

# OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Retarded Children

Can Be Helped!



VOL. VIII. — ISSUE No. 2

106

JUNE-JULY, 1956

## 7th ANNUAL DINNER HONORS TWO LEGISLATORS 1,200 Guests Applaud Fogarty, Brydges for Services to Mentally Retarded



Congressman John E. Fogarty accepts AHRC Award from State Comptroller Arthur Levitt.



Mrs. Esther Rudyn, CRMD teacher at P.S. 181, is congratulated by Bernard M. Fineson after receiving pin from her pupils.

The Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton-Astor Hotel was once again the scene on Saturday, May 19th, 1956, of the Annual AHRC Dinner. About 1,200 guests filled the biggest ballroom in the country and watched and listened to the presentation of awards to Congressman John E. Fogarty of Rhode Island and State Senator Earl W. Brydges of Niagara Falls.

Also honored was Mrs. Esther W. Rudyn, CRMD teacher at P. S. 181, Brooklyn, who received a citation from the Mayor's Committee on Scholastic Achievement the following week, and who was presented with a heart-shaped gold pin by her class.

Arthur Levitt, Comptroller of New York State,

who has consistently identified himself with our cause, handed the bronze scroll to Congressman Fogarty for his "outstanding contributions to the cause of the mentally retarded through his courage in pioneering for a broad program on a national level." Congressman Fogarty is Chairman of the House Appropriations Sub-Committee on Labor, Health, Education and Welfare, and is instrumental in increasing Federal Health appropriations from \$3½ to 125 million in ten years. He is the man responsible for obtaining in 1955, the first Federal grant of \$750,000 for research in mental retardation, and has just successfully pushed through the House an appropriation of

### CAR GIVEAWAY AT NEXT DINNER

Chairman Greene Announces 1957 Chevrolet as 1st Prize

The first prize at next year's Dinner, it has been announced by Dinner Chairman George Greene, will be a big . . . beautiful . . . shiny new 1957 Chevrolet. Tickets will start going out soon, so that our members and friends will find it easy to sell a record number of them.

The affair will again be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton-Astor Hotel. The date: May 25th, 1957.

Start planning, everybody!

\$2,000,000 for clinical services under state-federal maternal and child welfare programs of the Children's Bureau. This bill now awaits Senate approval.



State Senator Earl W. Brydges being presented with the AHRC Award by State Comptroller Arthur Levitt.

The second bronze plaque was presented by the Hon. Arthur Levitt to New York State Senator Earl W. Brydges, Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation, and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Education, for his "leadership to

obtain services for the mentally retarded and help them achieve the dignity of individuals and citizens." Now serving his fourth term in the State Legislature as representative of the 54th District, Senator Brydges has introduced and helped pass many laws and measures of statewide importance. His able chairmanship of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation has resulted in many proposals being submitted for consideration and passage by the Legislature affecting the welfare of the retarded.

The Invocation was given by the Rev. Edmund F. Fogarty, Assistant Director of the Department of Child Care of Catholic Charities, Diocese of New York, and the Benediction by Rabbi Israel Friedman, of the Jewish National Fund. Toastmaster was "Big Joe" Rosenfield, conductor of the "Big Joe Happiness Exchange" program over radio station WMGM, New York. Music and entertainment was furnished by Marty White and his Orchestra.

Other distinguished guests attending were: Dr. J. Greenberg, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, New York City; Dr. Clemens E. Benda, Director of Research and Clinical Psychiatry at the Walter E. Fernald School, Waverly, Mass.; Drs. Harry Storrs and George Jervis, Superintendent and Director of Research, respectively, of Letchworth Village, Thiells, N. Y.; Professor Maurice Fouracre, Head of the Department of Special Education, Teachers College, Columbia University; and Dr. Joseph Pincus, Director of Pediatrics, Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn.

Also, Mrs. Philip Fischell, Louis Fleischman Benevolent Society; Dr. Joseph Wortis, Director of Pediatric Psychiatry, Brooklyn Jewish Hospital; Mrs. David Clair, President, Joshua Orphan Aid; Mrs. Mollie Cohen, President, Sarah Starkman League; Dr. Benjamin Kramer, Director of Pediatrics, Mai-

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## NATIONAL RETARDED CHILDREN'S WEEK: NOV. 11 - 22

## OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

issued four times a year by

### THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

200 FOURTH AVENUE — NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

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

Chartered by the State of New York  
February, 1949

Affiliated with National Association for Retarded Children, Inc.

President: BERNARD M. FINESON

Executive Director and Editor: JOSEPH T. WEINGOLD

Associate Editor: MIRA EITINGON

## MORE STATE AID — FOR THE RETARDED?

(An Editorial)

With the passage of the Heald Commission Bill, increasing state aid for special classes from \$800 to over \$3,000 to up to \$5,000 in some instances, we pose this question: "Will these additional funds be used for increased services for the mentally retarded, or will they be thrown into general school funds?"

Isn't this something for the Joint Legislative Committee to watch and investigate?

