

GREATER OMAHA ASSOCIATION
FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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"RETARDED CHILDREN
CAN BE HELPED"

the GOARC GAZETTE

5016 California

Omaha, Nebraska 68132

Phone 556-7562

608 Barker Building

Omaha, Nebraska 68102

346-6338

VOL. 2 No. 5

November 1969

MEET MR. TOM ROMICK!

Tom is our Recreation Director just recently employed by GOARC.

Tom graduated in 1960 from Alliance Sr. High School and was quite active in sports.

From Peru State Teachers College, he earned his B.S. in Education and majored in Physical Education.

Tom's wife, Victoria, was employed by the Nebraska State Education Association before moving to Omaha. They have a seven-year old daughter, Ann, who is attending Beal Elementary School.



Tom was previously employed by the Nebraska State Reformatory as Director of Athletics and Recreation.

As you can tell, he is very concerned with physical well-being in all persons--including himself and plans to join the YMCA very soon.

Some of his plans for the Recreation Program are bowling, swimming, a Teen Club, and a Saturday morning recreation program. One program has already begun with 35 young people from the Workshop and Hostels bowling at the Ames Bowling Alley every Thursday afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30. Anyone desiring to keep score or any other numerous jobs should call Tom at 346-6338. The kids have also been to a boxing match, hobby show, and a hockey game.

RUMORS FROM ROBERTA

By Mrs. Al Kaplan (556-5140)

The theme for the National Association for Retarded Children Convention this year was "We've Just Started." Here in Omaha, we've just started. In July, 1968, "The County-Wide System of Services for the Retarded of Douglas County" was made public. Since then, many things have happened--new services, new money, new legislation, etc. Some feel things haven't moved fast enough to cover their needs; others feel things have moved so fast they haven't been able to keep informed. The surface has only been scratched regarding services that are needed.

This is your association, and everyone needs to be vigilant and willing to work to not only keep what we have, but work to expand.

Please attend the meetings and read the materials sent to you. Call me, write me, let me know your suggestions, questions, gripes, or whatever.

Someone has said the membership in any association is made up of four kinds of bones: 1) Wish-bones, who spend their time wishing someone would do the work; 2) Jaw-bones, who do all the talking but little else; 3) Knuckle-bones, who knock everything that others try to do; and, 4) Back-bones, who pick up the load and do the work. Which bone are you?

BEATRICE STATE HOME ASSOCIATION

--Wilma Wills (333-4359)

Whatever your reasons (or excuses) may have been for not attending the Beatrice State Home Association meetings held the 4th Sunday of every month in Beatrice, you'll want to throw them out the window now. If you're as excited and pleased about the establishment of the "Unit System" at the Home as those of us are who know a little about it, you'll definitely want to learn more about the program and what it means to your loved one residing there with the rest of us.

Future programs for our meetings will explain the purposes and objectives of each of the four units, which are: Unit I--Medical Services Unit; Unit II--Basic Behavioral Development Unit; Unit III--Educational and Pre-Vocational Training Unit; and, Unit IV--Vocational Rehabilitation Unit.


Tours will re-enforce what has been presented to our group by panels of staff personnel. For example, at our November meeting, Mr. Hamm and a panel discussed the aspects of the Vocational Rehabilitation Unit which was followed by a tour of the Rehab facility there at the Home.


At our October meeting of the Beatrice State Home Association a special welcome was given to parents of residents new to the Home within the last year. We enjoyed having the newcomers to our group to offer our friendship and also share ideas concerning problems and progress at the Home. After lunch, we all went to the school gym with our loved ones where we played games and visited. The "kids" sure had fun and we "older" folks must have too judging from the sore muscles next morning.

Our December meeting, set for December 28th, will be the one where we hope to tour the "model ward" and perhaps a few more to see their decorations.

