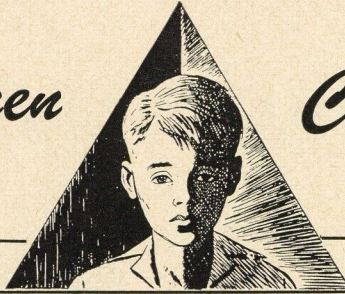


OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Retarded Children

Can Be Helped!



VOL. VIII. — ISSUE No. 3

106

OCTOBER, 1956

NRCW CAMPAIGN SWINGS INTO ACTION

Jack Benny Kicks Off Drive with Carnegie Hall Concert

The 3rd Annual NRCW Campaign, in which AHRC is most energetically taking part, will be launched on November 11 with the endorsement of President Eisenhower and under the national chairmanship of Jack Benny, assisted by Lewis B. Cuyler, vice-president of the First National Bank, and the New York chairman, Sam Cook Digges.



Serious business, this . . . Hon. National Chairman Jack Benny is fully aware of the import of his playing the violin for the benefit of retarded children.

New York's participation in National Retarded Children's Week received a tremendous boost by comedian Jack Benny's appearance as a violin soloist at Carnegie Hall for the benefit of NARC and the Committee to Save Carnegie Hall. His performance with 70 members of the New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Alfred Wallenstein so impressed, intrigued and amused the critics that every single New York newspaper, as well as LIFE and NEWSWEEK, reported it fully and with pictures.

Our Greater New York Chairman, who is general manager of the powerfully influential local CBS-TV station, is doing us yeoman service by arranging to give us time both locally and on the network for all our films, appeals and messages, and by having sent out over 2,000 fund appeal letters over his personal signature to a list of the most prominent executives in the communication and other industries. He heads a New York Campaign Committee for AHRC composed of over 40 names famous in the world of the arts, politics, religion, and society.

Campaign Director Ruth Lovett and her assistant Mary Felix, together with our own Anne Gitter, Chairman of NRCW, are organizing a volunteer corps for the door-to-door and other collections on a thoroughly professional basis. Over 100 volunteers are manning 4 extra phones installed in the AHRC offices during the day and in the evenings. Collectors' kits are going out by the thousands in preparation of the

(Continued on page 4)



Planners of the AHRC Campaign: Greater New York Chairman Sam Cook Digges, Chairman of Volunteers Anne Gitter and AHRC President Bernard M. Fineson.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD OF N.Y.C. ANNOUNCES GRANTS

Two Projects for Retarded Included

The Community Mental Health Board of New York City announced the completion of contracts totalling \$288,474 with voluntary agencies, bringing the totals this year up to \$1,582,482. The new contracts included grants of \$13,500 to the Shield of David Institute for Retarded Children. These sums, however, represent only half a contribution by the Community Mental Health Board, the other half to be put up by the facility on a matching basis.

In a letter to Dr. Paul V. Lemkau, Executive Director of the Community Mental Health Board, the Association protested the small amounts that were being awarded for services to the mentally retarded under the Community Mental Health Services Act. It was pointed out that out of more than \$15,000,000 for mental health services in New York City, some \$30,000 (half of this to be borne by the agencies) has been allotted to the mentally retarded.

Mr. Weingold, AHRC Executive Director, pointed out that letters from the Mental Health Commission and others stated the intent of the Act to be that the mentally retarded receive equal treatment with other disorders eligible for services under the Act, "mental defect" being mentioned as one of the psychiatric disorders eligible for such services. It was his opinion as well as that of the Board of Directors that this constituted a deliberate evasion of the intent of the Act.

In answer to this letter, Dr. Lemkau wrote that services for the mentally retarded are included in almost all the hospitals of the City of New York, and since they have received large sums of money for the expansion of psychiatric services, it is reasonable to assume—although he does not know the figures—that mentally retarded children are included in such services. This answer speaks for itself . . .

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.

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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

THE RANKS CLOSE, BUT GROW

(An Editorial)

With the deaths of Frank C. McCarthy and William E. Weaver, the cause of mentally retarded children has lost two great champions. Through their efforts, the Association has grown in number and in strength. Through their efforts, legislative advances have been made that were not dreamed of a few years ago. Through their efforts, children who never could have attended public school are there now. They leave a void difficult indeed to fill.

It is sad to contemplate the passing of our friends and leaders. Before them there was Gil Hanke, and our own Woodhull Hay, both Presidents of the National Association. There is a period even when we stand wondering who is going to take their places. In a sense, no one can—but the problem is so great and so dynamic in its impact on those whom it affects, that the ranks extend far into the future filled to bursting with men and women ready to step into positions left vacant, and inspired by the example of these leaders and pioneers.

We take leave of them with heavy heart. They were not only our fellow workers, but our close personal friends, bound together by a common cause, common grief, common hopes, and common faith in divine providence.

LAWS AND MEN

(An Editorial)

We have often repeated the well known doctrine that we are a land governed by laws, not by men.

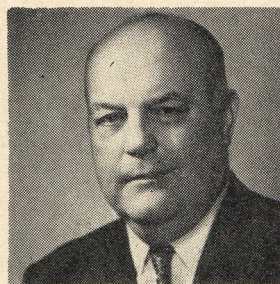
There are times, however, when we wonder whether this—practically speaking—is true. Laws are passed with high ideals and for high purposes. But laws are administered by men. Their prejudices, their lack of knowledge, their particular slants, and even perhaps their feelings on a particular day affect the implementation of the laws which they have been called upon to administer.

Although the Community Mental Health Act states in so many words that the mentally retarded shall be included in such services, the record of the Community Mental Health Board in New York City is a sad commentary on the implementation of laws by men. Of a current budget of \$12,777,220, nothing has been spent for the expansion of services to the mentally retarded. Of the \$15,564,103 budget for the next fiscal year approved by the Board of Estimate, we have just learned that a little over \$30,000 has been put aside for services to the mentally retarded. And half of this is to be put up by the agencies. \$30,000, a little more than one half of 1% for a disability that affects 3% of the population.

This is another indication that citizens cannot rest with laws alone, but must be eternally vigilant of the men who administer them.

FRANK C. McCARTHY, BOARD MEMBER

Frank C. McCarthy, President and one of the founders of the Onondaga County Chapter died on October 5th after a prolonged illness.



Frank C. McCarthy

Under his leadership, the Onondaga County Chapter grew to be one of the strongest members of the AHRC state organization. One of the largest schools for trainable children in the State operated by the Chapter in Syracuse bears his name, the Frank C. McCarthy School.

