

GAZETTE

FEBRUARY '79



SHIRLEY DEAN

Greater Omaha Association

GOAR

For Retarded Citizens

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CREDITS

Editor & Lay-out: Donna Reh
Cover Design: Steve Chaffin
Cover Photo: Carol McCabe

*Thank you to all the contri-
butors, without you this
Gazette would not be possible.*

GOARC

Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens
3212 Dodge Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68131
(402) 348-9220

Parents Talking To Parents

BY LORAIN JENSEN



Helen & Jack DeMay 15 year members of GOARC

and to see if those services can be provided. "It might not be the best questionnaire," Helen said, "but we have to start somewhere."

"These parents need to know someone is listening to them and that GOARC is a support agency for parents as well as retarded citizens," Helen said.

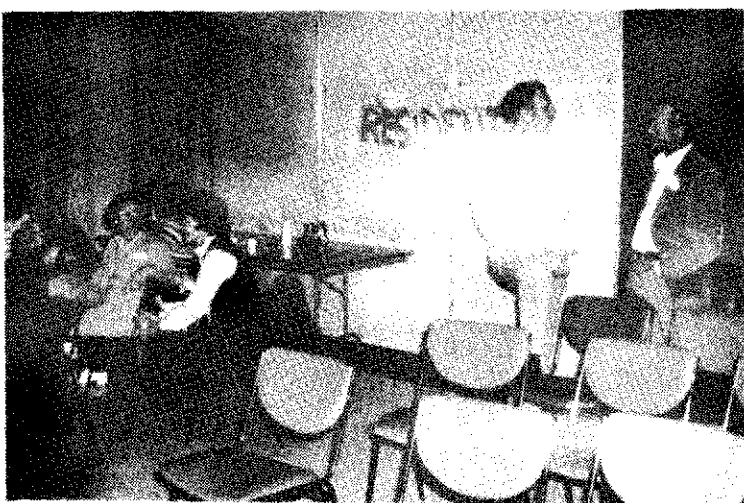
Slick streets, falling snow, and a 20 minute black out at the First Federal of Lincoln Building didn't keep 74 GOARC members from attending the January 25th membership meeting.

The theme was "Parents Talking To Parents", and was "one of the largest parent turn outs we've had in a long time" as Helen DeMay described it. Both Helen and Jack DeMay have spent months of preparation on their Community Needs Ad Hoc Committee for this meeting. 1,169 questionnaires were mailed out to primarily parents with retarded adults sixteen years of age and older to determine what their common needs are. 265 have been returned so far but the Committee is optimistic that more will be returned. A lot of these parents have expressed an interest in services for their retarded adult and the goal of the questionnaire was to determine the services parents feel their retarded family members are needing



Photography by Mike Souchan

The meeting provided an opportunity to talk over thoughts with others.



Residential was just one of the interest groups parents had an opportunity to take part in.

The meeting was divided into several small interest areas which included vocational, residential, social, educational, and general which gave parents the opportunity to talk with other parents about common needs and desires for their retarded adult.

When I asked Jack, Chairman of the Committee, "what now for the Community Needs Ad Hoc Committee" he said, "A final report will be given to the Board of Directors and ready for the Gazette soon."

THANK YOU Jack and Helen and all your Committee members for your hard work, and also, thanks to all the parents and adults who returned their questionnaires. GOARC NEEDS YOU!

GOARC Members Testify

BY LORAIN JENSEN

On January 17th, a public hearing was held in the auditorium of the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education for persons interested in testifying before the Nebraska Mental Retardation Panel, regarding the Nebraska Mental Retardation Plan.

The Panel's Plan of Implementation provides a cost effective, 3 year plan for returning approximately 450 of the present residents of Beatrice State Developmental Center to alternative services in the least restrictive environment of Nebraska's community based mental retardation regional programs. The panel is confident that at least 450 residents of the Beatrice State Developmental Center could benefit from placement in the community.

The testimony of many GOARC members was heard.



Joe Davis, "I have a little brother who is multiply handicapped & I don't think it would be the same around our house if he wasn't living with us. He needs us and we need him."



Ray Loomis, "Beatrice is not a good place to live. I know, I lived there for 15 years."



Sister Mary Evangeline, "Doesn't an individual in an institution have the freedom of taking part in a decision that will affect his whole life if he is capable of cooperating in that decision?"



Ed Robeck gives a youths perspective on the rights of the retarded.

Photos by Darin Stevens & Joe Davis

Alice In GOARCia

BY ALICE BLACKSTONE

JUST WHEELING AROUND - When Carl Person's grandfather loaned him the money to buy a motorized wheelchair, Carl had an unique idea for earning money to pay off his debt. He just turns on the motor and makes the rounds collecting recyclables to reduce his transportation debt. Carl's parents are Sara and Russell Persons, active members of the Fremont, Nebraska Pilot Parent group.

GAZETTE STAFF APPROVES OF DONNA REH'S engagement to Steve Chaffin. What better choice for the layout person of the Gazette than Steve, who did the design for the December cover?

WE GOT THE MUSIC - or soon will have when LORAIN JENSEN, staff assistant, gets a little better acquainted with the mandolin she is learning to play. Maybe she can accompany JUDY MERCIER, Membership Coordinator, who sings professionally. Judy, we hear, recently flew off to Winter Park, Colorado to entertain in a ski lodge.

THE SEARCH IS ON - Fran Porter, Chairperson and her committee: George Armstrong, Kevin Casey, Dick Galusha, Don Grimm and Joy Barfield Jones are busy with the time-consuming and important task of finding an Executive Director for GOARC.

BILL GOODRICH is getting a taste of the real world in a work experience at Eppley Care and the University of Nebraska Hospital. Bill is a student at Arbor Heights. His parents are Leighton and Carolyn Goodrich.

GROWING UP DOESN'T TAKE LONG Janie Smith, daughter of Patty and Roger Smith, will be making her First Communion at Holy Name Church soon. Janie is a student at Madonna School.

And SHARI JO SAMSON, daughter of Les and Jenny Samson is a student at the Montessori School at the College of St. Mary.

SLEDDING IS FUN when you're sliding into another year. That's what the GOYARC kids did at Memorial Park on January 6th to help Pat Henry celebrate his birthday.

BON VOYAGE - Patty Smith has won the Rosemary Dybwad Award. She'll be off with the \$1,000 award to visit England, France, and Norway.

VICKI KELLY, who has been a GOYARC member some people say, "since birth", has been nominated by the Volunteer Bureau of United Way of the Midlands for a national volunteer activist award. Vicki continues to be active in GOYARC even though she is now a sophomore at Creighton University. She can't decide whether to major in psychology or dance. Good luck, Vicki!

PAYDAY IS FUN FOR SUSAN DEMAY. Susan, a GOYARC member, works from 11 to 2 PM as a bus girl at the Cimarron Room. A raffle winner at the January GOARC meeting, she took home a macrame plant hanger. Susan is the sister of Beverly DeMay and the daughter of Jack and Helen.

A BREAD-WINNER, MAYBE, BUT A BREAD-MAKER HE ISN'T - at least that's what some of us decided when we saw Ed Skarnulis give the pyrex bread pan he had just won at the GOARC raffle to Ollie Rector. Ollie was delighted, "Just what I need for my new house," she said.

SNOW SHOVELS ARE OUT FOR TOM PORTER, JR. now that he's in Phoenix, Arizona, working for Radio Station KOY. **AND HIS MOTHER, FRAN PORTER,** made a brief get-away from the cold when she flew to Alexandria, Louisiana in January to talk to parents of the deaf and blind about Pilot Parents.

YOU READ THIS WHOLE COLUMN AND DIDN'T FIND YOUR NAME? Tough luck, kiddo -- there's one sure way to break into print. **CALL ME -- AT 553-6381.**

Fatherhood... Its Changing Role

BY LORAIN JENSEN

Our society has changed drastically over the past decade. Among these changes are an increasing rate of divorce, a rising frequency of father custody suits, and more and more women who don't wish to have children. Because of these changes, it is crucial for all of us to explore the nature of the father's influence on his children's development, and to examine the experience of single parenting as it pertains to the future welfare of children in our society.

I had an opportunity to explore some of these changing perceptions of the father on November 30 and December 1st, when the Eastern Nebraska Community Office of Mental Health and Dr. Ken Berry from the University of Nebraska Medical Center sponsored a two day major conference entitled Fatherhood and the Male Single Parent.

Among the presentors at the workshop were: Henry Biller, a father and nationally known expert in the field of paternal determinants of personality and author of the books, Paternal Deprivation, Father Power, and Father, Child, and Sex Role; James Levine, father and author of Who Will Raise The Children?; Eliot A. Daley who wrote the book, Father Feelings, an account of one year in the life of his family - his wife, and their three very unique children; and Michale Lamb a researcher concerned with the role of the father in child development.

The conference focused primarily on the history of fathering, the impact of fathers on the personality and development of children, and the father as a single parent.

For a long time, men have not been considered as an equally important parent. Traditional roles have not left much room for men to be nurturing fathers, as a good father was one who could cloth, feed, and provide income for his family. Many never interacted with their children and were so busy trying to meet the standard of living, they just didn't have the time.

Evidence now shows as Henry Biller pointed out, that these original perceptions of the father as being primarily a money provider and a less important parent are depriving children from important interaction with their fathers. "Fathers have as much capacity to relate to children as mothers and have as much fascination and interest," he stated.

As well, he indicated that the bonding and attachment between the mother and child that takes place at the infant stage, is an equally important between the father and the infant. Research shows that infants who have strong attachments to both fathers and mothers are more secure in exploring their environment and more secure in development.

Mr. Biller's also pointed out that in his experience with fathers, they have a particularly difficult time when there is a physically handicapped or mentally handicapped child, because "a child who is intellectually or physically limited can be very threatening to a male." It is particularly important under these circumstances then to recognize the father as a primary parent in his handicapped child's life.

Men, too often, are just not considered. Look, for example, at our nursery schools and primary schools. There is a sprinkling here and there of male involvement but there are many more female teachers than males at this level of development. James Levine in his lecture, "Changing Male Roles and Fathering", pointed out that the "nurturing capacity in men should be shown" and that we should encourage more young men to pursue careers as nursery and primary school teachers.

What happens when a child is raised by primarily the mother or the father? Michael Lamb who has made major breakthroughs in his research of fathering presented evidence that it is important in the single parent family that the more absent parent be a regular in interaction with the child and stressed the quality of interaction vs. the quantity. He further pointed out that continuous conflicts between parents affect children worse than the absence of one parent."

The problems that we are facing as a result of our changing society are very complex. Because of these changes it is our job to make the father a more recognized parent, and to start seeing the father as a caring, and loving parent, concerned with the development and well-being of his children's development.

Banquet Held

The night of January 15th was COLD but it was warm and well fed inside Mr. C's where 33 intrepid souls braved the elements to meet for the yearly Pilot Parent Banquet. The food was plentiful and good. Over coffee, the brag-about-our-kids and piloting experiences during 1978 was shared by all present.

Newly trained pilot parents were welcomed and well represented by the presence of Janelle Greenwood, Sandra and Bill Rody, Nancy and Bill Kracher, and Kathy and Fred Fielder. Sara and Russell Persons made the long cold trip in from Fremont.

Patty Smith glowed and bubbled as usual - she's our Pilot Parent spark-plug. The yearly banquet was made complete by our co-founders, Fran and Tom Porter and Shirley Dean. The time and dedication of these people over the years is beyond description and the success of Pilot Parents is a tribute to them.

The Pilot Parent Banquet night is really a family reunion. A family that comes together from all kinds of differing backgrounds with the common denominator of caring -- not only for our own children, but for that potential of all children -- our investment in the future.

By Helen Schaefer

* * *

SUPER SATURDAY FUN

CAROUSEL CAMPUS -- CREATIVE WORKSHOP VI -- SPONSORED BY UNO AND THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF OMAHA.

SPECIAL BEATS FOR SPECIAL KIDS

For learning disabled children ages 5-12 years. Make your own drum and other musical instruments. Helps children to use artistic expression & to know rhythm through song and dance. Limited to 15 children. One 4-week session, 1-3 PM, Rm. #315 UNO Student Center, March 10, 17, 24, & 31, cost is \$8.00. Call Sharon Reeve at 551-4414.



March 21 is the first day of Spring! It is also the nationwide NEW MEMBER DAY.

If every member would take a few minutes to ask a neighbor, a friend, or a relative to join GOARC we could double our membership.

A larger and stronger association can assure more improved services for mentally retarded people in our community. We want every relative and friend of a mentally retarded person in our community and every interested person to join together to work for the programs and services needed. The member(s) you enlist can help guarantee a better community for everyone.

A Man & His Art

STORY & PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT COLEMAN



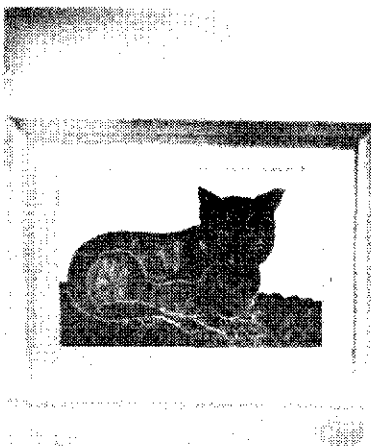
Artist Tom Blackstone

If you missed Tom's art show and are interested in seeing his work, call his studio at 553-6381.

Tom Blackstone, 31 year old artist and son of Glen and Alice Blackstone, exhibited 69 of his works at The Antiquarium Gallery during the month of December. "Tom's Show" featured the paintings, collages, and scratch boards he has done over the last 15 years. Both the World-Herald and Spectacle (Omaha's magazine of the arts) reviewed and praised Tom for his imaginative presentation of landscape, nature, and portrait themes. Reviews were impressed in particular by Tom's wallpaper collages, in which he composed and patterned his subject with scraps of multi-colored wallpaper. Spectacle, in fact, chose Tom as their Arts Person of the Month and featured him in an interview and article.



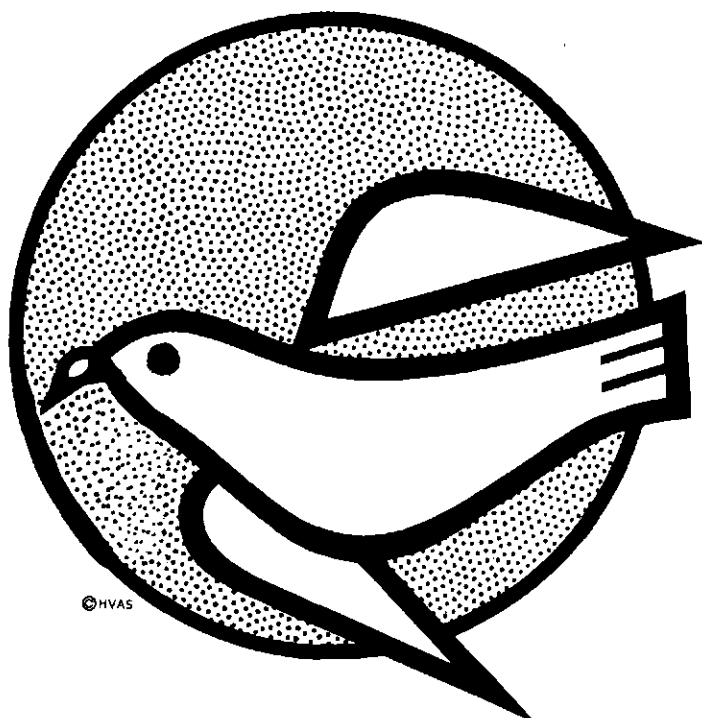
Above: Tom explains his art to a prospective buyer.



At left: An example of Tom's art.

When You
Give Help

You Give
HOPE



GOARC's Recognition Night

Thursday, March 1

**first federal of
lincoln**

**2101 S.42
omaha**

social 7-7:30PM

program 7:30 PM

LISTEN TO ME...

The following information is offered to parents, teachers, school administrators, or for that matter, anyone concerned about meaningful lives for exceptional children.

It is a gut-level approach, and one I feel a long time coming.

I'm sure there are those who will disagree with some of the statements, but I'm sure that quite a few of the problems discussed will apply to almost all cases of families with handicapped children.

The problems discussed are those that have surfaced frequently in school and parent conferences for a number of years. As a teacher of special education, I know that we all feel a personal commitment to communicate observations to improve the total living and coping experiences for all parties concerned.

PROBLEM 1. I will cause you marital pressure and strain; you will need to get away from me.

PROBLEM 2. Beware, I will train you to spoil me and do things for me. You will over protect me.

PROBLEM 3. If I am your only child, please seek outside help, so that you know what normal behavior really is.

PROBLEM 4. I may remain emotionally and economically dependent upon you throughout my life.

PROBLEM 5. If you feel there is something wrong early in my life, please seek professional help. The earlier you do, the better chance we both have.

PROBLEM 6. If I am a genetic problem, please tell my brothers and sisters before they marry.

PROBLEM 7. Please do not spend a great deal of money and time hunting for the reason I occurred or a magic cure. Accept me as I am.

PROBLEM 8. Please don't hide me, I need experiences and the world needs me.

PROBLEM 9. Realize that some of my needs and desires will be the same as normal children. Teach me the facts of life when the time comes.

PROBLEM 10. Give me stability, consistency, and structure. I need adjustments to help me learn at home and school. (But don't pull the shades.)

PROBLEM 11. Please don't be sympathetic; I don't need that. Rather, show me you care; include me in your everyday life.

PROBLEM 12. Please be patient. Understand my behavior. Repeat - Repeat - Repeat.

PROBLEM 13. Remember that I learn slowly and often forget quickly.

PROBLEM 14. You will have to work hard on my social skills. Just plain manners and self-controls.

PROBLEM 15. I will frustrate you emotionally; I will test your real values about life.

PROBLEM 16. Remember that I am expensive. I may need special shoes, glasses, hearing aides, speech appliances, and education to name just a few.

I'M SPECIAL

BY BILL KESLING

PROBLEM 17. You most likely will have a problem realistically accepting my educational abilities and vocational restrictions.

PROBLEM 18. I do not follow the traditional forms of learning. I need help at home and school. Lots of books may not be for me.

PROBLEM 19. If I have brothers and sisters, please don't expect them to grow up faster than expected. I will cause them enough emotional strain.

PROBLEM 20. I will most likely embarrass you in social situations. I may strain relationships with your friends and neighbors.

PROBLEM 21. I learn best by doing -- by "hands-on-activities"; work with me at home and school.

PROBLEM 22. Do not believe Grandma and Grandpa too long; I will not "grow out of it."

PROBLEM 23. I will lack a lot of friends because I am different.

PROBLEM 24. I will present disciplinary and behavioral problems to you, it is not because I want to; it is because I am immature for my age.

PROBLEM 25. To Mom...My father may have a difficult time accepting me as I am. He may feel that I reflect his inadequacy.

PROBLEM 26. I will need special education but it is not a cure.

PROBLEM 27. Do not get hung-up on labels. If I am retarded, disturbed, whatever, just accept it.

PROBLEM 28. You may have a difficult time getting a babysitter for me.



(Editor's Note: Bill is a special education teacher at Westside Community Schools.)

PROBLEMS 29. You may have to sacrifice some of your own personal goals because of my existence.

PROBLEM 30. Mom, you are busy. You may find it easier and quicker to continue to feed, bathe, and dress me. But in reality, you are perpetuating my dependency on you. It takes longer to teach me these things, but I must learn to do things by myself.

PROBLEM 31. Treat me the same as you do the other children in our family. If you expect too much responsibility from them just because I'm handicapped - our whole family structure will weaken.

Spotlight On SHIRLEY DEAN

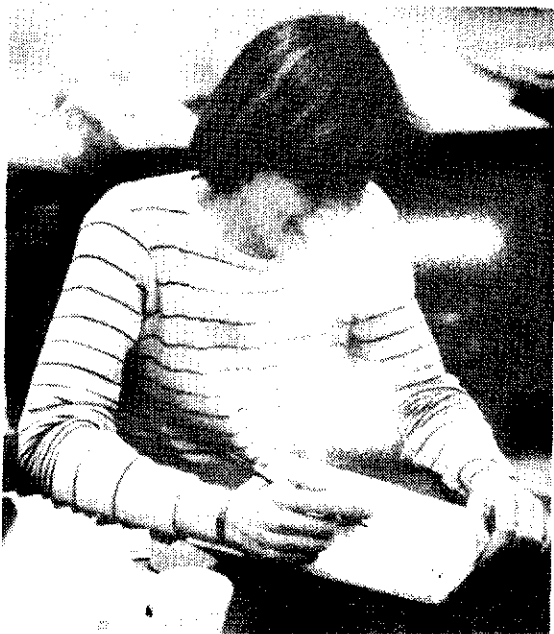
No way is Shirley Dean going to toot her own horn.

Slim, attractive, poised, she reminds me of that old saying, "Still water runs deep."

She's on time for appointments; she's gracious and anxious to be helpful, but let's face it ... Shirley Dean is an interviewer's nightmare. She just isn't comfortable with Shirley in the spotlight.

"She's so low-key," says Fran Porter, a Pilot Parent and member of the GOARC Board. "She's always giving someone else the credit. She's never been given proper recognition."

Shirley grew up in Des Moines, Iowa loves all kinds of sports, was a "tom-boy", has one brother a year her senior (and claims they fought while they growing up.)



She was graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and Psychology from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa ... a school she chose because she "wanted a small school where individuals wouldn't be so readily depersonalized." Even then, she was concerned about human dignity.

She collects spoons and animal figurines. Her family has an interesting custom of picking out a spot on the map (just anywhere) and declaring



it the cite for a family reunion. Last summer, about twenty cousins, aunts, and uncles assembled in the Pacific Northwest.

It was a pleasant interview, but not exactly what I was looking for, so I began asking people to tell me about the real Shirley Dean.

"She's a teacher," said Patty Smith, Coordinator of Pilot Parents. "She motivates and inspires people. She's always saying to someone, 'You can do it! You can do it.'"

"She's my touchstone with integrity," Pat Henry, GOYARC advisor told me. "I can always rely on her judgment to distinguish between the rightness and wrongness of things. She doesn't give quick answers, but when she arrives at a decision, it's crystal clear."

"Any job she does is meticulous," said John Clark, a former chairman of the GOARC Board. "She's one of the most intelligent people I know. She's completely dedicated."

"She never plays politics."

"She's always available to help."

"She's always fair and objective."

The many answers added up to one thing: Shirley Dean is a very special person.

You might call her a luck "happening"

for GOARC, ENCOR, the handicapped, and their families. When her plans to become a physical therapist and move to California didn't work out, she got a job as a social worker for the Douglas County Welfare Department in Omaha.

As always, Shirley was serious about helping her clients. When she saw an eight year old boy sitting on a curb when he should have been in school, she wanted to know why. There were a number of reasons: he was nearly blind; he'd never been to school; his mother, a client of Shirley's, was apathetic. Between determination and leg work, "Tom" got his glasses and was enrolled in Madonna School. What's more, Shirley chauffeured him to school because there was no one else available to take him. Apparently, commitment for her means, "all the way".

In 1968, when GOARC members began their all-out push for more services for their children, Shirley, because of her efforts to get help for the many retarded children in her case load, had become very knowledgeable about local agencies and their personnel. In March, Douglas County loaned her to GOARC as a research person. In July, she resigned from the County and worked for GOARC until ENCOR became a reality. Since 1970, she has been employed by ENCOR and currently serves as Director of Adult and Children's Guidance Services.

For staff and parents she is invaluable as a resource person. She has come up through the system; she knows the history of GOARC backward and forward.

For most individuals, a fulltime job is sufficient, but not for Shirley. No one knows how many hours she has contributed as a volunteer to the GOARC Board, Pilot Parents, Project II, People First, and innumerable task forces. "She's always willing to help," says Fran Porter, co-author with Shirley of the Pilot Parent Manual.

I began to wonder if I should organize a "Halo" committee. Getting Shirley elected would be no problem; getting her to wear a halo would.

Shirley likes to draw; she designed the delightful little honey bear GOARC uses for Honey Sunday.

She can take a joke. When Tom Miller made a giant card for her 30th birthday, depicting the pitfalls of old age, she laughed, but didn't retaliate.

She's not a "workaholic" as some people seem to think. She skis, plays tennis, loves foosball. She likes to go to movies and get together with friends.

