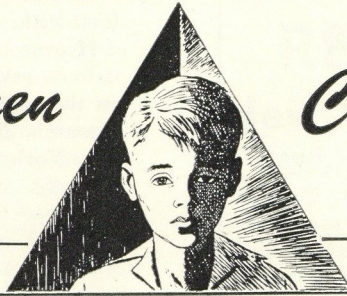


OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Retarded Children

Can Be Helped!



VOL. IX — ISSUE No. 1

106

March-April 1957

PARENTS APPOINTED TO BOARD OF VISITORS OF STATE SCHOOLS

AHRC Members Named by Governor Harriman

Governor Averell Harriman has nominated Mary D. McCarthy of Syracuse as a member of the Board of Visitors of Syracuse State School and Bernard Rosenberg of New Rochelle, as a member of the Board of Visitors of Letchworth Village. Both nominations have been confirmed by the Senate.



Bernard M. Rosenberg, Chairman of Education Committee, Westchester AHRC, is being sworn in as a member of the Board of Visitors of Letchworth Village by Sec. of State Carmine DeSapio in presence of the Governor.

Both Mrs. McCarthy and Mr. Rosenberg are parents of mentally retarded children, and both are among the founders of Onondaga County and Westchester County Chapters of AHRC, respectively. Bernie is president of Cameo Curtains and a graduate of City College. He is the parent of three daughters. He helped organize the New York State Association and was president for the first two terms of the Westchester County Chapter. At present, he is Chairman of his Chapter's Public Education Committee. Well-known for his work in community organizations, Mr. Rosenberg has been in the forefront of the movement to help mentally retarded children.

These appointments mark the first time in the history of New York State that parents of retarded children have been named to the Boards of Visitors of State Schools for the mentally retarded. It is a step that the AHRC has long advocated in its legislative program. The appointments are evidence of the growth and maturity of the Association, and a sign of the acceptance of parents as constructive partners in building a program for the mentally retarded.

Mary McCarthy, with her husband, the late Frank C. McCarthy, helped found the Onondaga County Chapter of

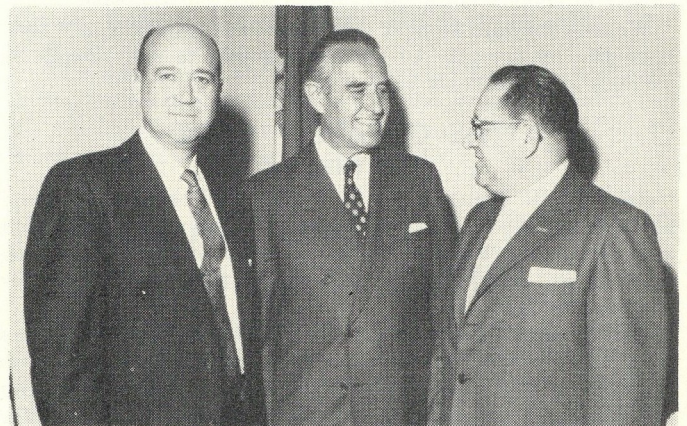
AHRC and serves on the Advisory Committee to the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation, replacing her husband on his death.



MRS. MARY D. McCARTHY

She is the mother of two sons, Frank C. McCarthy, who attends the Frank C. McCarthy School for Retarded Children, named in honor of his father, and John J. McCarthy, attorney, who has taken over his father's law office.

If the policy of the administration continues to appoint parents so that all the state schools for the mentally retarded are covered, it will obviate the necessity for legislation.



After the swearing-in ceremony, Governor Averell Harriman poses with the new appointee and Bernard M. Fineson, president of New State AHRC.

OVR GRANT TO AHRC FOR SUMMER WORKSHOP AT TEACHERS COLLEGE

In partial answer to the urgent need for professionally trained personnel, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has made

(Continued on Page 10)

8th ANNUAL DINNER, MAY 25

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.

ALgonquin 4-8203

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 Editors: MIRA EITINGON, CHARLES KLEIN

A FORWARD STEP

(An Editorial)

Governor Harriman's appointment of Mary McCarthy to the Board of Visitors of Syracuse State School and of Bernard Rosenberg to the Board of Visitors of Letchworth Village should be a source of satisfaction to the parents of mentally retarded children everywhere.

The AHRC has long advocated that each Board of Visitors of state schools for the mentally retarded should include at least one parent of a retarded child. Unable to effect this through the administration, we have offered legislation year after year that has met with opposition from the Department of Mental Hygiene and the Governor.

This fear of having parents closely involved in programs for their children is one that has gradually been removed from education programs. It is the result of the growing awareness of the necessity for a partnership, that without parents involved, the program lacks an essential element.

We should feel proud, indeed, that it is now recognized that parents of the mentally retarded, organized into associations, have reached a point of maturity where they can be so accepted. Of course, we have felt that they had reached this maturity long ago.

With the congratulations to ourselves, should go congratulations also to Governor Harriman and Commissioner Hoch for recognizing and accepting parents as mature partners in efforts to make a better life for the mentally retarded.

