reports on our people being placed in jobs throughout the community.

VETO — (Continued from Previous Column)

vocational services and replaces it with provisions for a study of the needs of the severely handicapped. The Nixon administration has not yet taken a position on this bill.

In commenting on a previous pocket veto, Senator Humphrey stated "of all the vetoes I have observed in my 25 years of public service, this was the most cruel, and I might say, the most unsubstantiated; . . .".

This Association joins that sentiment and condemns the Senate for its inability to support the handicapped.

PLAN NOW — STATE CONVENTION — OCTOBER 11 - 14

CONFUSION ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR REHABILITATION

As our readers know, the president vetoed two labor-HEW appropriation bills which ordinarily include rehabilitation items. In addition, he has vetoed the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Programs in the Department of Labor and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare are operating on the basis of a continuing resolution passed by Congress which permits expenditures not to exceed the 1972 level.

In concluding days of Congress last year, recognizing that the Rehabilitation Act of 1972 might not be passed in time to include appropriations for such programs in the regular appropriation bill, Congress included appropriations for existing rehabilitation programs in a supplemental appropriation bill passed and signed by the president. However, anticipating the passage of the Act, the rehabilitation section in the supplemental bill stated that the appropriations were to finance programs under the Rehabilitation Act of 1972 (never passed and signed) instead of the existing Rehabilitation Act. This was a technicality but used by the administration to hold expenditures to the level of the continuing resolution. The appropriation actually passed and signed calls for approximately \$60 million more than the 1972 level.

It is hoped that Congress will correct this eventually, but at the present time the state must operate on a continuing resolution and a presidential act limiting them to the money of the previous year. A number of state agencies have had to curtail activities since the administration notified them that they could anticipate appropriations at the higher level. This at present is not so.

All those operating rehabilitation programs for the retarded, however, should be reassured that there is at least as much money around as there was last year.

MENTALLY RETARDED DELINQUENT GIRL: 9 AGENCIES DO NOTHING

The attorney for a mentally retarded delinquent girl and a Family Court Judge have joined in a new step in Buffalo in their efforts to force nine city, county and state agencies to provide a treatment program for the child and others like her.

The Appellate Division in Rochester was asked to decide on January 22nd to dismiss an appeal by the state on the girl's behalf by Supreme Court Justice Walter J. Mahoney.

Judge Mahoney ordered the agencies to present short and long term plans for the rehabilitation of the child, who was first in Family Court in 1963 when she was adjudged neglected.

Family Court Judge J. Douglas Trost contends that 50 or 60 mentally retarded delinquents must go back on the streets of Erie county every year because training schools will not accept retarded and institutions for the retarded turn down delinquents.

In his affidavit the judge said that two interim plans for the child had failed, both in open hostels in Buffalo because she immediately ran away and was gone for weeks in each case.

Attorney Michael O'Connor of Neighborhood Legal Services, Legal Aid Society, asserted in his affidavit that "scores of indigent multiple handicapped children suffer from existing gaps in child services."

The agencies finally agreed to present to the Judge a plan drawn by Henry Morquetcho, intake supervisor of services for the mentally retarded in Erie County (SMREC) to do the following:

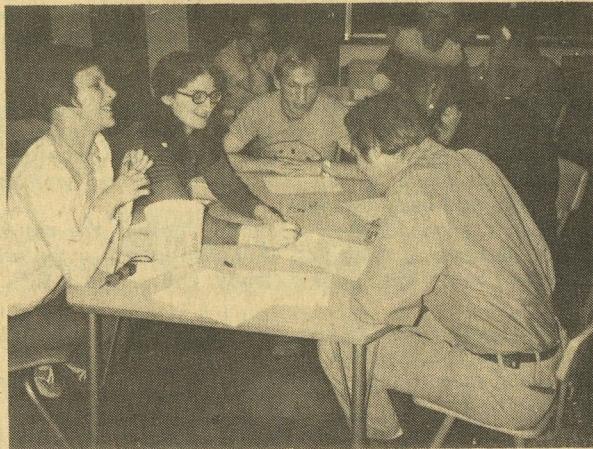
Erie County Social Services Department attempt to recruit foster parents. This will be very difficult.

(Continued Next Column)

**BE THERE — HYATT HOUSE — STATE CONVENTION — OCT. 11-14
C'MON TO HYATT HOUSE — ALBANY — CONVENTION**

CHENANGO COUNTY CHAPTER MOUNTS PROGRAM WITH BOCES

The Chenango County Chapter in cooperation with the local BOCES, the Director of Adult Education Services, and the Sherburne Lions Club, is sponsoring a new program for mentally retarded adults residing in that county. The program consists of teaching the basic fundamentals of reading,



The Adult Program In Operation

writing, and mathematics as related to the world of work. Some items included in this program are as follows: teaching individuals how to write their name; recognition of numbers; identification of letters of the alphabet; use of a telephone; how to tell time; use of an alarm clock; recognition of days of the week and how to make change.

Presently 35 mentally retarded adults are participating in this program. Many of these individuals also attend the local ARC Community Workshop in Norwich. The program is a weekly operation at the local BOCES facility. Fifteen instructors, one speech therapist and six drivers provide staffing for the program. Incidentally, these are all staff personnel from the local community who are volunteering their services.

GIRL — (Continued from Previous Column)

Welfare will reimburse SMREC for the salary of one intensive worker.

West Seneca State School will accept the girl in their half-way house once a month to provide a respite for foster parents.

West Seneca will also make available psychiatric and counseling services when SMREC needs it and without delay.

The Buffalo public schools will provide bus service but not supervision to take the girl to School 24.

MONROE COUNTY FIRST — A SIGL SEA GULL

Four years ago, soon after the opening of the Al Sigl Center for Rehabilitation Agencies, a volunteer worker for the Association for Retarded Children conceived the idea of establishing a small shop as an outlet for articles produced not only by the retarded but by trainees of all Al Sigl Center Agencies.



ARC volunteer clerk, Mrs. Betty Alvord, in action inside the Seagull Shop as customers gather round for a preview.

(Albert Michaels, photog.)

Starting as a single glass case counter manned by an agency volunteer saleswoman, the shop immediately became popular for its offerings of attractive hand-made objects, ranging from straw flowers, pot holders and ceramic items to rather elaborate woven place mats, knitted ponchos, pillow covers and baby bonnets.

Such a shop deserved a name. Thus as the result of a contest, it became "The Sea Gull Boutique" — the winning contestant being Miss Jackie Grady, one of the A.R.C. trainees.

Last year some clever designing plus good carpentry transformed the Boutique counter into a commodious booth with glass case counters on three sides, a wall for displays forming the fourth.

Now a year-round small bazaar, The Sea Gull is a favorite shopping stop for visitors to the Center and a source of pride and satisfaction to those who contribute items to be sold. Money received is generally turned back to the producing agency to be used for purchasing more craft materials. Occasionally an individual trainee receives payment for some particular article entered by him independently.

GREENE COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN COLUMBIA WORKSHOP

A letter of agreement recently signed by the Greene County Chapter and the Columbia County Chapter to bring clients from the Greene County service to the Columbia County workshop has brought quick results.

A full start with ten adult clients was begun and a bus will leave for the sheltered workshop from Catskill to Hudson.