Frank did much to weld the AHRC into a strong organization. His passing leaves a great void on the State Board and de-

prives the Association of one of its real leaders.

Surviving him are his wife, Mary, who worked side by side with him in his endeavors for the retarded, and two sons, Jack and Frank.

BILL WEAVER, A FOUNDER OF WESTCHESTER AHRC, DIES AT 56

William E. Weaver, of 423 Union Avenue, Mount Vernon, N. Y., one of the founders of the Westchester Chapter, and a past president, died on August 20th after a brief illness.



William E. Weaver

Bill was one of the most ardent workers on behalf of mentally retarded children, especially during the period when Pelham Manor residents united to oppose the establishment of the school.

He also served as President of the AHRC School Board, as chairman of the organization's fund drive in 1952, and as a member of the AHRC Board of Directors.

Bill was sales representative for the Burroughs Adding Machine Company.

Surviving, in addition to his mother, is his wife, Mrs. Ethel Weaver, a son, William E., Jr., and a daughter, Miss Lois Ann Weaver, all of Mount Vernon.

In Bill Weaver's passing, the AHRC has lost one of its shapers. His passing is mourned by all who work for handicapped children.

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN SPECIAL EDUCATION VOTED BY BOARD

At the State Convention in Utica, the Board of Directors voted to set up a \$500 scholarship for one year, to be known as the Frank C. McCarthy and William E. Weaver Scholarship. This is to be given to Syracuse University for a student of Special Education in the field of Mental Retardation. Prospective recipients are to be chosen by the University for final approval by the Board of Directors.

It was felt that our two departed friends would most have wanted this kind of remembrance.

PARENT EDUCATION COURSES

Applications are Now being taken
Please write to AHRC Office

GIVE A LITTLE TIME TO A BIG JOB ...

FINESON AGAIN HEADS AHRC

At elections held on October 16, 1956, at the Mabel Dean Vocational High School in New York City, Bernard M. Fineson was reelected to his third full term as President of AHRC. His slate of officers elected to serve with him are as follows: Augustus M. Jacobs, N.Y.C., 1st V.P.; Evald Gasstrom, Westchester Co., 2nd V.P.; Robert Wagner, Monroe Co., 3rd V.P.; Burrage Stiles, Schenectady Co., 4th V.P.; Charles Campana, N.Y.C., Treasurer; Max W. Schachter, N.Y.C., Financial Secretary; Ann Greenberg, N.Y.C., Recording Secretary; Minna Bober, N.Y.C., Corresponding Secretary.

Serving for a 2-year term as Members of the Board of Directors are: Julian Banner, N.Y.C.; George Cameron, Clinton Co.; Deborah Cherey, Putnam Co.; Donald Cohen, Erie Co.; Natalie Fairfax Ontario Co.; Anne Gitter, N.Y.C.; George Greene, N.Y.C.; Sol Hulnick, N.Y.C.; Elliott Hunt, Oneida-Herkimer Co.; Leo Jacobs, N.Y.C.; Maxwell Kallor, N.Y.C.; Billie Kamen, N.Y.C.; Sidney Leviton, N.Y.C.; Burton Loewer, N.Y.C.; James Maroon, Rockland Co.; Arlene Miller, Fulton Co.; Mrs. William Murdock, Chemung Co.; Marvin Paxson, Onondaga Co.; Paul Reardon, Cayuga Co.; Seymour Rubin, N.Y.C.; Joseph Stuckart, Broome Co.; William Totman, Niagara Co.; Sidney Van Dusen, Upper Hudson Co.

JAILING OF YOUNG MENTALLY RETARDED GIRL PROTESTED

AHRC Action Brings Results

Following reports in the newspapers of the detention of a 13-year old mentally retarded girl in a Suffolk County jail for more than 6 weeks while awaiting commitment to a state institution, the AHRC sent telegrams of protest to Governor Harriman, Mental Hygiene Commissioner Paul H. Hoch and Welfare Commissioner Milford Kirkup of Suffolk County.

Joseph T. Weingold, in the name of the Association, demanded an immediate investigation on a state level of the case of Catherine Gallagher who, it was charged, had been physically mistreated while in jail, and exposed to association with older women there on criminal charges. It was also charged that she had been taught the marihuana habit while detained.

Prompt action by the Governor and by Suffolk County Welfare following the sending of the telegrams and the newspaper publicity, resulted in the girl being released in the custody of her father, a Brooklyn taxi driver, for psychiatric observation and testing. She is now in Kings Park State Hospital.

This situation points up more than anything else the lack of proper facilities for detaining a minor, and also the imperative need for special consideration and treatment in cases involving the mentally retarded on the part of the courts.

MORE PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSES FOR TRAINABLES

Local School Boards to Set Up Units

Reports from around the state give encouraging signs of increase of classes for children with I.Q.'s under 50. The Gloversville Board of Education has taken over the classes normally operated by the Fulton County Chapter of the AHRC in that city. 23 children are expected to be enrolled in the program in two classes, with transportation to be provided for all children residing in the district. These services are also being offered to non-resident students.

In Nassau, the Board of County Vocational Extension and Education has taken over the 8 classes formerly operated by the Nassau County Chapter. This program is being developed with the help of Professor Louis E. Rosenzweig, a member of the AHRC Board of Advisors, as Consultant.

JOINT MEETING OF SUNSHINE LEAGUE AND MONROE AHRC

On September 17th, Bernie Fineson and Jerry Weingold traveled up to Rochester for a joint meeting of the parents of the Monroe County Chapter of AHRC and the Sunshine League. The purpose of this meeting was to place before the joint membership the proposal that the two groups join under the name of Sunshine League, Monroe County Chapter AHRC.

At a meeting attended by over 200 people, this proposal was unanimously accepted. The group is now in the process of electing officers and drawing up a set of by-laws for approval of the state organization.

With this unification in Rochester, the cause of the mentally retarded is advanced immeasurably. The Sunshine League of Western New York in Rochester, consisting mostly of parents of children in Newark State School, has shown a great interest in the problems of the mentally retarded in the community. It was only natural that the two groups should join in a common focus under the leadership of the State Association. This move will mean much for all the mentally retarded in the state.

DIOCESE OF BUFFALO OPENS SCHOOL FOR 50-75 I.Q.

The Catholic Diocese of Buffalo has opened a child center for mentally retarded children of I.Q.'s between 50 and 75 at the former site of the Little Seminary of St. Joseph and the Little Flower in Buffalo.

The center now accepts children aged 6 to 16, according to the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Sylvester J. Holbel, schools superintendent of the diocesan Department of Education. Admissions will not be restricted to Catholic children.