RECREATION

By Shirley Dean (346-6338)

James  *The City Parks & Recreation*
THE CITY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT will be starting their special recreation program on November 1st. All mentally retarded children (over the age of 4) and adults are invited to attend this program of sports, games, and fun Saturday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the gymnasium of Hillside School, 75th and Western. The program will be held every Saturday from now until March 21st, with the exception of November 29, December 20 and 27. The director will be Mr. William Harrieger, currently a teacher at Valley View Junior High School.

 *Dramatics Music Swimming The Christ Child*
THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY resumed their Saturday Social and Recreational Program for Exceptional Children on October 4. This should be a very excellent program again this year and will provide a wide variety of activities including: music, games, story time, dramatics, parties, arts and crafts, plus a new activity--SWIMMING!
This program is available to all mentally retarded children (over age 4) and adults. It will be held every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the new Christ Child Building, 1248 South 10th Street, 342-4566.

To enroll your child in the program, just call Christ Child Society and obtain an application form. The charge is \$1 per Saturday which helps pay the cost of program supplies and lunch.

Swimming The American Red Cross
THE AMERICAN RED CROSS provides swimming lessons for the handicapped every Tuesday evening, from 5:30 to 6:30 at the West YMCA, 7502 Maple. Mr. Joe Miscek, volunteer, is in charge of the program. Instruction is provided on an individual basis--free of charge.
Application forms are available through the Red Cross, 341-2723, and are to be completed by your child's doctor or physical therapist.

Anyone who is interested in VOLUNTEER work in a recreation program for the mentally retarded, please call Shirley Dean at the GOARC office, 346-6338.

"The blind had their Helen Keller;...the deaf had Beethoven. Among the feeble-minded, there is none who, through his achievements, could demonstrate to the public his value of those afflicted like him...There is not one among the feeble-minded whose worth is revealed to mankind like a tall, burning flame, licking to high heaven, like those great personalities who overcame their handicaps. Despite all our efforts, the feeble-minded will always remain little flames. Those little flames we must shield with our hands...For these little flames radiate warmth and soothing quiet joy; they shine on the road that leads to the wisdom of the heart, to human maturity and to true wealth."

--Dr. Maria Egg--

A CALL FOR HELP!

As most of you know, Dr. Wolfensberger is involved primarily in research on MR services and on family counseling. His grant was recently cut and he is very short-handed. He has asked us to issue a call for volunteers who can help out on a regular basis a few hours a week. He can use volunteers to type, collate, tabulate, proofread, write articles, help with arrangements for visiting MR professionals, and hold his hand. He will train unskilled volunteers (a good way to become self-disciplined, we hear) who are willing to provide more extensive training in community action, organizational functioning, research concepts & procedures, data processing, writing, human behavior, and professional functioning to those volunteers who would like to involve themselves in a more intensive collaborative venture. Regularity is more important than number of hours put in, he says. If interested, call him at 536-4531.

DEVELOPMENTAL CENTERS

--Penny Jenkins (551-9205)

A very special lunch guest at the Benson Center was Mayor Eugene Leahy. Our honorable Mayor spent the better part of November 3rd at the Center--much to the delight of the children who climbed up into his lap! Mayor Leahy was so impressed with the work being done that he offered the services of the Omaha Mustangs to paint the facilities! This is, of course, a great relief to the parents who were planning (not enthusiastically) to do the painting.

If you call the South Center and someone answers with a Bostonian accent, you have met Mrs. Chris Muise from--you guessed it--Boston! West Virginia helped us out, too, by sending us Beverly Thompson. Welcome to the new girls! Kathy Bertolini is now working at the Benson Center; and, John Brennan, famous UNO end, is a volunteer at the Benson Center three afternoons a week. Other UNO students who are helping out are Sherry Harrison, Mary Swanda, and Richard Burger. Nat Hanson and Greg Dahlenburg, our Boys Town students, have spent their teacher's convention with us. Their help was certainly appreciated. Also, our thanks to Mike Graham, who heard about us and offered to help, too. John Demak, a Creighton Medical student, spends his Thursday afternoons at the Benson Center. Other volunteers are Carole Bender and Lynn Udes, seniors at Westside High, and Mrs. Attila and Mrs. Joan Radil from the Volunteer Bureau.