For every ten persons registered there will be a supervisor paid by the Greene County Chapter. Mrs. John Chambers will be the first of these supervisors in charge of those being bussed across the river. She has an Associate's Degree from Ulster County Community College.

Clients will be transported every day to the Hudson facility and brought home after a six-hour schedule of work and study.

This is a marvelous example of cooperation between two chapters, where one close to the other has developed an excellent program which should be utilized by all within bus-ing distance.

FULTON COUNTY IS "ALL WET" OVER A.R.C.

The 1973 Swim-along-a-thon for the Fulton County Chapter, A.R.C. - Lexington Training Center, occurred from 4 P.M., April 6th, to 8 P.M., April 8th. This effort raised over \$10,000.00 for the Lexington Training Center Building Fund. Practically every segment of the community participated in the Swim-along-a-thon.

The following were some of the highlights:

1. 52 hours of non-stop swimming by F.M.C.C. swim team.
2. The Mayor's Race — 5 P.M., Friday, Mayor Robert Best of Gloversville swam against Mayor Peter Wilson of Johnstown.
3. 42 hours of live coverage on local radio station W.E.N.T. Television coverage on two local T.V. stations.
4. Telegrams of support to Lexington Training Center from:
 - Senator Edward Kennedy
 - Governor Nelson Rockefeller
 - Senator Jacob Javits
 - Congressman Samuel Stratton
 - Congressman Carleton King
5. Two Sky Dives by W. J. Van DeWalker, who landed on grounds of Bronze Bell, a tavern located across the street from F.M.C.C.
6. Nine distinguished persons jumped into the pool with their clothes on for pledges to Lexington Training Center. One very popular man, Robert Robinson, received \$500.00 in pledges from people who wanted to see him jump into the pool with his clothes on. Mr. Sidney Zirin, Director of the Tryon School for Boys, jumped in with his clothes on, upside down like the S.S. Posiedon for \$100.00.
7. Swim-along-a-thon parade with three divisions through downtown Gloversville, Friday, 6:30 P.M.
8. Battle of the Bars — Eighty-five taverns in Fulton County competed for a trophy to see who could raise the most money for the Lexington Training Center. Reports from forty taverns were broadcast over Radio Station W.E.N.T.
9. One thousand man hours were volunteered.
10. Over twelve amateur and professional groups provided almost continuous entertainment. These included forty-five members of the Gloversville High School production of "Mame", dixieland band, dance band, rock and roll, folk singers, drum and bugle corps and barbershop sextet. All entertainment was poolside.
11. Ecumenical Swim — Sunday of the Swim-along-a-thon the following clergymen went for a simultaneous swim for the Lexington Training Center.

Father Vernon Austin	Trinity Episcopal Church
Rabbi Alan Press	Knesseth Israel Synagogue
Rev. Wayne Robinson	First Congregational Church
	of Christ
Rev. Paul Wilson	First Presbyterian Church
Rev. David Olson	First Baptist Church

RENSSELAER COUNTY TO THE RESCUE

Becoming aware that the YWCA was unable to continue a hostel program after February 1, 1972, the Rensselaer County Chapter sprang to the breach with a Letter of Intent to operate the facility.

"The Rensselaer County Chapter," wrote Mrs. Messier, Chairman of the Hostel Committee, "recently became aware of the need to serve as a sponsoring agency for a community residence which has been operating at a local YWCA in the City of Troy. The Chapter's Board of Directors' desired to operate the residence as a hostel in order to prevent a discontinuance of this vitally needed facility."

This program served nine former residents of state schools who had been released to the community.

In the letter of proposal Mrs. Messier also stated that particular attention must be given to adequate space for respite accommodations.

1973-74 MEMBERSHIP LOOKING GOOD

Based upon early returns at the State office it appears that 1973-74 is going to be a good year for memberships.

Putting forth an outstanding effort, three Chapters have already come in with figures over their membership goals which, they have promised, is just the beginning of their expanded membership lists.

MEMBERSHIP IN CHENANGO COUNTY



Membership drive in progress by the Chenango County Chapter is being aided by Clarence D. Rappleyea, (r) of Norwich, representative from the State's 122nd Assembly District. With him are William Fowlston, Chapter president, and Mrs. George Lyon of Oxford, chairman of the membership drive.

Special note is given here to Albany County Chapter which had 309 memberships, nine over its goal, Columbia County Chapter which had 305 memberships, 30 over its goal and Sullivan County Chapter which has indicated that its first list of 360 members, 10 over its total goal, is just the beginning. We hope everyone will keep up to these fast starters.

NASSAU WORKSHOP IN OPERATION



Interior view of part of the 115,000 square foot AHRC Vocational Training Center in Freeport where more than 300 mentally retarded adults are trained and employed by AHRC.

CHARITY RIPOFF RAISES \$800

It cost President Leland Miles of Alfred University \$5 to get his license plates back.

In the university's biology department, a skeleton was spirited away, ransomed and returned.

A student chug-a-lugged 96 ounces of Coca Cola on a dare; another drank six raw eggs, straight.

The challengers paid up.

All for a good cause.

"The great American ripoff for charity" netted \$800 to benefit the Allegany County Chapter.

The fund-raising event consisted of 30 hours of stunts, dares and "ripoff" — thefts, with the police notified in advance — conducted by and over Alfred University's student-run campus radio station, WALF.

Co-chairmen for the campaign were Steven B. Cahn, a liberal arts sophomore from Valley Stream, and George E. Karras, a liberal arts junior from Murray Hill, N. J.

SOME WORKERS NEVER STOP

Robert J. Hodgson, Immediate Past President of the State Association has been going around the State giving many talks on the subject of Guardianship, at which he is quite an expert. We recently received a very nice letter describing his visit to White Plains, our Westchester County



Mrs. Raymond F. Scannell, president of Westchester County Chapter listens as Robert J. Hodgson, past president of the NYS ARC speaks on guardianship.

Chapter, and we take the liberty of reprinting the letter here:

"Robert J. Hodgson, author of the New York State ARC guardianship and trust plans, drew a record crowd at a membership meeting of the Westchester Chapter recently. Looking on is Mrs. Raymond F. Scannell, Westchester Board president. The coffee urn in the background grew cold as many of the 200 present besieged Hodgson, immediate State ARC past President and a practicing attorney in Buffalo, with questions. The Chapter is compiling a roster of Westchester attorneys who will be informed and interested in setting up provisions for participation in the retardate trust and establishment of an appropriate guardianship for the retarded son or daughter. "Mr. Hodgson's explanation of these plans has done much to allay a fear which haunts us all, 'What will become of my child when I no longer can care for him?' Mrs. Scannell said.

BRILLIANT PARENT ED SERIES, NEW YORK CITY

The New York City Chapter of the Association has mounted this year a brilliant series of meetings for the information of parents of mentally retarded children, professionals and interested friends.

Beginning with the first meeting in January, when there were two round table discussions (a) Retarded Adults Speak Out, and (b) Brothers and Sisters of the Retarded Speak Out and there were five more meetings which included the following:

Changing Attitudes and Legislation
Recreation and Camping for the Retarded

The Arts for the Retarded

Medical and Dental Aspects of Retardation, and finally Exodus from the Institutions — Return to the Community.