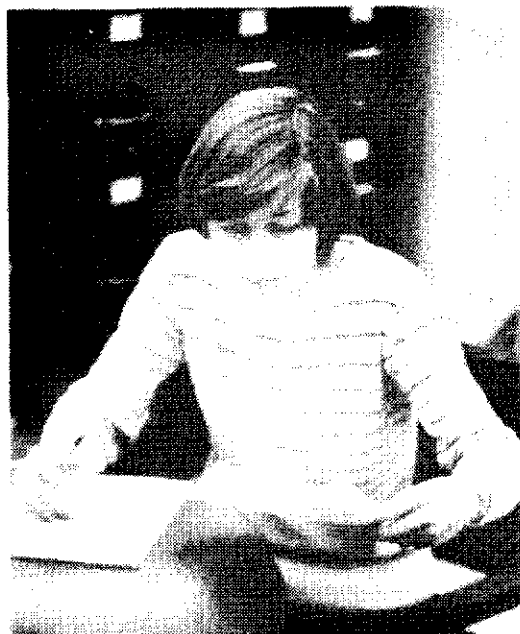
Rumor has it she can't cook. When asked, she would only comment: "I don't."

She's not perfect. She loves houseplants but they suffer from her "brown thumb". She wears pants suits because she can't make a choice when she shops for a dress; she's addicted to pancake houses, sometimes she eats breakfast all day.

What I can't understand and couldn't find out is: Where does she get all her energy?

The only explanation I got came from Anne Marie Aita, a friend and co-worker. "I don't really know", Anne Marie said, "It could be the beauty she sees in all people has a way of energizing her."

One thing everyone was sure of: GOARC, ENCOR, and Shirley Dean just seem to go together.



Ten Steps To Take... When You Are In Conflict

(Editor's Note: This article was taken from the December, 1978 issue of Closer Look.)

The right of parents to question actions or decisions of schools is clearly written into The Education for all Handicapped Children Act and regulations for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Both laws provide legal options for exercising your right to protest. But before you take legal steps, you want to use every available channel of communication with school representatives, to try to settle disputes through understanding and persuasion.

It is important to be aware of the people you can turn to for advice and the key officials with whom you should discuss your problems. Here is a checklist you can use - to help you take constructive action when things seem to be going wrong. Remember: Your handicapped child has the right to a free, appropriate education. That right is guaranteed by law.

1. Talk to your child's classroom teacher and to other school people who are aware of your child's needs, such as the counselor, nurse, school psychologist or social worker. Naturally, not all of these people are involved in every situation. Discuss the problem you see with any and all of the staff members who do know your child, to see if adjustments or changes can be made through new understanding and effort.

2. If these first steps don't work, do be sure to find out who among these school people will be willing to help you go further. Is the teacher sympathetic to your needs? Will she stand by your request? Does the counselor have information that will help? Ask them if they will be willing to come to meetings with you later, or to supply letters or statements in support of your position.

3. Discuss your concerns with other professionals outside of school

who know your child, such as your family doctor, pediatrician, psychologist, audiologist, neurologist or other specialists. Will they support your efforts to get new services for your child? Will they write letters, or come with you to important conferences to answer questions? Will they express their views on a tape recorder - for you to bring to the school?

4. Remember to keep notes of your conversations and a file of up-to-date records. This is invaluable.

5. Discuss your complaints with the school principal. Have a clear idea of your reasons for requesting a change in your child's program, and present your documentation. Be straightforward and self-assured. You are an equal in this and other school conferences. It's neither necessary nor productive to be aggressive or apologetic. Approach it as a situation in which both of you are seeking a solution to a problem.

6. Go directly to your district director of special education or director of pupil personnel services if the school is unable (or unwilling) to change its decisions. If no such staff positions exist in your district, contact the superintendent of schools. The superintendent is responsible for all school programs in the district, and must be involved if other officials are unresponsive. Again, your notes, records and other files should be in order. Use them. In all of these conferences, it is important to know what part of the federal and/or state law protects your child's rights.

It probably will be necessary to have more than one meeting to settle things. When meetings are held, make clear that you would like to have other people present who know your child and are familiar with the problem. Ask to have them included so that the discussion will be as productive as possible. Many problems can be settled just this way.

7. Bring your complaint before the local school board if none of these approaches work. Increasingly, there are members of school boards who are deeply concerned about special education and they may be able to take action on

With Your School System

your behalf. Even if their actions do not bring about immediate results that help your child, school board members can, in the long run, see to it that education programs are developed, that teachers are trained for new responsibilities, that schools are accessible and capable of meeting special needs of handicapped children.

8. Get in touch with your state director of special education. He or she should have information and advice you can use. State departments of education are responsible for carrying out the provisions of P.L. 94-142. Explain fully what you see as a violation of our child's right to free, appropriate education under the law. Find out what action they can take to help the situation.

9. States are required by P.L. 94-142 to appoint complaint officers to investigate problems and monitor the implementation of the law. Find out if your state department of education has appointed someone to fill this position. Contact this officer for further advice, clarification of your rights under law, and suggestions for action.

10. Find out allies! In addition to reaching and conferring with these key people, it is extremely important to get support from other well-informed and skilled allies. They include:

Members of state and local chapters of parent and advocacy organizations, such as Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, Association for Retarded Citizens, National Association for the Deaf, United Cerebral Palsy - and groups representing other disabilities. More and more parents are now trained and ready to go with you to school meetings, help decide what to do next, how to present your case. If you have difficulty locating parent groups concerned about your child's handicap, write to Closer Look.

Advocates with special knowledge about the rights of handicapped children and youth. The number of centers providing advice and assistance in ob-

taining appropriate school programs is growing. Parents don't necessarily need the aid of a lawyer, but they often do need someone who understands the law and the school bureaucracy thoroughly. Protection and Advocacy centers are set up in every state for children with developmental disabilities. Check also with area college and university departments of special education. Write to Closer Look for other possible leads to local advocates.

The people you have gathered as your own advisors can help counsel you about next steps if all your efforts to come to agreement break down. That's when you need to decide whether to call for a due process hearing before an impartial hearing officer, as provided by Public Law 94-142, or to take other legal action. This is your right, and it may turn out to be necessary; but before you move into legal action be sure that you have done what you can to solve problems through the methods already outlined.

For helpful information about due process hearings, 504 complaint procedures, appeals and court actions, write to the Children's Defense Fund, 1520 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036. Request a copy of this guide: "94-142 and 504: Numbers that Add up to Educational Rights for Handicapped Children." (Price \$1.75)

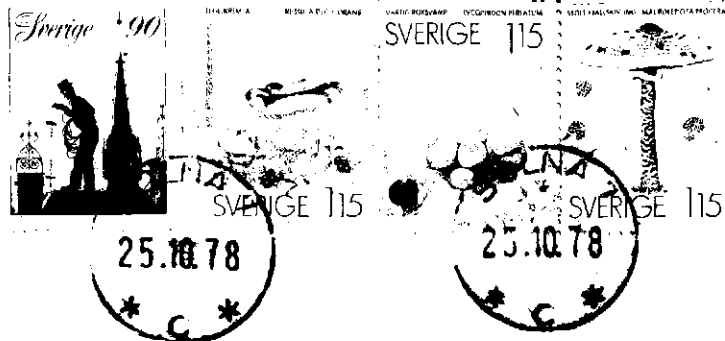
Each state has specific steps for due process hearings and appeals. Write to your state department of education for information about state rules and regulations. Find out if a manual describing educational rights has been written for your state... and get a copy. Take time to study your alternatives and get all the help you can from other parents, teachers, and advocates so that you can be as effective as possible in defending your child's rights.

Closer Look is a project of the Parents' Campaign for Handicapped Children and Youth.



DATELINE.....Stockholm

Kris Petersen



For the second time I am watching the leaves fall off of the trees and the twilights occurring earlier in Stockholm. I have learned many things during the past year in Sweden, not the least of these being the native language. Another is the fact that societies are very complex entities.

Even though the population of Sweden is smaller than that of New York City, this does not mean that social problems and conflicts do not exist. Nor does it mean that everyone has blonde hair and blue eyes. Of the 8,000,000 inhabitants, 650,000 are immigrants, many from Southern European countries.

If one does not know Swedish or English, it is very easy to become isolated from the mainstream of Swedish society. The immigrants' situation follows then the path of a vicious circle. Their isolation accentuates the fact that they are somehow "different," and because they appear and sound differently than the typical Lars Svensson. It is very difficult to break the surrounding isolation.

The situation of some immigrants today is similar to that shared by many mentally retarded persons in Sweden 30 years ago. It must be emphasized that Sweden has not been a forerunner in the field of mental retardation for such a long time.

Parents and professionals formed the first parent association in 1952, and the powerful National Association in 1956. Today the basic aim of all services provided for the mentally retarded in Sweden is normalization. But even in Sweden, ideology and reality are two separate phenomenon, and it will take many years and many Swedish crowns before normalization is fully realized. As of 1975, 23% of all mentally retarded adults in the Stockholm region were living with their parents, 8% in group homes, 12% in their own dwellings, and 57% in institutions or special hospitals.

At first the size of this last figure surprised and saddened me. The word "institution" immediately brings to my mind a flood of images, none of them too pleasant. But the word "institution" applies to a wide variety of residential facilities. These facilities, collectively called "vardhem" (care homes) range in size from 11 persons to 295 and are located within the major population centers.

Supposedly a vardhem are specifically for those adults unable to live in an open housing arrangement, such as a group home or one's own home or apartment. The "Little Group Principle" is the guideline used in arranging the internal structure and programs of a vardhem. This principle means that all care and training should be done in as small of a group of people as possible.

Last spring I had the opportunity to visit a most unique type of vardhem. I was not aware of its uniqueness until the director said, "You do know that this is a home for older mentally retarded adults, that is to say, this is a retirement home for the mentally retarded." A statement of Bob Perske's came into my mind, "Everyone likes a kitten but no one likes a cat." That meaning that many more people will come to like and accept the mentally retarded while they are young, but this concern decreases as the person gets older. And what about when the mentally retarded person becomes old?

Leave it to Sweden not to forget about this group or their need for a meaningful life. Most of those at the home presently are of that generation that grew up long before the advent of normalization (or rather were not allowed to grow up). Most of them had been programmed by institutional life for decades. If born today they would have the opportunity to develop much more and lead quite independent lives.

To use a line from a familiar joke, "I have both good news and bad news for you." The good news is that Stockholm's oldest and largest institution (pop. 295) is to be closed and torn down in the near future. The seemingly bad news is that another large vardhem was just recently built. There are 200 places for adults at the latter, but each person lives and eats in a house of only nine persons. Each person has his or her own room. Nevertheless I am still not sure why such a large institution had to be built.

By 1987, the Omsorgsnamnden (Stockholm's ENCOR) hopes to move 43% of all mentally retarded adults out of institutions to group homes. To make this possible for more severely handicapped persons as well as to decrease the feeling of isolation that exists in many group homes today, a plan for group-group homes has been developed. Four or five separate group homes (consisting of 2-5 persons) will be grouped together in one area that is large enough to enable their integration but small enough to easily allow for contacts between residents, professionals, and staff. Those persons remaining at Stockholm's two largest vardhem may have two or three rooms at their disposal in the near future rather than just one.



**Do you have a
story idea?**

**if so, call goarc
at 348 - 9220**



Obviously true since our membership count at the end of December, 1978 was 406. Not exactly the way it was achieved, but we are on the way up!

Some of the new approaches being used are to contact members a month before their membership expires. If we don't hear before the end of the month a reminder is sent out. It seems that the members appreciate knowing ahead of time that their membership will be expiring. Members have been responding favorably, and it is EXCITING to see the results.

Thanks to the hard work of Chairperson Margaret DeVore and her Membership Committee which includes: Betty Echtenkamp, Helen Schultz, Mrs. Donald McGargill, Marion Kavares, and Reta Giles things are looking bright.

Not only do we need and appreciate your support as members, but we also need your time as a volunteer. There is a LOT of work to be done and any help would be appreciated.

If you know of someone not receiving the Gazette or other information or would be interested in helping on a committee, please call me at the GOARC office.

Judy Mercier

GAZETTE

APRIL - MAY '79



Dr. Rosemary Dybwad with her new friends, Tom Houlihan and Ollie Rector

Story on page 5

Greater Omaha Association

GOAC

For Retarded Citizens

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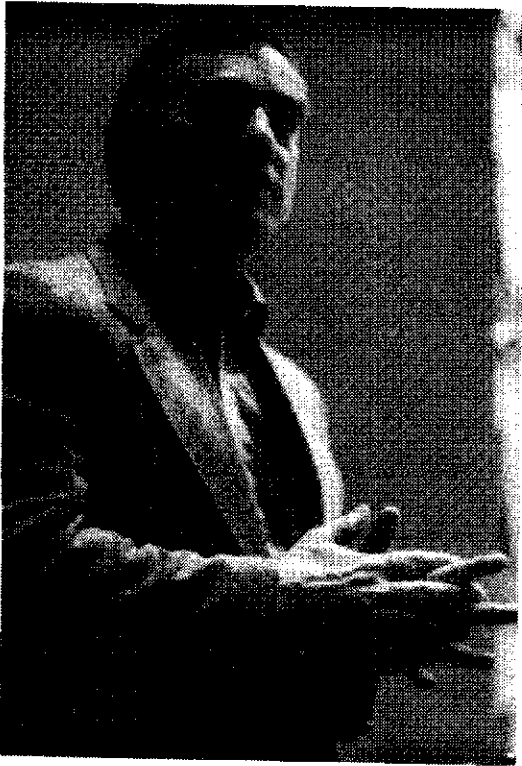
Gazette Committee Members

Alice Blackstone	Lorraine Jensen
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Terri Casey	Donna Reh
Joe Davis	Ed Robeck
Pat Henry	Mike Suchan
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Cover Photo: Patrick Henry Cover Design: Steve Chaffin
Lay-Out: Donna Reh

GOARC

Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens
3212 Dodge Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68131
(402) 348-9220



JOURNALISM on TRIAL

Article by Ed Skarnulis

(3) Then, Health Planning Council of the Midlands recommended against the request.

(4) But, the State Health Board shocked everyone by ignoring its investigators and local citizens in approving the request.

(5) The federal agents in Kansas City called the decision a "questionable" use of taxpayers funds" but lamely went along.

I contacted the World Herald.

With enough bad press the decision might be reversed. At least it would give pause to Beatrice, the welfare department or others with authority to incarcerate people in human filing cabinets. The World Herald's response? Other than some assurances that we were not "being ignored", that "the editor is reviewing it," and some references to heavy workloads of reporters, nothing has happened.

Scenario number two. The Nebraska Mental Retardation Panel involved hundreds of citizens this past year in preparing optimistic, but attainable recommendations for people leaving Beatrice State Developmental Center. A small group of institution parents, fearing the return of their children to community programs used emotional appeals and unsupported distortions of facts to seize the attention of the press. Our state association, representing nearly 3,000 members, sent out carefully worded press releases and called press conferences, but were totally unsuccessful in their efforts to get a balanced picture to the public. They finally had to send tape recordings to each association chapter in a last-ditch effort to apprise members of the truth behind the headlines.

I was reluctantly interviewed recently by Eileen Wirth, Omaha World Herald Reporter. Eileen has done articles on GOARC before, and done them well, but this was an especially sensitive story and I was concerned about how it would be written. Of course, many organizations make it a practice not to offer information on issues which have the potential to damage their image. But Eileen is a persuasive professional and she argued that GOARC could not expect press coverage on issues of concern to them while refusing to reciprocate with potential negative stories. The article was published a few days later, and was well written. I called Eileen and her boss, Larry Novicki, expressing appreciation.

A few months later, however, GOARC became involved in a movement to stop a nursing home from obtaining nearly one million dollars in federal funds. The scenario went like this:

(1) A group of out-state Nebraska businessmen applied for \$900,000 in federal funds to renovate a nursing home in order to warehouse over one hundred mentally retarded people.

(2) State Health Department investigators reviewed and recommended against the request.

Why is the press so inaccessible? There are many realities, harsh and cold, that laypeople -- volunteers like us -- don't understand. Broadcasting and newspaper reporters live in a world of deadlines. Economic survival does not permit them the luxury to do in-depth stories on every issue, and it is rare that a reporter can research a story in the romantic way that Washington Post (All the Presidents' Men) employees did.

Give the priorities of news media today, news stories are often filler sandwiched between advertising/commercials.

Journalists are human. Some of them view associations for retarded citizen members as wild-eyed radicals, weirdos with axes to grind because how else can you explain such dedication to a cause? Some who are sympathetic feel obligated nonetheless to bend over backwards in the name of "professional objectivity", giving more space to archaic attitudes than to modern ones. Some simply reflect the ignorance of their uninformed readers and listeners. Unfortunately, every profession has its share of mercenaries, people who will respond to a free lunch but do not see social responsibility about their canons of ethics.

We must share responsibility for this state of affairs, however. We regularly fail to communicate with the press those facts which support our positions. For example, how often do we emphasize the increased dollars being spent in local communities as part of deinstitutionalization? Community-based programs also mean local control, a very popular issue today. When a mentally retarded person is abused or neglected in our schools or agencies we fail to point out that, while we abhor such treatment, at least it is visible because the person is in the mainstream of society, not isolated in an institution where such crimes are hidden from view. When television portrays the horror of a child with normal intelligence placed on a ward in an institution do we remind the public that "horror" is equally destructive to our mentally retarded sons and daughters living in those same institutions?

We must somehow convince the profession of journalism that we are not merely politically naive zealots morbidly concerned with a single group of human beings. They must know that thousands of lives hang in the balance, that how they depict mentally retarded people is a reflection of how society will view all "different" citizens.

This year our Awards Committee created a new award category -- the Media of the Year Award. KETV's Carol Schrader did an outstanding job of filming old and new ways of serving mentally retarded children and adults, and her station was honored as the first recipient of the award. Many good journalists will remind me that they have supported us and should not be lumped together with uncaring colleagues, in a wholesale indictment of the profession. That is true, and we owe them heartfelt thanks.

But the inequities remain nonetheless. And the press is conspicuously quiet about Nebraska's successes and failures in mental retardation. Governor Exon's pompous claims of humanism received ample coverage, but his chicanery in the Beatrice lawsuit was ignored. The disastrous waste of Title XIX continues unabated, without a word from the guardians of print. The smothering programs like Developmental Disabilities, Title XIX, or "umbrella" service agencies, has caught the fancy of politicians who dislike attending numerous meetings of special interest groups.

What has been the result? Are people being cared for or educated better? After fifteen years of building the finest programs in the world, it galls us to endure the patronizing attitude of our local media. We resent calling press conferences and having no one attend, or sending out releases that get dumped or reduced to one paragraph statements. We are outraged when highly respected visiting dignitaries in our field get no coverage, while obscure university scholars are treated as conquering heroes.

We have tried to placate, to pander, to persuade, and to cajole. Nothing worked. Maybe the old saying is true -- that the only way to get the mule's attention is by punching it squarely between the eyes. If so, this article should do the trick.

Alice In Goarcia

Article by Alice Blackstone

MOVING DAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER for DAVID MENOUSEK WHO recently bought a house at 47th and Bedford. David is a dishwasher at Coco's Restaurant. Since he is a cat lover, guess who will be moving with him?

SHERRY NOLEY and her family will soon take possession of their new home at 1305 North 50th Ave.

NANCY WEBB HAS A BIRTHDAY - Nancy and St. Patrick both had a celebration on March 17th. Project II made it an even more gala celebration by putting on their shamrocks and green hats. Best wishes, Nancy.

PEOPLE FIRST - Plans are in progress for the second statewide convention of People First. Chairperson, Roger Gunn, of Bellevue is busy planning for the big event with others from Blair, Lincoln, and Norfolk, Nebraska.

SEVEN? YOU COULDN'T BE! Yes, it's true. There were seven candles on the birthday cake for Pilot Parents at their regular meeting in February. For their program, Monica Wohlferd, a genetic counselor from Children's Hospital, talked and answered questions.

KEEP YOUR HAT ON, SISTER! Brought up in the Methodist tradition, Kim Noley, a new student at the Madonna School, was fascinated by Sister Evangeline's headgear. Not one to keep things to herself, she surprised Sister with an unexpected compliment: "I really like your hat," she said, her face beaming with admiration. Reports are that Kim likes her new school almost as much as she likes Sister's hat.

BAREFOOT IN GERMANY? Reports have it that Tom Miller, our former Executive Director, spent Christmas pruning grapes in Germany. But purple feet? Come on, Tom, there's gotta be some explanation. So far Tom has given training to people in L'Arche, France; Bregance, Austria; Utrecht, Netherlands; Oslo, Norway, and Madrid, Spain.

WELCOME TO NICHOLAS JAMES who joined Caline and James Dolan (Pilot Parents) and 1 year old Jamie who goes once a week to the Infant Stimulation program at MCRI.

VOLUNTEERS ON THE MOVE - CHERI DEAN has been appointed a member of the Special Education Advisory Board to Omaha Public Schools.

LILA SCHAFER is advocating a summer program in Omaha Public Schools for the handicapped.

PEGGIE CHRISTIANSEN, MARY LOU CHRISTENSEN, AND JANE UPTON are new members of the Pilot Parent Advisory Committee.

NebARC to Hold Convention

MAY 4-6

Holiday Inn Hotel
North Platte, Nebraska

Agenda Item Include:

Election of Officers
Voting on Proposed
Amendments

GOARC has a number of openings for delegates to this year's convention if you would like to be a delegate contact the GOARC office before April 27th.

TAKING A VOTE

The GOARC By-Laws won't be the same after the General Membership Meeting on May 3rd. Some cosmetic changes will clarify the terms of office of Directors and procedures for amendments. Other detail changes will enable the Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens to abbreviate its name to GOARC, and to do that officially.

But substantive changes are ready for ratification, too. John Clark struggled with the question of how the policy-making Directors could better respond to the initiatives of volunteers. A bureaucratic structure is inappropriate in a small organization such as GOARC. Moreover, a strongly centralized structure seems to work against the grassroots, volunteer nature of an active ARC. The proposed changes will bring Board members closer to the organization's activity.

Each Director will be elected to the Board from one of four committees. The Children's Services Committee will focus on the needs of parents to find adequate, appropriate, and timely services for their youngsters. Better job opportunities will be a primary focus of the Adult Services Committee, as will new initiatives to meet social, residential, educational, and transportation needs. Some Board members will also be part of committees dealing with internal functions of GOARC. The Membership Support Committee will work to recruit and actively involve GOARC's most important resources. An Administrative Committee will work to provide the funds and efficient systems to support programs.

The officers elected to a one-year term will serve on the already existing Executive Committee.

The May 3rd Meeting, then, presents an opportunity for major changes in GOARC. John Clark (493-5043) would welcome comments or questions prior to the vote that night. Currently, the Nominating Committee is encouraging members to participate as a Board member on one of these five committees.

Voting Eligibility: a member in GOARC.

See you on Election Night!

Election Nite May 3

7:30 P.M.

FIRST FEDERAL OF LINCOLN
2101 S. 42 ST.



CANDIDLY SPEAKING... An Interview With Rosemary Dybwad

Article by Terry Casey

Sensitive, intelligent, intensely concerned -- all of these adjectives describe Dr. Rosemary Dybwad. A mature, demure woman who is active and knowledgeable in the field of mental retardation and mental health. She is presently serving as First Vice-President of the International League of Mentally Handicapped, an organization she has been involved with for the last twelve years. Her name graces an international award given annually for advanced study and research in mental retardation. This year's award winner is GOARC's Regional Coordinator for the Pilot Parent Program, Patty Smith.



Dr. Rosemary Dybwad

Dr. Dybwad came to Omaha March 7th through March 8th to discuss happenings on the international front, to share experiences and to visit some of the various programs available in the Omaha area. She also graciously agreed to squeeze an interview into an already hectic schedule. The following reflects a "shuttle interview" (that's done in a car on the way to and from lunch.).

Terry: Tell us about your background. Who is Rosemary Dybwad?

Rosemary: Well, my degrees are in sociology. My husband, Gunnar, and I met in Germany discussing prison philosophy over tea. We moved to America, had two children who are now grown with their own careers. Our son is a lawyer with ACTION in Washington, D.C. Our daughter is married and has a degree in sociology.

Years ago, women didn't work outside the home so I was a wife, mother, and twenty-four hour volunteer. That's how I got involved with NARC and International --- answering letters and painting refrigerators. But the side benefit was being with my husband. Gunnar was the second Director of NARC.

Terry: What do you see as the number one priority in retardation?

Rosemary: Normalcy, mainstreaming. Getting the people out of institutions and into good community programs.

Terry: What is the number one road-block?

Rosemary: Oh my, there isn't just one! You could say legislation, but there are practical problems with parents, professionals, and the handicapped person.

Terry: Do you have a pet project within the retardation spectrum?

Rosemary: Child welfare with emphasis on parent-to-parent groups and early intervention.

Terry: Can you capsule your message on retardation to people here and abroad?

Rosemary: Only that we all need to remember that it is normal to be different.