Perhaps all increases to state aid for special classes should be tied into increased services. The handicapped must not be used as a means for getting more state money for general purposes. Money allocated for services for them should be used for that purpose and that purpose only.

Let's watch this!

## REFORMS AT WASSAIC

(An Editorial)

Commissioner Hoch's report of the result of his investigation of Wassaic State School, just released by the Governor, is a most encouraging document. The Commissioner, however, evinced some chagrin at the publicity given conditions at Wassaic by the New York Post, and its adverse effect. He implies that all this could have been done, and better, without glaring light of day shining on it.

Although there may have been some exaggerations, — and we are not yet convinced of this — the fact remains that these conditions have existed at Wassaic for many years, with nothing having been done; nor was there any indication that the new Commissioner was doing anything about it until the publicity broke. In a democratic society, we can only preserve our way of life by continuous frank and public discussion of our public institutions, their officials, and of what is going on. Anything less than that is a threat to democracy, although it may make for so-called efficiency in operation.

The poet, Coleridge, in his poem "The Aeolian Harp," raises the very interesting question whether it is better to be happy and ignorant, or have knowledge, be unhappy, and do something about it. We are sure that our leaders will know Coleridge's conclusion.

Perhaps the most significant development is that future investigations will be conducted by a "disinterested citizens committee". We wish that this phrase had been "by an interested citizens committee". Some of these citizens will be from State Charities Aid, an agency of long standing in this state, whose members are empowered to visit state institutions and make recommendations. Recently this power has been utilized very little, if at all. We wonder why A.H.R.C. was not chosen to participate in these investigations. We wonder still further when we remember that State Charities Aid turned over their files and their information service on

## DE PROSPO NEXT A.A.M.D. PRESIDENT



Prof. Chris De Prospro

Professor Chris De Prospro, of the Department of Special Education, City College of New York, and Advisor to the AHRC since its inception, was designated President-Elect of the American Association on Mental Deficiency at their recent Convention in Richmond, Virginia.

Professor De Prospro has been Vice President of the A.A.M.D. in Education and is head of the Liaison Committee with Parents Groups.

The Editors of this paper take great pride and pleasure in announcing this piece of news!

## AHRC SCHOOL OPENINGS

There may still be some openings for classes in the Bronx and Queens.

Please apply in writing to the office, 200 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, N. Y.

## ENGLISH EXPERT ADDRESSES A.H.R.C.

Attendants for mental hospitals and institutions for the mentally retarded are not employed in Great Britain. Instead, the person entrusted with the daily care of the mentally handicapped and the mentally ill are professional mental deficiency and psychiatric nurses, who qualify for that title after 3 years of training, Dr. David H. Thomas, Superintendent of the Cell Barnes Colony for Mental Defectives at St. Albans, England, and member of the Royal Commission on Mental Health Services, told an AHRC audience in a recent talk which he gave in New York City.

Dr. Thomas was winding up a 3-months' tour of this country, sponsored by the World Health Organization in cooperation with the U.S. Public Health Service, during which he surveyed the facilities for the mentally retarded. He described how, under the Education Act passed by Parliament in 1944, any child developing at less than normal pace receives a complete medical and psychological examination at the age of two, so that, by the time he reaches school age, the authorities have a fairly clear idea of his condition.

Dr. Thomas then outlined how, under the National Assistance Act and the Health Service Act, 75% of Britain's mentally retarded population resides in the community. To service their needs, the several county councils operate and support special classes, home teaching, hostels and occupational centers. The problem of the retarded is a problem of community reorientation, Dr. Thomas maintains, so much so that Great Britain, with a population of 55 million, requires a total of 3,000 hospital beds for its mentally handicapped, as compared with 28,000 institution beds that are deemed insufficient for New York State's population of 14 million.

Dr. Thomas, who regards the ideal size of a state hospital as no more than 800 beds, visited the outstanding universities and institutions connected with the field while here.

mental retardation to A.H.R.C., asking us to continue it in their stead. Could not the Commissioner and Governor have accepted State Charities' Aid's appraisal of A.H.R.C.?

One other thing. In speaking of food that the children get, the Commissioner stated that it was adequate nutritionally. We state that it will be adequate nutritionally, when — and only when — the children eat exactly what the staff, including the administrators, eat — no more, no less.

A thought to leave with you. Less than the cost of 1 mile of, "Throughway" would institute and accomplish most of the reforms we think necessary at Wassaic State School.

## REFORMS INSTITUTED AT WASSAIC, REPORT SAYS

The official report of the investigation into conditions at Wassaic State School for the mentally retarded by Dr. Paul H. Hoch, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, was released by Governor Harriman on June 14th.

The report revealed that major reforms have been instituted to meet the chief criticisms leveled at Wassaic in recent investigations touched off by accusations of former patients and their attorney, Mark Lane. This was followed up by a series of articles in the New York Post by Fern Marja.

One employee has been dismissed and two more have resigned following charges of mistreating young patients.