These meetings were held at a beautiful room at the Americana Hotel with coffee and cake being served in the break period. Special rooms, supervised by volunteers, were available for retarded children whose parents wished to come to the meetings.

Hundreds of parents, professionals and friends attended these which we highly recommend to everyone.

For further information, contact Association for the Help of Retarded Children, New York City Chapter, 200 Park Avenue South, N. Y., N. Y. 10003.

Chapter News

DUTCHESS COUNTY CHAPTER, in the midst of a struggle with their Mental Health Board for a contract, will lead off our news this time. We enjoyed their annual dinner on April 6 very much, but were even happier with the picture in the local newspaper showing Mr. Robert Ahmed, who has been a long time supporter of the Chapter turning over the keys to a new Volkswagen bus as a gift to the Chapter. Many thanks to Mr. Ahmed . . . NIAGARA COUNTY CHAPTER, sends the following news of Chapters activities via Nancy Heyman, Program Director. The Niagara County Chapter and the three Parent Aid Groups have been receiving an increasing amount of support from local organizations in the various communities. The Rotary Club of the Tonawandas sponsored Count Basie's Dance Band in March to raise funds for the bus they had donated to the Chapter. The Niagara Falls Parent Aid Group was the recent recipient of the proceeds of a dance sponsored by Niagara University's R.O.T.C. The money will be added to the camp scholarship fund. The Lockport Parent Aid Group sponsored an Open House at our Sunshine School in Lockport to show its appreciation to the numerous organizations which have supported their efforts on behalf of the school. Thanks to the Moose Lodge of Lockport and many hours of donated labor, Sunshine School has new ceilings and light fixtures. An Open House held there was an overwhelming success. The March General Membership Meeting featured the Honorable Edward J. Meyer, III, Assemblyman from Westchester. Mr. Meyer spoke to the members on legislation pending in Albany affecting mentally retarded people. He is to be commended for his efforts to keep people informed. Further information on the legislative matters will be distributed to the membership via the monthly newsletter, *Front & Center*. The Niagara County Chapter was represented at the second annual Western New York Council for Exceptional Children mini-convention held in Buffalo with a panel presentation. The local Y.O.U.T.H. — A.R.C. group also assisted with registration and refreshments. The Chapter is presently conducting an intensive membership drive in the hope of adding a substantial number of new members. All members and guests will be invited to attend the annual Awards Dinner which will be hosted this year by the Niagara Falls Parent Aid Group . . . HERKIMER COUNTY CHAPTER, very happy



Clients at the Herkimer County Chapter adult training center are working on their first official subcontract — the hand assembly of leather facing to soles of shoes. Working on the project from (l) Rose Inglesby, Nancy Fisher, Joe Barberio, Sister Deborah Beck, ARC evaluator; Carol Darling, David Spatol.

about having opened their training center on December 4th in temporary quarters, and moving on January 29th to St. Joseph's School in Herkimer which will be their permanent home. They are looking for a hostel already, which is a beautiful piece of progress. Over 500 people visited their facility at a March Open House . . . We also want to thank the Mohawk Valley Antique Dealers Association who presented a check to Herkimer County Chapter after their annual Christmas party. A tip of the hat also to whomever created the brochure being used for the 1973 membership drive by Herkimer County Chapter. Some of you might like to write and ask them for one — it is a well done piece . . .

children in the Tupper Lake-Saranac Lake Area. The Chapter has hired their first Director and is looking forward to providing services beginning in the month of May. The Foster Grandparent program at Sunmount State School was the recipient of two baby carriages for use in their program from Franklin County Chapter . . . LEWIS COUNTY CHAPTER did a nice thing, and presented a plaque to Louise Cooke upon her retiring as an officer of the Chapter after



Mrs. Lee Tyner, (r), president of Lewis County Chapter presenting a plaque to Louise Cooke in honor of her 15 years service as an officer.

(Photo by Urbanik Studio, Lowville, N.Y.)

some 15 years service. The plaque reads: "Louise Cooke — in sincere recognition for your many years of devoted service to the Lewis County ARC 1956-1972." Congratulations Louise! . . . GENESEE COUNTY CHAPTER, — with new Executive Director Tom Rick making the contacts, was the recipient of \$1000 from the 1972 4-H Walk-a-thon in Genesee County. That's really putting shoe leather to a good purpose . . . The annual report of NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER for 1972 was a joy to read. Just a few highlights of the publication were the following indicators of their services — The Social Service Department responded to almost 10,000 inquiries . . . Occupation Day Centers continue in Manhattan, Brooklyn,



Martin Striar, 11, is one of 150 children feted at a special Holiday Party for the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, New York City Chapter, held at Baruch College. Actress Ruby Dee (center) read poetry to the children. At right is Dr. Irving Caminsky, President of the Association, and Professor at Baruch College. The clown is Shirley Neufeld, one of Dr. Caminsky's students.

Bronx, Queens and Far Rockaway, 185 Clients are served . . . Workshop and Training Centers in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens serve over 300 trainees . . . The Bronx Adult Training Center is becoming a reality to open early in 1973 . . . Fineson House provides a residence for 29 men and women . . . 300 youngsters play in Summer Day Camps through the Recreation Department, 350 are referred to resident camps . . . WILLOWBROOK CHAPTERS newsletter filled with their ongoing concern for conditions at Willowbrook State

Chapter News

the annual message of the president Anthony Pinto as follows: "As the year ends I see no great change in the utter neglect existing in Willowbrook. True we have read and heard much about the new ideas and great expectations for the future. But are we to sit back and let the present be ignored? Recently it has been impossible to conduct the vital business of the Benevolent Society because of a lack of a quorum both at the general membership and Executive Board meetings. This cannot continue. To drop by the wayside is to make a mockery of all we have fought for. Through our neglect we place ourselves with those we castigated as responsible for the shame of Willowbrook. Please, I beg of you, renew your dedication — resolve to attend meetings. The momentum must be maintained if we are to bring a better, fuller life to our children no matter where they are placed. Soon you will receive your yearly membership renewal statement. Membership is important but more so is the active participation of all in the affairs of the organization. There are many areas both in individual buildings and committee where help is needed. Volunteer your time and services. Let us join together now as a strong organization striving to make important changes for the betterment of our children's lives. May I extend my wishes to you all for a happy, healthy and very prosperous new year." . . . The GREENE COUNTY CHAPTER found numerous friends in their February event when the Greene County Hotel and Restaurant Liquor Dealers Association put together a benefit dinner dance for the Chapter. Many thanks to these men and women who gave the Chapter one of the biggest times in years. Chapter President Bill Bunter presented awards to Clem Salisbury and Thekla Kaars, Officers of the Liquor Dealers Association, in the appreciation for their efforts on our behalf . . . WAYNE COUNTY CHAPTER active always, especially involved in their new Workshop program in connection with Newark



On Trampoline At Wayne County Chapter

State School. One of the big exciting things around the Chapter lately was a acquisition of a new trampoline. All classes have instruction on it from the littlest, age 3, to the young adult. They are learning the safety rules, how to bounce and some basic drops. It is reported that this is excellent for stimulating the vestibular system which controls coordination, balance and rhythm . . . OTSEGO COUNTY CHAPTER again making plans for their Summer Day school July 2 through August 10th, it is always great to see this kind of advance planning we keep hoping for the Mental Health Board contract in Otsego County, too . . . A most interesting note in the newsletter of WELFARE LEAGUE-LETCHEWORTH VILLAGE CHAPTER. This note tells us that every weekend a bus load of West Point Cadets, all in full dress uniform, arrives at Letchworth Village. In a few minutes the young men disappear into the cottages change into dungarees and embark on programs of activity, one-to-one with residents of Letchworth. We join Welfare League in saying: "We are extremely greatful to the Cadets who give so generously of their time, taken from a busy schedule" . . . ONEIDA COUNTY CHAPTER, involved in many activities, reports beginning of training sessions for a Baby Sitter Corps, an excellent project. Also news beginning to appear regularly from what seems to be a most active ladies auxiliary.