We look forward to next year, when the Governor will then have the opportunity to appoint parents to the Boards of Visitors of the other 4 state schools.

THE GREATEST HOPE

(An Editorial)

The AHRC proposal for a \$2,000,000 Research Institute for Mental Retardation has resulted in the passage of a bill appropriating \$25,000 to the Department of Mental Hygiene to study and plan such an institute and to report in time for the next budget period.

To our mind this is one of the greatest advances that has been made in the whole field of mental retardation in this state. It is true that we, who are parents of the mentally retarded, may not in our lifetime see the tangible benefits for our own children, but for the many generations still to come their only hope is basic research.

And yet, we, for one, would not want to give up hope that the result of these efforts will also bring about new life for the children now living. We have seen too many miracles come too pass in the last 10 years, miracles for the mentally retarded that we had never anticipated, although dreamt of. We believe that such a miracle may still come to pass and dare to speak of cure, rather than limit ourselves to a faint-hearted venture into the safe realm of prevention only.

We are grateful to the Governor, the Commissioner of

Mental Hygiene and to the Joint Legislative Committee for immediately embracing this proposal and proceeding with it forthwith.

If ever this problem is solved, if the flow into institutions is to be reversed, if the terrible economic and emotional drain on the community is to be stopped, it must be through basic research. The start has been made and at least in this area, New York State will lead the nation.

THE DREAM WORLD

(An Editorial)

"If it weren't for patient employment at no salary whatever, of course, the State of New York could not run its mental hospitals and institutions. Sometimes they call it occupational therapy, but the patients in the hospitals clean wards, shovel snow, mop, polish and wax floors, work in the laundry, tailor shop, sewing shop, and shoe repair shop. In these latter instances, patients even operate and run heavy machinery."

This is part of a statement made before the Metcalf Committee on Public Health by Laura Stadel, Secretary of the New York State Employees Council #50, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, A.F. of L.-C.I.O. She further points out that the lack of attendants is due to the primitive wage scales in effect, the total hours of work, (44 to 48), and so on.

We sometimes wonder in what dream world our state officials live when they think that by some hokus-pokus they can attract the attendants necessary for the proper operation and program of the state schools with these conditions prevailing. "The wonder of it all is," continues Miss Stadel, "not how the state manages to fill vacancies at the attendant grade, but how in the world the state, offering practically no promotion opportunities, has ever been able to secure the many fine, conscientious hard-working attendants it now has."

If we are to have the kind of care and programming that we need for the mentally retarded and the mentally ill in this state, there must be a concerted effort on the part of its citizens to obtain decent wages and working conditions for the people working in those institutions. Lip-service is not enough. The handicapped of this state will continue to suffer and the attendants to work under impossible conditions as long as this situation is permitted to continue.

Arguments that the Civil Service Commission blocks the rises; that rises for the Department of Mental Hygiene must be accompanied by rises for all state employees, etc., etc., are camouflage to hide the brutal fact that a form of peonage exists for the employees in the state hospitals; and a truer case of peonage exists for many of the patients who are kept there far beyond the time when they should be released to the community because of the necessity to have unpaid help.

Statesmanship is not only concern for the over-all picture, but deep concern for every individual as well. There must be immediate upward revision of salary scales for attendants in state schools and institutions.

Retarded Children, France

Retarded children in France have a most prominent benefactor in General Charles de Gaulle, France's wartime hero. Although it goes virtually unpublicized, a home for mentally retarded children in Milon-la-Chapelle was founded by the General in memory of his daughter, Anne, who died eight years ago.

All royalties from General de Gaulle's books and articles are turned over to the school. His most recent personal gift was a completely equipped movie projection room.

Vive Le Général!

ARE YOU WORKING FOR THE MAY 25 DINNER?

OVR GRANT (continued from page 1)

a grant of \$6,782 to the AHRC for a "Workshop for Rehabilitation Personnel in the Vocational Rehabilitation of the Mentally Retarded Adolescent and Adult."

The grant will provide 15 stipends of \$300 each to participants in the program who are engaged in rehabilitation work. Considered as a part of the Teachers College Summer Session, the Workshop will be under the coordination of Dr. Abraham Jacobs, Associate Professor of Education, Dept. of Psychological Foundations and Services, Teachers College, Columbia University, with Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director, AHRC, as Assistant Coordinator. Faculty and guest lecturers will be drawn from the staff of the AHRC Workshop and Training Center in New York City and from other community rehabilitation facilities.

The purposes of the Workshop will be to expose present vocational rehabilitation personnel to the philosophy, principles and techniques in facilities for the vocational rehabilitation of the mentally retarded, and the preparation of a manual which will be of assistance to all professional workers in that field. This manual will be the product of the cooperative efforts of the coordinators and Workshop participants.

In line with the great upsurge of interest in vocational rehabilitation of the mentally retarded on a national level, it is conservatively estimated that the next 2-3 years will witness the establishment of hundreds of sheltered workshops and training centers for the nation's 5 million retarded, two-thirds of whom are over the age of 21.