Transportation is being provided by the center. At present, admissions are limited to 75. It is hoped that in 3 years the enrollment will be expanded to 250.

Staffed by Felician Sisters, supplemented by lay teachers, the school is headed by Sister M. Angela, who holds a doctorate in psychology from Catholic University and a certificate for teaching the mentally retarded from the University of Buffalo. She is also a diplomate of the American Board of Examiners in Professional Psychology.

Msgr. Holbel who for 4 years has been a member of the State Committee for the Study of Mentally Retarded Children, said that several Catholic dioceses in the country are showing increased activity in helping the mentally retarded child. A "handful" of these have organized programs, but only one or two are as extensive as the Buffalo plan.

WEST SENECA SCHOOL BY 1960?

1960 has been named as the date by which the new \$33,000,000 state institute for retarded children in West Seneca, N. Y. will be ready.

Supervisor Chester G. Germain is facing a tangled situation regarding the water-development program for the school. One state department wants to buy its water from a water district in West Seneca, while another department refuses to allow the project to move ahead. In denying that the water troubles were delaying the school, Mr. Germain laid it to "the natural mechanics of the state".

1960, they say...

Schenectady has set up 4 classes for trainable children, in addition to the 3 classes being operated by the Schenectady County Chapter of AHRC.

These are encouraging signs of the spread of such classes, and it is to be hoped that they will continue to grow in number as Boards of Education learn of the advantages of this program.

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JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETS Legislative Plans for 1957 Discussed

The Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation held a meeting with its Advisory Committee July 19th and 20th at the Thousand Islands Club to hear reports and discuss plans for 1957. Professor Louis E. Rosenzweig, Advisor to the AHRC, and Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director, attended the meeting as members of the Advisory Committee.

The Committee heard that some 95 proposals were made by various organizations, and were included in its first annual report. Lee Dowling, Director of the Committee, reported that over 2,200 copies of the report were distributed with requests for 1,000 more.

It was decided tentatively to follow up last year's legislation in 6 steps: 1) to re-introduce the 1956 bills that did not get out of Committee, and which are to be considered in detail later; 2) the Committee to introduce new legislation on the proposals made by other organizations, etc; 3) a number of proposals to be rejected; 4) proposals to be taken under study by staff before consideration by the Committee; 5) proposals that do not need further research to be taken under consideration by the Committee itself; and 6) to decide on at least 30 proposals that can be carried out under existing legislation. These proposals being mostly matters of local implementation, it was debated by what methods the Committee could best present them.

In addition, the Committee heard reports from Dr. Arthur Pense on the studies of the Mental Health Commission which include (a) Survey of Educational Programs for Retarded Children in New York State made by Teachers College, (b) The Prevalence Study in Onondaga County now completed, (c) The Research Project for Classes for Severely Retarded Children Under Dr. G. Orville Johnson of Syracuse, now completed, (d) Other studies in progress, such as the Census of Severely Retarded Children by Communities, Report of Program and Progress in Other States by Dr. Samuel Kirk, A Follow-Up Study of Low I.Q. Classes in New York City under the School of Administration and Social Work of N.Y.U.

Dr. Francis J. Daly and Joseph Endres reported for the Department of Education that 62 new special classes for educable children were established last year, bringing the total up to 1206 special classes. As of that date, however, there existed still only 7 classes for the trainable. A report was also made for the Department of Health by Dr. Schlesinger.

Further meetings are planned for the Joint Legislative Committee and the Advisory Committee to finalize action for the 1957 Legislature.

DR. ISAAC WOLFSON HEADS LETCHWORTH VILLAGE

Dr. Isaac N. Wolfson, former head of the Newark State School, is the new senior director of Letchworth Village in Thiells, N. Y., succeeding Dr. Harry Storrs, retired.

Dr. Wolfson has been in state service for 25 years. He graduated from Syracuse University College of Medicine, and after 9 years of hospital work and general practice, entered state service at Hudson River State Hospital. In 1943, he became assistant director of Manhattan State Hospital and in 1950 was appointed as director of Newark State School.

Letchworth's new head is a diplomate of the American Board of Neurology and Psychiatry and a member of the American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Association and the American Association on Mental Deficiency. He has published a number of papers on various aspects of mental retardation.

Dr. Frank E. Henne, assistant director of the Harlem Valley State Hospital at Wingdale, N. Y., was named to succeed Dr. Wolfson as director of Newark State School for the Mentally Retarded.

STATE CONVENTION IN UTICA MAPS LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM Delegates from 24 Chapters Attend

Delegates from 24 chapters met for an action-packed two days at the State Convention in Utica on October 6th and 7th.

The business of the Convention was so great that it was decided to forego the usual workshop format in order to transact all necessary business. The two most important items taken up by the delegates were the adoption of a legislative program for 1957, and discussion and adoption of revised by-laws for the State Association.

Dr. R. J. Capobianco, Assistant Director of the New York State Research Project on Severely Retarded Children was the keynote speaker. His topic: "The Status of the Trainable Mentally Retarded."

Highlights of the report of the Legal and Legislative Committee, adopted unanimously, were recommendations for the following legislation: To include mentally retarded children in the provisions of the Education Law which apply to physically handicapped; to re-define the term "mentally retarded minor" and liberalize the present program of services for the retarded minor; to require each school district to provide special training for all mentally retarded even though they be fewer than 10, unless affirmatively relieved of such duty by the Commissioner of Education because of undue hardship; to reimburse local school districts for one-half the salary up to \$2500 for each full-time psychologist the district provides.

Further amendments to the Education Law to be recommended are a pay differential for teachers of special classes for all handicapped; requirement that facilities be made available for mentally retarded minors from the age of 5 years to that of 21 years, and mandatory establishment of special classes for trainable children.

In addition, among other approved amendments to the Mental Hygiene Law are appointment of a parent of a mentally retarded child to the Board of Visitors of each state school, and liberalization of the requirements of directors of state schools to include disciplines in addition to medicine.

Further amendments to the Mental Hygiene Law were establishment on an experimental basis of two "halfway houses", one in the city of New York and one upstate, with an appropriation for the purpose; limitation of all new state schools to a population of not more than 1500; elimination of all charges to parents on involuntary commitments to state schools.

Also voted on were the amendments to the State By-laws, resulting from the report of the Special Committee on State Reorganization appointed by President Fineson more than a year ago. The effect of this reorganization will be to make all of New York City a separate chapter of the Association, tighten up the provisions of our by-laws which have not been totally reviewed since their inception, and make a stronger state organization in all respects.