At the Chapter's annual Christmas party a testimonial was held for our dear friend Rev. Thomas Skinner, who has been active in ONEIDA COUNTY CHAPTER for so many years and has recently retired from the priesthood . . . The Chapter will have a Mortgage Burning ceremony at their summer day camp. In five years their mortgage on their new building has been paid off. The Chapter points out that this was not only the Camp Committees hard work but generous donations from the Utica Jay-Cee's and United Commercial Travelers Council #244. Last year's six week program served over 200 campers ranging from age 4 on up. Most exciting news involved the County legislature, who recently voted to support the Chapters programs with a \$20,000 County contribution for 1973 . . . One of the most unusual and the exciting piece of news to come out lately came from ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER with regard to their radiothon. But let Peter Young, Chapter Executive Director tell the story. "The WALL Radiothon for the Orange County Chapter which was held on January 28-29 was a success far beyond the expectations of its sponsors. A minimum goal of \$11,000 to build and furnish one classroom was reached by 5:30 p.m. the first day. The larger goal of \$22,000 for two classrooms was reached just before 10:00 a.m. the next morning. By the time the phones closed down at noon, \$24,150 had been pledged. \$5,655.00 came in through advertising, \$2,483.50 through the auction, and \$16,011.50 in pledges. The Rev. Richard Dutton, pastor of First Baptist Church, Middletown served as coordinator of the Radiothon. It was a joint effort of the Middletown Jaycees, Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary Clubs and WALL radio. Area merchants donated hundreds of gifts of merchandise, and General Telephone provided the phone service. Volunteers came from all of the service clubs, their wives, A.H.R.C., friends and Business and Professional Women's Club of Middletown. Henry Cox, President of A.H.R.C., and Peter Young, Executive Director, both expressed their deep appreciation for the wonderful support given to this effort." . . . from ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER comes the following information submitted by Susan Morse, Director of Public Relations: "Onondaga County Chapter is delighted to introduce its striking new brochure, 16 pages of award winning copy and photographs. For your chapter's copy of this effective, all-purpose piece, please write to: Mrs. Susan Morse, Public Relations Director, Onondaga ARC, 600 South Wilbur Avenue, Syracuse, New York 13204. Mrs. Mary Planeta, President of "Friends of the Retarded", donated \$9000 from the group to ARC. This outstanding contribution was raised on Opening Night of the Ice Follies in Syracuse last fall. The Chapter sponsored an all-day workshop for members of the clergy and religious education leaders. Dr. Joseph Reidel, Chapter past president, has been appointed by County Executive John Mulroy to the Onondaga County Mental Health Advisory Board. This is the first time ARC has had formal representation." . . . From active COLUMBIA COUNTY CHAPTER we received the following information: "Columbia County Chapter's recycling program is still going great guns, they are now developing pick-up points in Greene County. They have pick-up points as far as Albany County and Rensselaer County. Almost every landfill in the county is being covered, so that the public can bring their recyclable materials to the workshop, where over thirty clients are employed daily in the process of baling, taking rings off, sorting, and crushing the glass. We have just been able to purchase a new 1973 Ford truck, which has a 1600 lb. gate on it, this makes our work much easier. The Columbia County Chapter, held a luncheon for the Columbia County Board of Supervisors and their officers on March 14, 1973. Among the honored guests were Mr. Jerry Weingold, members from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Mr. William Bunter, Greene County Chapter President, several Greene County Legislators, Members of Eleanor Roosevelt Task force from Valatie, Board Members of the Columbia and Greene County Chapters. The

(Continued Next Page)

CHAPTER NEWS — (Continued)

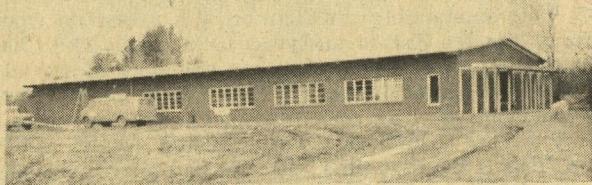
luncheon was held at the Chapter's headquarters at 360 State Street, Hudson. There was a display of the Works of Art by Wayne Race, who won the first place in the State Christmas Card. A film of the Chapter's activities was shown, and then tours were given of our building. The Workshop has just opened a new Home Economics Unit, which includes a kitchen, with a new electric range and refrigerator. A new laundry unit, and a complete bedroom, so that the clients can be taught how to keep the unit clean. We are very proud of this unit and feel, that our Sheltered Workshop clients will benefit greatly from it." . . . CHENANGO COUNTY CHAPTER has been doing a great job of publicity, and we have done a write up on several of their experiences else-



Donation of \$304, raised through sale of Christmas items, is presented to the Community Workshop of the Chenango County Chapter of the Association for Retarded Children, by members of the Episcopal Young Churchmen of St. Paul's Parish, Oxford. Last year the group used proceeds from the annual sale to finance a spring trip. Above, Althea Fowlston, president of the group, presents check to John Gilroy, (1) workshop director, as the Rev. George Dutton, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church looks on. Members of the organization, in background are Charles Lawton, Brian Ross, David Hendrickson, Reatha Townsend and Linda Mohr. William Fowlston and Robert Lawton are the group's advisors.

(Evening Sun Photo)

where in this issue. We were particularly impressed with the almost full page write up that they were given in the New York Penn News, the monthly publication of the New York-Penn Health Planning Council . . . A real feeling of excitement fills the air when we read the newsletter of CLINTON COUNTY CHAPTER. The last several months have really been exciting for Clinton, as they have opened their own



Clinton County Chapters' new home on Salmon River Road.

hostel, and have moved their programs from their two previous locations, their school at one spot and workshop at another, into a new facility, a former church in the town of Plattsburgh. The new shop gives the Chapter room for many more contracts, four acres of surrounding land complete with a brook, the possibility of a garden, room for cafeteria etc. They are very pleased and we are too . . . There is also a high pitch of the excitement in the air at MADISON COUNTY where the Chapter recently moved into a former church building in Canastota. It is really something to watch young women working with air powered hammers making pallets. This is just one part of the workshop program but has got to impress you, if only with its noise and activity. MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER announces the addition of a speech therapy program to their already busy schedule at Liberty house. It is really great to

(Concluded Next Column)

GOODBYE TO HELENE ROTHSCHILD

An unusually large number of ARC Board members were present at the February 13th meeting of the Monroe County Chapter board to pay tribute to Mrs. Theodore Rothschild who, with her husband and their son, Timmy, will be leaving Rochester to make their home in Kentucky.