The extreme value in terms of national economy in giving vocational rehabilitation services to the mentally retarded is pointed up by figures released by the Federal Office of Vocational Rehabilitation itself for the fiscal year 1955. Of 531 mentally retarded persons rehabilitated during 1955, 481 earned a total of \$825,000 the first year after rehabilitation as against \$24,000 before rehabilitation.

The number of Sheltered Workshops for mentally retarded in the nation today is variously estimated at 20-25. The first of these was of course the one set up by AHRC in Brooklyn in 1953. The number of personnel trained at the graduate level for these facilities is woefully inadequate.

The 3-week intensive course to be held at Teachers College from July 29 through August 16, 1957 in partial answer to this lack, will be limited to 20 participants from all over the country. Applications from professional workers should be sent to Dr. Abraham Jacobs, Box 35, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York 27, N. Y. before May 31.

NEW EXECUTIVE HEADS FOR AHRC CHAPTERS

In line with continuing expansion in chapter development (and how we enjoy saying those words over and over again), two of the AHRC State Chapters have recently created new executive posts.

Broome County AHRC appointed W. Fowler Wilson, former Binghamton school teacher, to be the Chapter's Executive Secretary as of March 1, 1957.

Mr. Wilson holds a master's degree in special education in the field of mental retardation from Syracuse University. Among his other duties, he will oversee a 4-member faculty which is conducting 5 special classes for a total of 55 children under the Chapter's auspices.

Nassau County Chapter AHRC recently appointed its first Executive Director, Dr. Edmund C. Neuhaus, who has been a consultant to the AHRC since 1954. Formerly director of Psychological Services in the Baldwin Public Schools, Baldwin, L. I., Dr. Neuhaus also headed the psychological staff at the Coordination and Development Center at Nassau Hospital. He holds a doctorate in Clinical Psychology from New York University and has been an instructor at Long Island University.

AHRC REORGANIZATION

New York City Chapter Formed

To affect a structural re-organization of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children on a state and local level, the state by-laws have been rewritten. Pursuant to the report of a special committee on revision of the by-laws, appointed by President Fineson in 1955, by-laws for the New York State Association were finally submitted to the membership for vote on March 12, 1957, and unanimously adopted.

The committee was chaired by Augustus M. Jacobs of New York and included Seymour Bieber, New York; James Maroon, Rockland; Burrage Stiles, Schenectady; Robert Wagner, Monroe.

These by-laws, changing the name of Board of Directors to Board of Governors among other things, provide that chapters may be formed on a geographic basis, not less than a county, and that one chapter only may be set up in New York City with the exception of the borough of Richmond (Staten Island).

The AHRC, a state membership corporation originally formed by a New York City group, has functioned both on a state and city level with the same board of directors. Under the new set-up, New York City may become a chapter and has proceeded to do so. Having previously elected a provisional Board of Directors, a new set of by-laws was drawn up for New York City by the Legal and Legislative Committee under Mr. Jacobs and presented to a membership meeting on April 4th, where they were finally adopted. An election of provisional officers and directors to serve until June 1958 was held. The following were elected: Bernard M. Fineson, Pres.; George Hirsch, 1st V.P.; Cyril Weinberg, 2nd V.P.; Seymour Rubin, 3rd V.P.; Irving Krakoff, 4th V.P.; Max Schachter, Fin.-Sec.; Charles Campana, Treas.; Ann Greenberg, Secy.; Members of the Board are: Bert Loewer; Julian Banner; Augustus Jacobs; Herbert Kottek; Jean Katz; Billie Kamen; Harry Margolis; Catherine Travers; Margaret Riva; George Greene; Paul Westerkamp; Anne Kraus; Minna Bober; Rose Nussbaum; Emil Goldstein; Anne Gitter; Edward Fliegel; Lydia Hershkowitz; Alice Pearlstein; Sidney Leviton.

With final approval of the by-laws by the Legal and Legislative Committee, and adoption by the Board of Directors to be presented at the April 26th meeting, New York City will form a separate chapter of the AHRC.

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR RETARDED

Putnam County Chapter has announced that they are starting a program for the older retardates beginning September. It will take place two nights a week under the Adult Education Program, one evening to be devoted to Arts & Crafts to teach manipulative ability and the other to be devoted to recreation. The class will be held in the public school building and will cost from \$6 to \$10 per school year per child, as an enrollment fee. The State Department of Education pays the teacher and the cost to the chapter is nothing unless they plan to serve refreshments. Parents will rotate as assistants to the teacher, one each week. The enrollment will be about 20, from the age of 19 and up.

This is an interesting development and opens up a number of possibilities for programs for the adult retardates under the Adult Education Program.

8th ANNUAL AHRC DINNER SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOU

LEGISLATURE PASSES 9 BILLS FOR MENTALLY RETARDED

Joint Legislature Committee Continues

A series of bills affecting the mentally retarded, impressive both in numbers and content, were passed by the 1957 Legislature. If signed by the Governor, these bills will have far-reaching effects. Most of them were introduced at the request of the Joint Legislative Committee and represent the bulk of their legislative program for this year. The following were passed:

A bill to amend Section 4405 of the Education Law to include state reimbursement to the school districts for approved psychologists for the handicapped, based on either actual salary for full-time work or share of the salary, if part-time. The bill was introduced by Senator Brydges and Assemblyman Steingut.