Improvements effected or planned for the institution include less use of restraint and seclusion, expanded education and psychiatric programs for patients, a training course for attendants, a special diagnostic unit for non-English speaking children, and a pilot project for delinquent boys.

One of the most important aspects of the report was the acceptance of recommendations of the A.H.R.C. that future major departmental inquiries be conducted by an independent citizens committee rather than by the Department of Mental Hygiene itself.

Although, in general, the 5-page memorandum to Governor Harriman is a frank exposition of conditions at Wassaic, and what should be done about them, at times it seems to deny the existence of certain conditions, and then goes on to blueprint cures for them. For example, although Hoch says that former patients complained of mistreatment, ranging from slapping to more serious charges, they were probably "exaggerated as to raise serious question concerning the balance of the testimony by that witness", but he then goes on to say, "there were too many complaints related to the school boys' building to conclude that they were not without some basis".

Although the Commissioner states that he found no evidence of discrimination against negro or Puerto Rican children, and that psychological examinations by Spanish-speaking psychologists substantiated examinations by the school staff, he goes on to say that "further inquiry into the difficulties experienced by non-English speaking children at Wassaic has led to the establishment of a special psychological diagnostic unit in the department".

After describing the meals at the school as adequate, the Commissioner makes it clear that larger budgetary allowances would "permit a larger selection and choice of food".

The conclusion of the report states that the factors which impede the program, limit the programs of other institutions as well. "All of them are particularly handicapped by inadequate ratios of personnel to patients. The personnel ratios "should be strengthened if they are to provide adequate care, expand psychological services and improve education and training".

One of the most important things that has been learned from the report is that future investigations will be conducted by the Mental Hygiene Council with the assistance of State Charities Aid Association. Or, as the report puts it, by "a group of disinterested citizens", with the aid of independent counsel. It would perhaps have been even better if this independent citizens' committee had included representatives of the A.H.R.C., a community agency recognized throughout the state for its work on behalf of mentally retarded children.

On the whole, this is a report which points the way either explicitly or implicitly for future action with regard to state schools, as for example, decreasing their size, increasing appropriations for salaries, more selective choosing of personnel, who will be attracted by increased salaries, and a broader program for the rehabilitation of the patients.

## 3rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD

Orville Johnson Keynote Speaker on Theme of "The Trainable Child — Training Towards What?"

The 3rd Annual State Conference of Directors and Teachers of Classes for Mentally Retarded Children was held by the AHRC on June 1-3 in New York City and devoted itself to defining the aims with regard to the trainable child and toward what he is being trained.

Accordingly, the morning of Friday, June 1st, was taken up by a visit to the AHRC Training Center and Sheltered Workshop at 116 East 27th St., New York City.



Seated, from left to right: Prof. Chris De Prospro, Conference Chairman, Max Dubrow, Prof. Louis E. Rosenzweig, Prof. G. Orville Johnson, keynote speaker, Charles McAllister and Rudolf P. Hormuth.  
Standing: Leonard W. Rockower, Bernard Warshafsky, Mrs. Eve Mayer, George Hirsch, Chairman, Education Committee, AHRC and Joseph T. Weingold.

On Saturday, June 2nd, the more than 150 conferees gathered at the Carnegie International Center, 345 East 46th St., New York City, to be greeted by Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of AHRC, and to hear Professor G. Orville Johnson of the School of Education, Syracuse University, and director of the pilot demonstration project in educating trainable children carried out under the auspices of the New York State Mental Health Commission, talk on "Recent Developments in the Training of the Trainable Child". Professor Johnson compared a recently completed experimental project for the 'trainable' in Illinois with the one he heads presently in New York State. He also told his audience that, although 24 states throughout the nation have passed legislation authorizing classes for severely retarded children, the programs are not actually in operation in many of these states. Whether they are or not, he stated, depends largely on the efforts of the various parents groups in each locality.

This address was followed by a Panel discussion on "Needs and Possible Goals" chaired by Chris De Prospro, Professor in Special Education, CCNY, and participated in by Max Dubrow, Director of the AHRC Training Center and Workshop; Rudolf P. Hormuth, Consultant in Mental Retardation, Children's Bureau, Washington, D. C., and former Assistant to the Executive Director, AHRC; and Charles McAllister, Director of Education in State Schools, N. Y. State Dept. of Mental Hygiene.

The afternoon saw the formation of several Workshop discussions under the direction of Chris de Prospro: "Towards Work in the Community" with Leonard W. Rockower, Supervisor, Services for the Mentally Handicapped, New York State DVR; "Towards Integration in the Home" with Bernard Warshafsky, Supervisor of the Bureau for C.R.M.D.; and "Towards Participation in a Residential Training School" with Eve Mayer, Social Worker, AHRC Adult Recreation Groups, and Louis E. Rosenzweig, Professor in Special Education, Brooklyn College.