Winning, Again

Article by Barbara Jessing

Ray Loomis, Founder of Omaha's Project II, is acquiring an impressive reputation. Recognition of his efforts to promote the full rights and citizenship of handicapped people, spread from local, to statewide, and even to the national level. Most recently, Ray has been honored by KETV as Omaha's winner of the Jefferson Award, an award given through the American Institute for Public Service.

The Jefferson Award is given for outstanding public service by individuals in their local communities, and Ray certainly fits that description. Ray has drawn on his own experience of living for many years in an institution, and his subsequent adjustment to life in the community, to help other people in similar situations. Over three years ago, Ray founded Project II, a group devoted to helping handicapped people speak out for themselves. Last summer, Ray successfully led Project II in organizing and conducting Nebraska's first "People First" conference. This brought together over 150 persons from all over Nebraska to speak out, learn from each other, and form more local groups like Project II. Ray's work also attracted the attention of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, which will feature Ray's story in an upcoming publication.

According to Betty Shapiro of KETV, the Jefferson Award may also lead to National Recognition. As a local winner, Ray becomes a contender for a national award and a \$1,000 prize. Ray was selected by a panel of community leaders from a field of 180 local nominees. Betty says that Ray was the unanimous choice of the panel. They were impressed with the volume of hours Ray has devoted to a single cause, and with the number of people he has affected. Most outstanding is the fact that Ray is a volunteer, acting on his own time and out of his strong beliefs about the capabilities of handicapped people.

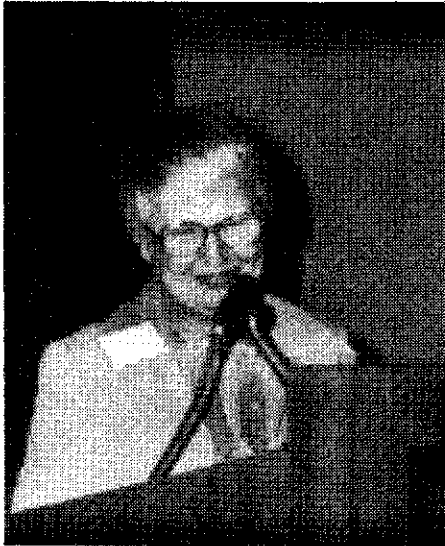
KETV is preparing a half hour documentary about Ray which will be aired on Saturday, April 14, at 6:00 PM on Channel 7. He will receive his award at a luncheon though the date has not yet been established. Watch the Gazette for more details.



Photo by Mike Suchan

Ray Loomis and Betty Shapiro

At the GOARC Awards Nite, March 1st, Betty Shapiro surprised Ray Loomis and the General Membership by announcing Ray as the Jefferson Award winner.



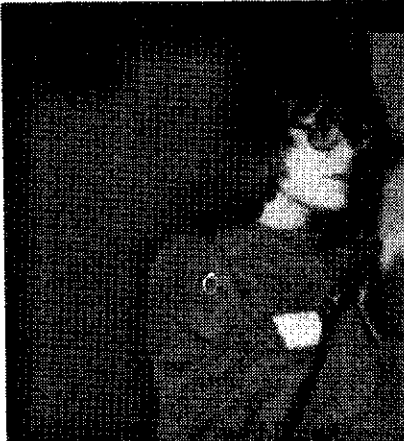
*Alice Blackstone
Volunteer of the Year*

GOARC



Sarah Wagner, at left, receives the Employee of the Year award. Sarah is employed by ENCOR. Judy Tamisiea, at right, presented the award.

At right, Art Johnson accepts the Employer of the Year Award for Bergen Mercy Hospital.



KETV was presented the Media of the Year Award. Accepting the award was Betty Shapiro Public Relations Director.

A WARD Winners

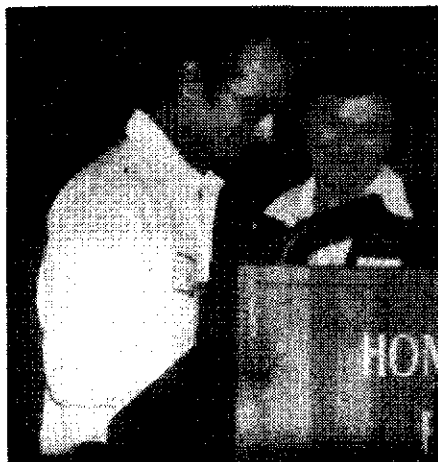


Ed Skarnulis presented the Organization of the Year Award to Rev. Charles Harman of St. Timothy's Lutheran Church.

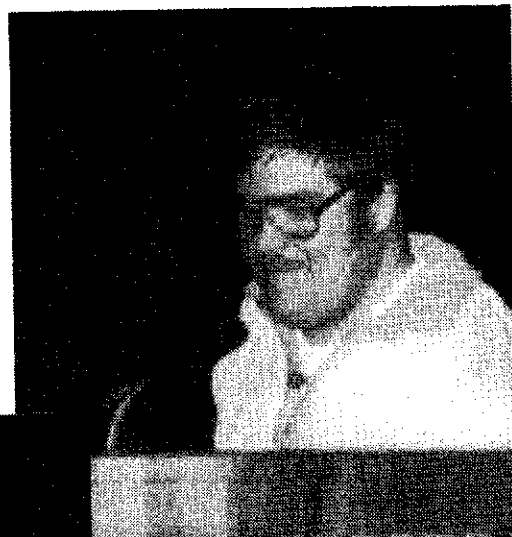


At left, Tom and Jane Upton receiving the Pilot Parents of the Year Award.

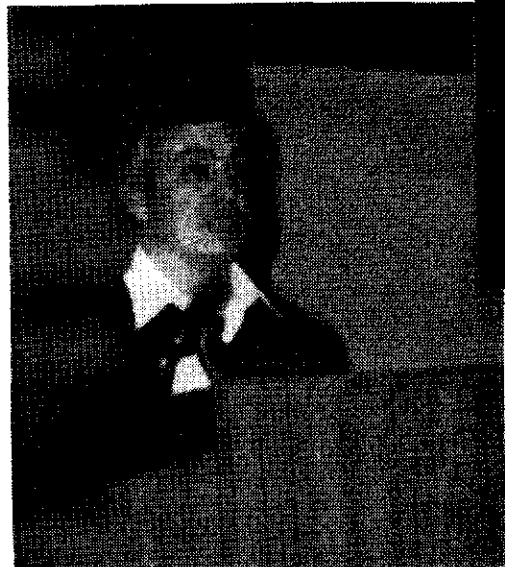
More Winners



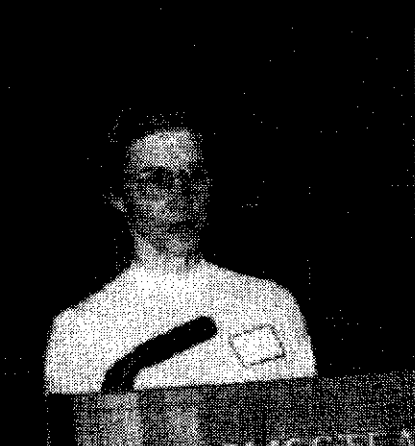
Joe DiMari, Teacher of the Year, with Pearl Scholer



Tom Blackstone, winner of the Outstanding Progress Adult



Ed Skarnulis was honored with the President's Award



Jean Goodspeed
Parent of the Year



Chris Beem, at left, winner of the GOARC-Youth Award with Sue Halvorson.



Grandparents of the Year
Mike and Iris Ruberti



Don Grimm, at left, Distinguished Service Winner



At right, Marnie Miller, M.C.

Not Pictured: Dave Wingert - Citizen of the Year
Jill Nagel - GOARC-Youth of the Year



Reaching Stardom

Article By
Alice Blackstone

Lynne and Margaret DeVore

Nobody promised Lynne or Margaret DeVore a "Rose Garden" -- at least not one without thorns.

For going on 38 years, mother and daughter have been pushing their way through brambles. Frequently there have been more thorns than roses. Sometimes conditions slowed them down but they never grow up. The DeVores are a plucky pair. As long as there is something Margaret can do, she refuses to admit defeat. And Lynne, as the old saying goes, is "a chip off the old block."

Back in the days when their pilgrimage began, society was taking little responsibility for the care of the mentally or physically handicapped (except to provide institutional warehouses). For families like the DeVores who refused that kind of help, the care of a multi-handicapped child was a "do-it-yourself" project. In addition to being a mother, Margaret became a chauffeur, therapist, nurse, teacher, janitor, and an advocate for the mentally and physically handicapped. Some of these roles came about because Lynne was a student at the Omaha Opportunity Center, a private school set up and run by parents. Because the expense of caring for a child like Lynne was staggering, Margaret was also a "working" mother. Such a life, demanded

a tremendous amount of energy, something Margaret seems to have in abundance.

Severely handicapped at birth by cerebral palsy, Lynne was four years old before she could pull herself up. When she was six, a specialist back East where Margaret took her for consultation, said it would be as difficult for Lynne to learn to walk as for a normal person to master a tight rope. At 12, Lynne underwent leg surgery. Without it, walking would not have been possible.

At 20, she refused to continue attending the Opportunity Center. By then, her mother thinks "she'd had it up to her eyebrows with Dick and Jane." Then came 13 years at home with a babysitter. With nothing to do but eat, nap, watch television, and tear up telephone books, Lynne finally began to scream. It wasn't a pleasant or socially desirable means of communication, but as Dr. Jack Hornsby, the psychiatrist who evaluated her at NPI told her family; "Lynne is screaming for help. It's the only way she has to tell you she's bored and tired and wants out."

A realist, Margaret acknowledged the crisis. In consultation with Barbara Jessing, ENCOR advisor, she and Lynne's father arrived at a decision

that wasn't easy.

"I was sure the first night I left Lynne at the ENCOR residence, she'd die of heartbreak before morning, but she didn't."

Margaret recalls a scene on the last Saturday of January, 1975, she will never forget. "I can still see the frightened faces of those two little girls (Lynne and a client who had been brought back from Beatrice.) There they sat -- one on each end of the davenport. They were scared; they didn't know what had happened to them."

Since it isn't Margaret's nature to deal only with the dark side, she added: "When it was time to take Lynne back to the residence after her first visit home, she cried a little at first, but by the time we got there she was smiling and saying 'Hi' to everyone."

By Easter, a miracle had taken place. Lynne was walking.

"I told Russ (Lynne's father) you gotta be crazy when he told me Lynne was walking. I had to see for myself. At first, I felt a little sick to my stomach; then I worried I'd wake up and discover I'd been dreaming."

What has it cost Lynne to learn to walk? Four front teeth; a broken collar bone; falls and bruises, too numerous to count. FEAR with a capital "F".

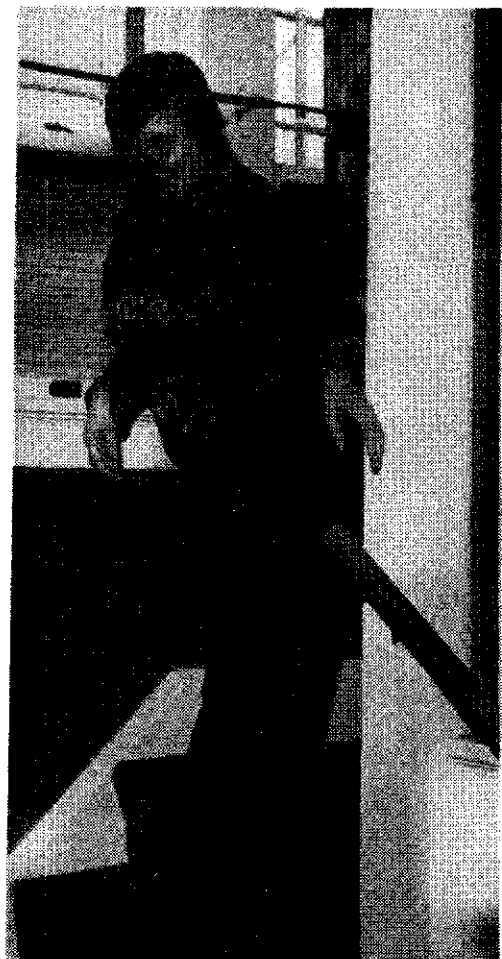
Margaret lives with the knowledge that there may be more smashed teeth and broken bones but she's convinced walking is worth the risk. "I wouldn't do anything to discourage her," she says with a proud smile.

In May, 1976, (a little over a year after Lynne became an ENCOR client) GOARC honored her with a plaque for outstanding progress.

ENCOR workers attribute much of Lynne's progress to her mother's willingness to do whatever was required to help her adjust.

Linda Aadland, a houseparent when Lynne moved into the Harney Street residence four years ago, says her first reaction to her was that of fear. "I'd never worked with such a severely handicapped person before. Mrs. DeVore's cooperation was wonderful. When we asked her not to visit Lynne for several weeks, there was no question of

her willingness to cooperate. It must have been very hard for her to stay away."



Photography by Robert Coleman

"...a miracle had taken place. Lynne was walking."

Margaret is admired for her dedication to all handicapped people. She not only mends Lynne's clothes, she provides the same service for all the Harney Street residents. She brings them special gifts and treats. When one of the girls got a kitten, Margaret built it a cat house -- a two-story affair, completely carpeted. "That darned cat," she says with a chuckle, "always slept on the second floor."

She has a reputation of being a skillful organizer and a special talent of getting parents to be cooperative.

She believes in the ENCOR philosophy and thinks the primary reason the system sometimes falls short is that nobody ever knows how much money the State Legislature will delegate to the program. She advocates the return of house-parents (live-in people make the residents feel more secure). She

thinks residential staff are under paid. (This causes turnover and is hard on clients). She is grateful for the progress and happiness Lynne has found in the system.

Learning to communicate in words and sentences (tools normal people take for granted) instead of screams has required a monumental effort on Lynne's part.

At the South Omaha workshop I was impressed by the precision Lynne showed in assembling a hair curler. Since her right side is paralyzed, she can only work with her not-too-strong left hand.

I watched her descend stairs (at the residence) steep enough to make an agile person wary. Each step required profound concentration; her legs are weak; her shoes are clumsy. When she reached the first landing, she paused and her face broke out into her famous Mona Lisa smile...

"She's a star," was my first reaction.

Then I thought about the courage and determination it has cost her mother to let her go.

"They are both stars," I said to myself. "Margaret and Lynne DeVore are both stars."



QUALITY is the CONCERN

Article By Loraine Jensen

Inadequate salaries, the lack of evaluation and monitoring of services, and the need for continuous, high quality training is what has aroused a number of parents and staff at ENCOR and led them to band together. They are concerned with the quality and continuity of services children and adults receive from ENCOR.

The following are the position

statements of the ENCOR Parent/Staff Coalition:

(1) Salaries

We view the inadequate salary program within ENCOR as a major threat to the quality of services. Salaries are so far below competitive level that it is extremely difficult to recruit and maintain quality staff.

Direct results are a high vacancy rate and high turnover rate. Both negatively affect the quality of services to handicapped people. Until the issue of adequate salaries is resolved, we believe that other problems in the agency cannot be resolved. We also believe it is necessary for the agency to review and upgrade salaries in accordance with competitive market levels on a regular schedule.

(2) Monitoring, Evaluation, & Communication

Parents and clients are not consistently involved in monitoring and evaluating the services they receive. There is a need for better patterns of communication between staff and parents or clients. Improvement is needed on all levels, from the exchange of day-to-day information to comprehensive evaluation of services by consumers.

(3) Quality Training

We are concerned that ENCOR provide a climate in which the creativity on the part of staff, parents, and clients be encouraged and supported. Staff and parents have identified continuing and advanced training as something needed to provide high-quality services.

Though it has just begun its work, the Parent/Staff Coalition deserves a gold star for its efforts. They have met with GOARC's Executive Committee to express their concerns. They will continue to meet with Kevin Casey, ENCOR's Executive Director, to solve these problems.

Serving on the Steering Committee of the Coalition are Christy Nave, Mary Clark, Mary Broder, Margaret DeVore, Ramona Sanders, Jan Muckey, Jamie Kelly, and Loraine Jensen. Two other members encourage inquiries from others interested in taking part: Barb Jessing (558-8532) and Gail Morrissey (346-2791).

STRIKES, SPARES, and...



A pleased Holli Schreiner awaits her turn.

Photography by Patrick Henry

GOARC-Youth invaded Brunswick Lanes for a Sunday afternoon of bowling. Because they take on a variety of activities, different members get a chance to shine. The bowling pins didn't stand much of a chance against GOYARC's best. Interested in a GOARC-Youth calendar? Call Joe Davis (556-2162).



Not sure whether to believe it, Holli is cheered by Jenny Beem for her strike.



At Left: Tricia Smith calls for help. The computer driving the automatic scoring system surely needed a day off after the pace the Youth put it through.

GUTTER BALLS

PROJECT II

Recognizes Its Best

Project II members held an awards dinner and celebration. The Project II Awards Night recognized their own members and people in the community who have assisted them. Chris Corso, Bonnie Shoultz, and Shirley Dean formed the Awards Committee. Nominations were made by Project II members in a total of nineteen categories.

On February 19, about sixty Project II members and friends gathered for a filet mignon dinner at the Cim-aeron Room. Chris Corso, Master of Ceremonies, introduced the speakers after dinner; these were Kevin Casey, ENCOR Executive Director, and John McGill, Nebraska Citizen Advocacy Coordinator. Both of them spoke about the importance of self-advocacy and the role played by Project II in encouraging it.

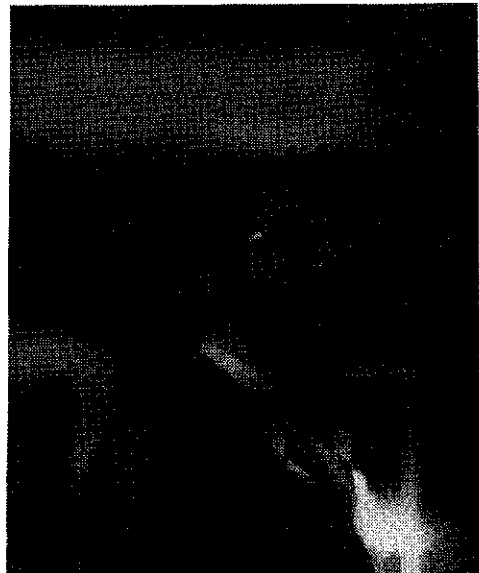
Chris Corso then began to announce the award categories and their recipients:

Employer of the Year - was given by James Barenz to his employer, Don Vinsonhaler of Evans Cleaners.



Don Vinsonhaler receiving award from
James Barenz

Speaker of the Year - Anne Marie Aita, Patty Smith, and John McGill.



John McGill, Speaker of the Year

Landlord of the Year - Leonard and Donna Van Cleve were presented their award by Chris Corso.

Best Advisor - Carol Schmid

Minister of the Year - Reverend Verle E. Holsten of the First Baptist Church.

Volunteer of the Year - Barb Jessing and Karen Knudson.

Distinguished Service - Tom Miller

Most Progress in Cleanliness and Grooming - Nancy Webb.



Award Recipient - Nancy Webb

Article by Bonnie Shoultz

Most Helpful to Others - Chris Corso, Inez Edwards, and Andy Folden.

Outstanding Speaker Award Within Project II - Bob Fox, Ray Loomis, Nancy Loomis, Lowell Rector, and Ollie Rector.

Best Attendance - Dennis Hurd, George Crippen, George Sanders, and Harold Edwards.

Most Ideas for Project II - Wesley Woodhead and Tom Houlihan.

Contributing Most In Meetings - Paul Adams, Rose Riederer, and Bill Lancaster, Lowell Rector, and Jack Conrad.

Contributing Most in Getting Money for Project II - Tom Houlihan.

Contributing Most in Planning and Organizing - Nancy Loomis.

Restaurant of the Year
McDonald's

Outstanding Man of the Year
Ray Loomis

Outstanding Woman of the Year
Ollie Rector



Ollie Rector



Harold Edwards presents the Restaurant of the Year Award to Bill Booth of McDonald's.



Photography by Patrick Henry

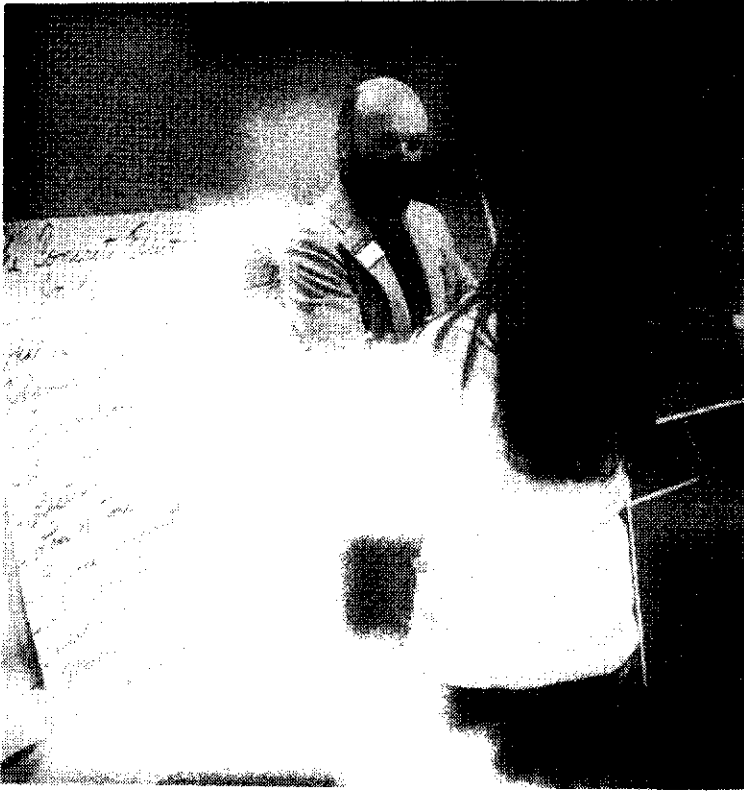
At right: Kevin Casey speaks to Project II members on self-advocacy

Article by Cheri Dean

Enthusiastic sharing and camaraderie were the rewards to our Pilot Parent staff and all participants in the workshop held March 31 and April 1, 1979. The dream of expanding a system of support for parents, begun by Shirley Dean and Fran Porter, seems to be a reality.

The major portion of the first day was to become familiar with the positive communication techniques of "Effectiveness Training". Our presenter was Del Roper. He is the Effectiveness Training teacher in the Omaha area and a private counselor. All of us, as Pilot Parents, have many opportunities to use these, accepting and non-judgmental, methods of truly listening.

After a break in the action, we met again for social hour and dinner. Ed Skarnulis, President of GOARC, introduced and recognized the Regional Advisory Committee members present. Pilot Parents Regional Coordinator,



Del Roper presenting effectiveness Training

Pilot Parents Revisited



Photography by Robert Coleman

Loren & Lois Schmitz joined other workshop participants in a listening exercise.

Patty Smith, received acknowledgement of her recent Rosemary Dybwad International Award which will enable her to travel this summer in France, Norway, and England.

Dr. Frank Menolascino was the featured speaker of the evening. He is past president of NARC and one of the "originals" in mental retardation advocacy and deinstitutionalization. Dr. Menolascino outlined the beginnings of the ARC movement and Pilot Parent Program and stressed the need for system advocacy, as well as on an individual basis. He also informed us of some coming advancements in neurology pertaining to mental retardation. The need for continued volunteer involvement and consumer input were

stressed, too, in his dynamic address to the group.

To ensure our relaxation and hilarity, the Dynamic Duo outreach team, Glenda Davis and Sherry Noley, presented several special tongue-in-cheek awards to wind up the evening.

Sunday's half-day concluding sessions provided eight "Training Tracks" to choose from. Each participant selected two pertaining to their particular interests.

Anne Marie Aita, of ENCOR Staff Development, encouraged us, with her closing remarks, toward self-awareness, especially regarding the real limitations

all of us zealous human service people have, who never think we should say "no" to anyone. In the tasks we undertake, it is all the more important that each of us let go of needs for perfection in ourselves to be effective to others.



At left: Del Roper speaks to participants on leadership development.



John Clark, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Lila and Don Schafer presented a workshop on Publicity and Community Education

The Results Are In

Article by Jack DeMay

The Adult Community Needs Questionnaires have been returned and the results tabulated.

A questionnaire was sent to parents of retarded adults and to other known retarded adults in the community to determine the current needs of retarded adults and their families. It is hoped that GOARC, through its advocacy role, will obtain several of these services by using existing community resources. If need be, GOARC might provide them directly. The Committee hopes to computerize the data to determine those services most needed and most likely to be used within a geographical area. The questionnaire has identified several interesting aspects of today's GOARC. The following is a brief summary of the analysis of the questionnaire's tabulation.

(1) GOARC does not adequately inform it's membership the benefits they receive from GOARC activities.