The ladies of Miriam Circle, St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, were so kind to provide us with a Halloween Party. You should've tasted the decorated cookies and homemade candy! Probably the nicest part of the party was that the hostesses came out of the kitchen to join in the fun. The "Clipped Wings" provided witches hats filled with goodies for the Halloween Party at the South Center.

Have we lost some of the students at our Centers? No, they didn't run away; but thanks to the expansion of programs in the public schools, they were transferred. We are adding new children to our program and hope to be at full capacity soon.

We have four new students at our Centers: Diane Gaeta, Richard Hiatt, and David Lamm at the South Center; and, Chris Kreski at the Benson Center.

Three cheers to the Mrs. Jaycees who planned a pre-Thanksgiving Party on November 26th. They furnished a mid-morning snack and a turkey for lunch. Oops! We almost forgot to tell you about the pumpkin pies!

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS--TMH

--Ruth Sharp

This year, Omaha Public Schools has fifteen classes for the Trainable Mentally Handicapped serving approximately 142 children. They are located in seven different elementary school buildings. Two new divisions of the program have been added. Two classes for 5- to 7-year old children are located at Fontenelle school. The Transition program, located at Field Club school, is a pre-vocational type of situation for students 14 years and older. Next month, an explanation of new classes.

BEATRICE STATE HOME

--Mr. Brockmeier, Director of Education

Beginning last September, the school at Beatrice State Home has initiated a program of ward teaching in five different locations throughout the institution. At the present time, four certificated teachers and two teaching aids are involved in the program. Most of the activities are of a small group type with specific behavioral changes as the primary focus. Results of the program have been very encouraging and future expansion is being contemplated and planned at this time.

DISTRICT 66

--Ruby Huebner

November 16-18 was an interesting & informing time for the Westside Community Schools. District 66 had a complete evaluation of the schools and current programs. Special Ed Department feels fortunate to have had Dr. H. Selznick, past president of International CEC on the evaluation team.

WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENTS IN THE OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

--Jim Lane (556-5665)

The school year of 1965-66 saw 48 EMH students being served by the Omaha Public Schools Work Experience Program. Considerable growth has come about since the inception of this program due to the understanding, guidance, and willingness of many people to try something new, something different, and their willingness to bend a point and give in a little for the sake of the EMH students with a problem.

Special thanks would go to Dr. Owen Knutzen, and Mr. Don Warner of the Omaha Public Schools and to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, State Department of Education and to the businessmen in the city of Omaha. Through the efforts of these three groups and many other individuals, some of the needs of the older EMH young people residing in the greater Metropolitan area are beginning to be met as far as the world of work, and eventually full-time, life-time employment is concerned.

Take for example the girl we shall call Susie, who has a C.A. of 20; is doing classroom work at the second to fourth grade level, but is very long on desire when it comes to work and wanting to please. Susie has been in programs in all parts of the U.S. and at present is employed at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine.

The above situation, I have mentioned, sounds simple, I suppose, when one just sits down and puts it on paper, however, lets keep in mind the three ingredients and understanding parents, dedicated and willing teachers, and an employer willing to give her a chance.

A good comparison in relation to the growth of the program might be the total earnings this group of students has made over the four years. In 1965-66, the group earned for themselves just over \$24,000, as compared to just over \$80,000 for the school year 1968-69.

MARTIN LUTHER SCHOOL

--W.W.Wolf

The months of October and November have been busy months for students in the Martin Luther School. The students presented a music program for their parents and friends of the Home who attended the annual Harvest Home Day program. After the program, the students left for a week's vacation with their families. While the students were gone, the teachers attended the Region 8 AAMD Convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

This month the students and staff have been preparing a farewell party for Mr. Boyer, the Superintendent who is leaving to start a new program, Handicap Village in Clear Lake, Iowa. Mr. Julius Moehl will replace Mr. Boyer as Superintendent.