A Problem Clinic was held the following day, Sunday, June 3rd, at the AHRC office, 200 4th Ave., with a Resource Panel consisting of Rudy Hormuth; Helen Kaplan, Chairman of the Education Committee, Nassau Co. AHRC; Julia Long, Director of AHRC Classes, New York City; Katherine Lynch, Director of the C.R.M.D. Bureau, New York City; Edith Romano, Director of the Frank C. McCarthy School, Syracuse, N. Y.; and Muriel Simpson, Director of the Westchester AHRC School. Chairman was Jerry Weingold.

**CALL THE OFFICE TO VOLUNTEER: ALgonquin 4-8203**

## JACK BENNY TO PLAY HIS VIOLIN FOR RETARDED CHILDREN

Oct. 2 Appearance at Carnegie Hall to Benefit N.A.R.C.

October 2, 1956 will be a red-letter day for retarded children throughout the nation, for it is on that date that Jack Benny will make his appearance as violin soloist with the New York Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall for the benefit of the National Association for Retarded Children and the Committee to Save Carnegie Hall.

Jack Benny who, as we all know, is Honorary Chairman of National Retarded Children's Week, will play the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E minor. Alfred Wallenstein will conduct the 70-piece orchestra.

The scale of the house will be from \$3 to \$50, with First Tier Boxes (seating 8) going at \$200, and Second Tier Boxes at \$100. Tickets are obtainable from John Totten, Carnegie Hall Box Office, 154 West 57th Street, New York City, or from the Committee to Save Carnegie Hall, at 161 West 56th Street.

## MRS. FDR ATTENDS CHARTERING OF CUB PACK 285



Members of Cub Pack 285 present a corsage to their new Honorary Den Mother, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, while Bernard M. Fineson and Paul Westerkamp, Chairmen of the Pack Committee, beam approval.

When Cub Pack 285 (Queens) made up of retarded boys, received its Charter at a ceremony held at Bayside High School on April 29th, one of the honored guests present among the 150 proud parents and friends was Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who spoke briefly, posed for pictures, and was made Honorary Den Mother of the Pack.

The Charter Presentation also provided a high point for some of the youngsters from Muscatatuck State School, Butlerville, Indiana, here on a sightseeing trip that included a 2-day visit to Washington, D. C. The Indiana junket, underwritten for the second year by the local Lions Club, promises to become an annual affair, designed to prove to the children and to the public how much the former can benefit from such an experience.

Among the speakers at the chartering ceremony were AHRC President Bernard M. Fineson and Judge Edward Thompson, Queens Borough President of the BSA.

Pack 285, to which the late John Golden, theatrical producer, had given his active support before his recent death, is led by Sid Koski, Cubmaster; Paul Westerkamp, Chairman; Philip Brodsky, Secretary-Treasurer; Maxwell Herman, I. R. Paul Doobe, Harry Margolis and Sidney Roth serve on the Pack Committee, and Mrs. Helen Storm is Den Mother.

## TEACHER TRAINING GRANTS RENEWED BY A.H.R.C.

For the third consecutive year, the AHRC has made grants totaling \$3,800 to the Schools of Education of Columbia University and CCNY for teacher training in the field of mental retardation.

Summer workshops with actual classroom demonstration will be held from July 9 to August 17 at Teachers College and Hunter College.

The Columbia program is headed by Dr. Frances Connor; Professor Chris De Prospro directs the one at City College. Information can be obtained from Professor Maurice Fouracre at Teachers College and from Professor Elena Gall at Hunter.

The program takes on added importance in view of the greatly increased need for specially trained teachers that will arise as soon as the new public education laws become operative. It has been estimated that 500 such teachers are needed immediately and many more in the near future.

## STEINGUT ASKS MORE PUBLIC HELP IN TRAINING RETARDED

Assemblyman Stanley Steingut, who is Vice-Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation, has called for an expansion of public school facilities and the creation of new educational programs for retarded children.

In a recent talk before the Shield of David Institute for Retarded Children, the Brooklyn legislator characterized public education provisions for such children as being inadequate and being limited, without exception, to children with I.Q.'s above 50.

Of the more than 200,000 retarded youngsters in the state, Assemblyman Steingut pointed out, more than 70% with I.Q.'s below 50 are forced to remain at home without education or professional aid.

Many families find it emotionally impossible to accept institutional care as an answer to the problem of the low-functioning mental retardate, he said. And those who see their children receive no professional help whatsoever, also suffer. All, he pointed out, are carrying great economical burdens.

(Continued from Page 1)

monides Hospital; Miss Katherine Lynch, Director of the Bureau for C.R.M.D.; Mrs. M. Buxbaum, President, Lena Invalid Aid; Professor Chris De Prospro, Dept. of Special Education, C.C.N.Y.; Hon. Neil M. Lieblich, Director of Servicemen's Voting; Dr. Francis J. Daly, Director of Pupil Personnel, State Department of Education; Professor Louis E. Rosenzweig, Dept. of Special Education, Brooklyn College; Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody, Director of Pediatrics, Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital; Mrs. Belle Eagle, President, Theodora League; Mrs. Harold Baer, Executive Director, New York Jewish Child Care Council; Mr. Joseph Shostak, Executive Director, Shield of David Institute for Retarded Children; Mrs. Paul Jacoby, President, Ladies Auxiliary, M. J. Solomon Sunshine Fund; Hon. Morris J. Solomon, founder of Morris J. Solomon Sunshine Fund; Mrs. Nat Schaeffer, President, Gertrude Vos Children's Fund; Dr. Emily Burr, Executive Director, Vocational Guidance Bureau and member of Board of Advisors, A.H.R.C., and Warner F. Thompson, Counsel to the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation.