(2) GOARC has not responded to the direct needs of most retarded adults or to families of these adults.

(3) Parents feel that the most pressing need for retarded people in the community are: self-help skills, social skills, and employment.

(4) An extremely low percentage of mentally retarded people in the community have full time competitive employment with the normal job-related benefits.

(5) Most respondents have their retarded son or daughter living at home. In general they are satisfied. However, they have indicated a major need for additional physical and social activities, and peer interactions. They also consider themselves their child's best advocate.

(6) The Omaha Community is either very complacent about services for the mentally retarded or they feel their efforts to seek new or expanded services

would be useless.

The Community Needs Committee has requested the GOARC Board to implement, within the next year, one item from each of the following categories:

GOARC ACTIVITIES:

(1) Inform members on how their specific actions benefit the retarded and their families.

(2) Be responsible to individual parent requests for help for their son or daughter.

(3) Attempt to have one social activity each year of interest to each family of a retarded person.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

(1) Develop organized group activity programs such as bowling teams or leagues in different parts of Omaha, such as swimming, Hobby Center or fair, dances, etc.

(2) Develop a "Social Club" that will function as an activity and social center for retarded adults and their families.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES:

(1) Develop an alternative residential program for retarded persons. Parents will share costs for rent, clothes, spending, hospitalization, doctor, and dental bills.

(2) Develop "in home" skill training program.

(3) Develop "respite" care program.

VOCATIONAL SERVICES:

(1) Develop a Community Job Placement Service.

(2) Obtain better transitional programs as people move from school to other placement opportunities.

EDUCATION:

(1) Develop evening adult educational programs in several geographical areas throughout the City.

(2) Obtain better inter-agency planning between school and job.

The May 3rd General Membership Meeting will pursue plans for these activities. Please attend.

Members of the Community Needs Committee are:

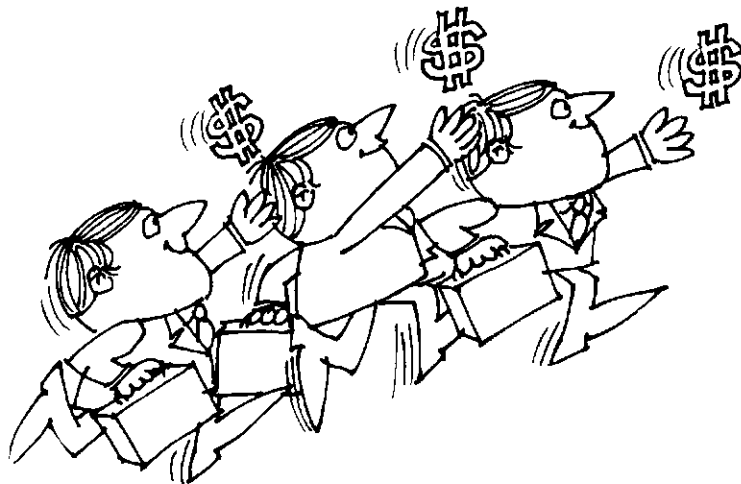
Fran Porter
Don and Jane Grimm
Larry and Jan Novicki
Rose Chittick
Joe and Bev Kripal
Leighton and Carolyn Goodrich
Betty Echtenkamp
Betty Ferraguti
Joe and Rita Giles
Helen Fennell
Margaret DeVore
Jack and Helen DeMay

* * *



We may not make it as HIGH as Pike's Peak, but our membership has increased every month. At the end of March the total membership was 471, an increase of 98 members in five months.

The Membership Committee has been calling renewal and new members at the end of each month to see what committee they would be interested in serving on. We are getting some



FUND RAISING 1979

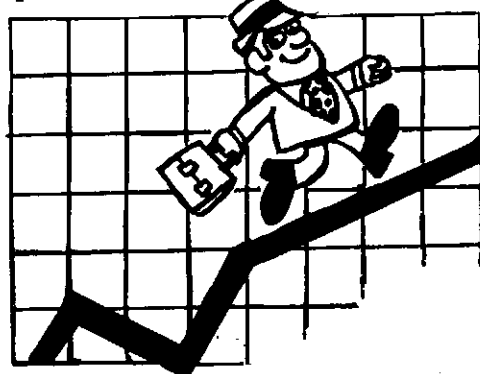
Gene NicholSEN, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee is busy working on some FUND RAISERS for GOARC. His committee is made up of Jo Ann BelcETis, Loraine Jensen, Dena Launderville, Barb McNeal, Judy Mercier, Rissy Smith, Jodi Sobetski, and Tom Welborn.

We are still looking for some people with excess energy and wild, kinky imaginations to assist in fund raising events. Call GOARC if you're interested.

commitments but we need more. There is lots of work to be done and we need your help!

Margaret DeVore is the Chairperson of the Membership Committee. Other committee members are Reta Giles, Helen Schultz, Betty Echtenkamp, Marion Kavares, and Mrs. Don McGargill.

If you know someone who would like to become a member of GOARC or you would be interested in serving on a committee, please call Judy at the GOARC Office, 348-9220.



Decisions

Article and Photography By Deb Brzezinski

Decisions. What happens when your family includes three youngsters placed by ENCOR, and then the family grows again. Do children lose their foster placement?

Often when there is going to be a new addition to a family more space becomes a necessity. In the case of Patty & Gene Stone this couldn't have been more true. Their old house was only three bedrooms and with two growing girls, a teen-aged boy; quarters were already becoming cramped. Then Patty found she was pregnant with their daughter, Meredith and it was no longer a question of when, but where more space was to be found.

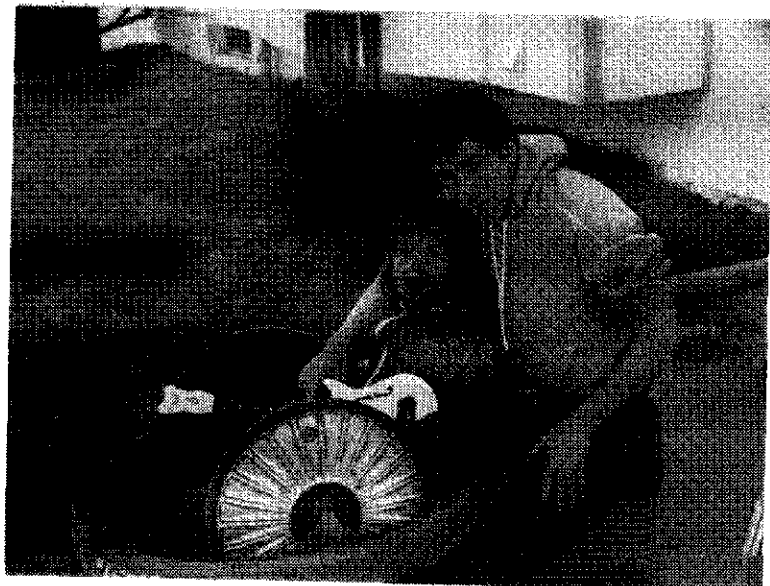
The basement had already been converted to laundry and family rooms. Adding on just wasn't feasible. They consulted with real-estate agent, Ron Aadland and decided it was better to move, building a home adapted to their own needs.

Within three months, lot, design, and contractor were selected. The Stones' moved into their new home in Crescent Oaks. Walls were left unfinished. Gene and Patty are doing this work themselves, as time permits. As Spring approaches, they are also beginning to make plans for their lawn and garden. Their lot is exceptionally large and an unusual shape, giving them plenty of opportunity to be creative with landscaping. Gene is surveying the property himself, using an advanced laser technique. They plan a large vegetable garden and hope to plant fruit trees, too.

Meanwhile, everyone is happy with their new home. The family room is a focal point with a beautiful antique-brick fireplace Gene designed. Special personalized touches are found throughout the rest of the house as well. Unless their family expands again, the Stones' are home to stay.



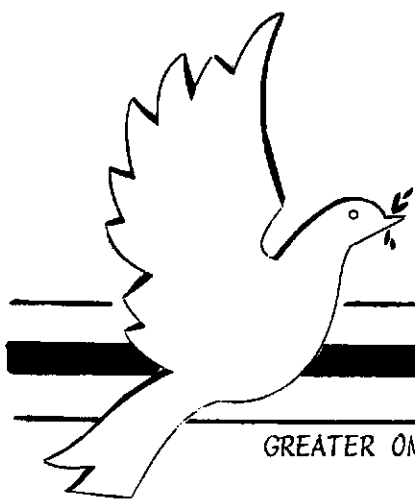
Jim Baker takes pride in his new room



Jennifer Stock and ENCOR R.A. Terry Phelan out for a ride around the block

Right, Gene Stone uses a laser technique to landscape yard





GAZETTE

GREATER OMAHA ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS

June/July 1979



Charles Tressler, GOARC's New Director

when you give help . . . you give hope

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Gazette Committee Members

Alice Blackstone
Deb Brzezinski
Terri Casey
Joe Davis
Pat Henry

Jeanne Higgins
Fran Porter
Donna Chaffin
Ed Robeck
Mike Suchan

Cover Photo: Patrick Henry Cover Design: Donna Chaffin
Lay-Out: Donna Chaffin

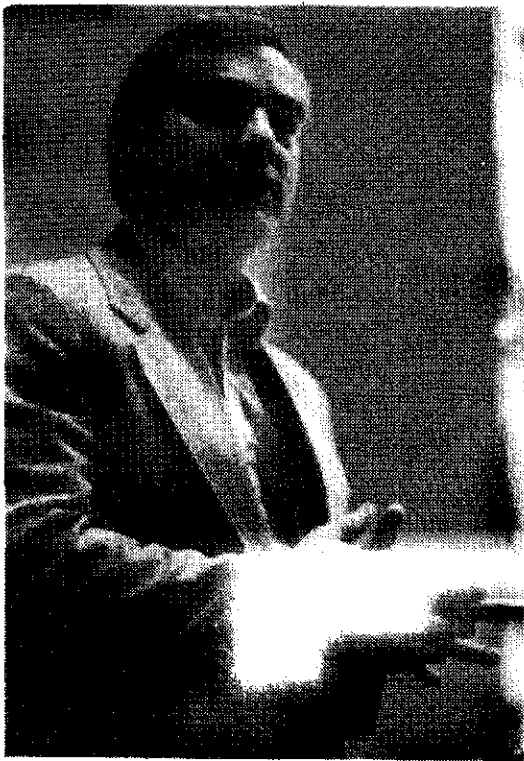
GOARC

Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens
3212 Dodge Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68131
(402) 348-9220

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is the last of my "President's Reports" for the GOARC Gazette. Custom and tradition dictate that the retiring President of an organization review the high points and the low points (usually called "future challenges") of one's term of office.

The past two years remind me of Dickens' opening lines in Tale of Two Cities: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...". We recruited many new families into the fold, from 280 in 1977 to 500 in 1979. Credit has to be given to Margaret DeVore's Membership Committee, Judy Mercier and Pat Henry for this singular accomplishment. Unfortunately, some members allowed their memberships to lapse suggesting perhaps that our new emphasis ought to be on getting members involved in GOARC activities.



Edward Skarnulis

Your Board of Directors the past two years have done an outstanding job of keeping the ship afloat during some very trying times. They deserve your highest praise for innumerable hours of work on behalf of mentally retarded persons and their families. Thanks to them and our Search Committee we have a new Executive Director starting work July 2nd. (See interview with Mr. Tressler in this issue.)

I've been privileged to serve with two Executive Committees who were the unsung heroes of GOARC. They recruited and involved dozens of board members in our Public Attitudinal Change, Membership Support, Administrative, and Special Concerns Teams. Chuck Stradford, Dr. Bob Zellhoefer, Pat Jung, Don Grimm, Jerry Paes, Craig Fecker, Fran Porter, and Tom Upton were truly full-time volunteers. Special thanks to John Clark, Immediate Past President, for his patience and perseverance in helping me fill gaps that kept cropping up.

We all owe the GOARC staff sincere thanks for their willingness to put up with our bumbling efforts. Their personal and professional lives were stretched to the breaking point but they still gave us what Bob Perske used to call a "stability zone". They provided the glue that helps hold the organization together.

Thanks to the families of volunteers. Your support for our work was deeply appreciated.

There is a peculiar chemistry that has made ARC's the largest voluntary organization in the world. It results in a fierce dedication to a cause, an almost zealous concern about human rights. But it also results in thousands of people whose compassion and sensitivity go beyond one group, mentally retarded citizens, and embrace all of their brothers and sisters. It's an honor to belong to such a cause. Thank you.

I would like to begin this year by thanking you, the members of GOARC, for all of the time, effort, and hard work that each member has devoted towards the work and growth of the association. These efforts to provide services, and then to insure that the services meet the needs they were intended to serve, have fostered one of the more dynamic and responsive organization of its kind.

Three separate, but related, activities have taken place during the past year which will help GOARC to reassert its role in advocating for mentally retarded and other developmentally disabled citizens during the next year. The first item was a survey conducted by a committee chaired by Jack DeMay to ask parents what needs they felt were not being met in the community. Secondly, our By-laws have been amended to organize your Board of Directors into four major committees which will address specific areas of need. These areas are: Children's Services, Adult Services, Membership Support, and Administrative. The third major event is the hiring of a new Executive Director, Chuck Tressler.

The net effect of these items is that we once again have the opportunity to respond to the needs of mentally retarded citizens and their families. With the continuing support of the membership, your Board, and your staff will strive to meet these and other needs. Hopefully, our success will be measured by the increased involvement and personal development of handicapped individuals.

The hope that I just mentioned is, of course, our total long range goal. Achieving this goal continues to be our challenge. The only way we can meet this challenge is for every GOARC member to be personally involved in the active pursuit of educational programs, recreational activities, vocational training, and appropriate housing for all citizens.

This involvement can take many

forms. It can include personal advocacy, sharing our own experiences with others, expressing needs and opinions with board members, serving on volunteer committees, attending general membership meetings, or just by renewing our membership. Ideally, each member will be involved in one or more of these activities.

Only this type of personal involvement will guarantee that GOARC will continue to meet the challenge. No president, no Board of Directors, no group of staff members can do it all. With your help we will continue to identify needs, we will support and implement our programs. But first, we as individuals, have to meet the challenge.

A NEED TO MEET THE CHALLENGE

by Tom Upton

MOVING WITH CONFIDENCE

It is probably not much of a surprise to hear the position of Executive Director of GOARC described as a difficult one. The Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens has endured without such a leader. Many problems are simply not solved until the right person takes the position, inherits the legacy, and rallies the membership and staff.

The GOARC Board has chosen Charles Tressler to do just that. Perhaps the most surprising feature about all this, though, is the degree of confidence with which the decision has been made. Those who have met Chuck are unanimous in their acclaim that he indeed is the right man for the job.

The GOARC Board posed 15 formal questions to each candidate for Executive Director. But prior to his interview, Chuck asked permission to probe the Board with a list of his own questions. It too numbered 15, and its concerns were nearly identical. This example of harmony is one of many that Chuck has found with GOARC. So there is confidence, as well as his part, as Chuck comes to Nebraska to begin on July 2nd.

He will be leaving Frederick, Maryland where he has been the Executive Director of a local ARC providing direct services. Chuck seems amazed to find himself bound for Omaha. He was prompted to apply for the GOARC position by a friend with whom he had worked for 3½ years. Mike Spurgin recently left the Maryland Association for Retarded Citizens to direct the Capital Association for Retarded Citizens in Lincoln. Chuck remembers back to some of the days in Maryland when nothing seemed to have gone well. Mike would kiddingly suggest that they "both give up on human service work and move out to a farm in Nebraska".

Chuck and Pam Tressler will celebrate their seventh wedding anniversary this July. Pam is already a Midwesterner - born and raised in Peoria. A registered nurse with skills in cardiac and intensive care, Pam has applied to work at a local hospital. Both seem delighted with the warmth and the personal interest people in Omaha have shown them. At age 31, Chuck admits its difficult to think of moving to another home. The apparent friendliness has made Omaha even more attractive as he deliberated.

Story and Photography
by Patrick Henry



Charles Tressler "...indeed the right man for the job."

"But for Pam, she made up her mind right away".

His hopes for the future of voluntary associations was buoyed by observations during his visit on Memorial Day weekend. Chuck wondered whether he had ever met as dedicated volunteers as in Omaha and Nebraska. In Lincoln, they were working even on the holiday. The commitment was there. To them it was an important way to spend their time. The ARC has realized that it needs not be heavily invested in providing services to remain visible.

An association for retarded citizens is the particular element of the community who stands with people at risk. When the volunteers do their job well, life is not only better for handicapped persons but for the total community.



Realizing that the GOARC staff have been likely the most eager to have a Director, Chuck expressed concerns about GOARC as a place where people work. The environment needs to be truly professional in the best sense. A paycheck alone is not what brings people to dedicated effort in GOARC. Staff members need to know how much they have to contribute to making life better for families. The support has to be there for them to act with self-confidence and self-esteem.

Of primary importance is an emphasis on the partnership of all elements of GOARC. Parents have a great deal to contribute. As a group, they have lived the problems and can hone the experience into solutions. As individuals, they are the primary teachers of their children. Conflict between parents and professionals is resolvable by returning to a few basic truths. "Can we all agree that none of us have all the answers? Can we respect each other?"

"Parents have a great deal to contribute."

The 6th Annual Cass-Sarpy Awards Banquet was held at the Bellevue Miners Camp on May 19th.

The 150 people who attended represented: Bellevue ITC, ENCOR's Northeast Industries, ENCOR residential staff, CHAP School, and parents, families, and friends of the Tuesday's Sundown Mixed League bowlers.

After the presentation of over 100 awards; a special tribute was made to George William Montooth (otherwise known as Bill). Bill has been the director of the Bellevue ITC since October, 1977.

Bill first came to ENCOR in July, 1972 as a House Parent Assistant in the residential division. By December, 1972 he was a Residential Coordinator for Adult Programs. After a short period of resignation, Bill returned to ENCOR working at the Bellevue ITC as a Program Manager in August, 1974.

As Director of the Bellevue ITC, Bill has been responsible for many of the major changes that have occurred there. His greatest accomplishment was acquiring a new building for the training center. This has made openings for new employees as well as new staff.

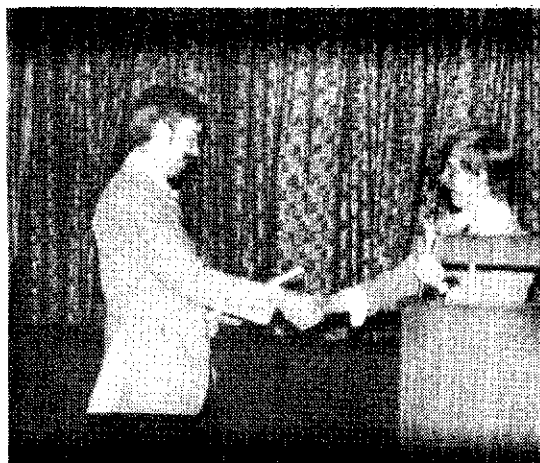


Bill was presented a plaque by Roger Gunn at the awards banquet.

Bill, also, played a part in increasing the contract opportunities,

Besides putting in a sometimes 80 hour week, Bill has been very active in the Sarpy County Chapter of GOARC serving as president from 1977-78.

With mixed emotions we all say good bye and good luck to Bill as he moves to Cincinnati, Ohio to work with the Marc Gold Corporation,



Jim Tomes presented a photo album with recent photos of all Bellevue ITC staff and employees.

SO LONG BILL

By Ona Mayer

ALICE IN GOARCia

By Alice Blackstone

PILOT PARENTS IN ACTION --

whoops, we meant to say in print. The first issue was put out by Helen Schaefer, Coordinator. Like a good administrator, Helen turned her act over to volunteers. From now on, Tom Porter and Cheri Dean will be co-editors. Mailings go out about once a month to Pilot Parents and other interested persons.

FRISBEES, ANYONE? ZIP, a one year old golden retriever, is getting a bit more exercise these days now that his master, Steve Chaffin, and his bride of May 19th, Donna Reh Chaffin, finally tied the knot. Zip thinks life is chummy in his new home at 2501 South 50th Street, complete with fenced in yard. Steve works for Western Electric and is a free-lance artist. Donna continues to work at the GOARC office and do lay-out for the Gazette.

NICOLE NOELANI (HEAVENLY MIST)

joined Karen and Gregg Knudsen on May 2nd in Hawaii where her father has a scholarship to study communications. Mother, Karen, is a former editor of the Gazette and ENCOR employee. This Fall, the sturdy threesome will be doing fieldwork -- Hong Kong, Singapore, you name it. Wonder which parent will provide the rickshaw for Nicole?

FRIENDSHIP FORCE HAS 'EM COMIN' AND GOIN' - Pat Henry spent June 3rd to 13th in Costa Rica. Meanwhile Juan, Ethilma, and Randall Aspedes journeyed from Costa Rica to Omaha and lodged with Bonnie Shoultz. "They love to go shopping," says Bonnie, "and buy everything they see." Wouldn't you if you could buy a sheet for \$6.00 in America that costs \$45.00 back home?

LORAIN JENSEN, former GOARC staff member is now working in Lincoln, Nebraska for Easter Seals as coordinator of respite care.

CELEBRITY RAY LOOMIS didn't win but placed in the top 16 nationally for the Jefferson Award. In June he was invited to sit at the head table at the Awards Banquet give by the Human Relations Department of the of the City of Omaha to honor persons who have contributed to the betterment of our community.

WE'RE ON DISPLAY - Take a look next time you visit the Eppley Airport. You may see someone you know in the big GOARC poster on display. Judy Mercier and Donna Chaffin arranged the attractive display for us.

JANIE SMITH MAKES HER FIRST COMMUNION

On March 25th, Jane, daughter of Patty and Roger Smith, made her First Communion at Holy Name Church, with family and friends in attendance. The Smith Family participated in all parts of the liturgy. Paul and Gene Smith did the readings; Matt served the Mass; Tricia and Marianne did the petitions. Roger, Patty, and Jane took up the gifts. Jane's father did the reading of the meditation.

READING, WRITING, AND ARITHMETIC

We have a volunteer who would like to tutor a handicapped child this summer in reading and math. If you're interested call Martha Johnson at the Volunteer Bureau (342-8232 extension 63).

HELP WANTED

Do you have spare time? If so, why not volunteer to be the editor of the GOARC Gazette. Only a few hours each month is necessary. Call Donna or Lynne at 348-9220 if you're interested.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE HAWLEYS, ETC.

Photos by Mike Suchan

Article by Alice Blackstone



The Hawley Family "...just a relaxed, easy going, loving family".

Like most writers, I get upset when a story I'm writing won't jell.

With a deadline dangling over my head, I keep wondering what's wrong. Sometimes, in desperation, I get paranoid and suspect someone is holding out on me; mostly, I let it cool and hope something will evolve. The Hawley story was like that.

I'd gone to interview the family expecting to identify with their problems of caring for a handicapped child. No dice. Everything in the Hawley household, it seemed, was "coming up roses." Mike and Darlene were happy; their two little girls were happy; Joey, their 2½ year old with Down Syndrome was not only happy but blissfully unaware of the problems he was supposed to be causing. So were was my story?

The family was waiting on the front porch when I arrived. It seems that visitors often get lost trying to find their house on a dead-end street in Keystone. Thanks to Darlene's explicit directions, I had little trouble. Joey, like most young men played bashful when I tried to introduce myself.

Actually, the Hawleys say their lifestyle hasn't changed much since their son's arrival. Mike is a sheet metal worker who loves to whittle and work with wood. Darlene, in addition to being a housewife and mother of three, operates a beauty shop in the basement of their home. Like all "do-it-yourselfers" they are proud of the changes they have made since moving in about a year ago.

Lisa, their 10 year old daughter is an avid reader. She's been chosen to help select books for the library at Adams School next year -- an honor her family is proud of. Michelle, their 8 year old, is already a budding artist. She has just completed a year of being bussed to Connestoga School. No big deal, the family agrees. A sample of her art work -- an original crayon drawing of flowers for Mother's Day -- is prominently displayed on the family refrigerator. Joey, small for his age, spent the evening, when he wasn't being fondled by one or another



Joey Hawley and mother Darlene

member of his family, exploring his environment at ground level. I envied his ability to stretch out on his back on the floor and sink into a deep sleep.

Obviously, no great crisis was fomenting -- just a relaxed, easy-going, loving family. "Born 30 years too soon," I thought as I reminisced about my own earlier experiences. Times have certainly changed for the better. But this much?

Through the evening, Darlene frequently served as spokesman while Mike and the girls nodded approval. We had all cozied up around the kitchen table with a cool drink (girls included) when she confided that she and Mike had decided they wanted another baby because "suddenly we realized our girls were growing up awfully fast. I know it sounds funny," she continued, "but we're in no hurry for him to grow up. We love babies".