PROJECT CHANCE

--Suzanne Bradley (346-5000)

Project Chance was looking forward to the first Parents' Club meeting of the fall on October 22nd at 6:30 p.m. An informal supper started off the evening. Important business on the agenda included the welcome to new parents and an introduction of new staff members. We also discussed Chance's turbulent recent past and its hopeful future.

Fall is turnover time at Project Chance. With the beginning of the school year, Chance had graduated two dozen children to other educational centers. Ten have gone to public school classes for the trainable. J.P. Lord School has six former Chance students, while Madonna School has one. Seven of our children have gone into standard classrooms; six into kindergarten and one into pre-first.

The RELIGIOUS NURTURE COMMITTEE will have a meeting on December 2, 1969 (Tuesday) at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Youth Room of Rockbrook United Methodist Church, 9855 West Center Road. This meeting will include an overview of the new materials recently put out on the Trainable level. These materials are now being used by some of the religious classes in our area. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

MADONNA SCHOOL

--Sister Mary Evangeline (556-1883)

The children in Madonna School will visit the Wonder Bakery as part of their Social Studies unit on Community Facilities. Before visiting the Bakery, they will have lunch at the Family Cafe with their Teacher, Mrs. Peg Nanos. In September, the class visited the Metropolitan Utilities District Water Plant.

The Scout and Cub Packs at Madonna School have been re-organized by Mr. Joe Di Mari and Mrs. Millard Crouch, Scout and Cub leaders. They are busy getting shirts, hats, and kerchiefs.

Sister Mary Evangeline was one of the GOARC delegates to the 20th Annual NARC Convention held in Miami, Florida the beginning of October.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is rumored that Sister was swimming at 5 a.m. in October. How was the water, Sister?



Wedding Bells Ring at GOARC!!

Brian Lensink (Douglas
and Kathy Bertolini (Benson
Saturday, November 22, 1969.
home at 5840 Spaulding Street.

County Vocational Services Center)
Developmental Center) were married
The newly weds will make their new

Their friends at GOARC wish
ness in the world. Best wishes

them all the success and happi-
to Mr. and Mrs. Brian Lensink!!

DIVISION OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

--Mel Knowlton (556-8229)

The Open House which was held on October 24th was a great success! We would like to thank all those who by attending helped in the good results. The residents are all ready anytime to have another Open House as they thoroughly enjoyed meeting their "neighbors"--and, besides, it would give them another chance to bake cookies on a grand scale.

Halloween, the young ladies held a "bash" for the young men. The girls just couldn't wait to hold their first get-together in the newly-decorated rec room (the basement).

The girls have a new room-mate. She is Maggie Heasten, a senior at Creighton University and a graduate SWEAT student. Maggie formerly worked at the Workshop.

The shopping sprees have just about ended. And, all the residents have some new clothes. Some went shopping for their own clothes for the first time, so it was really great fun.

The Young Men's Hostel lost the big tree in the backyard, but gained some much needed plumbing and an office. We have converted the garage into an office for the Residential Services.

If any parents of children in the Beatrice State Home would like a rider when they visit their children, both hostels have a number of residents who would like to visit friends and relatives at the Home. If you could provide transportation, please call Mr. Knowlton, 556-8229.