The Dinner Committee, under the chairmanship of George Greene, was composed of Co-ordinators Joseph Gitter, Emil Goldstein and Leo Jacobs, and of Borough Chairmen Murray Frankel, Lydia Hershkowitz, Ruth Oloff and Sylvia Schachter. To them, and to the hundreds who helped them so eagerly with the sale of ads and tickets, belongs the credit of making the affair so successful.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NRC WEEK

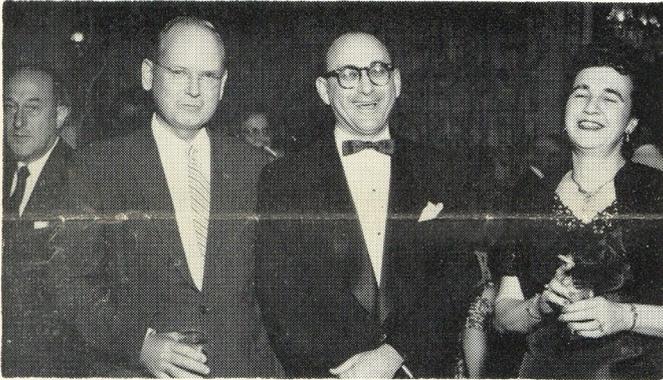
## Seen At Our Seventh Annual Dinner



From left to right: Rev. Irving Pollard, St. Bartholomew's; Leonard Rockower, OVR; Prof. Chris De Prospo and Prof. Louis Rosenzweig share a joke.



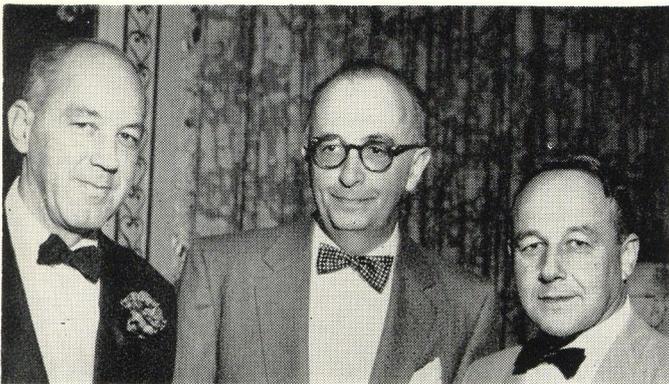
From left to right: Warner F. Thompson, Counsel to the Joint Legislative Committee; Sen. Earl W. Brydges; Mrs. Joseph T. Weingold; Burton Loewer, Member of the Board, and Mrs. Loewer, and (standing) Dr. Clemens E. Benda.



Laughing it up are, from left to right: Dr. Francis J. Daly, State Dept. of Education; Joseph T. Weingold, and Mrs. Elizabeth O'Daly, former principal of P.S. 84, Brooklyn.



Bernie Fineson is surrounded by the two award winners: Rep. John E. Fogarty (left) and State Sen. Earl W. Brydges (right).



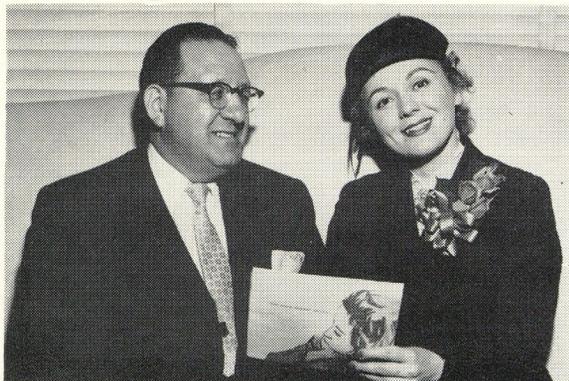
George Asforth, Pres., Rockland County AHRC, with Dr. George Jervis, Director of Research, Letchworth Village, and Dr. Clemens E. Benda, Director of Research and Clinical Psychiatry, Walter E. Fernald School, Mass.



Left to right: Dr. Harry Storrs, Superintendent of Letchworth Village; Prof. Maurice Fouracre, Head of Special Education, Teachers College, Columbia University; Joseph V. Shostak, Exec. Dir., Shield of David Institute for Retarded Children.

**VOLUNTEERS!**  
**CALL ALgonquin 4-8203**

## Retarded Gain New Friend



British star Lynn Bretonn is caught by the camera while discussing mental retardation with Bernard M. Fineson at Luncheon of the North Hills League for Retarded Children.