The next Convention will be held in Nassau County the last weekend in April.

(Continued from page 1)

Mothers' March on November 13th and the drives planned at the New York Port of Authority Building, LaGuardia and Idlewild Airports for the 2-week periods of November 26—December 9. Also foreseen is a collection drive on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

The drive will be backed up as usual by posters in trains and buses and store windows, and by radio and TV appeals.

Results of the 1955 Campaign have been released by the 1955 National Fundraising Chairman and AHRC Vice President Julian Banner, who reports that for the first time on a nationwide basis over \$1,000,000 was collected. He sums up with the ringing words: "For 1956, let's make it \$3,000,000!"

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR NRC WEEK

ONONDAGA PREVALENCE STUDY

Number of Retarded Exceeds

AHRC Estimates

Case Finding Difficult

After more than two years of work, the Prevalence Study of Mental Retardation in Onondaga County by the New York State Mental Health Commission was finally completed December 28, 1955, and the report issued under the title "A Special Census of Suspected Referred cases of Mental Retardation."

This was one of the studies undertaken by the Mental Health Commission under the law which put the duty upon them of studying mental retardation and reporting on it for possible action. Onondaga County was originally chosen as one of the typical New York State counties. It was felt that, with the figures obtained in Onondaga County, the number of mentally retarded in the State who may need services could be ascertained.

The report, signed by Dr. Joseph Downing, Acting Director of the Committee on Mental Health Research, reveals that, as of March 1, 1953, when the study was begun, 3.5% of the population was reported as suspected of being mentally retarded. He pointed out that, although only 19 were reported under the age of 1, and 67 in the 1-2 year age group, the numbers rose steadily and reached a peak at 14. When the school group was hit, **the numbers rose to 8% of the population in the 10-14 age group.** Twice as many boys were reported as girls.

These facts more than confirm the figures that have been issued by AHRC and NARC, which state that about 3% of the population is so mentally retarded as to need special services. The figure of 8% for the 10-14 age group far exceeds the study of the Special Committee of the Board of Regents done in 1935, which states that 2% of the school population is so mentally retarded as to need special services.

In commenting on the report, Dr. Downing and Dr. Arthur Pense, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, pointed out that the case finding was extremely difficult; that only a little more than half the youngsters had had known tests, not necessarily individual tests, and that most of the reporting was on a suspected basis rather than by actual individual tests. This fact is somewhat overcome by the number reported in public schools, where much closer observation can take place, than outside of the schools.

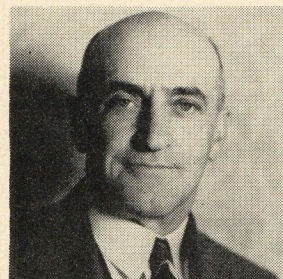
Although the study leaves much to be desired in accuracy and case finding, nevertheless, it points up the fact that there are enormous number of individuals in the community who do not function at the levels necessary to make them a part of the normal population. Whether we think in terms of I.Q. 75 and under or not, this is the important fact: mental retardation is a symptom that manifests itself in the inability of the individual to adjust to his community—whatever it may be.

This study was limited to youngsters up to and including 18. There is no doubt that further studies are necessary with large samples of the population to whom individual tests might be administered. At the office of the Association, Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director, stated: "Figures can be used to prove almost anything we wish. The important thing is that there are a large number of mentally retarded individuals in this state who are either not receiving services, or are getting inadequate or even downright bad services. The important thing is to plan on the basis of what we know. Whether the figures are 2%, 3% or 4% is significant only in terms of what this eventually will cost the community for services. Certainly we know enough now to go ahead with constructive plans. I am happy to say that the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation is proceeding on this basis".

DR. STORRS RETIRES

Completes 45 Years of Service to the Mentally Retarded

Dr. Harry C. Storrs, Director of Letchworth Village, Thiells, N. Y., retired on August 1, 1956, having passed the compulsory age limit of 70. His service with the mentally



Dr. Harry C. Storrs

retarded began in Maine in 1911. He joined the staff at Letchworth Village on May 1, 1912. At that time, there were 100 children or patients at Letchworth, and the staff consisted of only Dr. Little, the Superintendent, and himself.

Since then, of course, the institution has grown into one of the best known in the country. At retirement, Dr. Storrs had completed 45 years with the mentally retarded, 44 in the service

of the State of New York. He was at Letchworth from 1912 to 1930, when he went to Wassaic State School as Superintendent to open the new school. He was there 7 years, returning to Letchworth as Senior Director in 1937, following the death of Dr. Little.

This makes a total of 26 years in charge of an institution, the last 19 of which have been at Letchworth Village.

Advisor to the AHRC from its inception, past president of the American Association on Mental Deficiency, and one of the leading figures in the field, Dr. Storrs is known internationally. He has now retired to Hanover, N. H. to be near members of his family.

STATEWIDE . . .

Some 32 CAYUGA COUNTY 4-H'ers donated chicks for the AHRC Chapter barbecue in July. Hatcheries from as far as New Hampshire contributed to this event, which was something to crow about...ROME STATE SCHOOL CHAPTER informs us that ROME STATE SCHOOL basketball team finished their regular season with a 14-0 record, even beating the Syracuse Collegiates...NASSAU is deep in campaign preparations (as are all other chapters)—sheltered workshop is now about to begin, director having been engaged...ONEIDA-HERKIMER CHAPTER is also ready for their sheltered workshop—looking for a director—the Chapter has opened a new school for retardates in the city of Rome...ROCKLAND had its first day camp for retarded in the county, with 60 youngsters attending a 2-week camping period...BROOME COUNTY CHAPTER reports a 2-week day camp for the children in the county...2 benefit double-headers of the Albany Babe Ruth League will play for the benefit of the CAPITOL DISTRICT CHAPTER...a number of the children of the Chapter were confirmed by Reverend William A. Scully, D.D., Bishop of Albany...ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER raised \$30,000 for its building fund...ERIE reports that school has been completely repainted, and a summer session was held for 12 children. Their exhibit at the County Fair was an outstanding success...ORANGE COUNTY has acquired a permanent home at 206 Grand Street in Newburgh...WESTCHESTER announces that 6 nursery classes have been formed in Portchester and Yonkers...its sheltered workshop is going to expand in the near future to service 40 retardates...PUTNAM COUNTY reports new public school classes in Brewster and Carmel P.S....Carmel class has started a class for parents that's a huge success...the building in Plattsburg...CLINTON COUNTY...is being used to full capacity and is bursting at the seams now with youngsters...Watertown...JEFFERSON COUNTY...has also started a public school class for trainable children.