WORKSHOP

--Brian Lensink (558-3121)

On Wednesday, November 12th, the Douglas County Vocational Services Center held its first anniversary Open House. Mrs. Eugene Leahy, wife of the Mayor of our city, and no less than 700 other parents, interested citizens and friends, visited and discussed the operation of the Workshop. In the opinion of the staff and the many people who visited the workshop, the Open House was a booming success, and was of great benefit in informing the community of the services which the Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Children, Inc. provides. I would like to express my appreciation to the clients of the Vocational Center. These young men and women withstood the event very well, even though they were working odd hours (12 noon to 8:00 p.m.). They not only withstood the hundreds of people which came to see them work and learn, but they produced more work than they had on any other day in the last two months. I would like to thank the clients, the parents, and everyone else involved in the Open House for the work which they put forth and for the success which they made of the event.

Besides the growth in the number of people who are being served, we are also growing in the services which we provide. We are in the process of starting a Behavior Modification Program at the Center and have recently gotten night school follow-up classes into operation. We have also made some changes and are improving our evaluation and training techniques; we are looking into new training areas which may be set up in actual industrial plants; and we are exploring new workshop sites in the South Omaha area. All in all, it makes for a very busy, but interesting month, and shows us that we must continue investigating new areas and new concepts in the rehabilitation of the mentally retarded in our community.

Over the past several months, the workshop has been expanding tremendously. Since the opening of the hostels in September, we have increased the number of clients at the Center to 56. Another eight people are ready to start at any time and will bring this center to its capacity. During this, our first year of operation, we have placed three clients into competitive employment. I would like to congratulate John Bynum, David Swift, and Dale Smith for the fine work that they have been doing on their jobs in the community.

CHAP Building Soon to be Reality

--Henry Schuttler (291-6700)

The Board of Education of the Bellevue Public Schools approved the schematic drawing of the new CHAP School facility. A grant from Educational Service Unit #3 provided money to plan the curriculum and model facility which will be constructed with state funds available under PL 88-164. Bellevue is the only organization in Nebraska to use these funds for educational facilities under law.

Presently the CHAP School is located on Offutt Air Force Base. It provides educational services for the trainable mentally handicapped child. A trainable mentally handicapped child is mentally retarded but has the potentialities for training or learning the areas of self care, social adjustment to his immediate surroundings, and some activities which will contribute to his economic usefulness. Early identification and remediation is important if the child is to be rehabilitated. The CHAP School accepts pre-school children as young as three years old.

Pre-vocational and vocational training are important to the Jr. and Sr. High School age children. It is hoped that a sheltered workshop could be established in the area to give advanced training in vocational preparation.

The idea of a school for handicapped children was initiated by the C.H.A.P. (Children Have a Potential) organization on Offutt Air Force Base. They started the Offutt Opportunity School for handicapped children of Military dependents. The use of the name CHAP was derived from this organization and permission for its use by the school district was given by Air Force Officials.

Both civilian and military children are now enrolled in CHAP School. Children from four other school districts are also enrolled on a tuition basis.

CHIT-CHAT FROM C.H.A.P.

--June Henrikson (339-2756)

Thirty-three members and guests of the CHAP School toured the Douglas County Vocational Services Center the end of September. They also toured the Men's Hostel on California Street. The teachers from CHAP also toured the Workshop on Monday, November 10th. Monday was an inservice day for the teachers as part of the observance of American Education Week. Both groups thoroughly enjoyed the tour and was impressed by the workers and the work being done at the Center.

There are 35 students enrolled in the CHAP School. Children of both military and civilian parents attend the school. This is the second year it has been under the Bellevue Public School System. There are two teachers, five teacher aids, and a speech therapist at the school. A physical education teacher comes once a week to the school also. Twenty-two ladies from Family Services, a military organization, volunteer half days at the school to round out the staff.

The CHAP Mothers Club has been extremely busy the past two months. Officers were elected for the coming year: Mrs. James Glover, President; Mrs. Henry B. Henrikson, Secretary; and, Mrs. Thomas Kean, Treasurer. The Club does ceramic work to support the CHAP program at Offutt Air Force Base.

The Club was the recipient of the "Organization of the Year" award presented by the Omaha Mayor's Committee for Employment of the Handicapped. The Mothers Club was cited for its support of the essay contest sponsored by the Mayor's Committee for the Handicapped. First, second, and third place winners of the essay contest, "Why Hire the Handicapped?", were presented savings bonds.