### BERNARD M. FINESON WITNESSES A DREAM COME TRUE

#### Helps Clinton Co. A.H.R.C. Dedicate New School

When close to 100 people gathered in the new Lawrence West Lakeside School at Cumberland Head, N. Y., on Sunday, May 13th, for dedication ceremonies, they were witnessing the partial fulfillment of a dream of many years' standing.

For the school for retarded children at Cumberland Head is a standing testimonial to the will of people to help when they know of a problem and a need. The new school was built by the labor of the people of the community, who in addition gave the gift of the land and the materials.

At the dedication ceremony, most of the persons instrumental in making the school a reality, had the joy of making a tour of the one-story building and of hearing it named for the chairman of the building committee. The choice of name is the result of a ballot run by the leading local paper, the Plattsburgh Press-Republican.

The story of the Lawrence West Lakeside School for Retarded Children is much more than an accomplished fact. It is symbolic of something that Bernie Fineson, the featured speaker for the occasion, touched upon when he said: "What was once an attitude of resistance and indifference, is now one of cooperation."

### ONONDAGA APPOINTS DIRECTOR

The Onondaga County Chapter AHRC has named John R. Hartnett, assistant professor at Syracuse University's School of Social Work, to the part-time position of executive secretary.

Prior to joining the Syracuse University faculty in 1954, Professor Hartnett was for several years probation administrative supervisor at the Onondaga County Children's Court, and lecturer in sociology at LeMoyne College.

The appointment marks another step in the professional expansion of AHRC.

### BABYSITTER'S GUIDE HELPS A.H.R.C.

A little soft-cover book, "How to Help the Baby Grow — A Simplified Guide for Parents and Baby Sitters," written by our own Julia Long and published last spring by Greenberg Publishers, is indirectly helping the cause of retarded children. For author Long donated \$25 out of her first royalty check to the AHRC.

The book is an outgrowth of Mrs. Long's teaching experiences at Girls' High School in Brooklyn.

To Julia Long and her effective writing talent (besides her considerable teaching and administrative aptitude), the AHRC wishes to express a heartfelt Thank You!

## 24 CHAPTERS PARTICIPATE IN STATE CONVENTION

The State Convention of the A.H.R.C. was held in Albany on Saturday, April 21st, and Sunday, April 22nd, coming around a full cycle from the first convention held in the same city in 1951. At that time, only 6 chapters were members of the A.H.R.C. This year, Albany saw over 100 delegates from 24 chapters, with a vitality that bode well for future expansion.

One of the highlights of the convention was the reading of a letter from Governor Harriman, congratulating the Association and telling about the legislative achievements at the last Session of the Legislature. This was a far cry from the first convention when we were struggling to get a Joint Legislative Committee started, to no avail.

There were five workshops, all very well attended, in the following areas: Administration, discussing the problems concerning fund raising, publicity, chapter organization, etc., with Evald Gasstrom of Westchester, Chairman. Participants were Norman Lazarus, Nassau, Mrs. G. Lucius Cary, Upper Hudson, and Mrs. William E. Murdock, Chemung; Residential facilities, including a discussion of programs in state institutions, after-care programs, residential facilities outside of institutions (halfway houses), and other programs that the Department of Mental Hygiene might be able to institute, such as pre-admission counseling for parents, together with home training for those on waiting lists. The chairman was Mrs. Albert J. Satina, Rome State School Chapter, and discussant was Mr. Fred Diehl of Sunshine League of Western New York, with Miss Hester Crutcher, Head of the Social Welfare, Department of Mental Hygiene, and Charles McAllister, Director of Education in State Schools as resource persons; Day School Programs, including a discussion of their focus and direction, as "toward what are we training the trainable child." The Chairman was Mrs. Helen Kaplan, Nassau County Chapter, resource person was Charles Becker, Division for Handicapped Children, Department of Education. The fourth workshop was on Recreation and Camping, discussing the various types of programs for young and older retardates, organization of programs, and how the community agencies may be involved. The Chairman was Rudolf P. Hormuth, formerly Assistant Director of A.H.R.C., and now Specialist in Mental Retardation at Children's Bureau in Washington, and discussants were Joe Stuckart, Broome County, and Walter Krudop, Suffolk County.

The last workshop, and the one on which perhaps greatest attention was focused, was Training Centers and Sheltered Workshops and organization. This was a discussion of program development and adjunctive programs such as social activity groups, etc. The Chairman was Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the A.H.R.C., and Chairman of the National Association for Retarded Children's Vocational Rehabilitation and Sheltered Employment Committee. Discussants were Anthony Lombardo, Director of Westchester Sheltered Workshop, and resource persons were Karl Kaffenberger, Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Leonard Rockower, Supervisor of Services for the Mentally Handicapped, State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The next convention will be held in October in Utica, with the Oneida-Herkimer Chapter as the host chapter.