I couldn't identify even though I could tell by the look on her face what she was saying was "for real." I, too, love babies, but our son's



A very happy Joey.



"... they are a united family."

development was so slow, so erratic, I feared he would never grow up. Birthdays, I recall, were measuring times -- all the things he couldn't do -- lots of "will-he-ever?" The Hawleys have had enough professional advice to know that while Joey will develop more slowly than their other children, he will develop.

What's more, they are a united family. They are all in this together. At first they were uncertain when and how they would explain things to the girls but when Michelle and Lisa began asking questions, they knew it was time. It wasn't, they discovered, a monumental task. Lisa, the reader, found a book explaining Down Syndrome in words she and her sister could understand. They love their little brother and accept his differences.

For me, the early years were very lonely. Even my husband didn't understand. No one told us our son was defective; there were not telltale, physical signs, just my maternal instinct. Sometimes I used to wish he "looked funny" so people would understand. When I tried to communicate they were embarrassed; they tried to make me feel better by agreeing that he was "a little slow, but he'd catch up". Sharing would have made it so much easier.

And even then, there were all those hopeless, ugly, picture-making words -- mongoloid, idiot, moron, retarded. Thank goodness the vocabulary is much less depressing these days.

When their doctor told the Hawleys about Joey, he also had the nurse contact Pilot Parents. The next day, Janie Grimm, whose son is also Down Syndrome, visited Darlene in the hospital. The Hawleys were not alone with their grief.

Nor did they have to spin their wheels waiting for help. Soon Joey was enrolled in the Infant Stimulation Program at MCRI (Meyer Children's Rehabilitation Center).

Hard as I tried, it took a long time to find the "needle in the haystack." I wasted a great deal of time and energy trying to get an evaluation, trying to find therapy and training.

Did I hear correctly? Were the Hawleys saying by Fall they hope to have Joey in pre-school? That baby?

My "baby" was 9 when I finally got him into the only special school the Omaha system offered for mentally handicapped children. Early intervention wasn't available then.

Parents provided their own transportation to Bancroft. It took two weeks for me to teach Tom to make the daily two-hour ride and transfer from our home in Benson to the Southeastern

part of the city. Part of the lump that formed the day I finally turned him loose, hasn't melted yet.

We've come a long way, those of us who joined together to form GOARC and actualize an agency called ENCOR and it's just a beginning.

The Hawleys know even with all that GOARC has accomplished, their situation won't be all peaches and cream. Already Mike wonders if other children will "pick" on him. Children can be cruel. They can also be taught to be compassionate as the Hawley girls have been.

By now they are aware of the grief that comes with broken dreams. "At a party recently, one of the guys was talking about Little League and playing baseball with his son," Mike recalled. "It hurt."

Darlene admits to occasional "blue" days. Not long ago she asked Mike to stay home from work -- she just couldn't seem to stop crying. "He can't do that often", she says, "but it did help."

Yes, we've come a long way and with families like the Hawleys working with us, we'll move ahead. Together we'll build a better GOARC.

In a special way we GOARC members have a unique mission. "Where there is no vision, the people perish". It's up to us to sustain and strengthen that vision.

Because of all this, I couldn't write an exclusive story about one family. I had to write a story about all of us. I hope the Hawleys will understand.



CANDIDLY SPEAKING...

BY TERRY CASEY

If you have a child with special needs, regardless of the nature or severity, you may at first feel overwhelmed with all sorts of emotions. Mixed in with the sorrow, anxiety, and love for your child are other more confusing feelings to be faced. Families and their members are not as separate and isolated from one another as they sometimes feel; they have tremendous impact upon one another. Thus evolves the massive project Pilot Parents with its thesis -- empower thyself through shared support and knowledge.

One of the leaders in the Pilot Parent movement is the subject for this interview, Patty Smith. She is on the GOARC staff with the title Regional Coordinator of Pilot Parents. Featured in these interview questions are Patty's concerns, her work, her family, and her latest achievement; the Dybwad Award.

Meet Patty Smith....

Gazette: In the immortal words of TV talk show host Phil Donahue: "Don't tell us more than we want to know but..." who is Patty Smith and why are you working in the retardation field?

Smith: That's easy! I'm an Irish Catholic girl and that says it all. I'm married and have seven children ages 23 to 9 years. The numbers alone would say we have had our share of problems in life but specifically we have a retarded daughter. That's why I'm with GOARC and such a believer in Pilot Parents.

Gazette: What credentials do you bring to your involvement?

Smith: If you mean degrees, none. If you mean experience, plenty. I had worked with families in Al Anon for 11 years and there is a similar philosophy in sharing,

caring, and helping each other. And then the experiences and reactions of people relative to our daughter gave me a whole raft of what not to say and do. I credit Joe and Jenny Friend with helping my husband and I come to grips with our own feelings and problems. And of all places, at a wedding reception! Fran Porter and Shirley Dean were terrific too. And they had the original concept of Pilot Parents not me. Three years later I just took the job at their suggestion and I thought it would be part-time at that. Not so. The region now covers 4-states and 30 sites.

Gazette: You recently were one of the recipients of the Rosemary Dybwad Award. What does that mean?

Smith: Last Fall I wrote up a proposal for study that I felt was important in the field of retardation and submitted it for consideration. My proposal was one chosen to be completed. The award is a monetary one to be put toward work on my proposed project. I have also received money support from other agencies in the community. So I will be leaving Omaha May 28th for Europe to study and gather information through June 25th. Then I'll write it up so others can review and perhaps implement some of the ideas.

Gazette: Can you give us some specifics on the topic of your project and where are you going on this quest?

Smith: Well, my itinerary includes stops in England, France, and Norway. I'll attend a retreat in Norway for parents of retarded children. In England and France I'll look at comparative programs and parenting courses. I feel this project falls right in line with the international theme, "Year of the Child".

Gazette: Obviously, you've come a long way as a parent and professional. You have enthusiasm in your goals. Do you have any regrets?

(Cont'd next page.)

Smith: I only regret not going to college -- part of that Irish background, boys go to college and girls get married. Thank heavens that is changing. But my life has been and is a growing experience and I follow a motto of, "Seek what is for you". I do not regret but like a lot of women, I am concerned with juggling motherhood and career. My family is most important and I love each and everyone immeasurably.

* * * * *

JASON

by Tom Danner

*I have two younger brothers
I'm the oldest of them all.
Ken's only three years younger
and Jason's still quite small.*

*Jason was just four in November,
but he just can't quite remember
All the things most boys his age
should know.*

*He attends a special school,
But doesn't learn the golden rule.
Instead, he's learned to crawl and
walk.
Mom says he's also slow to talk.*

*I love my brother just his way,
But maybe very soon some day
He'll say to me so very loud,
"I love you, Tom", I'd be so proud.*

*God made him very special,
He's an extra happy child.
He laughs and smiles and giggles,
And his temper is very mild.*

*At night while he is sleeping
So quiet in his bed
You can bet that we are keeping
his best wishes in our heads.*

*Not everyone's so lucky
To have an extra special boy.
He was sent to us from Heaven
To be our family's pride and joy.*

The above was written by the 14 year old son of Perry and Ginger Danner who live in Leavenworth, Kansas and are Pilot Parents.

On May 3, 1979 the General Membership of the Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens elected their new members of the Board of Directors. The new members were elected to one of five committees. They will take office on July 1, 1979.

The five committees and their members are:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Tom Upton
1st Vice President	Fran Porter
2nd Vice President	Bob Gehrman
Secretary	Bonnie Shoultz
Treasurer	Don Grimm
Member at Large	Arlene Lee
Past President	Ed Skarnulis

CHILDREN SERVICES

Cheri Dean	Sherry Bauer
Pat Henry	Sister Mary
Terry Casey	Evangeline
Joe Davis	Youth Rep.

ADULT SERVICES

Alice Blackstone	Jack DeMay
Ray Loomis	Joy Jones
Dick Galusha	Roger Gunn

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Kathy O'Sullivan	Liz Lankford
Chris Christiansen	Gene NicholSEN
Dr. Frank Menolascino	Craig Fecker

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Bill Wills	Dr. John Walburn
Madeline Gowing	Ellen Meyer
Jerome Gartner	Joe Kripal

Board of Directors meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month and Executive Committee meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month. GOARC members are always welcomed to attend any of their meetings which are held at 7:30 PM.

CONVENTION HAPPENINGS

by Sherry Noley

"Movin' On!" was the theme for the 24th Annual Convention of the Nebraska Association for Retarded Citizens. The convention was held May 4-6 in North Platte, Nebraska. Persons attending the convention from GOARC were Ed Skarnulis, Shirley Dean, and myself.

Concurrent workshops were offered during the weekend, focusing on advocacy, mainstreaming, working with the severely and profoundly handicapped, legislation, research, early childhood intervention, building a youth ARC, fund raising, guardianship, I.E.P.'s, and spiritual life.

Two key areas of concern are legislative activity and the Plan of Implementation. Dee Everitt and Dave Powell provided an overview of pertinent bills before the 1979 Unicameral and explained the status of each. Massive amounts of time and energy have been spent in order to draft legislation regarding guardianship. This is a complex issue; it is extremely difficult to develop a bill which will respond to the needs of persons needing guardians for a variety of reasons. Very few persons have responded to requests in Legislative Action News (printed by Nebraska Association for Retarded Citizens) for letters to senators. Dave Powell emphasized the need for us to contact legislators on any issues which will affect citizens who are retarded.

John McGee, who works with the Nebraska Mental Retardation Panel, reviewed the background of the consent decree and the content of the Plan of Implementation. He spoke of the last ditch arguments -- the myths about community-based services. It is time to shift the focus of argument from "Beatrice vs. community-based services" to the real issue: giving citizens who are mentally retarded their constitutional rights. An extensive comparison has been made of the Thone plan to the Nebraska Mental Retardation Panel Plan, which is more comprehensive and is written for now and for the future.

There was a great deal of discussion about the need for advocacy and monitoring of programs. What advocacy groups can do:

1. Personalize the needs of persons

by thinking of them as individuals with names; not part of a group.

2. Support the families of institutionalized persons.

3. Support public policies that support family life.

4. Analyze the "family impact" of all legislation and programs.

5. Monitor the quality of community-based programs.

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR HIRED

On July 9, 1979 GOARC will have a new Administrative Director. Scott F. Fenwick will be replacing the position left by Amy Humphries.

An interview with Scott will be in the next issue of the GOARC Gazette.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____ New Membership () Renewal ()
Place of Employment _____
Occupation _____
Legislative District _____ (if known)
I am a: Parent of a retarded person _____ Interested citizen _____
Interested Youth _____ Professional in the field _____
I want to be:

- () **An Active member**—One who would like to be actively involved in volunteer projects, services, or committees.
() **Non-Active member**—One who believes in the cause without being actively involved.

Please check type of membership desired:

- () \$ 9.50 for adult or family membership. () \$ 50.00 for sustaining membership.
() \$ 50.00 for youth membership. () \$100.00 for lifetime membership.
() \$25.00 for supportive membership. () \$250.00 patron or corporate membership.

I would like to sponsor _____ memberships at \$9.50 each for low-income GOARC members.

- () Enclosed is \$ _____ for membership(s).
() Enclosed is \$ _____ donation.

GOARC

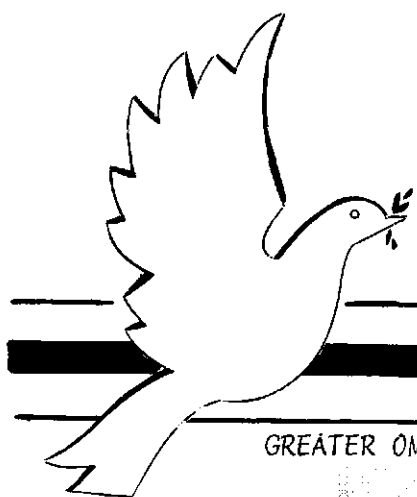
Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens
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(402) 348-9220

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GAZETTE

GREATER OMAHA ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS

August/Sept. 1979



YOUTH ON TOP !

(Story on page 9)

when you give help ... you give hope

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Gazette Committee Members

Alice Blackstone	Jeanne Higgins
Deb Brzezinski	Fran Porter
Terri Casey	Donna Chaffin
Joe Davis	Ed Robeck
Pat Henry	Mike Suchan

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Lay-Out: Donna Chaffin

GOARC

Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens
3212 Dodge Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68131
(402) 348-9220

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

CAN I REALLY BE IN OMAHA?

Months ago, when Mike Spurgin, Executive Director of the Capital ARC in Lincoln, first began telling me about an opening at the Association for Retarded Citizens of Greater Omaha - I never imagined (and I have an active and vivid imagination) that I would be penning a monthly executive director's message for the August issue of the Gazette in an office on Dodge Street.

In fact, I had intended the message I penned in April for the May newsletter of the Frederick County (Maryland) ARC would be my ARC "swan song". I thought that I was headed for private enterprise. But, apparently, Omaha has mystical effects on ones sensibilities.

I'll be honest. I had no intention of taking the GOARC job...at least initially. I came because 1) GOARC's Search Committee had asked me and I was flattered, 2) I could renew my friendship with Mike Spurgin and 3) I could get a look at a part of the country that I hadn't seen before. And to insure that the GOARC job wasn't for me, I had developed a series of fifteen questions to ask my interviewers and I figured that even if I made it through their interview - there was NO way that they could pass mine.

The day of my pilgrimage to Omaha arrived. I was excited. I was nervous. My wife and I boarded a plane at Dulles Airport in Virginia at 7:30 A.M. and I appeared for my interview in Omaha at 11:30 A.M. to discover that the entire ARC had turned out to interview me. (In actuality it was only the Board of Directors and the members of the Search Committee.)

As the interview progressed, I had no indication of how I was doing. Was I what they wanted? Was I answering their questions acceptably? Was I

bombing? Was I charismatic enough? Was I too much or not enough? Was I dressed correctly? Was I using the appropriate jargon? And most importantly, was I expressing my philosophy on mental retardation, normalization, and volunteerism effectively?

And then there was the group of men in the rear of the room exchanging glances, sharing jokes privately but not very covertly and asking questions that were tough and at least one that evoked a personally revealing answer. It appeared that even if my other interviewers were impressed - this coterie of gentlemen wasn't going to let on how they felt.

Midway through the interview it became apparent, however, that this impressive group of volunteers and I had a great deal in common. It became obvious that we could probably even work well together. Could it be that I had found an organization whose volunteer leadership could re-kindle my commitment to work as a staff person within the ARC movement? As the nearly two hour interview came to a close, it was clear that we all were on the same wavelength. Our questions for each other were nearly identical! The Association for Retarded Citizens in Omaha was definitely that organization for which I was looking. That is if I were to remain in the ARC movement. Then, I was offered the position - right then and there!

Now what? What about starting my own business? What about my dreams of success in the corporate world? What about "burning out" at my last ARC job? What about moving to Omaha and leaving my eastern roots? AND - what about telling my family that I was taking a job 1,300 miles from them?

My wife had quietly made her decision. As a registered nurse, she was excited about the career and educational opportunities available in Omaha. She had already begun to pack. I couldn't make a decision quite that easily.

I needed time and I needed space. So we took a side trip to Skokie, Illinois to visit Pam's aunt and three days later I made my decision.

Yes! I wanted to remain in the ARC movement! And yes, the Association for Retarded Citizens in Omaha was what I wanted at this point in my professional and personal life. But no, I didn't want to tell my family. And that remained the only difficult part of the decision.

The move was actually a pleasure thanks to our friends in Frederick and our new friends in Omaha like John Clark who made us feel as though we were acquainted for much longer than days and made house buying a great deal of fun. In fact, as I drove to the GOARC office that first day on July 2nd, it was as if I had been driving it all my life. And now, a month later, as I await the end of the "honeymoon" - for certainly one doesn't get paid to have so much enjoyment and satisfaction in one's vocation - I continue to be challenged, have easily grown to respect and be fond of the GOARC staff (as well as the volunteers), I have been made to feel welcome by everyone and am incredulous at all of the meetings, activities, people, places, and things that I have jammed into such a short (but sweet) period of time.

It is a privilege to be here in Omaha and to work with the organizations and individuals about whom I've only read before. The Association for Retarded Citizens of Greater Omaha has a proud history - one with which I am proud to be associated. GOARC has a staff with real potential. And most importantly, it has a committed volunteer leadership that includes many concerned parents. With a team like that and mutual respect and cooperation - we have exciting and productive times ahead! Just wait and see!

Can I really be in Omaha? Absolutely! And, boy, am I glad!



Charles E. Tressler II

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUPPORTS NEW DIRECTOR

(Editor's Note: The following letter was sent to GOARC from Mr. Samuel St. Clair, President of the Jeanne Bussard Training Workshop in Frederick, Maryland, regarding Charles Tressler's Letter to the Editor (page 4) in the Frederick Post.)

Jeanne Bussard

Training Workshop

101 West South Street

Frederick, Maryland 21701

Phone: 301-663-9588

Greater Omaha
Association for Retarded Citizens
In Nebraska
Attn: Mr. Edward Skarnulis
1708 Van Camp Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska, 68108

Mrs. Helen Nussear - Director
August 6, 1979

Dear Mr. Skarnulis:

The Board of Directors of the Jeanne Bussard Training Workshop (JBW) in Frederick, Maryland desire to provide you with information we think you should be privy to.

The Jeanne Bussard Training Workshop is a Sheltered Workshop whose objective is to provide training, with equitable compensation, for trainable handicapped and retarded citizens. The JBW came into being 14 years ago through the gift of an adequate building by Mr. and Mrs. C. Lease Bussard as a memorial to their retarded daughter Jeanne. JBW is incorporated and is administered through a Board of Directors consisting of 17 members from the surrounding community. JBW employs an average of 60 to 65 trainees whose productivity range from practically nil for new trainees to performance approaching minimum wage level for those essentially ready for occupational placement. The hourly rate of pay is determined by relating productivity to that expected of a satisfactory minimum wage employee performing the type of work assigned to the trainee in question. Trainees are employed in manual labor and assembly line tasks such as washing, drying and ironing laundry; sewing; assembling research animal boxes; making gift box bows; tasks involved in the process of printing and reproduction as well as janitorial work.

Recently the Jeanne Bussard Training Workshop became the object of a probe by the Maryland Department of Labor and Industry and the Maryland Advocacy Unit for the Developmentally Disabled, with indications the Federal Department of Labor is or may become involved in the probe.

Obviously a probe such as this involves many non-productive manhours of staff members in providing the requested information. But, by far the most damaging to the wellbeing of the Workshop is the adverse front page publicity in the local newspapers. The first article appeared on the front page of the Frederick Post on July 19, 1979 with the headline "STATE PROBES JEANNE BUSSARD CLIENTS' PAY". This was followed by front page articles on July 20, 23, 25, and 26'th.

In subsequent discussions of JBTW Board Members with State Officials and with members of the Board of Directors of the Frederick County Association for Retarded Citizens (Mr. Charles Tressler's former employer), it has been determined that this entire probe was primarily due to the efforts of your Executive Director, Mr. Charles Tressler. Mr. Curt L. Decker of the Maryland Advocacy Unit for the Developmentally Disabled informed the Secretary of our Board that he had been called by Mr. Tressler at about the time of his resignation from FCARC, and further, that Mr. Tressler had mailed him a collection of information purporting to show unfairness in the procedure for determining the level of pay trainees receive for work accomplished in the Jeanne Bussard Training Workshop. Please keep in mind that FCARC has no authority or administrative control over JBTW. There are two prime interactions between the two organizations. Many of the JBTW trainees are referred by FCARC, and a number of JBTW trainees live in Group Homes which have been under cognizance of FCARC. While potential trainees are referred to JBTW by FCARC, determination as to trainability is the sole responsibility of Jeanne Bussard Training Workshop.

It has been brought to our attention that Mr. Tressler has been cautioned by members of the FCARC Board of Directors to refrain from involving himself in areas beyond his authority or responsibility. However, as recently as after the first article appeared in the papers, Mr. Tressler acknowledged to a FCARC Board member that he had contacted Mr. Decker of the Maryland Advocacy Unit and furnished information as related above. Mr. Tressler replied that that action was initiated after he tendered his resignation to the FCARC Board. Still more recently, August 4, 1979, the enclosed article appeared in the "Letters to the Editor" page of the Frederick Post. We consider this to amount to unwarranted harassment and most detrimental to the aims and objectives of the Jeanne Bussard Training Workshop.

The Board of Directors of the Jeanne Bussard Training Workshop feel obligated to inform you of our experience, hoping that you can use the information to avert the possibility of a similar trauma there. We also ask that you do what you can to curb Mr. Tressler's penchant for undermining the fine accomplishments of our Workshop.

Perhaps another perspective as well as additional information can be obtained by contacting FCARC Past President Mr. George T. Norman, Frederick County, Association for Retarded Citizens, 431 Carrollton Drive, Frederick, Maryland, 21701.

USE OF 'TERMINAL' FOR RETARDED REJECTED

I read with horror a recent article concerning clients at the Jeanne Bussard Workshop. It stated that, "Some of the clients at the workshop are called 'terminal,' meaning the staff believes they never will find outside jobs."

It will interest your readers to know that in a resolution, recently passed by the Executive Committee of the National Association for Retarded Citizens, such pejorative judgment cannot be condoned.

The association bases its opposition to this approach on the developmental model of mental retardation which upholds that every person with mental retardation should be approached with the positive expectation that he/she has the potential to grow, to learn and to develop.

"The premise that some persons should be identified as categorically unable to benefit from training is antithetical to this model and it endangers the welfare of persons so identified by generating self fulfilling, and self-limiting prophecies," states James R. Wilson, Jr., the Association's National President, in the resolution.

Sincerely

Samuel L. StClair
President, Board of Directors
Jeanne Bussard Training Workshop

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

FREDERICK POST

August 4, 1979

CHARLES E. TRESSLER II
Executive Director
Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens

GOARC'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESPONSE

August 22, 1979

Mr. Samuel L. St. Clair
President
Board of Directors
Jeanne Bussard Training Workshop
101 West South Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701

RE: Request to restrict Charles Tressler

Dear Mr. St. Clair:

I read with interest your enclosed article from the "Letters to the Editor" from the Frederick Post, August 4, 1979. I, also, read with interest your statements regarding the actions which Mr. Tressler has taken with the Maryland Advocacy Unit for the Developmentally Disabled. I took some notes from our telephone conversation last week, and discussed that telephone conversation and your letter with the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens. The following is the collective opinion expressed by the Executive Committee at their meeting and I was directed to share this opinion with you and anyone else you feel should be involved.

First, we see absolutely nothing wrong with the actions that Mr. Tressler has taken up to this point. He seems to have behaved in a very responsible, mature manner, befitting the high standards we set for Executive Directors of our Association. If anything, in reviewing the actions that Mr. Tressler has taken with regard to possible exploitation of mentally retarded persons, we feel that we should commend ourselves on our selection of Mr. Tressler as Executive Director of our Association.

It seems the difference of opinion here is one of interpretation of the role of an Association for Retarded Citizens. We believe that Association for Retarded Citizens members have a responsibility to monitor the living and working conditions of mentally retarded citizens, wherever those citizens may be located. We do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries for monitoring and advocacy. We believe in the obligation and the official mandate of the State Protection and Advocacy Units to use whatever sanctions are at their disposal in order to eliminate threats to the rights of mentally retarded persons.

The existence of services across this country came about because of courageous parents calling attention to the abuses of institutions and need for community programs. It would be a sorry state of affairs for our organization to have fought for thirty years against such abuses, only to allow them to exist in community agencies under our very noses.

GREATER OMAHA ASSOCIATION



FOR RETARDED CITIZENS

3212 DODGE STREET • OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68131 • (402) 348-9220

Mr. Samuel L. St. Clair
August 22, 1979

-2-

A secondary concern expressed by you was a request that we "curb" Mr. Tressler's penchant for undermining the accomplishments of your workshop. In our telephone conversation, last week, you repeatedly assured me that your "doors were open" and you welcomed anyone coming in to see your services. We're confused. On the one hand, you refer proudly to your workshop's accomplishments and open door policy, and on the other hand you seem unwilling to accept criticism of your practices. We found that somewhat confusing.


In summary, Mr. Tressler has the full support of our Board of Directors to continue to involve himself to whatever extent he feels it necessary to monitor the interests of mentally retarded persons.

We are proud of our association with him and are hopeful that he can be a strong advocate in Nebraska as well.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Upton
President
Greater Omaha Association for
Retarded Citizens



Edward Skarnulis
Immediate Past President
Greater Omaha Association for
Retarded Citizens

TLU:ES/dtc

In Memory Of Gina Marie Clark

(Editor's Note: The following
eulogy was given by Edward
Skarnulis at the memorial
service for Gina on July 11th.)