The Mothers Club has also been busy selling pocketdaters for the past several months. A total of 800 pocketdaters have been sold. The proceeds will be used for the CHAP Summer Day Camp at Offutt Air Force Base.

Halloween was a spooky and fun affair at the CHAP School. The children dressed in costumes were invited to "Trick or Treat" along Generals Row on the Base. The quarters of V Admiral and Mrs. Frederick Michaelis, Lt. Gen. and Mrs. Glenn Martin and Brig. Gen. and Mrs. James Keck were visited by the children. The Room Mothers, also in costumes, gave a party for the children at the school. The children enjoyed singing and playing games. Doughnuts and apple juice were served.

A PERSON LEARNS BY HIS OWN ACTIVITY

He learns what he does; he gains insight as he learns to organize what he does. Within certain limits, the more extensive a learner's activity the greater will be his learning.

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VOL. 2 NO. 3 Omaha, Nebraska 68102

346-6338
JUNE 1969

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GOYARC - GENERAL MEETING
June 6, 1969

KMTV - ISSUES '69
June 8, 1969 12:30 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 16, 1969 8:00 p.m.

PARK PROGRAM STARTS
June 19, 1969
Tuesday-Thursday Program

PARK PROGRAM STARTS
June 20, 1969
Monday-Friday Program

FREE-PLAY SWIMMING
June 24, 1969

LEARN-TO-SWIM PROGRAM STARTS
June 30, 1969-July 10, 1969
For eight sessions

FREE-PLAY SWIMMING PROGRAM
July 15, 1969
Each Tuesday for 4 weeks

CHRIST CHILD CAMP
July 13-19, 1969

CHRIST CHILD CAMP
August 3-9, 1969

CHRIST CHILD CAMP
August 10-16, 1969

DCVSC - 7:30 p.m.
See story page four

See story page four

Benson Developmental Center
6319 Maple Street

Hanscom Park
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
See story page four

Benson Park
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
See story page four

Hanscom Park
12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Miller Park
11:00 a.m. to noon
See story page four

Hanscom Park
12 noon to 1:00 p.m.
See story page four

E.M.H. Girls
See story page four

E.M.H. Boys
See story page four

T.M.H. Boys and Girls
See story page four

ART WORK DONATED

DONNA and FRANK MENOLASCINO donated more than forty different and individually created pieces of art to be displayed at our centers. To those of you who have visited the Benson Developmental Center, the Douglas County Vocational Services Center, the Hostel, or our Central Office, you know what a change these paintings have made. And, to those of you who haven't as yet seen our centers, please do so; and take particular note of these paintings. Both DONNA and FRANK MENOLASCINO experiment in different techniques to create texture and depth. The lions and clowns (at the B.D.C.) were all done on a velvet paper with chalks--the collages are done with bits and pieces of this and that.

Our Central Office is particularly proud of our N.A.R.C. Emblem that DONNA MENOLASCINO did for us in pastel chalk on velvet. She managed to really capture the expression from our small boy in the triangle.

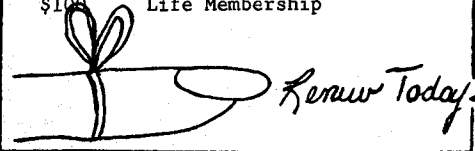
POETS COME FORWARD

From time to time, your editor has received poems or short stories from GOARC members. As space permits, these items will be printed so that we can all share them.

So when you feel the urge of a word or two to rhyme, send it to your editor we'll print it---every time!

Have You Overlooked Renewing Your GOARC MEMBERSHIP?