A bill by Senator Schultz and Assemblyman Dominick to amend Section 4404 of the Education Law, to make mandatory instead of permissive, that school districts having less than 10 mentally retarded children contract with another school district, Board of Cooperative Services or County Vocational Education and Extension Boards for the education of such children when they do not maintain special classes themselves. This bill will be of great aid in the rural areas where many school districts, not having 10 mentally retarded, do not set up such classes and fail to contract with other school districts. It is to be noted that this legislation is for educable children only.

A bill by Senator Schultz and Assemblyman Dominick amending Section 4404 of the Education Law to include in the provision requiring school districts to establish special school classes for mentally retarded children, that instruction shall be from their 5th birthday until the end of the term ending in which they attain their 21st birthday. This bill is to prevent exclusion of educable children upon reaching the age of 16 or 17, when many of them are on the threshold of their best planning years. This is an experience that most parents having children in public schools have gone through with quite terrible effects. It is hoped that it will be the beginning for setting up suitable occupational continuation schools for the educable retarded.

A bill changing the definition of a mentally retarded child which in the law now stands "A 'child with a mental development' means a minor who, because of retarded intellectual development as determined by an examination by an approved psychologist or psychiatrist, is incapable of benefiting through ordinary classroom instruction, but who may be expected to profit from special educational facilities designed to make him socially and economically competent". This bill removes the last clause, "who may be expected to profit from special educational facilities designed to make him socially and economically competent". It broadens the definition to permit classes for trainable children to qualify for state aid without question. It will also give the Department of Education much wider latitude when writing regulations.

A second part of the bill, however, amends Section 4404 of the Education Law making Sub-sections 4 & 5, dealing with mandatory classes, applicable only to children with I.Q.'s of at least 50.

A bill by Senator Kraf and Assemblyman Amann amends Section 4402 of the Education Law to include the mentally retarded with physically handicapped in the duties of the State Education Department to maintain a register and stimulate efforts to relieve, care for, and cure them.

A bill by Senator Brydges and Assemblyman Steingut appropriating \$25,000 to the Department of Mental Hygiene for studies and preliminary plans for development of a State Research Institute for Mental Retardation.

In addition, two bills were introduced by Senator Brydges affecting the financing of special classes. The first removed the word "weighted" dealing with the average daily attendance of special pupils. The second provided that the cost of a contract that a local school district makes with the Board of Cooperative Services or the County Extension Board for mentally retarded or physically handicapped children shall be counted for state aid purposes. Archaic standards for admission to institutions of the Department of Mental Hygiene were removed in a bill sponsored by Senator Sorin and Assemblyman Buchanan. This bill removed the requirement that only "poor and indigent" be eligible for admission to state institutions. The bill merely says that preference shall be given to those unable to pay.

Of course, the Joint Legislative Committee was continued for another year with an appropriation of \$50,000.

The program of AHRC, which the Joint Legislative Committee at this time did not see fit to introduce, was defeated. This included mandatory legislation for trainable children; changing the requirements for superintendent of a state school to include the possibility of educators serving and making the requirements that such superintendents shall have at least 5 years experience in schools or institutions for the mentally retarded, instead of the experience now required which may be limited to a state institution for the mentally ill; a bill to make education and training for children in institutions mandatory as it is in the community, and a differential of pay for teachers of the handicapped.

Through the efforts of Senator William Conklin the two first bills here discussed were passed in the Senate — something that has not happened in the last 3 years — but still failed to go through in the Assembly.

The two pieces of legislation opposed by the AHRC and many community agencies, were defeated. The first was to change the name of State Schools to "State Schools and Hospitals" and the other was to enlarge the scope of the Joint Legislative Committee to include Mental Health and to call it the Joint Legislative Committee for Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

The bills passed are in the hands of the Governor as of this writing. We hope that everyone of them will be signed, because much thought and effort went into their preparation. We are sure of resistance to the bill making it compulsory for local districts with less than 10 children to contract with other school districts, but feel that this is unrealistic opposition, because if the situation is too difficult, the Commissioner of Education may relieve the local district of this responsibility.

The other bill that seems to encounter some opposition is the one requiring that educable children be given education from the ages of 5 to 21. We fail to see how such opposition can develop, when every educator we have spoken to feels that if these children started training at a younger age, they could advance further. Significantly, it has been shown over and over again, that most retarded children stand on the very threshold of meaningful learning at the age of 16 or 17 — at the very moment when, as the law stands now — they have to leave school.

\$50 IN ADS WILL GET YOU A TICKET

DONOR GROUP GIVES \$15,000 FOR RESEARCH

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Morris J. Solomon Sunshine Fund have pledged \$15,000 to support research in mental retardation at Brooklyn Jewish Hospital.