Many of us, here today, have been part of a hopeful social experiment that began about seven years ago. We tried to demonstrate that children with severe physical and mental handicaps can and should live in their own home towns where relatives and friends are able to give them encouragement and share their growth toward greater self-sufficiency. The goal was to start a homelike living unit that could also offer intensive medical care. And Gina came back home to Omaha from the state institution at Beatrice. Gina Clark was the spark that made this goal a reality in Eastern Nebraska.

For centuries the world has chosen to isolate children like Gina from the rest of the family of mankind. One out of ten hears vague references to how some people would be happier with "their own kind". But here, thanks to hundreds of Ginas and their parents, we have witnessed a simple truth -- we are their own kind. There were many times during these years when Gina had to fight for survival but she thrived nevertheless and shared this imperfect world of ours with the rest of us. She ignored the gloomy predictions of medical people who had a hard time dealing with exceptions to the rule. She helped to write a new page in books on mental retardation by showing that we make our greatest contribution to children when we let them lead lives which are as normal as possible.

She did something else for all of us who care about mentally retarded people. Because of her, 18,000 mentally retarded children and adults in Eastern Nebraska have benefitted from the work of her parents, John and Mary Clark.

Parents of handicapped children often go through stages of development from a stage where they are primarily concerned with themselves, to one where they become concerned for their handicapped child. A very few move to a stage of concern for all handicapped children and their families. John and Mary have been members of that select group, devoting themselves tirelessly to work on behalf of mentally retarded citizens.

Gina Clark experienced more physical pain and frustration than a little girl should have to know in a lifetime. But she also smelled flowers, felt warm sunshine, and enjoyed the closeness of friends on the staff of the Developmental Maximation Unit. She went on trips with members of the Greater Omaha Youth Association for Retarded Citizens. She got to be with her brothers, Dave and Rick, to go to shopping malls and parades, and for rides in her family's car or the Developmental Maximation Unit's van. But most of all, she was loved by people who saw her strengths and her beauty and her dignity. She was loved by a mother and father who saw her as a child with the same needs as other children and tried to meet those needs as best they could.

No one knows why Gina didn't win this last fight for survival. It was a cruel blow to those who traveled the long journey with her over these years to see her come so far and succumb just when it looked like she was winning. But we take solace in knowing that in her few years, Gina Marie Clark did as much for mankind as many people do in a full lifetime.

SPREADING THE WORD

by Anne Marie Aita

What do Tom Miller (former Executive Director), Mike Curoe (former Deputy Ombudsman), Dr. John McGee, Richard and Pat Galusha, Patty Smith, and myself all have in common? Well, they have been spreading the word about the new frontiers of human services in Europe and enjoying seeing each other in new and exciting places.

I returned to Malta to visit programs and do some work for my friend Monsignor Michael Azzopardi who runs the only residential alternative for persons with a handicap in Malta. The day after I arrived I received a telephone call from one long lost traveler, Tom Miller, who has been teaching all over Europe this year. I was eager to share the challenges faced in Malta with Tom who seemed to greatly enjoy the warmth of the Maltese people. Tom is having a most inspiring trip but has lost some weight by trying some foods he should have stayed away from!

The Maltese have historically tended toward hiding their people with handicaps in closets and even pig-pens! Monsignor Azzopardi believed that more humane and dignified alternatives were necessary. So on his own, 13 years ago, he founded two villas for about 80 children and adults. He receives no financial assistance from the labor government or the Roman Catholic Church. The church still thinks that he's a bit crazy with his efforts. Tom's and my work was to identify individual programming areas to each of the persons at the villas. This is no small task as there are very few staff and even fewer staff with training. The Maltese public school system is just beginning to open up special education programs and they are fairly limited in size and scope. The future for such a residential program is also limited until more commitment to a developmental ideology is made. There were several staff who definitely seemed turned-on to new approaches with specific individuals so more energy was put with these people.

I sadly bid Tom farewell (Tom is staying on in Malta to catch up on his correspondence and to make plans to travel on to India) and then hurried on to my rendezvous with John McGee, Richard and Pat Galusha, and Mike Curoe in Seville, Spain to attend the International Cerebral Palsy Society Symposium on the social and medical aspects of life. The conference brought together over 450 participants from all over Spain and speakers from Sweden, England, Italy, and Omaha, Nebraska. There was a mini-three day lecture series for about 50 persons who were provided board and room. This lecture series allowed for the opportunity to communicate new ideas, realities, and contrasts, both professionally and personally with people who believe that hospitality is a most important factor. They were so friendly that it was hard to pick up that they were having difficulty accepting the Omahan's programs and ideas as being possible in their work. It was easy for them, when really pressed, to say that people with I.Q.'s below 40 couldn't benefit from services. People with multi-handicaps were too difficult. That society would never tolerate integration, parents weren't interested and/or were too busy, etc. Somehow, the Omahans were able to get some messages through to some of the key people - John McGee's presentation (in Spanish) which included a review of services provided by three local institutions, forced them to take a hard look at themselves and whether or not the word "impossible" wasn't their biggest stumbling block.

Since our return there has been a flurry of mail coming and going between Seville and Omaha with the result being that the professionals in Seville are now meeting regularly to develop strategies through which integration in the schools and then in society can be facilitated. Hard work but more rewarding in the long run for the professionals, the parents, and most importantly, for the persons in Spain with a handicap.

EASTERN NEBRASKA COMMUNITY OFFICE OF RETARDATION

1979 - 1980 FISCAL BUDGET

REVENUE

Title XX	2,260,000
State	3,405,625
County	778,160
L.B. 403	88,233
Client Fees	300,000
Miscellaneous	100,000
Vocational contracts	513,300
TOTAL	\$ 7,445,318

EXPENDITURES

Vocational workshops	1,261,995
Work stations	327,600
Placement	55,405
Residential, adult	2,392,066
Residential, child	1,329,855
Social services	555,000
General Services	51,858
Psychological	62,047
Motor	61,135
Recreation	38,302
ENHSA	931,000
Regional	379,055
TOTAL	\$ 7,445,318

Editor's Note: Last year's total budget for ENCOR was \$6,998,000.
Last year's total expenditures will be determined
at the audit's completion.

Candidly Speaking... A Look

Happy New Year! An odd exclamation for August, 1979? Not so if one is toasting in a new fiscal year at ENCOR. However, as an advocate, GOARC marks that this budget birth has had its share of complications. Our Executive Committee has voiced GOARC's collective concerns to the people in authority - namely the ENHSA Board of Directors. That Board (comprised of five elected county commissioners from Douglas, Cass, Sarpy, Washington, and Dodge) set the total budget dollars to be allocated for the various services offered to ENCOR consumers. As Director of ENCOR, Kevin Casey has to administer that money figure according to priorities reflective of the agency's goals and philosophy.

GOARC Reporter: It is a matter of public record that ENCOR proposed a budget of 7.6 million dollars but was given \$7,445,318.00. How do you feel about this? What does it mean to jobs and services?

Kevin Casey: This is a lean budget year and obviously we had to cut things we would rather not have cut. I feel good about getting staff upgrades, however, which help attract and keep qualified people.

GOARC Reporter: Would you capsule the cuts and their affect on retarded citizens?

Kevin Casey:

1. Education Division was cut two months earlier than the L.B. 889 schedule. Which meant no school services were available July and August but the public schools are legally to pick up these programs in September.

2. Recreation Services were cut to one coordinator who will work with generic recreational services such as the City Parks and Recreation

At ENCOR's Budget

by Terry Casey

Department, the Y.M.C.A., etc. Thus, the recreational programs next summer will be severely limited.

3. Most of the Public Education and Information Department was cut leaving one staff member to do the task of three.

GOARC Reporter: How or why did you decide to cut in these areas?

Kevin Casey: We didn't want to cut any direct services to current clients. In other words, we didn't want to cut services that would require someone presently served by ENCOR to return to an institution.

GOARC Reporter: How does "Budget 1979" deal with the issue of "red alerts" and the Beatrice client movement back into the community?

Kevin Casey: New clients will be served by attrition - a client graduates from the ENCOR system and a new one moves in. This makes serving red alerts even slower than the system presently is. As far as moving people out of Beatrice, there is a special fund through the State Office of Mental Retardation to provide the dollars. As yet, the Governing Board has made no decision to access this fund. They are concerned as to whether those funds will be available in the future years.

ENCOR occupies an equivocal position in contemporary advocate circles, functioning both as a scapegoat for every failure and as a catch-all for every hope and expectation. No matter how the reader views ENCOR, client rights make it imperative to review their financial report.

SPOTLIGHT ON Wilma Atkinson

by Alice Blackstone

"Because I'm a bit of a fighter," the small, dark-haired woman, casually outfitted in a brown shirt and slacks replied when I asked her why she had decided to work with the mentally retarded.

"Do you have a mentally retarded child? A brother? Someone close to you?" I asked. Like most parents of the handicapped, I assume people decided to become professional in this field because of a personal need. But no, it wasn't that way with Wilma Atkinson. No one in her immediate family or circle of friends had a problem. It's just that she has a strong empathy with people who because of circumstances beyond their control are particularly vulnerable and unable to help themselves. "And I find a lot of job satisfaction in my work," she added. "That's very important to me."

Nothing about her appearance or manner shouted "foreign visitor." Only a slight deviation in her speech -- "aboot" for "about" gave away her Scottish homeland.

As many modern women do, Wilma had eased into professional work via the volunteer route. As a mother of two, she worked in a number of youth groups, community projects, and church groups. Eventually she became a paid social worker in residential services for children and elderly in Lancashire, England. For her, this wasn't enough. She applied for a scholarship to study for two years for a CQSW (Certificate and Qualification in Social Work) at Preston Polytechnic Institute in Manchester. By the time this article is in print, she will be back in Manchester studying. She spent six weeks (June 26th through August 6th) in Omaha, observing the ENCOR residential and alternative living units.

Why Omaha? The tiny spot she located on the map didn't tell her much. But she had read enough about our system

to want to learn more at first hand. As a part of her training, the Institute granted her request and paid her expenses.

Her face lit up, her voice rose, her answer came like a shot out of a canon when I asked her what had impressed her the most. Clearly, she had fallen in love with Project II and Pilot Parents.

"I was speechless," she said, "watching those people at Project II. Such expertise! Such poise and enthusiasm! I couldn't believe it! We have nothing like that at home."

Pilot Parents, she thinks, is another stroke of genius. A particularly serious, sensitive person, she feels her ability to identify with parents of handicapped children is limited. "I could never understand or do for them what they can do for each other," she said. "This kind of help is so important."

Whatever else she carries back to England, she is anxious and determined to initiate Project II and Pilot Parents.

She believes our local residential services might be more beneficial to clients if they were staffed with more mature workers. She doesn't down-grade contributions younger people (often students) can make but she believes that values and judgement mature with the living experience.

About midwesterners -- she is intrigued with our friendliness, our bright colored clothes, the variety of food we serve at picnics. She thinks our sunny weather contributes to our freer, more relaxed way of living. In England, for instance, one never really can plan a picnic. Even if it doesn't rain, it's apt to be cloudy.

She's impressed by the size of our country and understands now why we drive more and walk less than the English.

"Of course," she commented, with a wry smile, "your steering wheels are all on the wrong side."

She calls herself a "feminist". She believes women must be responsible for themselves, do their work, and have space around them. None of this need rule out being a family person. Already she's getting homesick for her husband, Michael, a social worker for Dr. Barnardos, her daughter, Susan, 18, who is interested in art and wants to be a social worker, and her son Graeme, 16, who wants to be a chef.



Photography by Mike Suchan

Wilma Atkinson

What did she find strange about America? Actually, not too much. Although, her parents are Scotch, they spent 16 years working in Detroit where they met and married and had their first two children. Although, Wilma was born in Scotland, her parents carried back and introduced her to many American traditions like Santa Claus.

What is she homesick for? Always for Scotland..sometimes she and her English-born husband live there; sometimes in England. And fish and chips; Americans make a reasonable facsimile thereof, you can only get the real thing back home in England.

PEOPLE FIRST OF NEBRASKA WILL HOLD 2ND ANNUAL CONVENTION

by Bonnie Shoutlz

Be sure to watch KETV in September for some public service announcements about the Second Annual People First of Nebraska Convention. These announcements will feature Omaha Project II members: Ray Loomis, Ollie Rector, and Lowell Rector. They will announce that mentally and physically handicapped citizens of Nebraska will again be coming together.

The statewide committee, elected in 1978, to plan this year's convention has met several times to make the crucial decisions that go into such a large undertaking. These decisions are:

1. The convention will be on October 6 - 7, 1979 at the Fort Kearney Inn in Kearney, Nebraska.
2. The convention will cost around \$25-\$30 per person. This includes a big steak dinner, a dance, overnight accommodations, and breakfast and lunch on October 7th.
3. Everyone is welcome. Parents and professionals will not vote; they will attend as interested citizens and help with registration and in many other areas.
4. The agenda will include speeches by politicians, workshops on self-advocacy, and workshops aimed at encouraging local groups to form.

Many people have already offered help with this year's convention. Omaha participants, for instance, will be given rides to and from Kearney by the Easter Seal Society.

Anyone interested in attending the convention may call the GOARC office for registration forms.

YOUTH CITED AS NATION'S BEST **Winners All!**

How rich are those times when a parent wells up with joy over their kids who are doing so well. Sometimes, it comes at a milestone as when the youngest takes to the first day of school like a duckling to water. Or the moment may come when the youth crayons a birthday card for his mother, or says thanks for a good day the family has shared, or offers an apology and means it. It's not that he hasn't been a fine and spirited kid all along. But it seems to take those special times to experience that goodness, deeply in the marrow of their bones.

The parents and members of GOARC have some share of similar joy. The 130 of its youth members were represented in New Orleans at the National Conference of Youth Associations for Retarded Citizens. Against the background noise of the youthful crowd in the banquet room at Tulane University, GOARC's Youth Vice President phoned home to Omaha. Tricia Smith's first words were an excited: "We won, we won!!"

GOARC-Youth have been chosen as the leading youth group in the country. The ARC-Youth Awards Committee took a hard look at their efforts to educate their high school peers on the attitudes necessary to make handicapped youth feel at home in their own neighborhoods. "It's our thing", said Bev DeMay, Youth President, "for people with handicaps to be in the community. But it is something else for them to feel part of it."

Over the past years, GOARC-Youth have worked in a youth-to-youth effort to improve the perceptions of church, high school, and community youth groups. Progress in the next generation is dependent on its willingness to make a place for everyone. The GOARC-Youth leaders can tell of the times it has gone well, but there have also been those campaigns at which they have worked just as hard at, but felt they suffered defeat.

To GOARC-Youth, the national recognition affirms that their effort over the long run is what counts. "To Bring People Closer" is Omaha's youth motto, a message they have spoken so well in Nebraska. Now other youth groups from across the nation have been offered a model of a commitment to the community.

The swell of pride comes, though, with bringing the national award back to GOARC. They are treasured here for their enthusiasm, hard work, and innovation. The plaque on the wall is a meager representation of what GOARC's youngest have really done. But they have brought it home for all of GOARC to share in the glow of what we are about and the joy of doing it well.

Photography by Pat Henry



Among the Youngest

by Pat Henry

Youth have rallied around the GOARC cause for a full decade now. They were first formally recognized with the top National Award in 1972. After two years of innovative work with severely handicapped children at the ENCOR Developmental Maximation Unit, the Youth were cited again in 1977. This month's national recognition by the National Youth Association for Retarded Citizens is the third time GOYARC has been named the leaders of the nation's youth.

Bev DeMay, a 17 year old Marian High School senior, is the GOARC-Youth President. She leads an organization of 130 adolescents, some having problems with retardation and some who don't.

They see themselves as a group of friends. The idea within GOARC-Youth is to lay aside distinctions such as "volunteer" and "handicapped". Rather everyone is seen as a person, a composite of strengths and weaknesses. The emphasis is to key on what people can do well and play down what holds them back.

Handicaps don't count for much here. Some mentally retarded youth hold leadership posts and are provided only with enough backup to make up for their deficits. The same support is provided for people who are not mentally retarded - help is available to fill in the gaps due to their "handicaps" - inexperience, too little time, lack of confidence, and the like.

Omaha's youth have internalized this ideology. At one point they questioned even their name. Should it be Youth Association "for" Retarded Citizens, or would it be more accurate to read "with" Retarded Citizens?

GOARC-Youth is sometimes thought of as a recreation program. Even though what GOARC-Youth is modeled on what's the normal group of teens doing, these activities aren't its purpose. The once a week gatherings are important, but more as an opportunity or excuse to be together than a recreation even in



themselves. The "product" or purpose of GOARC-Youth is actually the relationship among people. There are implications that go with friendships. The Youth are involved in specific advocacy efforts to initiate or improve the services to youth they know well. The big changes in the future await changes in the basic attitudes towards people with handicaps. For this reason, Public Awareness is a priority. Efforts by youth are targeted to their high school peers. It is this thrust which was particularly noted in ARC-Youth's award to Omaha.

GOARC has a youth group that is unique even in that it simply continues to exist. Volunteerism has changed in recent years as there seems to be less time and resources available. The same is true for youth organizations. Perhaps it is a more serious threat since these turn-overs completely are every 3 to 4 years. Despite this, GOARC-Youth not only has continued but does so with a fresh dynamism. Youth get involved, are nourished by a very supportive GOARC, and are trusted as full members.



Annual Picnic Held

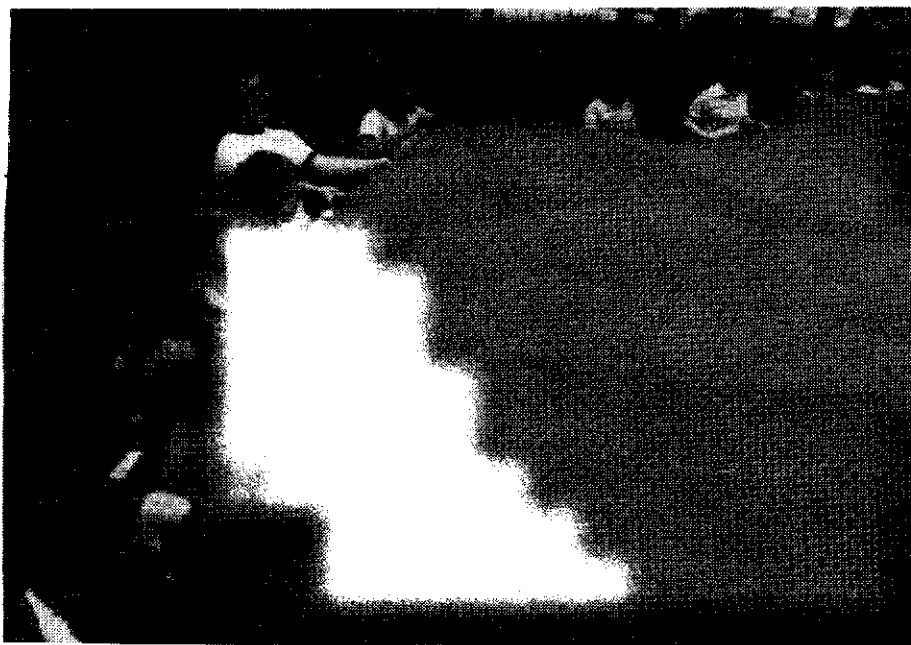
Skies threatened rain, a few drops fell at Cooper Farm -- and then the sun came out as scheduled for the annual Pilot Parent Pot-Luck Picnic on July 16th.

The food shared by all was fantastic, but Pat Henry and his GOARC-Youth crew gave us no time to get lazy as it was on with the fun and games. There was something for everybody. Even the spectators got splashed in the water balloon toss!

GOARC-Youth member, Tricia Smith, was celebrating her 14th birthday and we all sang "Happy Birthday" to her as she opened a BIG box, which just happened to contain Mike Davis -- now that is an unusual birthday present!

Donations were made by our leading supermarkets -- Bakers, Hinky Dinky, Safeway, and Shaver's who supplied the coffee and some beautiful door prizes, and a ton of popsicles of all flavors. Burger King and McDonald's supplied the balloons, hats, and trinkets so dear to the heart of a child. McDonald's also donated the gallons of orange drink we needed for the festivities. It's so gratifying to know our community cares!

Jane Upton was the most popular person around as she handed out the door prizes and goodies. She made sure every child went away with something to remember the occasion by. It was the social event of the summer. Pilot and piloted parents and their children were present along with those other very important people in our lives. Our new Executive Director and his wife, Pam, were greeted by all. We were very pleased to welcome some special guests: Wilma Atkinson from Chorley, England; Jan Porterfield home for a visit from Wales; Bonnie Shoultz; GOARC Board members, John Foy, ENCOR Residential Manager; and many relatives and friends of our Pilot and piloted parents. It was wonderful to see such long time members and friends such as Tom & Alice Blackstone, Margaret DeVore, Jerome and Jennifer Gartner, and the Volcheck family. Our greeters, Don and Lila Shafer were kept almost too busy to eat. Thank you all for coming. It was a wonderful evening.



Photography by Pat

ON VOLUNTEERS

by

Erma Bombeck

Volunteers are like yachts.

No matter where they are, they arouse your curiosity. Who are they? Where do they come from? Why are they here?

They could stay moored where it's safe and still justify their being, but they choose to cut through the rough waters, ride out in storms and take chances.

They have style. They're fiercely independent. If you have to ask how much they cost, you can't afford them.

Volunteers and yachts have a lot more in common these days. They're both a part of an aristocratic era that is disappearing from the American scene. They're both a luxury in a world that has become very practical.

Day by day, the number of volunteers decreases in this country as more and more of them equate their worth in terms of dollars and cents.

Three years ago, I did a column on volunteers in an effort to point out that they don't contribute to our civilization. They ARE civilization - at least the only part worth talking about.

They are the only human beings on the face of this earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfishness, caring, patience, need and just plain loving one another. Their very presence transcends politics, religion, ethnic background, marital status, sexism, even smokers vs. non-smokers.

Maybe, like the yacht, the volunteer was a luxury. And luxuries are too often taken for granted.

One has to wonder. Did we, as a nation, remember to say to the volunteers, "Thank you for your symphony hall. Thank you for the six dialysis machines. Thank you for sitting up with a 16-year old who overdosed and begged to die. Thank you for the hot chocolate at the scout meeting.

Thanks for reading to the blind. Thanks for using your station wagon to transport a group of strangers to a ballgame. Thanks for knocking on doors in the rain. Thanks for hugging the winners of the Special Olympics. Thanks for pushing the wheelchair into the sun. Thanks for being..."

Did the media stand behind them when they needed a boost? Did the professionals make it a point to tell them they did a good job? Did the recipients of their time and talent ever express their gratitude?

It frightens me, somehow, to imagine what the world will be like without them...

Travels With Patty

by Patty Smith

In the Winter of 1978 I was the very fortunate recipient of the Rosemary F. Dybwad International Award for travel. This award was a "mutual sharing of information about parent programs" which would take me to the following four countries: Canada, Norway, France, and England. In the upcoming issues of the Gazette, I will report to the Gazette readership some of the events that occurred while on this journey. The first country that I will cover will be Canada. And so here is my report about that portion of the trip.

I arrived in Canada on Memorial Day, May 28th, to begin the first portion of this beautiful opportunity. I was hosted by the leaders of the Canadian Association for Mental Retardation (CAMR), and more specifically the staff of the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped (NIMH). The first day that I was at NIMH, they had an all day workshop planned for me to present the Pilot Parent Program. This was a very well attended day long program at which there were a number of parents and professionals from the Toronto area. (Five years ago Fran Porter first took the concept of the Pilot Parents to her homeland and shared the Pilot Parent Program with them. Since then, Pilot Parents has become a national commitment to develop a volunteer program across Canada). That first day's activities were very exciting because these people wanted to glean as much as they could about the progress we have made here in Omaha and in Region VII.

That evening, I spent five hours visiting the Pilot Parents from Metropolitan Toronto Association for Mental Retardation. We burned some "midnight oil" discussing the strengths and needs of the local association. These were fantastic parents!

The following day I had the opportunity to review a number of programs. One program was for Home Management that operated out of the Metropolitan Toronto

Association for Mental Retardation (MTAMR). I was able to make a home visit to observe one of the home management specialist teaching a parent how to teach their child. This program was in response to parental requests for assistance. It was based on one-to-one teaching by a behaviorist with the parents using precision teaching. I met the family and heard the reports on the progress that has been made in some very difficult behavior areas and learning areas for a severely handicapped little girl. It was very exciting to see how much support this home interventionist was able to give this family.