\$5	Annual Dues
\$5-10	Supporting Membership
\$10-25	Contributing Membership
\$25-100	Sustaining Membership
\$100	Life Membership



OUR TRAVELING TEAM

ROBERTA KAPLAN, BOB CLARK and JUDIE RASCO attended the 93rd Annual A.A.M.D. in San Francisco from May 12-16. The convention was so tightly packed with seminars and workshops, that it was difficult for each of us to see and hear all that we wanted to. And, of course, in San Francisco there was so much to see and do when we weren't scheduled in the conference. Besides reinforcing some of the things we already suspected, and learning some new approaches, this convention gave us the opportunity to tell about the Douglas County Plan, and the Nebraska State Plan. Each of us spent a majority of our time "recruiting" or "explaining" as well as renewing friendships with people from all across the country.

TERRY SCONCE and BOB BOWER, two SWEAT students have packed their bags for Caterham, England. TERRY and BOB will be working in research activities at St. Lawrence Hospital at Caterham (suburb of London) for approximately three months under the SWEAT program.

BOB CLARK was invited to participate in the 96 Annual Forum of the National Conference on Social Welfare in New York City from May 26 to 27.

OVER A CUP OF COFFEE

Was that our JUDIE and SHIRLEY at the racetrack?---did they really win only 80c each?...Welcome back, WOLFE!!!....It's nice to know that FRANK M is on the mend.... Our girl MARGARET is beginning to have a Hawaiian gleam in her eye---she's planning on meeting her husband, DAVE, for his R and R in Hawaii--Aloha!...Welcome to LINDA KING--our little girl with the big-girl voice...The Executive staff of GOARC has given it's stamp of approval to the lemon meringue pie served at the Benson Developmental Center. Is it true that our Accountant, JOHN P is "tired" not "retired"...Does HAROLD F really have a "slow pitch?"...Is that "spring fever" or "a young mans fancy" that is putting a twinkle in BRIAN's eyes.

NEW DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

On May 7, 1969, GOARC opened the new South Omaha Developmental Center in the educational facility of the St. Luke's Lutheran Church (2315 I Street). MRS. JERRY FRITZ-MEIER and KATHY CAVANAUGH are the staff members transferred to this center with our four youngsters. REVEREND ROBERT E. SHIRCK and his congregation have been most cooperative and eager for our program to start. At the present time, the children attending the South Omaha Developmental Center are "brown bagging" but eventually PENNY hopes to serve a hot lunch program that will rival the hot lunch program at the Benson Center.

NEB ARC PRESIDENT ELECTED

MR. WILLIAM WILLS of Omaha, a member of GOARC, was re-elected for the presidency of Neb ARC. His new term of office will terminate June 30, 1970.

All in all, Omaha appears to be leading the way with BILL WILLS, Neb ARC President; BRIDGET MOYLAN, Nebraska Youth ARC President; RAY MOHATT, Member of Neb ARC Steering Committee; and JUDI NORWOOD, Member of Nebraska Youth ARC Steering Committee.

KMTV SPECIALS

The Editor has made arrangements to continue the guest appearances on the KMTV show "Conversations" with JONI BAILLON. We have been granted time on their 12:30 program every other Wednesday. We hope that our appearances may be increased to once a week. We will be utilizing personalities and experts from all areas involved in the many aspects of the mental retardation problem. The degree of success of this "exposure" will be measured to a great extent by viewer response. We have asked the viewers to write to "Conversations" if there is a subject or question that they would like to have discussed or any comments you would like to make. We will make every effort to accommodate any "write-in" mail we receive. So, get out your typewriters, paper, pens, and pencils, and start those comments coming to the GOARC Office!

GOARC ELECTIONS

On May 1, at the Annual General Membership Election Meeting, the following people were elected as officers for the term beginning July 1, 1969 and ending June 30, 1970.