The grant, made in honor of Morris J. Solomon for his inspiring leadership in many humane fields, will be made over a 3-year period, in payments of \$5,000 a year.

The research will be conducted at the Morris J. Solomon Clinic in the hospital. This clinic was started in 1950 by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Elite Club Sunshine Fund through the AHRC, and to date they have contributed upwards of \$70,000 towards its support.

The clinic is one of the first of its kind in the country and serves as a model for the entire nation. Visitors have come from many states and from many foreign countries, including Indonesia, Israel and Korea, to observe the advanced methods used in this clinic.

And now again, by giving a grant for the research in mental retardation, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Morris J. Solomon Sunshine Fund have blazed the trail for what we hope will bring more explorers and many new discoveries.

ED. RESEARCH GRANT TO COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

An experiment designed to test the effectiveness of pre-school group experiences for mentally retarded children will be instigated in September at Teachers College, Columbia University, under the direction of Dr. Maurice H. Fouracre, Head of the Department of Special Education. This experiment has been made possible by a grant of \$660,500 from the United States Office of Education, perhaps the largest grant in history for the purpose of investigating the education of these children.

The plan of the 4-year project is to begin in September with 30 4- and 5-year olds divided equally into two groups, nursery and kindergarten, with 15 children in each experimental group. Each year thereafter, for a period of 4 years, 15 new children will be admitted to the nursery group advancing to the kindergarten group the second year. All children in the experimental group will be the recipients of the most advanced knowledge in the education of children through group activities and intragroup experiences. A special classroom with a one-way vision booth for observing the group techniques will be set up at Teachers College. In this way educators, psychologists, and experimentors may study the progress of the experiment and make objective observations of the individual children. Besides Dr. Fouracre's Special Education staff, medical, psychological, nursing, and speech personnel will be utilized in the experiment.

The experiment will be restricted to children who are deemed educable — children with I.Q.'s ranging from 50 to 75. Children in the experiment will be examined and screened by the staff of the Mental Retardation Clinic of the New York Medical College of the Flower & Fifth Avenue Hospitals. An extensive evaluation of the children's physical condition, intellectual ability, speech, social maturity, personality, and academic aptitude will be made.

Whether pre-school group experiences for the mentally retarded will be recommended as standard procedure in the future, will be determined largely by the results of this experiment. Results will be determined by follow-up studies of the educational progress and social adjustment of these children. Children in the experimental group will be compared to a similar group of children who did not participate in the group experience, but whose parents receive planned instructions for the home care of their retarded child.

TV DRAMA DEALING WITH RETARDED CHILD ON WESTINGHOUSE STUDIO ONE

When Westinghouse Studio One presented Abby Mann's "A Child Is Waiting" on the CBS Television Network on March 11, 1957, another hurdle in the struggle to gain acceptance and understanding for the mentally retarded was overcome. For "A Child Is Waiting" was the first full-hour dramatic show presented on a major network to ever tackle the problem.

The flood of letters and requests for reruns that are being received by CBS and Westinghouse, as well as by ourselves and the office of NARC, are eloquent testimonials as to how well the author — in the words of one newspaper critic — got "to the heart of the difficult and poignant problem of aiding the mentally retarded."



In order to familiarize themselves with the subject, actors and production crew of Studio One's "A Child Is Waiting" visited the Theodora Clinic for Mentally Retarded Children at Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital, New York City.

Describing the "deeply moving and sensitive drama on mentally retarded children", critic Jack Gould noted in the New York Times on March 12, 1957: "... author Abby Mann wrote not only a valid theatrical work but also an educational document of immense value to the layman. It was an exceptionally fine hour." The dean of television reviewers goes on to say that the play "spoke eloquently of the need to accept retarded children, to give the youngsters the blessing of affirmative understanding, and not to reject him by standards that cannot apply. 'A Child Is Waiting' was a searching study of the psychological problems that exist both for the retarded child and for his parents. Anyone who watched, came away better informed and infinitely more thoughtful; great good was done last night on the home screen."

The AHRC will present to Herbert Brodtkin, producer of the show, an Award of Achievement "in grateful recognition for the intelligent and sensitive way the problem of mental retardation was presented to the American people."

CUB SCOUTS ADOPTED BY LEGION POST

Continuing its policy of active participation in community affairs, the American Legion has adopted a Cub Scout unit of retarded children.

Kings County American Legion Commander John P. Borchart announced that the Kings Highway Post will sponsor and assist the group, in cooperation with the AHRC.

A luncheon for the Cubs and the scouting committee was held Sunday, February 10th, at the Windsor Terrace Post. Charles F. Callanan is Post Commander.

(This is another excellent example of community participation in the cause. We salute it.—The Eds.)

SELL 2 BOOKS AND A TICKET IS YOURS

Statewide . . .