Mrs. Rothschild has been affiliated with the Association since its inception in 1955. She has held numerous offices including that of President of the Chapter and has been a member of the Board of the State Association. She has demonstrated her executive skills when the agency was without an executive director for a period of time during her term of office. She has chaired many committees during her eighteen years as a Board member and her work has been invaluable. Her presence in the community will be sorely missed.

At the February 13th meeting of the Board, following a delicious buffet luncheon, Miss Marguerite Hulbert launched the tributes with references to the early days of ARC and to Helene's determination and forcefulness. These qualities once led Mr. Joseph Weingold, Director of the New York State Association, to refer to the Chapter as the "State of Monroe". Judge Robert Wagner paid eloquent tribute by paraphrasing a beautiful passage from Antoine St. Exupery's "Wind, Sand and Stars." Chapter President, Mrs. Arthur Herz and Executive Director Mr. John A. Regan voiced their admiration and affection in brief eulogies. Past president Mrs. David Courtheoux then presented several mementos — laminated pages of the Board of Directors roster, a pen from the last State Convention, stationery, and a handsome paper-weight of black and gold, bearing the following inscription. "Life Member, N. Y. State Association for Retarded Children, HELENE H. ROTHSCHILD, Presented with Gratitude and Affection, February, 1973".

Finally, Mrs. Courtheoux gave Helene a letter of recommendation telling of her life and service in Rochester.

All of us in the ARC who have known Helene wish her, her husband and Timmy well in their new life. She was indeed a volunteer in the best sense of the word.

CHAPTER NEWS — (Concluded)

see the additions that are occurring within our Chapter programs . . . SARATOGA COUNTY CHAPTER happily reporting the beginning of a swimming program at the Skidmore College pool. Another good example of community involvement in our programs. We hope that the annual fashion show which was held by the Chapter on April 10th was its usual great success . . . You've got to like the STEUBEN COUNTY CHAPTER newsletter for no other reason than the great pictures which appear on the front each month. Barbara Anne Sutton who does this work for them must be a real talent . . . The Chapter is planning its second annual Spring Fling dance they have recently come up with a new contract with their Mental Health Board, which we hope is going to overcome some of the difficulties they have had with contracts in the past . . . congratulations to Bob Sansone, Executive Director of our SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER and to the Chapter who was named recipient of 1972 Suffolk County Department of Mental Health Achievement Award. The award was given because the Association was cited among the Counties Contract Agencies for providing outstanding Mental Health Services to the people of Suffolk . . . A well deserved honor we will say. On the sad side was the news in the March newsletter that the residents of West Islip are opposing a proposed hostel for the mentally retarded in their neighborhood. What a shame that we must go down this road every time we try to begin a new hostel program . . . CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY CHAPTER was ahead of everyone else — named their "Employer of Year" and "Contract Customer of Year" in January. Dohstrom Manufacturing Company won the Jamestown Customer Award and Niagara Therapy the same in Dunkirk. Mr. Dean King of the Dunkirk Holiday Inn was named "Employer of the Year".

**C'MON TO HYATT HOUSE —
ALBANY — CONVENTION**

STATE MUST PAY COST OF EDUCATION: FAMILY COURT DECISION

A decision of the Family Court in the City of New York may yet become a landmark in terms of the right of the mentally retarded to free public education. For the purpose of publication the name of the petitioner and his child are fictitious.

This was an action by the petitioner who sought \$6,496 representing the difference between tuition at a private school and the grant of \$2,000 of state aid for the handicapped under Section 4407, of the Education Law. In his ruling Judge Guerreiro said: "The burden is therefore on the State to assure that the educational program provided each child is appropriate to his needs." He then quoted the constitution of New York, Article 1 Section 11 which provides "the Legislature shall provide for the maintenance and support of a system of free common schools wherein all the children of the state may be educated."

Although the action was brought under the Family Court Act, Section 234, which permits the court to order contribution to the cost of educating a handicapped child by the parent or the person responsible for his care, the Judge held that he had serious reservation of the constitutionality of this provision.

In dealing with this, he stated "furthermore it is the child who is given the right to an education, not the parent and his right should not be abridged or limited by the willingness of a parent to become financially liable for an education. To limit the right to an education in this matter would discourage many parents seeking the appropriate facilities for their child."

We have not yet learned the fate of this case.

19

SYRACUSE RECOGNIZES RESPONSIBILITY TO TRAINABLE RETARDED

STOPS PLAN FOR BOCES AND WILL BUILD SCHOOL FOR RETARDED

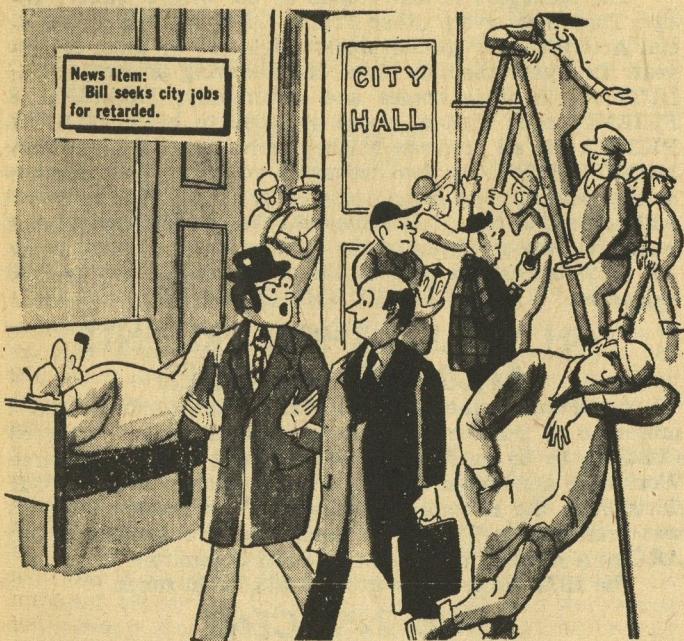
School Supt. Dr. John T. Gunning of Syracuse has recommended that the City School District build a school for its trainable retarded pupils. This has been adopted by the Board of Education.

This recommendation came as a result of the very strong objection of the parents of the McCarthy School for the trainable retarded in Syracuse to the merger of this school with BOCES.

In order to achieve this, special legislation was introduced last year and passed permitting Syracuse to join with BOCES, the only instance of a City School District being permitted to do this. Very strong objection to this was raised by the PTA of the McCarthy School under the leadership of Mrs. Ian Sagar, publicity chairman and the Onondaga County Chapter at a number of meetings in Syracuse, at some of which our Executive Director Jerry Weingold was present.

As a result of this the BOCES facility has been scrapped, and the City of Syracuse has recognized its obligation to build a new school for the trainable which will be put before the Common Council for approval.

This is another indication, according to Mr. Weingold, of the power of the people who are most deeply concerned with the welfare of their children, the parents of the mentally retarded, to achieve what they consider best for their children. The school districts, he continued, must be made to understand and carry out their responsibilities and mandates under the Education Law. The mentally retarded cannot be treated as pawns in some game of save a dollar.



'These aren't the retarded. They work.'

'These are the patronaged.'