President
ROBERTA KAPLAN

1st Vice-President
WILMA WILLS

2nd Vice-President
LEIGHTON GOODRICH

Recording Secretary
DORINE GILMORE

Corresponding Secretary
SISTER MARY EVANGELINE, RSM

Treasurer
JOHN PLEISS

Our heartiest congratulations to each and every one of you. For those of you who haven't had the opportunity of getting acquainted with MRS. KAPLAN, here are some of the highlights of her recent activities.

MRS. KAPLAN has been very active over the last few years in the field of mental retardation. She is currently serving as chairman of the Governor's Citizens Implementation Committee on Mental Retardation; chairman of the Mental Health Committee, Nebraska Congress of the PTA; Legislation Co-Chairman, Omaha PTA Council; and member of the Douglas County Juvenile Court Advisory Council.

To our out-going officers--we offer our deepest thanks for their perseverance, dedication and loyalty. A very special "Thank You" to DONNA MENOLASCINO and all the little MENOLASCINOS for putting up with GOARC day-in and day-out for the last two years. And, of course--FRANK MENOLASCINO, who has guided and pushed us every step of the way and who has had the foresight and strength to maximize our assets while altering, correcting, or eliminating our weaknesses. DR. MENOLASCINO has been more than a leader--he has been our champion---our friend!

NEB ARC CONVENTION - SCOTTSBLUFF

The annual Neb ARC Convention was held in Scottsbluff from April 25 through April 27. The Adult and the Youth ARC's convined at the same time and even shared a few events.

The GOYARC contingent was: BRIDGET MOYLAN, JUDI NORWOOD, KATHY MORAN, PETER GENSCHMEIMER, BETH SPETHMAN, and PAT MILLER. Our members boarded the Youth bus at the Crossroads early Friday morning and arrived in Scottsbluff late Friday night. The bus stopped along the way to pick up youth members as well as to let them eat and stretch. The youth were able to stay in private homes for the convention--many homes being provided by members of the Scottsbluff ARC. One of the highlights of their convention was the appearance of (MRS.) JOAN MCINTEE, National Youth ARC Advisor. MRS. MCINTEE spent much of her time talking individually with youth members, advisors, or with ARC's which don't as yet have a youth group. Another highlight was the Saturday night dance for some of Scottsbluff's retarded teenagers. If noise was a measure of having a good time, a good time must have been had by all! GOYARC submitted their scrapbook and was awarded Honorable Mention.

The Adult delegates from Omaha were: SISTER MARY EVANGELINE, ROBERTA KAPLAN, RAY MOHATT, FRAN PORTER and WILMA WILLS. Staff members PENNY JENKINS, BOB CLARK, and your editor were participants in various adult workshops, while SHIRLEY DEAN observed some of the youth workshops and some of the adult workshops. The Omaha "crowd" was especially proud when Neb ARC awarded LEE TERRY and his news staff from KETV the "Citizen of the Year Award" for their outstanding documentary "Out of the Darkness."

At the adult ARC meeting on Sunday, Omaha was accepted as the 1970 Neb ARC Convention site. To anyone and everyone--we will be calling on you to lend a hand to show that...Omaha Can Do!

STATE YOUTH PRESIDENT ELECTED

BRIDGET MOYLAN, a member of GOYARC, successfully campaigned for President of the Nebraska Youth Association for Retarded Children. BRIDGET, a very vital and interesting young lady, was the first President of GOYARC and as such, contributed a great deal to the founding of our own Youth Group. Before assuming the office of State President on July 1, BRIDGET has also held the position of: Editor of The Invisible Circle (Nebraska State Youth ARC Newsletter) member of the State Steering Committee; and, Editor of the National Youth ARC Newsletter.

BRIDGET's campaign was based on the "challenge to youth", and in her statement she said to the youth members at the convention, "...by just being here, ...you have shown many adults that you are ready to take on...the challenge to give up enough of yourself to make someone happy. You're taking on the challenge to love."

Another of GOYARC's members, JUDI NORWOOD, was elected to the Nebraska Youth ARC Steering Committee.

Hats off to both BRIDGET and JUDI!!!