The afternoon was spent interviewing the volunteers from a program called "Extend A Family". This is one of the most exciting programs that I reviewed in Canada. It is based on the idea that handicapped children need to have opportunities for socialization in normalized settings. To meet this end, families of "normal" children are recruited to become an integral part of a handicapped child's life. They do this in response to whatever needs are identified by the parents. The parents pay a set fee for the hours that their child spends at the "Extend A Family" home. To hear a group of people whose children are not handicapped teach on the principles of normalization, demanding that our children have such opportunities was a most beautiful experience. It was one of the most exciting groups of people I met on the trip.

I, also, had an opportunity to meet with the President of CAMR, Mrs. Joe Dickey. She is one of the leaders in the Woodlands Parents Group. This is a group of parents of sons and daughters residing in institutions who have banded together to provide support for one another in the process of deinstitutionalization. They are not only committed to the fact that they want deinstitutionalization for their sons and daughters, but they are willing to work toward developing the services so that this pro-

cess can occur. They are extremely intent on the idea that the fixed point of responsibility, that being an enormous need for parents of institutionalized sons and daughters, be transferred from institutions to the community-based leaders. In their area it is a Community Living Board (CLB). A representative of the CLB, a trained parent advocate, and the parent of the handicapped person make a triad to plan and implement the process of denstitutionalization for each individual for each individual. By including the family in the planning process from the very beginning and with strong emotional supportive help from the parent advocate they are having success in implementing this program.

During both stops in Canada, I visited the magnificent library that is located at the national headquarters. On my return trip, I came back to Toronto to report my findings of the parent programs aboard. Again, a number of Pilot Parents came to meet me. One lady had travelled from 7:00 A.M. on Sunday morning to be there. I met with more parents, staff of CAMR, NIMH, and other agency staff to share information.

That concludes my Canadian experience. Thursday, the 31st of May, found me on a big airplane headed for Norway. Reports on Norway next month!

Membership Meeting to be Held

The first General Membership meeting will be held Thursday, September 27th at First Federal of Lincoln Building (2101 South 42nd Street). Social hour will be from 7 PM to 7:30 PM. Chuck Tressler, our new Executive Director, will be the main speaker.

PARENTS...

You're Part of the Team

A Workshop for Effective Parent
Participation in
Individual Education Plan

WHEN: September 22, 1979

WHERE: University of Nebraska
Medical Center's Continuing
Education Building

TIME: Registration - 8:30-9:00 AM

Workshop - 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

GOALS OF WORKSHOP

- 1) How to be prepared
for an I.E.P. meeting.
- 2) How to communicate
in a team meeting.
- 3) To provide information
and the purpose of an I.E.P.

There will be a small registration fee.
Lunch will be provided.
Parking under the Clinic Building at
44th & Dewey Streets.
Limit of 100 people

**** Sponsored by:**

Direction Services
and

Early Childhood Grant
at MCRI

For more information contact: Cy Leise
541-7333

Your Right to Employment

As a disabled job applicant or employee, you have the same rights and benefits as non-handicapped applicants and employees.

Your ability, training, and experience must be considered. Your disability must not be considered - unless it keeps you from doing the job adequately.

An employer receiving federal assistance may not discriminate against you in:

- Recruitment, advertising, or processing of applications for employment.

You can't be required to take a physical examination before a job is offered. You may be required to take a physical examination after the job is offered if the examination is required of other applicants.

This provision is to prevent discrimination against persons with such hidden disabilities as heart disease and epilepsy that would be revealed in a physical examination. It is also to keep employers from requiring a physical examination for handicapped job applicants only - a common practice in the past - then denying them a job because they failed to pass the examination.

- Hiring, promotion or demotion, transfer, layoff, or rehiring.

- Job assignments or career ladders.

- Leave of absence, sick leave, training programs, and other fringe benefits.

Once hired, your employer is required to take reasonable steps to accommodate your disability unless they would cause the employer undue hardship. That may mean supplying, for example:

- A reader if you are blind and the job includes paperwork.

- An interpreter if you are deaf and the job requires telephone contacts.

- Adequate workspace and access to it if you use a wheelchair.

- Minor adjustment in working hours if you are required to visit a methadone clinic daily.

* * The above was reprinted from the pamphlet Your Rights As A Disabled Person printed by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare 391 regarding the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

If you or your child has a disability and believe that your rights under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 have been violated . . . you may file a complaint to the Civil Rights Office, Twelve Grand Building, 1150 Grand Ave., Kansas City, MO, 64106. If you would like assistance in filing your complaint please contact the Developmental Disabilities Ombudsman Office, 3212 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska, or call (402) 348-9220.

OMBUDSMAN GRANT EXTENDED

The Developmental Disabilities Office in Lincoln, Nebraska has awarded the Developmental Disabilities Ombudsman a six month extension. The extension is until March 30, 1980.

1980 ART DESIGN

Contest Rules

All mentally retarded persons are eligible to enter the contest through the nearest Association for Retarded Citizens. Selection of winning entries is based upon originality, artistic quality, and relationship to the subject.

Christmas Cards

1. Entries should be traditional Christmas scenes or designs, or general holiday scenes adaptable to a "Season's Greeting" message.
2. Minimum size is 11" x 14". Maximum size is 16" x 20".
3. Entries should be presented on heavy drawing paper or poster board.
4. Poster paint, transparent or opaque water color or color felt markers should be used. Traced or copied pictures are not acceptable.
5. The artist's name, address, school or workshop (if applicable) and local ARC unit must be shown on the back of the entry.
6. Each entry must include a permission slip signed by the artist or by a parent or guardian, giving authority to utilize the design on cards and name of artist for publicity. No entry will be accepted unless accompanied by a signed permission slip.
7. All national entries become the property of ARC.

Time Table

1. The local ARC will send all entries to its State office by November 1, 1979.
2. The state ARC will then send the six winning entries to the national ARC by December 1, 1979.
3. The six national winners will be selected from the state winners by a committee of established artists and illustrators by December 30, 1979.

Awards

United States Savings Bonds are presented to the top three winners - \$200.00 for first, \$100.00 for second and \$50.00 for third. A \$25.00 United States Savings Bond will be awarded to the three honorable mention winners. All state first place winners will receive a trophy and all participants a special certificate.

Calendar, Stationery, All Occasion Cards

1. Entries should be adaptable to calendar scenes such as seasons of the year, or specific holidays.
2. Minimum size is 11" x 14". Maximum size is 16" x 20".
3. Entries should be presented on heavy drawing paper or poster board.
4. Poster paint, transparent or opaque water color or color felt markers should be used. Traced or copied pictures are not acceptable.
5. The artist's name, address, school or workshop (if applicable) and local ARC unit must be shown on the back of the entry.
6. Each entry must include a permission slip signed by the artist or by a parent or guardian, giving authority to utilize the design on cards and name of artist for publicity. No entry will be accepted unless accompanied by a signed permission slip.
7. All national entries become the property of ARC.

Time Table

1. The local ARC will send all entries to its State office by November 1, 1979.
2. The state ARC will then send the twenty winning entries to the national ARC by December 1, 1979.
3. The twenty national winners will be selected from the state winners by a committee of established artists and illustrators by December 30, 1979.

Awards

The artists whose designs appear in the ARC calendar will each receive a \$50.00 United States Savings Bond. All state first place winners in this category will receive a trophy and all contest participants, a special certificate.

Send your entry to:

GOARC
3212 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE., 68131

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Executive Comm. Meeting 7:30PM	5	6 Pilot Parent Advisory Comm. Meeting	7 Pilot Parent Regional Advisory Tech- nical Workshop	8 Pilot Parent Workshop (continued)
9 Pilot Parent Workshop (continued) Happy Hog Meeting 3:30PM	10	11	12 Advisory & Resource Comm. Meeting	13	14	15 Sibling Day Workshop
16	17 Pilot Parent Monthly Meeting	18 Board of Directors Meeting 7:30PM	19	20	21 <u>Gazette</u> Meeting	22
23	24	25	26	27 General Membership Meeting 7:30 PM	28	29



GENERATIONS MOVING TOWARD
BETTER HEALTH CARE

The University of Nebraska Medical Center will host its Seventh Annual Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 7 from 1-5 p.m. The theme of this year's event is "Generations Moving Toward Better Health Care" in celebration of the International Year of the Child and Aging in America. This is an afternoon of free entertainment, scientific exhibits, tours, selected health screening procedures, art shows, workshops, music and refreshments.

Of special interest this year will be the appearance of Slim Goodbody of the T.V. Show, Captain Kangaroo. Slim Goodbody is a crusader against the evils of inadequate nourishment, champion of healthy boys and girls and campaigner for the concerned moms and dads of America. He will be performing in the Cooper Auditorium, University of Nebraska College of Nursing, 42nd and Dewey at 1:30 and again at 3:30 p.m.

Other exciting events to take place at Oktoberfest will include: The Smithsonian photography exhibit entitled "Images of Old Age in America", the 6.2 mile Mini-Marathon, workshops on fitness, workshops for the elderly, self training in Holistic Living and a mountain of information about good medicine and the facilities of the Medical Center.

This year's chairwomen are Donna Menolascino and Elaine Reimer. If you would like more information, please call the Oktoberfest office at 541-7364.

The general public is invited and we hope all of you will spread the word. Remember the date--October 7--come and join in the festivities.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____ New Membership () Renewal ()
Place of Employment _____
Occupation _____
Legislative District _____ (if known)
I am a: Parent of a retarded person _____ Interested citizen _____
Interested Youth _____ Professional in the field _____
I want to be:

- () **An Active member**—One who would like to be actively involved in volunteer projects, services, or committees.
() **Non-Active member**—One who believes in the cause without being actively involved.

Please check type of membership desired:

- () \$ 9.50 for adult or family membership. () \$ 50.00 for sustaining membership.
() \$ ~~500~~ for youth membership. () \$100.00 for lifetime membership.
() \$25.00 for supportive membership. () \$250.00 patron or corporate membership.

I would like to sponsor _____ memberships at \$9.50 each for low-income GOARC members.

- () Enclosed is \$ _____ for membership(s).
() Enclosed is \$ _____ donation.

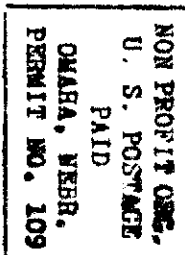
GOARC

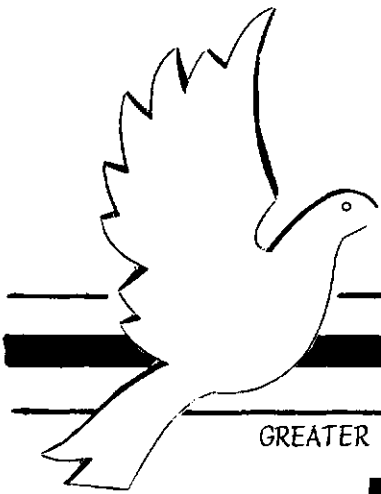
Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens
3212 Dodge Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68131
(402) 348-9220

A United Way Agency



Shirley Dean
ENCORE
685 5 72
Omaha NE
68114





GAZETTE

GREATER OMAHA ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS

Oct./Nov. 1979



*"If you think you are handicapped,
you might as well stay indoors;
if you think you are a person,
come on out and tell the world."*

Raymond R. Loomis

when you give help ... you give hope

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*Gazette Committee Members: Donna Chaffin, Alice Blackstone,
Deb Brzezinski, Terri Casey, Joe Davis, Jeanne Higgins
Fran Porter, Ed Robeck, Mike Suchan.*

GOARC

Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens

3212 Dodge Street
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FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

IF IT'S OCTOBER, CAN THE
RENAISSANCE BE FAR OFF?

There is so much to tell you that I could easily fill this entire issue of the Gazette; unfortunatley, I must share the pages with others so I will limit myself.

There has been a great deal of coming and going among the staff around here lately. We, of course, wish Donna Chaffin, Lynne MacDonald, Helen Schaefer, Scott Fenwick, and Judy Mercier well in their new professional endeavors.

And we welcome Paula Fox to the staff of the Association as Staff Assistant. Paula is a recent graduate of Bellevue College in psychology and she is one of those people who makes one wonder how one survived before she arrived. Paula is with us through the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act and with your support will remain after January 15, 1980. We also welcome Mary Magnuson who will be providing clerical support part-time. Mary is so new that I don't know enough about her to write much.

Of course, as many of you know by now, the Association was not awarded a grant of national significance for the continuation of its Pilot Parent Outreach Project heretofore supported by a regional grant from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare/Developmental Disabilities Council. However, that is not the end of the Pilot Parent Program here in Omaha. Glenda Davis will stay on with us as part-time coordinator of the program and with our very capable Pilot Parent volunteers, it will be no time until the program is going full throttle once again. Pilot Parents is exactly what an organization such as ours is all about and we are proud of its success.

I know that we all wish Patty Smith

well. It is difficult to see her leave the ranks of the staff. She has given so much to the organization over the years as a volunteer and as a staff person. Of course, there is not indication that she won't continue to give of herself in a volunteer capacity now that the grant has ended. The good part is that although she is no longer a staff person with GOARC, I can still look forward to continued cooperative efforts. Patty is a fine, dedicated worker and an involved and committed human being.

Sherry Noley will continue on as Administrative Secretary working closely with me. This a a reworked position formerly held by Lynne MacDonald. It is a professional position that includes the handling of many of my clerical needs and assisting me directly with the execution of my responsibilities for the organization with a special concentration in volunteer development.

And then finally, the last new staff person to join us is Dan Costello who is the new Assistant Executive Director. This is a reworked position formerly titled "Administrative Director". Dan has an educational background in government, philosophy, and accounting, an experiential background in business, and a real sensitivity for the contemporary ideologies in the field of mental retardation. I know that he will be a real asset to the staff and volunteer support.

A discussion wouldn't be complete if I didn't mention two employees who also continue with the organization. They, of course, are Dena Launderville and Patty Gross. Dena and Patty have been around longer than most of us and we are pleased that they have allowed us new folks to work with them on the goals of organization.

Now what's this "renaissance" business in the title of my column? Times are changing for GOARC and definitely for the positive. I can feel it and I hope

that you can as well. I have shared my thoughts with many over the past thirteen weeks that that which happens here in Omaha and, of course, Nebraska in the mental retardation field will effect the rest of the country very dramatically. It is for this reason that I predict a new era for the Association with the dawning of a new decade. Perhaps it will be a renaissance. I would like to think so. I think we'll see a recommitment to plentiful, appropriate, and high quality community based educational, vocational, residential, social, recreational, mental health, and medical services for all people who also happen to have mental retardation and their families.

Accompanying this thrust will be a stronger GOARC - a GOARC that I believe is on the road to stabilization now. The staff who are going are gone. The staff who remain are working diligently to regain the confidence of the volunteer segment and provide the support and resources upon which the volunteers depend. I am awfully proud of them. The trust level between volunteers and staff is improved and the trust level among staff is improved as well. We have done a great deal of group work during the past thirteen weeks in the areas of communication, job skills, attitudes and values, and organizational development.

Of course, it is just a beginning - but it IS a beginning. The next three months will serve to reinforce this renewal and lay a solid foundation for the exciting and full months ahead. During this period I encourage us all to work to get our organizational "house in order" so that we will be ready for the "Renaissance".

* * *



Charles E. Tressler II

In Memory of RAY LOOMIS

(Editor's Note: The following eulogy was given by Edward Skarnulis at the memorial service for Raymond R. Loomis on September 26, 1979.)

Ray Loomis was a man who believed in the future, a man of hopes and dreams. He talked enthusiastically about people helping people as the key to a world where human beings with handicaps could lead normal lives. Ray's own world was not a hopeful one while he was growing up. For nearly twenty years he lived in Nebraska's institutions, cut off from the rest of society. He felt keenly and personally "man's inhumanity to man." But in 1968 he came home to build something solid, to make some of his dreams come true, and for the past eleven years life began to take on a special meaning, not only for Ray, but for all of us who were lucky enough to know him.

He met and married Nancy, went to work at Coco's Restaurant, and the world seemed pretty good. In 1975, he began talking more and more about how everyone needed to help everyone else, and with the help of friends like Tom Miller he founded Project II. Other dreams came true. In March, 1977 his son Billy was born. In 1978 he was named Volunteer of the Year by the Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens, and in the same year year was elected to GOARC's Board of Directors. Also in 1978 the first statewide convention of handicapped citizens was held. Just when it seemed nothing better could happen, Ray was selected by KETV for the Jefferson Award and eventually became one of sixteen finalists for a National Award.

Only a few weeks ago, Ray was with us, planning for the second State Convention; giving all of us his patience and understanding, and sharing his enthusiasm for the future. He was not a wealthy man, but he gave anyone who asked something a lot more valuable than money, a helping hand and his time. He couldn't say "no" when others needed him --- he couldn't turn them down. He was at every Honey Sunday drive, setting up or taking down tables for GOARC's General Membership meetings, moving friends to new homes, making phone calls to get Project II members rides to programs, taking time to explain Project II to people from around the United States and other countries.

Knowing Ray Loomis was like being sure the sun would come up each morning. You could trust Ray when he said he'd do something. He loved to kid around and joke with people, and was a master at gently putting others in their proper place when they got a little too proud or a little too talkative. But behind the warmth of his laugh and the sparkle in his eye was a serious man who felt a sense of urgency about the work of his Association for Retarded Citizens. He knew that another Ray Loomis is sitting on a crowded institution ward somewhere waiting to come home. He knew that another Ray Loomis is staring at a TV set in an apartment, feeling lonely and desperately needing a friend to be with and to talk to. Ray knew that he had "miles to go" before he could sleep, "before his dreams could come true". And he had "promises to keep" to the people he left behind.

Ray was a dreamer but he didn't just hope for dreams to come true. Gerry Paes called him "a man who does things." Ray said that when he started Project II he was scared, but that didn't make him back away. He used to say that he was a person just like anybody else, but that we all have to stand up for ourselves. Standing up for ourselves is going to be hard without Ray Loomis to lean on. Nancy and Billy will need all the courage they have, and all the encouragement we can give. Shirley Dean, Bonnie Shoultz, Tom Houlihan, Jack Conrad, Ollie and Lowell Rector, Paul, Deb, Larry, and Craig -- all of the members of Project II and all of us who worked with Ray on GOARC's Board are going to be missing an important part of our lives without him. But we owe Ray our best effort at standing up for ourselves and others and looking ahead to the future. WE need to follow his footsteps, as people helping people.

* * *

A FRIEND REMEMBERED

This is the story of a man who started the biggest project in the world and he called it Project II.

His name is Ray Loomis. His dream was to close Beatrice State Home in Nebraska. Project II people will keep their project going. To me, the world, and Project II Ray has been a good friend. He also has a good wife and son, Billy. Everyone will miss Ray even Tom Miller, the people at GOARC and the people of the GOARC Board.

Thomas Houlihan
Vice President
Project II

GOOD LUCK PAT!

We were saddened to learn, in early September, of the loss of our GOARC Youth Advisor, Pat Henry. Pat is currently finishing seminary school in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Pat had been our youth advisor for many years and for every one of those years, he did far more than an average person's share of work.

Whenever there was a job to do - someone to drive us home, a meeting to attend, a calendar to organize or time spent with a person in need of companionship - Pat was always there.



Patrick Henry, former GOARC Youth Advisor


Pat is a giving person, sometimes appearing super-human. He always pulled the youth of GOARC through the rough times, helped us to celebrate our victories, and supported our ideas.

Pat is definitely dedicated to "bring people closer". He left us a model example to follow which lives on in our memories. It will be difficult to regenerate the spirit he's given us.

On behalf of everyone in GOYARC -

Bev DeMay & Marg Fisk


Christmas Angels



In May of 1979, Tim Arnold of Brandeis contacted Edward Skarnulis, then President of the GOARC Board of Directors. The Brandeis Board of Directors, continuing their commitment, to the welfare of the communities they serve decided to assist the Association for Retarded Citizens both financially and programmatically.

J.L. Brandeis & Sons has decided to publicize the local Association for Retarded Citizens in the following communities: Omaha, Lincoln, Aurora, Columbus, Grand Island, Des Moines, and Council Bluffs, Iowa. They are featuring each local Association for Retarded Citizens in their Christmas catalog, as well as providing financial support by donating the proceeds from specified merchandise offered to their customers. This merchandise consists of mylar Christmas tree angels and standard Christmas wrapping for which customers make contributions.

This program is a very tangible way for a business organization to support our goal of strengthening community based programming for children and adults with mental disabilities. We encourage you to visit the Brandeis stores this Christmas season as a way of expressing appreciation for the supportive endeavor.



ROY & DALE GIVE GOARC \$3,000 FROM "SWING FOR THE RETARDED".



Roy and Dale with Ed Everitt(left) and Dick Reiser
of "Swing for the Retarded". (Peptone Photo)

Roy Rogers and Dale Evans were special guests of the "Swing for the Retarded" victory banquet celebrating \$50,000 raised for those in the Omaha area with mental retardation. Roy and Dale joined the "Swing for the Retarded" Board of Directors, its members, and various local agency personnel including our Executive Director, Chuck Tressler, for an evening that marked the end of a "Happy Trail" starting in 1971.

That year a small group organized an open golf tournament to help a friend meet medical expenses. They were so successful they decided to repeat it the following year and give the money to mental retardation.

The event gets bigger and better every year; so many contribute to its success that singling out one individual for credit is impossible. There are those like Ed Everitt and Bob Carlson who've been with it since the beginning and newcomers like Evelyn Stotts, caught up in the enthusiasm generated by the organization and hooked by the joy of working with youngsters with developmental disabilities. Several

hundred of these children are treated to a recreation day at Peony Park complete with rides, games, prizes, and entertainment.

Chuck Tressler accepted a check from Roy and Dale for \$3,000. The money is earmarked for the Gazette and for a brochure for the Greater Omaha Youth Association for Retarded Citizens.

Other recipients are Bethpage Mission, Southeast Nebraska Association for Retarded Citizens, West Side Parents Group, Sisters of Mercy, Pius X School, Martin Luther Home, Madonna School, and Nebraska Special Olympics.

All of the money raised--a quarter of a million in nine years--has gone to those with mental retardation; not one cent has been spent on overhead. The group's motto, "If we have to pay for it, we do without it", means that prizes, food, beverages, facilities, and help are donated to the tune of \$10,000 annually.

These Omaha men and women contribute their time, talent, and resources to meet a real need in their community. They also manage to enjoy every minute of it. That's a formula for success and that's "Swing for the Retarded".

TRAVELS WITH PATTY

By Patty Smith

After a very tedious trip (30 hours enroute due to airline difficulties) Sigurd Gohli was waiting to have coffee with me in the Oslo airport. This was my last stop over. To see my old friend Sig was a most welcome sight after such a difficult trip. He is the President of the National Parents Association of Norway. In 1976 he and his wife Liv stayed in Omaha with Pilot Parents Chris and Peg Christiansen. How good to see a familiar face!

I arrived in thunder cloud at Trondheim at supertime at the home of Olav and Ruth Heggland. They are parent leaders in that part of Norway. Both Ruth and Olav have served as Presidents of the Parent Association - both nationally and regionally. They held a dinner party that evening with other parents, their family, and my old friend Mike Curoe (a former staff member at GOARC)

Saturday morning, I was off to a beautiful camp, Toussengard for the Family Course. This course, "Normalization" was a parent/family weekend held at a camp. (Usually the courses are exclusively for parents.)

Saturday's activities included a trip on a fishing boat out in the North Sea. Lunch, dinner, and a bon fire were followed by a dance. The fishing trip was a highlight. Handicapped children pulling in fish with their parents and siblings was such fun. I caught a "big" one! The evening dance was mostly folk dancing. The sun came up at 2:31 a.m. that morning. A group of us awaited that spectacular sight.

Sunday was a busy day. Two conferences: 1) Dr. Patrick Vogel, and American psychologist who lives in Norway, lectured on Behaviour Modification; 2) Arne Moa, assistant director of the National Association spoke on Normalization. Each of these talks were followed by small group discussions. These were reconvened later for large group discussions. These talks and discussions covered very weighty and sensitive parent issues.

Monday, Whit-Monday (a holiday in Norway) was the closing session. I made a presentation about the Pilot Parent picnic that lasted for 3 days. This talk was well received with many questions. The final session was a board meeting for local leaders. The goodbye time was sad as I had made many good friends.

The next day off to Oslo. At the national headquarters, I met the national leader of the Parent Support Program, Guri Grosland. The work she is doing is based on the concept of the Pilot Parent Program. A parent coordinator has been hired in their counties of Norway to provide training programs to the local parents. This program was initiated in the Spring 1979. It's a thrill to sit in the National Parents Association in Norway and listen to the outline of programs based on the work begun in Omaha.