### Directories of Services To The Handicapped

Two new directories of services available to handicapped persons have been issued. One is by the Coordinating Council for Cerebral Palsy, "Directory of Services Available to Persons With Cerebral Palsy in New York City," and the other is a "Directory of Speech and Hearing Clinic Facilities in New Jersey, New York City, and the Metropolitan Area" issued by the Welfare and Health Council of New York City.

Both of these directories list services for the mentally retarded and may be obtained from the respective agencies.

**GIVE A LITTLE TIME TO A BIG JOB ...**

## DUBROW NEW HEAD OF A.H.R.C. WORKSHOP PROJECT

The AHRC Training Center and Workshop has a new Director who comes to us from 10 years of service with the New York Association for New Americans, which is the immigrant agency maintained by UJA, where he organized a Sheltered Workshop project in 1955.



Max Dubrow

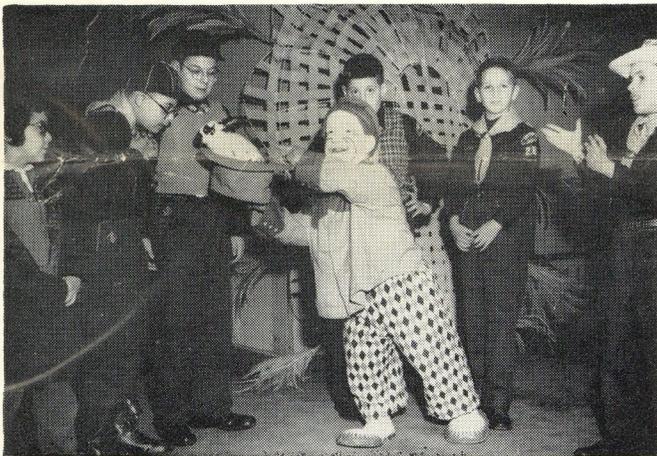
Max Dubrow holds a B.A. and an M.S. in Education from City College, and is presently working on his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University.

In the 1930's, he taught Remedial Reading and English in elementary and high schools and then joined the Vocational Counseling, Training and Placement Division of New York City's Department of Welfare. After time out for service in the Army (1942-1946), part of which were spent with Gen. Patton's 65th Division in Europe, he briefly went to the Vocational Counseling and Selective Placement of Handicapped Clients Division of the U.S.E.S.

A resident of Stuyvesant Town, Mr. Dubrow and his wife have one son, Alan, aged 7.

Max Dubrow joined our staff in April of this year. We are very happy to have him with us!

## At The Circus



Oh, the wonder of it all . . .

## PAUL J. EDWARDS NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Erie County A.H.R.C. Makes First Executive Appointment

In line with the growth of the parents' movement, Erie County AHRC has joined the handful of chapters in New York State that are retaining full-time Executive heads.

Paul J. Edwards was appointed Executive Director of the Erie County Chapter of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children effective May 1, 1956. He was formerly a Program Director for the Neighborhood House Association, a Director of Group Work Services for the Urban League of Buffalo, a Case Worker for the Erie County Department of Welfare and a Probation Consultant for the Federal Court's Eighth Judicial District. For the past two years, Mr. Edwards has been an active member of the Chapter's Board of Directors.

He is a graduate of Boston University, where he obtained his Master of Science degree in Social Work. During World War II, he served nearly three years with the Army in Europe.

## EX-ROCKETTES TEACH DANCING TO A.H.R.C. CLASSES IN P.S. 72

A group of girls whose precision dancing once entertained millions at Radio City Music Hall have taken the cause of retarded children to their hearts. Not only does the Rockette Alumnae Association collect funds that are turned over to the National Association for Retarded Children, but some of its members have started visiting our classes at P.S. 72 in Queens regularly once a week to teach dancing steps and rhythmic coordination to our children.

So enthused are Mrs. Alfred Barrett and Mrs. Stanley Casner of Kew Gardens and Forest Hills about their new undertaking, that they want to spread the word to their 200 fellow-members scattered over 19 states and have them do likewise.



Ex-Rockettes Miriam Casner (left) and Helen Barrett (right) teach our children dancing steps in our classes at P.S. 72, Maspeth. Assisting in the background is Patty James, teacher's helper. Could it be the conga line they are learning?

And how do the children like it? Since a picture is reputedly worth a thousand words, we'll let one speak for us. Have you ever seen a happier collection of little faces?

## CHILD HEALTH DAY STATEMENT INCLUDES RETARDED

In observing Child Health Day, May 1, 1956, Dr. Martha M. Eliot, Chief of the Children's Bureau of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, issued a statement tracing the observance of the custom from the first proclamation issued in 1929 by President Herbert Hoover to today's urging by President Eisenhower for the nation to promote the "spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of children".

Listing the progress made towards the conquest of diseases that formerly took a high toll in the lives of children, Dr. Eliot gives high priority in the days ahead to the problem of developing "adequate facilities for recognizing early and treating successfully . . . emotional problems in childhood."