BEWARE!

The N.A.R.C. is making a direct mail solicitation of our members, with a post office box in Albany, N. Y.

Any money sent there goes to N.A.R.C. (headquarters Arlington, Texas).

No New York State Chapter belongs to N.A.R.C. and no funds are used for direct services in this state.

This is at a time when our President, Elliot Aronin is trying to negotiate a way of living with N.A.R.C.

**ANNUAL Y.O.U.T.H.
CONFERENCE**
**Towne House Motor Inn
Rochester**
SEPT. 21 - 23, 1973

STATE CONVENTION — OCTOBER 11 - 14 — HYATT HOUSE — ALBANY

Y. O. U. T. H.

SUFFOLK YOUTH ACTION

The following Article was taken directly from the Suffolk County Chapters newspaper, AHRC Lamp Lighter. It describes the efforts of one of Suffolk County's YOUTH Groups, the Smithtown Junior Auxiliary. The story was written by Anne Marie Petite.

The Smithtown Junior Auxiliary has sponsored the following activities for their retarded children:

Beauty Seminar: This was held at Denita Haighy's (an auxiliary member) father's beauty salon, located in Bay Shore. At this seminar the retarded girls were shown the proper way to set and style their hair and the proper application of makeup. This seminar was intentionally held before the Christmas Semi-Formal Dance to try and make the girls more beautiful than they already were.

Table Setting: This was held at an auxiliary member's home. This was to convey to the retarded girls the proper way to set a table, so they could be of more help to their parents. The girls as usual, were more than willing to learn.

Christmas Semi-Formal Dance: Sixty retarded young adults were in attendance. They all came dressed in their finest. Each girl was given a corsage and each boy a boutonniere. These were all donated by a local florist. There were refreshments, and a band donated their talents for the evening. The dance was a great success!

Christmas Party: Fifty retarded youngsters were at the party. We played games and ate for about two hours, all anticipating the arrival of Santa Claus. Our Santa Claus was Tommy Hoblin. He entered ringing bells while the children sang "Jingle Bells". He sat in front of the Christmas tree, which the children decorated, and called each child by name to come and receive their Christmas present. Toys were in abundance. Each child went home with a smile on his face and still bewildered at the fact that Santa Claus was there and knew them.

Christmas Caroling: There were two carolings held — both in Commack. The chairmen were Robin Fabian and Gail Castrigno. At Gail's there were eight retarded children and at Robin's there were seven in attendance. After they finished caroling there was hot chocolate and cookies awaiting at the auxiliary MEMBERS' homes.

Two Socials: One was held at Kathy Avolese's house, and ten retarded youths came. The other was at Megan Campbell's and fifteen retarded youths were in attendance. The social consisted of record playing and just getting to know the retarded we work with, just a little better.

Arts & Crafts: Was held every Sunday afternoon. There were approximately twenty-five retarded children attending. Most of their production was Christmas decorations for the Christmas Dance and party. Each child was given a present.

The mentally retarded CAN and MUST BE helped — we are trying to do as much as possible.

CAN COLLECTION AIDS AHRC



Collecting aluminum cans are student council president Steven Pallis, vice president Patty Robinson, and advisor Mrs. Gail Teicher.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

In Niagara County —

The end of January marked the start for one of the biggest projects that the Leighton E. Stevens Memorial YOUTH of Niagara County has undertaken. Our project consists of a massive campaign to publicize our ARC along with YOUTH-ARC.

Our plans include TV appearances, radio time and newspaper articles. Our community needs to hear who we are, what we are and what they can do.

We urge all counties to undertake similar projects.

Being a friend to the retarded is only part of our job — public awareness is the rest. Generate some enthusiasm in your community. Make yourself heard.

Our other projects for the future are a talent show in June put on by the retarded adults we work with, training of a team for the Special Olympics, an Easter party and a tour for members through West Seneca State School.

In Columbia County —

L.A.R.C. (Love Association for Retarded Children), will sponsor a walk-a-thon for the mentally retarded on May 5, the teens plan on making this a big effort and get support from many organizations in Columbia County. Every high school in Columbia County is being contacted to try and get volunteers. They are going to try and get at least five hundred people walking, if possible, as this is a joint effort with the Eleanor Roosevelt Team from Valatie to try and raise money to purchase a mini bus to help with transportation problems.

LARC is also working every other week with the children in training them for the Special Olympics. On April 8, they will be having a very special treat, the Philmont Rotary Club has arranged for the children to be taken on airplane rides on a Sunday afternoon, with a treat of hot dogs, potato chips, and soda afterwards. Everyone is looking forward to this event.

In Wayne County —

The teenagers formed a club at the Center three years ago. They meet every other Friday. Their purpose is for social Activities and special projects selected by them for the year. This year the club chose the following projects: POLLUTION: in their homes and community; HELPING A FRIEND: each student chose someone to help; WINTER PICNIC: for all students at the Center (ages 3-27); COMMUNITY SERVICE: two teenagers volunteer their services at the local nursing home every other Friday. Each student will serve one hour this semester. The students enjoy this work, but the residents of the nursing home enjoy it more. All projects cost are paid by the club from their store. Our slogan is: "WE CAN SERVE THE COMMUNITY TOO!"

4-H WALK-A-THON PRESENTS \$1,000 TO RETARDED

A portion of the 1972 4-H Walk-a-thon funds has been presented to the Genesee County Association for Retarded Children, to be used in the development of the Sheltered Workshop, announced Robert Crossen, chairman of the 4-H Division of the Executive Committee. The check for \$1,000 was presented to Thomas P. Rick, executive director of the ARC at a meeting of the 4-H Division Committee.

The 1972 Walk-a-thon grossed \$33,000 in funds.

THE INNOCENT

A child of perpetual fantasy
Society's Outcast

A freak at a side show.
Blind, but hungry to learn,

A parasite.
Small, cold, defenseless,
Helplessly subjected to ridicule.

(This poem was written by a L.A.R.C. member, who wishes to remain unknown.)

ANNUAL YOUTH CONFERENCE SET

The Towne House Motor Inn in Rochester will be the site of our Fourth Annual YOUTH Conference from Friday, Sept. 21st to Sunday, Sept. 23. Under the direction of co-chairmen Thom Briggs and Suzanne Crane, the Conference shapes up as the best ever.

A wide variety of workshops are being prepared, in addition to the usual business sessions.

Advance word on rooms is that rates will be \$14.00 for singles, \$18.00 for doubles and \$22 for triples.

So start saving your pennies now, and plan to join the Annual YOUTH Conference in Rochester.

A WORK OF LOVE



The Trainable classes of Greene County BOCES worked long and hard drawing a 10 foot Valentine to be presented to Judy Bunter, a Catskill Central School volunteer aide. Judy (L) is shown with class teacher Eleanor Mahoney holding the Valentine while young artists grin for the photographer.

The story entitled "The Visit" was written by Judy Bunter and is her recalled impressions of her first visit to see her sister several years ago. The composition was composed for a creative writing class in Catskill Central School and has been submitted for statewide competition. Judy, 18, has a retarded sister three years younger than herself. Judy will be entering Keene State College, Keene, New Hampshire in the Fall and is enrolled in the college of education with a major in education of the severely retarded.