News from the Chapters around the state for this issue is as exciting as any we have received in a long time. From Albany, CAPITOL DISTRICT, comes the news that the city of Albany officials are planning a separate building for the use of the AHRC classes . . . ONEIDA-HERKIMER'S Sheltered Workshop is operating with 7 youngsters . . . they also held an educational seminar attracting about 40 educators from the county . . . of course all of you have seen in this issue the article about JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAPTER efforts to organize the community for a workshop for the physically handicapped and the mentally retarded . . . ERIE COUNTY CHAPTER reproduced our legislative memo in full and sent it out to all their members and mailing list . . . sure that it had an effect on the passage of the bills . . . BROOME COUNTY CHAPTER has put into effect a plan for birthday parties for children in Rome State School whose parents are members of Broome County AHRC . . . with \$5 the party can be arranged for about 25 children . . . Willie Satina of Broome County, ROME STATE SCHOOL CHAPTER, now living in Phoenix, Ariz. . . N.A.R.C. unit there has executive meeting only . . . What gives? . . . SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER has begun to expand its Auxiliary Program, the latest being in the fashionable Hamptons . . . NASSAU COUNTY'S Mary Smith and Mrs. Bob Seaman helped in its formation . . . ONTARIO COUNTY has some interesting plans for informal group discussions with members divided into interest groups, institutions group, teenage group, group with a trainable child at home and in school . . . they have also completed a successful door-to-door canvas and fund drive . . . PUTNAM COUNTY CHAPTER reports that the children's clinic at Mahopac sponsored by the Chapter received its license from both the Mental Hygiene Department and the Social Welfare Bureau . . . They have medical, pediatric, psychiatric and speech services with a referral staff for dental, ear, nose and throat, endocrine, orthopedic, psychiatric and social services . . . CAYUGA COUNTY CHAPTER reports that retarded children there now go to the Y.M.C.A. one day a week for swimming instruction . . . SUNSHINE LEAGUE, MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER, reports a most successful fund drive netting \$50,000 . . . Congratulations to the Chapter and Max Vinson, Fund Drive Chairman . . . Over \$10,000 of this goes to support programs at Newark State School and Rome State Schools . . . and the Kiwanis Club of North Niagara Falls sponsored a pancake party where more than 30,000 pancakes were served in the armory . . . proceeds went to NIAGARA COUNTY CHAPTER . . . and of course word is coming in from around the state on the fund drive, indicating that it was considerably more successful than last year . . . much, much activity . . . very gratifying . . .

ALBANY BUILDING FOR AHRC CLASSES

City of Albany officials announced last month that they plan to remodel an unused police station as a training center for retarded children. Albany will be the first city in the State to provide a separate building for that purpose, a spokesman said. 80 retarded children are now attending 4 special classes in Elementary and Junior High Schools, supervised by 6 teachers paid by the Capital District Chapter AHRC.

These classes and new ones to be formed will be shifted to the Precinct Building. The City and the Association will share the \$10,000 remodeling cost.

Eventually it is planned to absorb the building, programs, and teachers into the city public school system. Until then, the program will be operated by Capital District Chapter, AHRC.

WATERTOWN SHOWS THE WAY

Organizes the Community for Support of Sheltered Workshop

With so much talk of the need for sheltered workshops, Peter C. Keischgens, President of Jefferson County Chapter of AHRC, has shown how to organize the community for such a venture in a small city. In a meeting held with leading citizens of Watertown, he demonstrated the need for a sheltered workshop for mentally retarded and physically handicapped people.

As a first step towards realization of the project, the Sheltered Workshop Committee will make a survey of handicapped persons in the county who will be served. Representation on the committee has been expanded to include members of most other organizations interested in this problem, such as Cerebral Palsy, Polio, and Muscular Dystrophy.

Leading citizens representing industry, government, medicine and education, attended the meeting. They were William G. Beilby, Director, Industrial Relations, New York Air Brake Company; Leonard R. Brice, Director, Industrial Relations, Black Clawson Company; Lawrence Clickner, President, Frichney Instrument Corp.; Abe Cooper, President, A C O Machinery Corp.; Bernard Gray, Chairman of the Board, Northern New York Trust Company; John B. Johnson, Editor and Publisher of the Watertown Daily News; Garrett Jones, Treasurer, Hungerford-Holbrook Co.; David Knowlton, President, Knowlton Bros.; William G. Lachenauer, Mayor of Watertown; William L. Lawyer, Gen. Rep., Carpenters Union; Albert G. Massey, Gen. Mgr., Massey Machine Co.; Dr. Charles A. Prudhon; Paul Reilly, New York State Div. of Voc. Rehab.; Jerry Scott, Massey Machine Co.; Thomas N. Sickles, President, Jefferson County Medical Assn.; Wilson Watkins, Comm. for Employment of the Physically Handicapped; William A. White, Jr., V.P. of Black Clawson Co.; Orrels York, Jefferson County Welfare Commissioner.

What Pete Keischgens has done is a blueprint for what other communities throughout the state can do when they are too small to support a workshop solely for the mentally retarded.

STATE SCHOOL FOR RETARDED TO BE BUILT IN BROOKLYN

Governor Harriman has announced the selection of a site for a school for mentally retarded adolescents to be built in the Fresh Creek section of Brooklyn.