CALL ALgonquin 4-8203

O.V.R. INCREASES WORKSHOP GRANT

Upon completion of the first annual report for the Workshop Project under the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation grant, the project has been renewed and approved for another year, with an increase of funds from \$48,700 to \$59,600. The report submitted ran some 95 pages, with a voluminous appendix.

There are many indications of successful approaches to the Vocational Rehabilitation of the mentally retarded. A considerable number have been placed in industry who were deemed unfeasible by D.V.R., and others were brought up to their full work potential in the Sheltered Workshop.

The project continues for four years from June 1, 1956.

P.S. SUMMER DAY CAMP— A RESULT OF AHRC CO-SPONSORSHIP



Harvesting beets at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens: a weekly undertaking of the Summer Day Camp at P.S. 241.

A most successful summer of activity was reported for the 30 boys and 10 girls who participated in the Summer Day Camp Demonstration Project at P. S. 241 (Brooklyn).

The project, directed by Rhoda M. Lipman, now our Director of Schools, was co-sponsored by the Community Association of School Districts 25 and 27, and by AHRC.

With their counselors—all C.R.M.D. teachers—the kids, ranging in age from 8 to 17, made weekly visits to the Zoo, the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, and even took in a game at Ebbets Field, where they watched the Dodgers play and beat the Cincinnati Reds!

STUDENTS FROM FAR AND NEAR ATTEND SUMMER WORKSHOPS

The two Summer Workshops for Teacher Training that again were held this year at Hunter College and Columbia University thanks to the grants made by AHRC, attracted a good cross-section of students from all over the nation.

Working with the 8 AHRC and the 5 CRMD children in 3 Workshops at Teacher's College, Columbia University, were a regular grade school teacher, teachers of the emotionally disturbed and the physically handicapped, a school psychologist, a teacher from a state residential school, 5 CRMD teachers and 2 teachers from parent-sponsored classes. They came from as far away as Louisiana, Alabama, Virginia, the two Carolinas, Pennsylvania, Delaware and, of course, New York.

The 8 Low I.Q. and 16 Educable children at Hunter were taught by student-teachers hailing mostly from neighboring New York counties, such as Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester, and also from Egypt and Thailand.

JULIA LONG, SCHOOL DIRECTOR, RETIRES

Mrs. Julia Long, Director of the AHRC classes in New York City for the past two years, has retired from that position as of September 15th.

Under her directorship, the AHRC expanded its classes into Queens at P. S. 72, and developed a curriculum for classes for trainable children which Mrs. Long wrote and edited. This curriculum has had such acceptance that it is now out of print. She is now in the process of re-writing and extending it together with Professor Louis E. Rosenzweig.

Making her home in Danbury, Conn., Mrs. Long intends to continue in her work on a consulting basis. She goes with the grateful thanks of the Association for her patience and leadership.

AHRC'ers ATTEND INTERNATIONAL RECREATION CONFAB

Alice Pearlstein, Chairman of the Social Groups Committee, and David Baumstein, Assistant to Mr. Weingold, journeyed down to Philadelphia on October 1st to attend a panel on recreation for the mentally retarded.

The occasion was a conference of the International Association for Recreation. The panel was lead by Elizabeth Boggs, Chairman of the Education Committee of NARC, and was attended by over 200 people.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS REOPEN FOR SEASON

After the various proms and farewell parties that closed the social activities groups for the summer, the multifarious AHRC recreation program for teenagers and young adults has begun again for the 1956-'57 season.

Going strong are 3 groups in Brooklyn and 2 in Queens. Manhattan has 2 groups, plus the program at Educational Alliance, which is composed of an After-School Activities Group, a Remedial Reading class for Young Adults, and a Social Activities group.

The Bronx has 2 well-functioning groups, in addition to the ones at Bronx House. The Bronx House Saturday morning group, incidentally, has openings for girls between the ages of 10 and 16. Applications will be screened in the AHRC office.

Our Scout program, which now consists of 2 Scout Troops, 2 Cub Packs and one Girl Scout Troop, is also in full swing.

It has been reliably reported that all groups and troops are planning horrendous Halloween parties...

AHRC CO-SPONSOR OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY B.C.G. CONFERENCE

The 25th Anniversary Conference of the Bureau of Child Guidance took place on Saturday, October 20th at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. For the first time, an agency dealing only with the mentally retarded was asked to be a co-sponsor. The Association for the Help of Retarded Children was singled out for this honor and participated in this program.

One of the symposia was "Ways of Meeting the Needs of the Mentally Retarded Child". The speaker was Dr. Henry Drury, School Psychiatrist of the Bureau of Child Guidance, and one of the discussants was Rudolf P. Hormuth, Consultant in Mental Retardation, Division of Health Services, U.S. Children's Bureau, Washington, D.C. and formerly Assistant Executive Director of the AHRC in New York City.

Other symposia included Cooperation Between Clinics and Classrooms, Problems of Adolescence, Problems of the Aggressive Child, Reading Difficulties and Other Learning Problems, Children in Flight, and the Community Role in Helping Troubled Children.

HELP RETARDED CHILDREN

FORD GRANT BACKS RETARDATION PROJECT

Cal. Tech. Gets \$450,000 for Study

A project that will explore the possible connections between mental retardation and body chemistry received a grant of \$450,000 from the Ford Foundation for five years. It will be directed by Dr. Linus Pauling, Nobel Prize winner for his work in bio-chemistry. He is an authority on the molecular structure of living tissue. It will be conducted at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

"It is possible", Dr. Pauling said, "that many cases of mental deficiency—perhaps most of them—are the result of gene-controlled molecular abnormalities. Molecular disease", he continued, "results when genes cause an individual to manufacture abnormal molecules instead of those present in normal persons."

It is the first time that such a large grant for bio-chemical research in retardation has been made. Interest of a scientist of the stature of Dr. Pauling and of the Ford Foundation bode well for the future of research in this field. This is a milestone in the progress of our efforts.

ANOTHER CLUE TO MONGOLISM?

An impaired ability to absorb Vitamin A may be a clue to the mystery of mongolism. Also, a defect in the transfer process of Vitamin A from mother to child may be the initial cause of the condition, it was suggested in a report presented at the International Congress of Clinical Chemists by a research team from the Department of Biochemistry and Pediatrics of the Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn.

The team, which followed up a study done 15 years ago at the Harvard Medical School on the relation between Vitamin A deficiency in animals and slow skull growth, was composed of Dr. Albert E. Sobel, Millicent Strazzulla, Bert S. Sherman, Bruno Elkan, Stanley W. Morgenstern, Nathan Marius and Dr. Arthur Meisel.