"THE VISIT"

I used to pray for her but it didn't do any good so I stopped. I don't know what I expected. A miracle or maybe a spark of light that could help me better understand God's reasoning in making me whole and my sister so hopelessly retarded. She is my sister but I was never sure of her age or whether to put her name down on forms that ask you to list your brothers and sisters. I didn't know what color her eyes were or if she liked strawberry ice cream. Questions only brought tears to my mother's eyes so I learned not to ask.

I visited her once in the hollow walls of the institution. I was led to a small dull room. A huge steel door with locks separated me from the patients but I could still hear their shrill screams. The noise ate away my ears. My hands were clasped so tight my fingernails jabbed into my palms. The pain was a welcome diversion. All too soon, I heard the nurse roll Nancy into the room with me. My eyes were glued to the dingy pink plastic curtains and it was painful to drag them across the grey cement block wall. Finally they rested on a small frightened girl slumped in a wheel chair. She was screaming, rocking to and fro and slamming her head against the chair. Nancy didn't want to be here with me. She didn't like the strange room or person and she didn't understand the break in her routine.

My visit did nothing for Nancy. Five minutes after I left she forgot me, but I remember her. She had brown eyes. I never found out if she liked strawberry ice cream.

JUNIORS HONORED



Award Winners: Leaders of Smithtown Junior Auxiliary display award presented to them March 3rd for outstanding fund raising for Suffolk AHRC programs. Smithtown Junior Auxiliary was honored for its participation in the 1972 Y.O.U.T.H. Walk-a-Thon. (L. to R.) are: Hockey Manning, Junior Advisor and Mrs. Jackie Mott, Smithtown Juniors Senior Advisor.

MIX YOUTH, AGE: ENRICHMENT

Put together 100 retarded children — residents of West Seneca State School and 50 elderly persons with incomes at or below the poverty level.

The result is a feeling of usefulness for the foster grandparents, a \$32 weekly stipend to supplement their meager incomes and hopefully progress, response and feelings of being loved on the part of the children.

The foster grandparents spend two hours a day with each of two children five days a week. The children selected for the new program are all profoundly retarded and are the ones who need it most.

The program, which is set up under a 5-year \$8 million federal grant to the State Department of Mental Hygiene, is designed to bring together the retarded child with the foster grandparent who acts as a friend, a hope and a support.

The grandparents receive a hot meal daily and transportation. For some it is the first time in a long while that they have eaten regular nutritious meals.

A reception for the new foster grandparents and their friends was held in December. Speakers included County Executive Edward V. Regan, Dr. Louis Huzella, school director; A. Chandler Bliss, project director for the State Department of Mental Hygiene; George Fox, director, Region 2, ACTION, and Thomas Dunleavy of Washington, senior program specialist, ACTION.

A foster grandparent must be 60 years of age or older with an annual income for a single person of no more than \$2,000 and \$2,600 for a couple.

**ANNUAL Y.O.U.T.H.
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QUICK TEST DEVISED FOR LEAD POISONING

A new test procedure for the detection of lead poisoning, requiring only a few drops of blood and taking about 10 seconds, was announced recently by Dr. Hollis Ingraham, the State Health Commissioner.

Dr. Ingraham said that the new process had been field-tested and was becoming operational in many localities throughout the state. The new test costs about \$2.50 per person, as opposed to \$6 per person with the old test.

The new process, which does not require the use of a syringe or large blood samples, as did the old test, utilizes sophisticated measuring equipment and a computer to analyze lead levels in blood.

Lead poisoning is often the result of children eating chips of lead-based paint. The Analytical Toxicology Laboratory of Guilderland, N. Y., which developed the new test, estimated that 10 per cent of the samples it had analyzed contained dangerous lead levels. Lead poisoning can result in crippling, mental retardation and death.

Dr. Ingraham said that the new test had been made possible by a special spray applied to the fingers of children to be tested. The spray, he said, seals off any lead on the skin surface so that blood drawn from a pin prick is non-contaminated by lead.

RUBELLA FIGHT NOT OVER

"Despite the fact we have a law in New York State requiring youngsters to be immunized against both German measles and red measles before they enter school, we are finding thousands have not been immunized against these diseases," Dr. Stephen Redmond, New York State Department of Health in Albany recently told volunteer workers.

Dr. Redmond emphasized the importance of eliminating these two communicable diseases from the State. Rubella or German measles can cause birth defects when a pregnant woman is afflicted with the disease.

Patrick Accardi of Washington, D.C., director of the national rubella and measles immunization program stressed the utilization of volunteers in the immunization program as a new way to reach the hard to reach one to four year olds and how volunteer action centers and agencies can enlist the aid of labor, business, industry and the news media in the program.

UNIFIED — (Continued from Page 2)

B. The same section, subdivision B. should be amended to read "other net income realized in the operation of a specified program." Under the provisions that now stand, an agency such as one of our chapters may have a large income from a sheltered workshop operation, most of which is paid out in wages but nevertheless the gross income from such an operation must be deducted from the contracts. This certainly will stifle enterprise and is self defeating in terms of developing services which will be of help to the disabled, in this case the mentally retarded. The very least we can expect is that this income should be designated as net income. This is not a total solution but certainly better than what is now in the law.

MORE STUDY NEEDED

In summation we feel that much more study must be done on this bill before it is brought to a vote. Hearings on this should be held throughout the state. Up to this point hearings have been held only on the old bill and not one hearing has been held in New York City, Syracuse, or Albany, for example.

This bill has been drafted with the best of intentions but it needs a great deal of improvement, certainly in the areas we have designated before we feel it will be doing anything for that vast body of the mentally retarded whose institutionalization is such a problem to the state and for whom the lack of community facilities is being compounded

(Continued Next Column)

HEAVIER MOTHERS HAVE HEALTHIER BABIES

CLUE TO CURE AND PREVENTION OF CEREBRAL PALSY AND MENTAL RETARDATION

The most intensive look ever taken at women and their children — a \$100 million study now drawing to a close after 14 years — has brought about significant changes in the practice of obstetrics in America.

As a result of the study's findings that heavier mothers mean heavier, healthier babies, doctors no longer restrict the weight that pregnant women can gain.

Although that is the significant finding to date of the study sponsored by the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke, doctors think there are clues hidden in the data for the cure and prevention of such diseases as cerebral palsy and mental retardation.

There are more than half a million cases of cerebral palsy and five million mentally retarded persons in the United States; about 126,000 persons are born mentally retarded each year.

Since January 1959 when the first mother was registered, the study has followed 56,000 mothers and 40,000 of their children through the first eight years of life. Presently, about 90 per cent of the children have reached the 8-year-old cut-off point; the first child studied is now 13 years old.

The aim of the study is to see how the events of pregnancy affect the child's later development — both physical and mental.

The important role that the mother's weight gain during pregnancy plays in determining the future health of the child — both physical and mental — showed up early in the study.

It has long been known that low weight babies those born under 5½ pounds — run the greatest risk of dying in the first year of life. They are also in danger of having neurological diseases such as mental retardation.

What was not known until this study, however, was the important relation between the weight of the mother and the weight of the child.

"Weight gain in pregnancy," said Dr. Janet Hardy of St. John's University Medical School, "seems to be the factor which most strongly influences the weight of the baby at birth."