The school will be designed to give intensive psychiatric care, education and vocational training to 600 boys and girls. Most of these will be from 16 to 21 years old, and will be residents of the metropolitan area transferred from upstate schools.

The new institution grew out of the inquiries at Wassaic State School. The Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, Dr. Paul H. Hoch, stated that there are a considerable number of high-grade mentally retarded youngsters who need more intensive training than they are now able to get. As a result of this lack of program and other factors, they have evidenced behavior which has created considerable problems.

Estimated to cost \$15,000,000, the school will be built on a 270-acre site on the eastern boundary of Brooklyn, just across the Shore Parkway from Jamaica Bay.

SATURDAY, MAY 25th, AT THE SHERATON-ASTOR

PRACTICAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING

A practical vocational training course for retarded young women was started this month by the Rochester Health Bureau in cooperation with the Genesee Settlement House.

This is the first part of a work adjustment program, largely financed by the Monroe County Chapter of the AHRC, and it's purpose is to prepare the women, aged 19-25, for food handling jobs such as dish washing and kitchen maintenance.

Mrs. Carl Chamberlain, who is the director of programs for the retarded at the Settlement House, said that future courses will train the retarded for jobs as baby sitters, "mother's helpers" and maintenance workers in animal hospitals. The food handling course, Mrs. Chamberlain said, is the first of its kind in the country.

The course was started with 5 retarded young women. Classes are being held at the Health Bureau each Monday for 3 months. The women are then given a chance to practice what they have learned by working Tuesdays to Fridays in the Settlement House.

Certificates will be issued to the students by the Div. of Environment Sanitation. The Settlement House will try to find jobs for them, supervising their work for the first year.

This is, indeed, a step forward in the vocational rehabilitation of the mentally retarded, and it is gratifying that the Monroe County Chapter has made it possible.

Ladies' Man



AHRC prexy Bernard M. Fineson is not only flanked by Theodora League's lovelies, 1st v.p. Ann Wollman (left) and president Belle Eagle, but he is also holding the check he has just received from the League to further the work for retarded children. Occasion is the Annual Luncheon at the Plaza. How lucky can you get?

SRO AT PARENT EDUCATION COURSE

The first lecturer in the Parent Education series, Dr. George Jervis of Letchworth Village, drew an audience of over 70 which spilled into the hallway at the Association's offices, 200 Fourth Ave., New York City, where the weekly course is being given from April 10 through May 22.

Other speakers scheduled for the Wednesday night lectures are: Ita McDermott, R.N., Physiotherapist Consultant of the Brooklyn Visiting Nurse Association, on "Home Training" (Apr. 17); Dr. John B. Scanlan, Chief Psychiatrist, Dept. of Mental Retardation, Flower & Fifth Ave. Hospital, on "Psychiatric and Psychological Approaches" (May 1); Elkan E. Snyder, Assistant Director, Bureau for CRMD, on "Educational Problems and Facilities" (May 8); Howard Kelman, Instructor, Dept. of Mental Retardation, Flower & Fifth Ave. Hospital, on "Social, Recreational and Community Services" (May 15); Miriam Preiss, Speech Therapist at the Joshua School, on "Speech Therapy" (May 22).

To George Hirsch, Chairman of the AHRC Education Committee, goes credit for arranging the much-needed course.

PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL CLASSES IN PUBLIC SCHOOL

Evaluation Study Planned

by Dr. George Forlano,
Bureau of Educational Research,
N. Y. C. Board of Education

Plan of the Evaluation

The proposed evaluation study is concerned with a comparison of two broad curriculum programs. Its purpose is to determine the effectiveness of a differentiated curriculum and organization to meet the range of individual differences of educable mentally retarded children in special classes.

More specifically, the study seeks to compare the educational changes of educable children enrolled in the experimental 2-track program with those changes of matched educables enrolled in a 1-track plan. Under the 2-track plan, each pupil will be placed either in a class for high achievers or a class for low achievers. Under the single-track plan, high achievers as well as low achievers are placed in the same class and are taught by the same teacher. Before placement, the children will be carefully studied and placed in one of 2 types of classes on the basis of such factors as social maturity, intelligence, physical development, and occupational prognosis.

How will the comparative effectiveness of the curriculum, organization and procedures of the 2-track plan and the single-track plan be appraised? Effectiveness will be determined in terms of pupil growth in several areas, supervisor and teacher evaluations, and parental reactions. In other words, both objective and subjective data will be utilized.

With respect to participating students, it is planned to have from 85 to 100 classes for educable mentally retarded pupils involved in the experimental program. The pupils in these classes will total about 1800, with I.Q.'s ranging from 50-75, aged between 6 to 18, and will be drawn from varying ethnic, cultural and socio-economic levels.

Some Implications of the Research Study

Generally, the research will do its share in contributing knowledge in several areas and establish the frame of mind that effective teaching requires.