With the aid of newly discovered methods of "ultra-micro" techniques which analyze a tenth of a blood drop, Dr. Sobel and his team found that, except for the impaired ability to absorb Vitamin A, the mongoloids were the same in 21 vital blood components as normal children.

They are studying newborn mongoloids to see if Vitamin A can improve their condition, and are also studying pregnant women to determine the Vitamin A content of their blood.

"The role of heredity itself has been overemphasized in the causation of mental retardation and physical abnormalities," said Dr. Sobel, "with too little consideration given to the action of prenatal and postnatal environmental factors."

"FACE REALITY OF HANDICAP"

Of all the letters, articles and reviews that the "Symposium on Mongolism" has elicited, none is more moving than the one written by Mrs. Muriel Lawrence in her syndicated NEA column "The Mature Parent." She entitled it "Face Reality of Handicap" and it has been reproduced in total by the NARC paper "Children Limited."

She tells of the case of a mother in whom the birth of a mongoloid baby produces nothing but a depth of depression, indecision and diffused shock. She then contrasts this case with that of the parents of Jonny.

"If his parents had not claimed their individual reality from the kinds pressed on them by prejudiced relatives and medical opinions, the work of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children might never have begun. For Jonny's father is its executive director. In the very handicap that was to doom him and his wife to unrelenting guilt or hopeless slavery, he's found the inspiration for understanding guidance to other parents of children like his own."

Symposium on Mongolism — \$1.00

SOCIAL SECURITY ACT AMENDED FOR MENTALLY RETARDED

The 2nd session of the 84th Congress amended the Social Security Act to make it possible for a new group of dependents, "disabled children over 18" to receive Social Security payments based on the earnings of a retired or deceased parent. The "children" eligible for benefits under this provision may be of any age at the present time provided they are unmarried, that they became totally disabled before they were 18, and that they remained totally disabled ever since. This definitely includes mentally retarded youngsters, provided the disability began before they were 18 years of age.

Under the old law, the mother of a child under 18 entitled to benefits could also qualify for benefits if she had the child in her care; now mothers of disabled children over 18 also may get benefits.

Payments to the disabled children and their mothers may start with the checks of January 1957, due early in February; applicants have until the end of January 1958 in which to make their claims without losing benefits. This legislation is definitely due to the efforts of the National Association, and much credit goes to the groups in Louisiana and Mississippi for inducing Senator Smith to introduce it.

DAVE GIMBEL QUOTED IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

On June 18, 1956, one of our most esteemed and—in point of service—oldtime members was quoted in the Congressional Record. Through the courtesy of Representative John E. Fogarty of Rhode Island, David Gimbel's poem, "Her Daddy's Prayer", was included verbatim in the Record (Appendix A4819).

Congressman Fogarty referred to the AHRC Dinner (at which, as we all know, he received an award) and mentions the Dinner Journal, "the last page of which was devoted to a poem by David Gimbel, of Brooklyn, N. Y."

"This poem," says the Congressman, "was entitled 'Her Daddy's Prayer', and it was one of the most beautiful and touching things I have ever read. Mr. Gimbel most certainly must have written it with his heart, for no pen alone could ever portray such deep feeling."

"In fact, Mr. Speaker, I was so much impressed that I thought it should be brought to the attention of all the Members of this House. Under leave to extend my remarks, therefore, I hereby include Mr. Gimbel's poem in the Record."

We quote Mr. Fogarty, because we feel that nothing we could say could possibly do justice to the sentiments so well expressed by the Congressman from Rhode Island. (The Eds.)

VOC. REHAB. OF MENTALLY RETARDED PAYS OFF

O.V.R. Figures Show Vastly Increased Earning Potential

The statistics of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the fiscal year 1955, issued August 1956, show that of 57,981 persons rehabilitated during the fiscal year, 531 or .9% were mentally retarded persons.

Almost 96% of those rehabilitated were unemployed when accepted for rehabilitation. The 481 mentally retarded persons placed on jobs during the first year after rehabilitation earned \$325,000 as against \$24,000 before rehabilitation.

Although the percentage of mentally retarded among the total number rehabilitated is woefully small and points most strongly to the need for sheltered workshop facilities, the results are most encouraging and will justify the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in spending much greater effort on this group.

GIVE A LITTLE OF YOUR TIME . . .

BORO BUZZINGS

by Betty Mastoras, Arline S. Hay,
Charles Klein

Monthly Borough meetings have started again, and the first speaker in demand has been our new School Director, Mrs. Rhoda M. Lipman. She spoke at the QUEENS meeting, held at the Grace Lutheran Church, 144-12 89th Ave., Jamaica, on October 3rd.

Queens also held its Card and Games Party at the Italian Charities Building, 83-20 Queens Blvd., Elmhurst, L. I. on October 25. Admission of \$1 goes to fill the Queens kitty. Anne Kraus and Mildred Ridges, co-chairmen, insured its success.

The Boy Scouts (Troop 322) have resumed their Tuesday night meetings. An overnight hike is planned within the near future.

We haven't had a chance to report it before this issue, but this Troop received its 3rd Anniversary Charter on June 5th at the Cpl. Sidney Hirsch Post of the Jewish War Veterans in Jamaica. It was a very impressive ceremony held in the presence of a capacity crowd of parents and well-wishers. Mrs. Billie Kamen accepted the Charter in the absence of Bernie Fineson, who was prevented by illness from attending. Mac Herman, the Institutional Representative, presented each boy with his registration card. A Boy Scout plaque was presented to the J.W.V. for their cooperation and interest to our Troop, which has grown from its initial membership of 9 to 23. A goodly showing!

BROOKLYN held a social get-together at their new meeting place, Leonardo da Vinci's, 350 Flatbush Ave. Extension, on September 25, and listened to Rhoda Lipman talk on recreation on October 9th.

The Card Party has been moved to January 16th.

There is high hope for a Christmas party, but a 'fairy godmother' is needed to sponsor this event so important to our children who are so easily pleased and to whom a party is a gala occasion. (Isn't it to everyone?)

Through the generosity of Mr. Alvin Schwartz, a car dealer of Flatbush Avenue Extension, 50 tickets were distributed to our school-age children, who thus had the opportunity of seeing a special morning show at the Albee Theatre.

BRONX heard Rhoda Lipman on September 11 discuss "After School Hours—Balm or Bane for Our Children?" and held a most successful card party at Pilgrim Hall on October 9. The place was so jam-packed, that any additional players would have had to be turned away from the door. Credit again goes to co-chairmen Pearl Pelletiere and Dorothy Watskin.