When the study started, American obstetricians worried if mothers gained more than 20 pounds. Indeed, the ideal weight gain was considered to be 16 pounds, which roughly equals the weight of the increased uterine size, the placenta and the amniotic fluid that bathes the baby.

In effect, said Dr. Hardy, this meant that the mother never gained any weight of her own.

"I can remember when I was pregnant taking pride in the fact that I only gained 16 pounds," she said.

Now, she said, obstetricians learned that 25 to 30 pounds "is the optimal weight gain both in terms of prenatal (Infant) mortality and birth weight which relates to intellectual and neurological outcome."

To persuade obstetricians that they should change their practice of restricting a pregnant women's weight, William Weiss, chief of biometrics for the study, examined 32 possible factors relating to birth weight.

The mother's weight gain during pregnancy emerged as the most important factor, with her weight before becoming pregnant second. Cigarette smoking during pregnancy is a factor in keeping down the weight of the infant, Dr. Hardy says.

BUDGET — (Concluded from Previous Column)

daily by the fact that many local governments including New York City refuse or will not contribute their just share to the program.

Nothing in this bill really changes the system of community service delivery. We must oppose it."

The bill passed the Assembly at this writing.

STATE CONVENTION — OCTOBER 11-14 — HYATT HOUSE — ALBANY

BODY - TEMPERATURE RISE INCREASES BIRTH DEFECTS

The World Health Organization is sponsoring further work in American laboratories to investigate the implications for human beings of an Australian scientist's animal experiments which have produced a wide range of birth defects by slightly raising the pregnant mother's body temperature.

WHO's annual report cites a critical need for other investigators to carry forward the research of Doctor M. J. Edwards, an Australian veterinarian.

By briefly exposing pregnant guinea pigs and rats to a hot environment, Doctor Edwards experiments have produced small brain size, severe learning defects, growth retardation, loss of vision from cataracts, club foot, and other skeletal, muscular and dental deformities.

The elevated temperature was produced in an incubator, not naturally by a viral or other infection.

Dr. Edwards and other WHO scientists suggest that some human birth defects may result from elevated body temperatures in both temperate and tropical climates.

They say excessive heat, which results naturally from fevers associated with common illnesses such as the flu, can possibly cause at least some human birth defects. Saunas and tropical climates may cause such heat.

Dr. Ian Beveridge, a veterinarian at WHO at Cambridge University in England, said congenital defects are found in about 1 per cent of human births and, in perhaps three quarters of these cases the cause is unknown.

The next step in determining if raised temperatures are an important factor in these defects, he said, is to do the experiments on non-human primates.

Laboratory studies have shown that a four degree temperature elevation can destroy embryo cells during the mitotic stage of cell division.

DR. HERBERT BIRCH OF EINSTEIN DEAD

Dr. Herbert G. Birch, professor of pediatrics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and recipient of the 1971 Kennedy International Award for studies of the relation of malnutrition and other social problems to mental retardation, died of a heart attack at his home in Suffern, N. Y., February 4th at the age of 54.

He was a director of the center for normal and aberrant development at Einstein's Kennedy Center, professor of psychology at the Ferkauf Graduate School of Yeshiva University and visiting professor at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Dr. Birch, who will be sorely missed in the field of mental retardation, was also at one time on the Board of Professional Advisors of the New York City Chapter.

PANEL — (Concluded from Page 1)

centers to provide adequate staff, training programs in behavior-modification techniques, salary incentives to attract competent staff and the recruiting of adequate support employees.

• The committee said that habilitation programs for the majority of the residents had not been provided and recommended the acceleration of diagnosis and evaluation projects and the acceleration of the implementation of behavior-modification programs. It also said that residents ready for placements in the community receive better training for their release.

The group also recommended that parents participation in making policy and decisions be increased and that advisory groups be set up to assist in making the recommended changes, monitor progress and conditions at the institution and report their findings to the public.

The 35-member council, headed by Alton G. Marshall, the Governor's former Secretary, had been asked to investigate charges in the various lawsuits.

It concluded that "society itself and its support of archaic practices has contributed to the problem we face today."



After seeing his teacher use a toy to develop muscle control for the little girl, another youngster in the day training center of the Association for Retarded Children, Saratoga Springs, pitches in to help her.

STILL OPEN FOR ORDERS ON THE BOOK ON STATE ASSOCIATION

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 1948-1968.

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.

If you have not yet ordered it, we urge everyone to do so. The supply is limited and we are amazed at the number of orders coming in from non-members of the Association.

Please send _____ copy/copies of State Association
No. _____
for Retarded Children and New York State Government,
1948-1968

Non Members \$4.75 each. incl. postage _____

Members \$3.25 each, incl. postage _____

Name _____

Address _____

Member of _____ Chapter. _____

CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN WINNERS NAMED

Three young artists from different localities were named winners in the 1973 Christmas Card Design Contest sponsored by the New York State A.R.C.

Wayne Race, of Germantown, N.Y., in Columbia County, was named winner of the first prize, a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond. Wayne's story is a most interesting one, in that he is just beyond school age, and generally did not have the opportunity to attend public school classes. He did, however, paint very well and his home is filled with well over 100 of his excellent works. Mr. John Vale, Principal of Germantown Central School knew of Wayne's talent and entered two of his works in the contest. The happiest part of all, is that through this, Wayne discovered our Columbia County Workshop, where he is now a client.



Picking first, second and third places from among the finalists are Diane Carol Brandt, (L), Creative Director, William House Regency, Inc., and Randy Williams (R) staff member, High School programs, Metropolitan Museum of Art; assistant executive director John Bertrand is just happy about the whole thing.

Our second and third place winner came from locations that had produced winners last year as well. John Merchant won 2nd place, a \$50 Savings Bond and Robert Harrison won 3rd, a \$25 Bond. John participates in the program of our Sullivan County Chapter, which produced last year's 3rd place winner and Robert is a resident of Rome State School, which produced two of our 1972 winners.

(Continued Next Column)

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FEATURED SPEAKER AT CONVENTION

Fred Krause, formerly executive director of the California Association for Retarded Children and acting executive director of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation has agreed to be the banquet speaker at the State Convention, October 13th in Albany.

The program is now shaping up with some interesting developments for Friday evening, October 12th as well as workshops on the 13th.

The workshops will cover a wide range of items that will be reported in more detail in the next issue. This promises, as we say each year, to be the best convention yet, so hold the dates open — October 12th, 13th and 14th, Hyatt House in Albany.

TELETHON
OCT. 13 & 14 (Sat. & Sun.)
CHANNEL 9
WOR-TV

CARDS — (Concluded from Previous Column)

Cards featuring the designs of three winners will be available for sale beginning in mid June.

Judges for our 1973 competition were Mr. Randy Williams, a member of the High School Program Staff at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Diane C. Brandt, Creative Director for Williamhouse Regency Inc., the company that handles our card printing.

The top 40 designs in the contest will again appear on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in December.

One of the exciting sidelights to the competition was the receipt of an entry this year from our 1972 2nd place winner Raymond Hugaboom. Last year when Raymond entered the competition he was a resident of Rome State School. This year, his entry came to us from the workshop of Chenango County, telling us that another person had progressed out into the community.

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