More concretely, it is expected that present criteria of pupil selection for CRMD classes will be evaluated, and that attempts at developing additional criteria of selection will be undertaken. Where required and not available, appropriate appraisal techniques, scales and measures for the measurement of the growth and development of the retarded child will be devised.

Then, too, it is not unlikely that an intensive analysis of the data that are gathered may point to important leads in basic theory.

Lastly, one of the more challenging and difficult aspects of the study is the proposed follow-up of some of the students who are now gainfully employed. These findings will be of special interest to the many professionally-minded teachers of retarded children, in that a clearer picture of the occupational adjustment of their pupils will emerge as a result of a systematic follow-up of workers on the job.

This experimental evaluation is being undertaken by the Bureau of Educational Research with the cooperation of the Bureau for CRMD under Director Katherine D. Lynch, and the Bureau of Curriculum Research of the New York City Board of Education. Dr. J. Wayne Wrightstone, Director of the Bureau of Educational Research, is in charge of the study.

OF COURSE YOU'LL BE THERE!

KATHERINE LYNCH HONORED AT TESTIMONIAL LUNCHEON

On Saturday, February 16, over 500 guests assembled in the Sert Room of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City to honor Katherine D. Lynch, Director of the Bureau for C.R.M.D. of the New York City Board of Education at a testimonial luncheon.

Sponsored by the Administrative Women in Education, of which Miss Lynch is president; the AHRC; the Association of Teachers for CRMD, the Farrell Welfare League, and the Parents' Association for CRMD, the luncheon featured William A. Hamm, Associate Superintendent in Charge of Child Welfare at the Board of Education as toastmaster and Harold Fields, of the New York City Board of Examiners as main speaker. Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Jansen and Dr. George Zuckerman, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Child Welfare, New York City Board of Education, were Honorary Chairmen of the affair.

Among the distinguished guests present were the Hon. Arthur Levitt, Comptroller of the State of New York, and former Board of Education President; Dr. Romaine P. Mackie, Chief, Exceptional Children and Youth, Office of Education of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare; Mr. Vito Lanza, representing Members of the New York City Board of Education; and Associate Superintendents Dr. Edmund J. Gannon, Ethel F. Huggard and C. Frederick Pertsch.

The rest of the assemblage consisted of Assistant Superintendents, Principals, the Directors of the various Bureaus connected with Child Welfare, CRMD teachers, representatives from the various City Colleges and members of Katherine Lynch's family and a large number of her friends.

Federal Projects for Mentally Retarded

Approval of 20 agreements for cooperative educational research was authorized recently by the Office of Education of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Commissioner of Education Lawrence G. Derthick announced that 11 of these concern the education of the mentally retarded.

Participation in these research projects are: Columbia University, New York; George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; University of Texas, Austin; Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan; University of Georgia, Athens; Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; and the Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska Departments of Education.

Federal funds allotted for the 58 projects approved since the inception of the program in September 1956, amount to \$742,361.

STATE SCHOOL EMPLOYEES GROSSLY UNDERPAID

Understaffing a Result of Pay Policies, Charged

In an excellent statement before Sen. Metcalf's Committee on Public Health, Laura Stadel, Sec'y of the New York State Employees Council #50, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, A.F. of L.-C.I.O., presented a deplorable picture that exists among the employees of the Department of Mental Hygiene, working in State Schools and Hospitals.

In New York State, the wealthiest state in the nation, attendants in State Schools start at the low salary of \$2,750 a year or \$229 a month. They may eventually get up to \$290 a month. Required to work a 44-hour week, and at Wassaic State School a 48-hour week, Miss Stadel wonders how any attendants are attracted. The fact that there are 235 attendant vacancies at Wassaic is readily understandable.

Compared to New York State figures, Connecticut pays from \$260 a month to \$340 a month and through promotions attendants can go to \$395 a month. California starts at \$269 a month, goes to \$325, and through promotions attendants may attain \$468 a month. Similar low salaries scales prevail for other workers such as kitchen helpers, farm hands, laundresses, typists, and so forth. Miss Stadel closes her statement by asking for 6 things: 1) continuous in-service training program, instead of the orientation under which it masquerades in hospitals now; 2) adequate salaries for attendants, with at least a \$4,000 minimum starting salary; 3) an expanded program of civil service promotions; 4) a maximum 5-day, 40-hour week; 5) a more extensive research program to find the cause and cure for many types of mental illnesses; and 6) a general salary rise for maintenance employees, nurses and psychiatrists.

AHRC CONSIDERED FOR 2 AWARDS

The AHRC has been nominated for 2 of the major awards given each year by American foundations to individuals or organizations for outstanding community service.

Mrs. Cecile Ruth Sands, Member of the New York City Board of Education, has nominated the Association for one of the 1956 Marshall Field Awards which were established to "help focus public attention on children's needs and on the areas in which improved services are required."

Sam Cook Digges, General Manager of WCBS-TV and our 1956 Greater New York Campaign Chairman, sponsored the AHRC's nomination for the 1956 Lane Bryant Award, designed to "encourage voluntary participation in efforts that benefit the American home and community life."

Both awards carry financial recognition.

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