A special party was arranged for our new members on October 23rd, at the Pilgrim Church. This was not a meeting, but a social gathering planned specially for our new friends.

Plans for the Bronx Christmas Party are afoot and growing.

NARC PAMPHLET RECRUITS TEACHERS Bd. of Education Distributes 800

One of the most important obstacles in the Education of the Retarded is the shortage of qualified teachers. NARC, cognizant of this need, has issued a vital and attractive leaflet for use in this area.

Called "This is Not for You IF", it presents the advantages of entering this teaching field.

Cooperating with AHRC, Dr. Morris Krugman, Chief of Guidance at New York City's Board of Education, distributed 800 of these to guidance personnel, for use in New York City public schools.

All interested in teacher recruitment should use this pamphlet. Write to NARC, 99 University Place, New York 3, N. Y. \$2 per 100.

STAFF CHANGES

Two new staffers have joined the official AHRC family since the end of the summer.

David S. Baumstein is Assistant Executive Director of AHRC, replacing Rudolf P. Hormuth who became Consultant in Mental Retardation for the Childrens Bureau, Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Mr. Baumstein is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work. He has been connected with the Association for Jewish

Children of Philadelphia, the Wiltwyck School for Boys, the Brooklyn Children's Day and Night Shelter, and, most recently, the Infants Home of Brooklyn, where he was Assistant Director. It was there that he set up a new program for the placement of mentally retarded children and casework services to their families in the spring of 1954.



David S. Baumstein

Following his decision to devote his career to the field of mental retardation, he received a Fulbright Fellowship in the study of Mental Retardation. He took this at the University of London and travelled extensively in England, Scotland and Wales during 1955-1956. Upon his return, he joined the AHRC.

Rhoda M. Lipman is the new Director of AHRC Schools, replacing Mrs. Julia M. Long, who retired after 2 years of service with us.

Mrs. Lipman took her B.S. and M.A. at the School of Education, NYU, and is at present a Doctoral Candidate at Teachers College, Columbia University. She has been a grade

school teacher and a kindergarten and first-grade teacher at a private residential school in Los Angeles and an Educational Consultant at the Fairview School in Fishkill, N. Y. This past summer she was Director of the Demonstration Summer Day Camp Project at P. S. 241 in Brooklyn, which was co-sponsored by the AHRC.



Rhoda M. Lipman

Her Ph.D. degree, for which all formal requirements have been completed, is in the Administration and Supervision of Special Education in the area of Mental Retardation. She is a certified CRMD teacher and is also certified in School Program Administration in New York State.

AHRC SCHOOL PAPERS

AHRC has three new publications! All three class units have started publishing a mimeographed school paper, which they plan to bring out at regular intervals.

Reported on are those children that make the Attendance Honor Rolls, projects of the different classes, such as trips, assembly programs, birthday parties, promotions, and the daily prayer said each day before lunch. Achievements of in the Classrooms" and "Gossip Column."

individual children are listed, as well as such items as "Heard

The Editors of OCV hail the appearance of "The Joshua School Newspaper," "The Pilot Class Newspaper" (Queens) and "The Pilot Class News" (Brooklyn) and wish to put them on notice to expect raids on their reportorial staff. We know a good thing when we see it!

... SO THAT THEY MAY ENJOY THEIR

DONOR DOINGS

It is being reliably reported to us that a new scheme is being put into operation by a group of young people calling themselves the Youth Association for the Aid of Retarded Children (Y.A.A.R.C.). It is to help the mentally retarded of all ages find things of interest in which they can participate, make more friends, and have a broader and richer social life. Main activities so far have been bi-weekly bowling lessons by Howard Herman, Dom Caputo and Haskell Levbarg, a teacher at P. S. 84; visits to homebound children, and children's theatre parties.

A meeting on October 12 under the chairmanship of Eleanor Greenstein plotted future plans and activities.

We wish them Full Speed Ahead and Smooth Sailing!

The Kings Highway American Legion Post is taking a special interest in our Cub Pack 529, which is entering its 4th year.

For the second year in a row, the Landrum School of the Dance in Whitestone, L.I., gave its end-of-season presentation for the benefit of AHRC. About 400 children participated.



AHRC's Bernard M. Fineson accepts check tendered by Cunningham Women's League past president, Zelda Grossberg. The man in the middle is Supreme Court Justice Samuel Rabin, who installed the new president, Mrs. Bess Lacher, and her slate of officers.

Cunningham Women's League for Handicapped Children has a new slate of officers, installed on September 18 by Supreme Court Justice Samuel Rabin. They are: Mrs. Louis Lacher, President; Mrs. Roland Rice, V.P. of Programming; Mrs. Seymour Sloane, V.P. of Fundraising; Mrs. Chester Schept, Membership V.P.; Mrs. Jerry Seidman, Liaison V.P.; Mrs. Samuel Seewald, Treasurer; Mrs. Sanford Batkin, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Martin Benson, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Charles Lieberman, Financial Secretary.

The Statler Hotel was the scene of the 6th Annual CWL Luncheon attended by a crowd of 450, on October 13.

Joshua Orphan Aid held a General Meeting on October 10 to discuss future plans, including the December 9 Gala Dinner Dance, at the Waldorf, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Arnold Mandel.

Dorothy Skidelsky Fund is planning a luncheon-fashion show at the Hotel Roosevelt in December.

Mrs. Peggy Holzman is the new president of the Ladies' Guild of the Bronx. There is talk of a theatre party and, of course, the Annual Luncheon in April.

Another new president joins the ranks: Mrs. Julius Rosenberg heads the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Louis Fleischmann Benevolent Society. A Fall Rummage Sale and Treasure Chest is in the works for these ladies.

The Lena Invalid Aid is a forward-looking group. Not only are they planning a November evening affair, but they are already thinking about their 1957 Spring Luncheon and Bazaar.

Theodora League got together for a Luncheon at the

Birth Abnormalities Seen As Signal Factor in Mental Retardation

A study conducted by Drs. Benjamin Passamanick of Columbus, Ohio, and Abraham M. Lilienfeld, of Buffalo, N. Y. on more than 600 retarded children show a "significantly greater" incidence of complications of pregnancy and delivery, of prematurity and other abnormal conditions than among a similar number of children without mental defect, it was reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Studying the records of 639 children born in Baltimore between 1935 and 1952, the two doctors concluded that non-mechanical abnormalities, such as bleeding or blood infection, which may result in oxygen insufficiency for the unborn infant, appeared to be more important than mechanical factors, such as difficult delivery.