"No less important," she continues, "is developing a network of services through which the thousands of mentally retarded children in our population can be trained to the limit of their abilities so that, hopefully, they can lead reasonably self-sufficient lives in their home communities."

"These and other parts of the job which still needs to be done for children, all call for more and more trained workers in a variety of occupational fields. In child welfare, particularly, we need many more trained workers than we now have. The medical profession, in practice and in research, can contribute much to reducing, still further, the numbers of children who have crippling conditions.

I hope that communities this year . . . use Child Health Day to take stock of their resources for children and to plan with vision the ways in which those resources can be strengthened."

Amen. (The Eds.)

... CALL AL. 4-8203 TO SAY YOU'LL SERVE

## NEW CHAPTER IN FORMATION IN ULSTER COUNTY

As a result of two meetings, one in May, and the other on June 6th, addressed by our Executive Director, Joseph T. Weingold, and held in Kingston, N. Y., a group of parents and friends formed the proposed Ulster County Chapter of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children.

These meetings resulted from the hearing of the Joint Legislative Committee in Bronxville, where Mrs. Dorothy Buehring, Special Education Teacher in Kingston schools, and Mrs. Isabelle Furman, a parent, attended and gave testimony.

During the winter, Miss Katherine M. Murphy, Executive Director of the Ulster County Tuberculosis and Health Association, joined with Mrs. Buehring, Mrs. Furman, and Mrs. Charlotte Peck, Director of the Ulster County Cerebral Palsy Center, to organize this group.

Both the first and second meetings were very well attended, with a predominance of parents at the second meeting, which numbered over 75.

Although many inquiries have been received by the A.H.R.C. from this area, this is the first attempt at organization. Formation of this chapter will round out the A.H.R.C. organization in the eastern part of the state, and will go a long way towards developing facilities for the mentally retarded.

## NEW BOOK BY NAOMI CHAMBERLAIN

Naomi Chamberlain, of our Monroe County Chapter, is the author, together with Olivia J. Hooker of the State Department of Mental Hygiene, of a new book for training the retarded child, **Learning Colors**, published by Olnay Books, P.O. Box 3125, Rochester, N. Y. (price: \$1.50).

This training manual, which includes a progress chart to encourage repetition and practice, is designed for two purposes: 1. to help the child learn colors, and 2. to show parents and laymen how to teach color identification to a child whose physical, mental, or environmental handicaps have retarded his development.

Naomi Chamberlain, who was formerly educational director of the Cleveland Council Classes for the Retarded Trainable Child, is co-author also of **Three R's for the Retarded**, which is published by the National Association for Retarded Children, is obtainable from the AHRC, and has been translated into four languages.

### TO OUR NON-MEMBER READERS:

To help us defray the cost, and enable us to continue sending you this newspaper, we are asking all who are not dues-paying members of the AHRC to send us one dollar (\$1.00). (This will cover one year's subscription.)

Your doing so will make one more dollar available for the help of our children.

—THE EDITORS.

## ... AND WHERE ARE THE MENTALLY RETARDED?

We quote from the Bulletin of the Social Legislation Information Service, which "reports impartially on federal social legislation and the activities of federal agencies affecting family life, children and community services in the areas of health, education, welfare, housing, employment and recreation" (Issue No. 57, 84th Congress, May 7, 1956):

"National Health Agencies: In 1954, contributions of \$285 million were made to national health agencies and the Red Cross. This included \$67 million for The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, \$22 million for The American Cancer Society, \$11 million for The American Heart Association, \$82 million for The Red Cross, \$25 million for The National Tuberculosis Association, \$10 million for The National Society of Crippled Children and Adults, and \$7 million for United Cerebral Palsy."

## BUFFALO ARCHITECTS' FIRM TO PLAN NEW STATE SCHOOL

The firm of Backus, Crane, and Love, architects, has been selected to draw plans for the State School for mentally retarded children in West Seneca, it was announced by the office of Carl W. Larson, State Architect, Albany.

There are some 40 residences on the 580 acres which must be acquired by the State, and will take a considerable time. It is hoped that after the site is acquired and plans drawn, that the first portion of the institution will be built within a year from then.

This portion will be constructed to meet the immediate needs of 1600 children from 8 western New York counties. "Service facilities will be designed", it was stated by Dr. Paul H. Hoch, "so that through expansion the school will eventually be able to care for and treat a total of 2600 children. It will be of a modified cottage type plan."

There are about 1600 mentally retarded children in Erie County in institutions, mostly Newark, which is now so overcrowded that patients are being accepted on a selective basis.

In a letter to Senator Earl W. Brydges, Chairman of the joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation, Joseph T. Weingold suggested that the architect could visit other institutions to good advantage. He suggested visits to Southbury, Arizona Children's Colony, the new facilities at Laconia State School, New Hampshire, where Richard H. Hungerford is director, and to some of the new facilities at Mansfield Training School. "It was interesting to note," said Mr. Weingold in his letter, "that the new facility in New Hampshire was built at less than \$5,000 a bed, whereas the figures for New York State run to over \$10,000 a bed.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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