The factors that appear to be associated with mental defect are similar to those previously found by the physicians to be associated with cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and behavior disorders.

The authors said that these disorders no longer can be thought of as separate and distinct diseases, but rather as a type of chronic brain injury.

MORE TEACHERS FOR RETARDED Off-Campus Training Begun

To relieve the critical shortage of teachers for the mentally retarded, Syracuse University's School of Education has started a 3-semester training program in Albany, N. Y. Classes held in the Joseph Henry Memorial Building, Academy Park, started in September with "The Nature and Needs of Retarded Children", and "Occupational Education for Children with Retarded Mental Development".

The program is directed by Dr. William M. Cruickshank, together with Professors G. Orville Johnson and Louis Fleigler.

Russell Sage College in Albany has initiated a teacher training program for state-subsidized classes. Charles I. McAllister, of the State Department of Education, is its coordinator, and among others on the advisory board are Joseph J. Endres, Chief of the Bureau for Handicapped Children, and Charles A. Becker, Supervisor for the Mentally Retarded at that Bureau.

1956 NARC CONVENTION IN SEATTLE Fineson and Weingold Chair Workshops

The 7th Annual Convention of the National Association for Retarded Children took place at the Olympic Hotel, Seattle, Washington, on October 25-27, with Pre-Convention Workshops being held on October 23-24.

Two of the Workshops held on October 25 were chaired by our own members. Bernard M. Fineson, chairman of NARC Legal and Legislative Committee, lead the workshop on Legislation, whereas Joseph T. Weingold, NARC Board Member and chairman of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Sheltered Workshop Committee, lead the discussion on "The Retarded Adult and the World of Work".

The 1957 Convention is to be held in St. Louis, Missouri.

Town Tavern in Bronxville on October 27, and is holding a theatre party, "Girls of Summer" starring Shelley Winters, on November 16. Also a Card Party at the Stadium Restaurant on November 13.

Gertrude Vos Children's Fund barely caught its breath after two card parties and a rummage sale before the summer. Fall activities started with a Luncheon and Card Party, and will continue with the Annual Dinner on December 9, this time at the Village Barn, plus a theatre party added for good measure.

God Bless You, Ladies, one and all...!

THANKS FOR HELPING!

FREE FUN AT CONEY ISLAND

For the 3rd year in a row, Coney Island, through the courtesy of the 60th Precinct Youth Council, played host to our Boy and Girl Scouts on a sunny September Sunday.

The youngsters had the run of all the rides in Steeplechase Park, plus heaps of soda pop, candies and Nathan's Famous Frankfurters. A good time was had by all!

LETTERS WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU

There are some letters in the AHRC files that are so heartwarming that they seem to make worthwhile all the backbreaking efforts that went into building the various AHRC projects. Two of them we would like to share with you in this issue. The following is a letter to Meyer Lusthaus from Eve and Joe Ebenhart. Joe founded the Vermont Association.

Dear Meyer: I am very glad to make your acquaintance—even though it is only by mail—so I want to say "hello". Eve told me about you and some of the things you are making at the Workshop—I think you are doing a fine job—I can't get over the key ring that you sent me, it's grand, and I'm going to talk and show it to the people at our next meeting—I'm sure they will all be very much interested as much as I am.

You see, Meyer, by your fine work you will be helping other boys and girls to do as good as you. I have a boy like you and I hope he can make things as good as you. I'm sure your Mother and Dad must be very proud of you and also your aunts and uncles.

Keep up the good work, Meyer. Good Luck, God Bless—

Fondly yours,

Eve and Joseph Ebenhart

My dear Mr. Weingold: For a period of about two years our son, Stanley, attended your Brooklyn Workshop at Nostrand Avenue. Due to the intensive training he received, with the help and guidance given in the Shop, he is now working for the past four months.

Through the personal contacts and tireless efforts of Mrs. Alice Pearlstein, my son's present employment was obtained. His work requires among other things that he travel throughout various parts of New York City and Brooklyn. He does his work with a feeling of dignity and reliability, because he recognizes that he now has a responsibility.

As parents, we cannot speak too enthusiastically of the great work that you are doing for retarded children. I feel that my son's relationship with your school was most fortunate for him.

I hope and pray that within a short period of time, the Workshop will grow until it assumes national prominence and recognition. Your organization and others connected with it are to be congratulated. Accept my best wishes for your continued success in your endeavors to aid those who are retarded.

Sincerely yours,

William J. Friedman

Teacher's Helper

by Arline S. Hay

A job the retarded has created for herself! Unique, isn't it? These helpers are young women employed in helping teachers of our children in the AHRC classes in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens.

Consider her menial tasks—how essential they are...

A busload of children arrives at a school, the helper is required to be there to help meet them and guide them to a classroom. In the winter months, she helps with the removal of coats and jackets, helps them wash up and attends to their personal needs. Then she sits patiently by while the teacher gives instruction. After that, it is lunchtime. Her job is to help those who are slow in helping themselves. Kindness and understanding is a requisite here. The next routine is to set up cots and help in preparation for the rest period. Here she herself gains a respite. After rest period, she takes down the cots and helps ready the children for the homeward trip in seeing them to the bus.

Teacher's helper, a job the retarded has created for herself through her ability to do menial tasks and dull routine work with kindness, patience and gentleness,—and an understanding of children who are akin to her.

Now that the AHRC has shown the way, private schools in the community who never before have accepted a retardate for employment, have discovered her. The field is opening up in a job she has created for herself. She is a valuable symbol, giving hope to parents of young children, and spreading goodwill in the community; but most of all she gives to little children an indefinable quality, which is found nowhere else.

Mrs. Hay's own daughter Barbara is a teacher's helper at the Rugby School, and doing so well that she received a raise just before her summer vacation. The best of luck to Barbara and to her mother!

The Eds.

NARC SURVEY CHARTS MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES OF MEMBER UNITS

A survey of the activities of NARC membership units for 1955 was recently conducted by the NARC. 296 member units filled out the questionnaire, which represents a return of 72%.

1015 activities or projects were reported for 1955. These break down into the following main categories: 221 class projects for trainable, 124 for educable, 94 nursery schools, 405 community activities administered by public or other private agencies.

For 1956, the largest single item foreseen was sheltered workshops, of which 58 were being planned. Recreation and social activities stand also high on the roster, and home training and parent education courses are also due to receive fairly frequent consideration.

All in all, it looks like the parent movement is growing and expanding all over the country!

ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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