That afternoon I visited a facility named Frambu. This center, designed for polio treatment has been adapted to be a teaching center for parents and handicapped persons. Set up in 2 week segments, many different groups are served at Frambu. Parents of children with cerebral palsy, epilepsy, adults with strokes, arthritis, and so forth are served. The first week of June there were 15 families of mentally handicapped children in residence. They experience every combination of learning covering every conceivable subject in the 14 days. It was a beautiful facility. There were dynamic parents of mentally retarded children conducting the course. Frambu was the only facility of this kind that I saw. Frambu was not on my itinerary. I had heard about it from parents who had been there. I was intrigued by their description of this facility. It proved to be one of the highlights of the trip. My last day was spent in Nottaden at the home of Sig and Liv Gohli. Before I left Norway, Sig took me to see a Stav Church and the Viking ships. Such elegance from hundreds of years ago. The pride of home and land was outstanding in my host from Norway. More news next issue.

happy hogs jamboreee!

C.B. operators from all over the Midwest came to Omaha on September 29 and 30 to participate in the Fourth Annual Jamboree sponsored by the Omaha Happy Hogs C.B. Radio Club.

A jamboree is a unique event--it combines the atmosphere and excitement of a flea market with entertainment, dancing, raffles, and the good times associated with meeting old and dear friends. A jamboree is always a family event, with lots of people camping in their vans nearby. Many businesses in the Omaha community contribute to the success of the jamboree by donating prizes for the raffles or refreshments.

The most necessary ingredients though are enthusiasm and willingness to work hard--and the leadership of Omaha Happy Hogs, Metro Area Control and Assist in Distress C.B. clubs put in long hours to pull off this event.

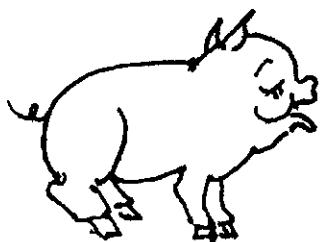
Our thanks to all of you for your continuing support.

Mother Goose



Above: Founder of the Happy Hogs, "Norwalk Porky" and "Patches".

Below: Members of the Assist in Distress C. B. Club.



Story by
Sherry Noley

Photographs by
Mike Suchan



"AND THE BEAT GOES ON"

That would have been an appropriate title for the Technical Assistance Training Workshop held here in Omaha September 7-9.

We (all Pilot Parents in the four state region) have been concerned about need for continual technical assistance to developing programs after the current HEW funding terminates September 30. The most logical way to meet the need was to train key people in the region who have already experienced the joy/trauma of developing a Pilot Parent Program in their own community. Parents were invited to take the training in order to (1) respond to requests for speakers about Pilot Parents (2) assist in setting up a Core Committee in local community (3) assist in setting up training sessions. Consideration was given to geographic location of trainers and their ability to travel on a strictly volunteer basis. Twenty-one people worked hard that weekend and had fun while doing it! From the time they arrive Friday night and met Chuck Tressler, the Executive Director of GOARC, and heard the latest up-date on grant proposals, they began to learn by experience the ways they can function as outreach specialists. Time spent working in small groups and problem solving will also be beneficial to these leaders in the programs in their home communities.

After September 30th, you can still call the GOARC offices (402) 348-9220 in order to get help for your local program. One of the persons listed will be referred to you:

Elizabeth & Henry Nisly, RR 1 Box 241,
Hutchinson, KS 67501

Carla Lawson, 1602 Tenth Ave. N, Ft.
Dodge, IA 50501

Esther Fields, RR 1, Storm Lake, IA 50588

Mary & Francis McAllister, 2521 Sunrise
Lane, Burlington, IA 52601

Carol Bach, 4657 Delor, St. Louis, MO
63116



Lou Emery, 151 Stratford St., Sullivan,
MO 63080

Janet Ansell, 4934 Ginny Ave., Lincoln,
Ne 68516

Cheri Dean, 3204 Fontennel Blvd., Omaha,
NE 68104

Be Magdanz, Box 628, Laurel, NE 68745

Sonia & Jon Moarn, 1601 S. Delaware,
Springfield, MO 65804

Bill & Linda Mondt, 2206 Shalimar Drive,
Salina, KS 67401

Russ & Sara Persons, 1245 East Second,
Fremont, NE 68025

Fran Porter, 3035 Belvedere Blvd., Omaha
NE 68111

Carolyn & Tom Stewart, 15 East Navajo Lane,
Kansas City, MO 64114

Chuck Tressler, 3212 Dodge, Omaha, NE 68131

Glenda Davis, 3212 Dodge, Omaha, NE 68131

Sherry Noley, 3212 Dodge, Omaha, NE 68131

Patty Smith, 4916 Ohio, Omaha, NE 68104

CANDIDLY SPEAKING.....

BY TERRY CASEY

TO SERVE OR TO ADVOCATE, THAT IS THE QUESTION.

"The purpose of the Corporation (GOARC) shall be to provide, through the volunteer efforts of its members and through its employees, guidance and support to mentally retarded citizens and their families and to promote the rights, welfare and development of retarded citizens." This complex quote came into scrutiny at the October 30th Board of Director's meeting. This discussion topic which brought the Purpose Section in the Articles of Confederation into the spotlight is: Shall GOARC remain solely an advocate agency or shall GOARC provide direct services? To Advocate? That is the result of the Board's vote. The vote is not unanimous. And the vote is not an easy one because above all the philosophy discussion looms the most difficult and basic issue. People who are mentally retarded are not being served!!

Several agencies exist to provide hard, direct services. CETA, ENCOR, Eppley Rehabilitation, Madonna School, Meyers, NPI, public schools, etc. Admittedly these are not enough in quantity or quality. However, many may exist to serve, not the least of which is Advocacy. GOARC is the sole, primary and formal advocate agency for retarded citizens in the larger Omaha area. To divert its staff, monetary and volunteer resources to direct services would not be in the best interest of our consumers. To add direct services to the GOARC repertoire would not end the waiting lists or eliminate Omaha citizens in Beatrice. Indeed, direct services might eliminate the one thing the founders, staff, and consumers have worked diligently for--normalization. Developing GOARC, schools, residences and/or employment centers could be interpreted as drawing in; admitting the need for separate programs would undermine the benefits of normalization to the client and to the community and certainly shrink money allocated by the community for already existing programs.

Monitoring services is an inherent responsibility of the advocate agency. Although this analogy may be humorous, consider how much clout Ralph Nader would have with the auto industry if he were to manufacture the "Nadermobile". This arch consumer advocate knows well the principle that to compete in the system is to diminish the monitoring capabilities of that system. (NOTE: Nader doesn't even own a car just so the endorsement factor won't restrict his criticism of Ford, G.M. & others.)

What is in the GOARC consumer's best interests is lobbying, educating the community, monitoring existing programs and pushing for more. GOARC must be free from any taint of conflict of interest to do just this.



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Your Right to Health Care

Hospitals are the largest group of health care providers affected by the section 504 regulation.

As a disabled person, you are entitled to all medical services and medically related instruction available to the public. Hospitals receiving federal assistance (including Medicare payments) must take steps to accommodate your disability.

Among other things, hospitals must:

- Provide an emergency room interpreter or make other effective provisions for deaf patients.
- Treat the physical injury of a person under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Admit disabled persons to natural childbirth, anti-smoking, and other public-service programs of instruction.

Federally assisted long-term health care facilities may:

Operate separate programs for different physical disabilities and mental disorders.

For example, a sanitarium for patients with lung disease is not required to have a mental health program for a patient with lung disease and an emotional disorder.

On the other hand, the institution may not exclude a person with lung disease who also has other handicaps.

If your disabled child is in a long-term health care facility:

The facility and the local public school

district are jointly responsible for providing a free appropriate education for your child.

If you are a Medicaid patient, your private physician must:

- Have an office physically accessible to you,
- Treat you in a hospital or your home, or, if this is not possible,
- Refer you to another physician whose office is accessible, after conferring with you.

Services provided to you as a Medicare patient in a federally assisted hospital are covered under section 504; services provided by a private physician are not.

* * The above was reprinted from the pamphlet Your Rights As A Disabled Person printed by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare 391 regarding the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

If you or your child has a disability and believe that your rights under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 have been violated . . . you may file a complaint to the Civil Rights Office, Twelve Grand Building, 1150 Grand Ave., Kansas City, MO, 64106. If you would like assistance in filing your complaint please contact the Developmental Disabilities Ombudsman Office, 3212 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska, or call (402) 348-9220.

BULLETIN

BOARD

WHILE YOU'RE DREAMING...

How about a condominium for Christmas? The Nebraska Association for Retarded Citizens will hold a raffle on December 24th for a \$47,500 condominium located in Estes Park, Colorado. Anyone who wishes to make a tax-deductible donation of \$100 or wants to solicit donations may call Gene Nicholson at 334-9303 or 348-3383.

HONEY SUNDAY

Don Grimm and Bob Gehrman, co-chairmen of Honey Sunday, have been meeting weekly with their area coordinators: Joan Balce-tis, Sister Mary Evangeline, Murph Gartner, Chris and Peg Christiansen, Pat and Connie Jung, Judy and Time McGuire, Mary and Michael McGill, Fran Porter, and Don Gowing.

Also attending the Thursday night sessions are Northwestern Bell Jaycee representatives Paul Nelson, Joan Stewart, and Wendy Bartlett. They produced and distributed the Honey Sunday poster featuring Mrs. Perske's beautiful sketch.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The second National Telethon for Cerebral Palsy will be January 12 and 13, 1980 and will be viewed in Omaha over KETV. Volunteers to man the phones are needed. Please respond as you have in the past.

United Cerebral Palsy
1600 North 56th Street
Lincoln, NE 68504

(402) 392-2327

10:00 PM - 2:00 AM	_____
2:00 AM - 6:00 PM	_____
6:00 AM - 10:00 AM	_____
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	_____
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM	_____
No Preference	_____

VALUES CLARIFICATION OF ADVOCACY WORKSHOP

Lynn Breedlove, an associate with the Syracuse Training Institute of Syracuse University will be the presenter of a workshop on values clarification for advocates.

The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, November 24th, at Bennett Martin Public Library, 14th and "N" Streets, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Everyone is welcome, there will be no fee.

Got a meeting? Got a time? Got a place? Call 348-9220 with your information and we'll put it on the December and January calendars in the next issue of the Gazette. The first and final deadline is Nov. 15th; the second and final deadline is Nov. 23rd.

This is the last issue of the Gazette for Donna Chaffin who has collaborated on 38 issues since she first came to GOARC as secretary and fiscal clerk. She was guest of honor at a farewell luncheon held at Cascio's. A GOARC alumna and former office manager, Lynn MacDonald, was also there.



WILL YOU BE MOVING SOON?
IF SO, DON'T FORGET TO SEND
US YOUR NEW ADDRESS!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip Code_____

Home Phone_____ Business Phone_____ New Membership () Renewal()

Place of Employment_____

Occupation_____

Legislative District_____ (if known)

I am a: Parent of a retarded person_____ Interested citizen_____

Interested Youth_____ Professional in the field_____

I want to be:

() **An Active member**—One who would like to be actively involved in volunteer projects, services, or committees.

() **Non-Active member**—One who believes in the cause without being actively involved.

Please check type of membership desired:

() \$ 9.50 for adult or family membership. () \$ 50.00 for sustaining membership.

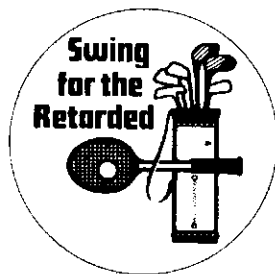
() \$ ~~500~~ for youth membership. () \$100.00 for lifetime membership.

() \$25.00 for supportive membership. () \$250.00 patron or corporate membership.

I would like to sponsor_____ memberships at \$9.50 each for low-income GOARC members.

() Enclosed is \$_____ for membership(s).

() Enclosed is \$_____ donation.



This issue of the Gazette is made possible through proceeds from "Swing for the Retarded".

GOARC

Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens

3212 Dodge Street

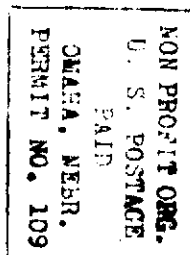
Omaha, Nebraska 68131

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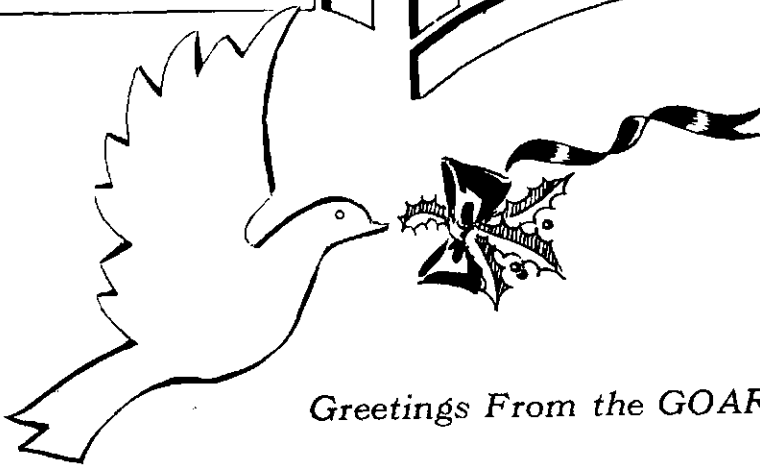


Ms. Shirley Dean
ENCOR
885 S 72nd St.
Omaha, NE 68114



NOËL

DECEMBER 1979

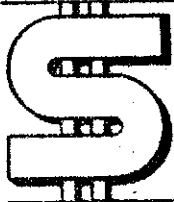


Greetings From the GOARC Staff



Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens

GAZETTE



The 1980 Income Tax Guide



Questions and answers about taxes. Do you qualify for a deduction? Which is the correct form?

Here is some helpful information

The IRS maintains toll-free numbers around the country listed in the phone book under U.S. Government, Internal Revenue Service. You may call these numbers to get information or to request free IRS information booklets. The booklets most relevant to parents of children with disabilities are:

- Publication #17 — Your Federal Income Tax;
- Publication #502 — Deductions for Medical and Dental Expenses;
- Publication #503 — Child Care and Disabled Dependent Credit;
- Publication #526 — Income Tax Deductions for Contributions

Be sure to ask for the publications that refer to preparation of 1979 tax returns. In the meantime, here are some guidelines that may help to prepare and file your tax return.

Form 1040 or 1040A?

Taxpayers have a choice of two forms when filing tax returns: Form 1040A, the short form, or Form 1040, the long form. Form 1040A requires that you take a single standard deduction, which has been a flat amount since 1977. These amounts have been raised, however, since last year. Please note the following figures in preparing your return for 1979.

- \$3400 for a married couple filing jointly and for surviving spouses;

- \$2300 for a single person;
- \$1700 for married persons filing separately.

However, if you can qualify for the child care credit you must file the long Form 1040.

Since many parents of children with disabilities spend substantial amounts of money on behalf of their child, their deductible expenses usually exceed the standard deduction. Therefore, it is often to their advantage to itemize expenses and file Form 1040.

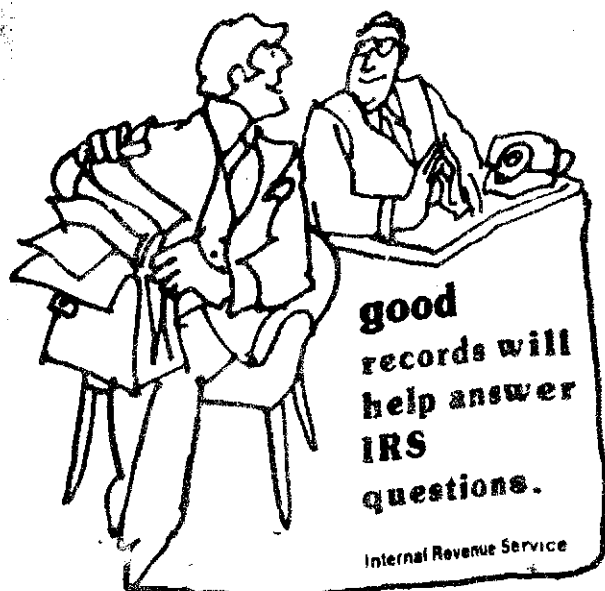
Keep Careful Records

If you plan to file Form 1040, we cannot emphasize enough the importance of keeping complete and accurate records. Although it is not necessary to file these records with your return, they will help you to fill out your return correctly. Moreover, they are invaluable should the IRS audit your return. Tax returns may be audited by the IRS up to three years after they are filed — so keep all records in a safe place for three years.

Record all expenses related to your child's disability — from costly operations and prescribed drugs to over-the-counter medicine recommended by your physician and purchased by you. Keep a notebook for this purpose in which you record:

1. Date of payment;
2. Name and address of the person providing the service;
3. Brief description of service provided;
4. Amount paid.

Always get a receipt to back up your records, whether you pay by check or in cash. If no formal receipt is available, note the specifics listed above on a slip of paper, have it signed, and file it with your records.



The cost of transportation related to medical care is also deductible. Keep a record of transportation expenditures in a notebook specifically designated for this purpose or in a special section of your expenses notebook.

As a general practice keep all cancelled checks, bills and receipts related to deductible expenses. Expenses are deductible in the year in which the payment is made. Thus, if you have an operation in December 1978, but pay the hospital bill in January 1979, the expense is deductible on your 1979 tax return — the year you pay the bill.

Let the IRS Know Who You Are

Tax returns are processed by a computer that automatically singles out any taxpayer who claims high deductions. If you explain your child's disability and the deductions you are claiming in a letter accompanying your return, the IRS is more likely to understand your claims and less likely to audit your return.

Have your child's physician write a letter explaining the nature of your child's disability and the prescribed care. List the various specialists, therapists, physicians and treatments necessary to your child's health and have your doctor verify your child's participation in these programs. Enclose a copy of your doctor's letter with your return and keep the original for your file.

Gray Areas

Tax law, like any law, is subject to differences in interpretation. Questions arise about what is and is not deductible. These questionable areas are described by the IRS as "gray areas." We urge you to contact the IRS with your specific questions and dilemmas. You may write to your local IRS office at any time during the year to request a ruling. Direct your letter to the attention of the District Director, explain your case and ask for a determination letter.

What is Medical Care?

The IRS defines medical care expenses to include payments for the diagnosis, cure, alleviation and treatment of a disease or dysfunction of the body. In the opinion of the IRS, anyone who renders services to diagnose, cure, alleviate or treat a disease or dysfunction of the body qualifies as a health practitioner whose fees are deductible. The words **physician** and **doctor**, as used in this article, refer to the person who performs these services for your child. Many nonmedical practitioners, including some without doctorates, are considered health practitioners by the IRS. In addition to practitioners' fees, the expenditures itemized below are also deductible.

Medical and Dental Expenses

Operations and Drugs. Any operation, providing it is advised by a doctor, is a deductible medical expense. Such operations now include legal abortions and acupuncture. Contraceptive devices, vitamins (when prescribed by a doctor), prescription drugs and some over-the-counter medicines are all deductible expenditures.

When deducting the cost of over-the-counter medicines, keep in mind that they must be prescribed (or recommended) by a doctor and they must serve as a treatment for a specific illness. For example, the cost of a bath oil that you purchase because you enjoy bathing in it is not deductible. However, if your doctor prescribes a specific bath oil to treat a skin disease, then its cost is deductible.

A special food or beverage prescribed by a physician solely to treat an illness is deductible. However, these foods must be in addition to your normal diet. The cost of special foods or beverages taken as substitute for whatever you normally consume is not deductible. If you deduct food or beverage costs, include a statement from your doctor with your return.

Special Services. The costs of special services necessary to treating your child's disability are deductible. Any hospital services such as emergency ward treatment, lab fees, x-rays, rental of equipment and ambulance service are considered medical expenses and can be deducted.

The cost of nurses, domestic help or companions who render services directly to the disabled person are also deductible, including their board when paid by the taxpayer.

Special Aids. A disabled child may require special aids. The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that the cost of such aids, when advised by a doctor, is deductible unless it adds to the value of your home. A list of these aids, as specified by the IRS, follows. (If you use an aid not listed, check with the IRS to determine whether it is deductible.)

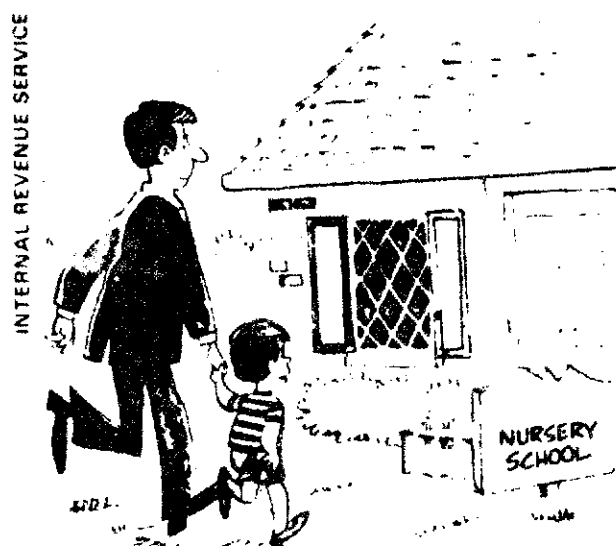
- autoette
- excess cost of a specially designed automobile
- mechanical lifting devices
- tape recorder
- special typewriter
- special lamps
- special written material
- seeing-eye dog and its maintenance costs
- device to add fluoride to water, when prescribed by a doctor
- special mattresses and boards for treatment of spinal condition
- special food prescribed by a doctor (only the cost over and above the price of a normal diet is deductible)
- oxygen equipment to alleviate difficulty in breathing
- remedial reading programs to correct dyslexia
- cost (and cost of repair) of special telephone that has teletype signals enabling a disabled person, who could otherwise not use a phone, to communicate
- eyeglasses
- elastic stockings
- hearing aids
- artificial limbs and teeth
- wheelchair
- that portion of the cost of Braille books and magazines that exceeds the price of regular printed editions.

Equipment such as an air conditioner or an elevator installed in your home for medical purposes may be

deductible, unless its addition to your home increases the property value. For example, if you install an elevator at a cost of \$1000 and the value of your home is thus increased by \$400, you may claim the difference, \$600, as a medical expense.

Rulings in two cases involving swimming pools help to clarify these issues. In one case, it was ruled that the cost of a swimming pool specifically designed to provide hydrotherapy and installed on the recommendation of a doctor was deductible as a medical expense. In another case, the cost of a **standard** swimming pool recommended by a doctor was not entirely deductible. It was ruled that the swimming pool was a permanent improvement that increased the value of the property, and its total cost was therefore not a deductible medical expense. However, if the pool costs more than the amount it adds to the value of the property, then the excess cost is deductible.

Therapeutic Activities for Parents. Your doctor may advise you to attend meetings of groups of parents of disabled children. The cost of these meetings, including transportation or any other doctor-recommended activity, may also be interpreted as a deductible expense. A subscription to THE EXCEPTIONAL PARENT magazine would probably fall within this category. These activities fall within the IRS guidelines on medical expenses because they are in the interest of your child's health. Attendance at a parents' group social event is **not**, however, a tax-deductible expense.



WORKING PARENTS: CHECK OUT TAX BENEFITS FOR CHILD CARE.

When Parents Pay for Special Education. If your child attends a special school or institution at the suggestion of a practitioner, and if his/her program there is designed specifically to alleviate the disability, then the cost — including room and board — is deductible. You may not deduct the cost of a private school unless treatment of a disability is its primary purpose. However, if the school itemizes its fees — e.g., room, meals, recreation, medical care — then the fee paid specifically for medical care is deductible.

In some instances the cost of classes outside of school can be deducted. For example, it was decided that payments for remedial reading training to help correct dyslexia were deductible as a medical expense. In another case, the costs of travel training for a mentally retarded child were found to be deductible.

When sending a disabled child away to school you may deduct the total cost only if it can be established that the facility's primary purpose is treatment of the disability. For example, if an emotionally disturbed child is unable to function in a public school, then the cost of sending the child to a private school that specializes in teaching children with emotional problems is deductible. Similarly, the costs, including transportation costs, of sending a mentally retarded child to a school with a special program for children who are mentally retarded are deductible.

Remember: in order for you to be able to deduct the cost of a school it must offer a special program or special facilities to treat your child's disability. For example, parents of a child with emotional problems were not allowed to deduct the cost of his private school even though he attended a remedial reading program there. Since the school primarily served "normal" children and the remedial reading program was offered to any student with a reading problem, it was ruled that this particular school had no special program to treat this boy's disability. Therefore no deduction was allowed.

Two other cases further clarify this distinction. In one instance, parents of a deaf child sent her to a "regular" private school because they believed that she would be motivated to act in a more "normal" way if she attended a school with "normal" children. The judge ruled that — even though the child might benefit from the school — because the school did not offer special programs for the deaf its cost was not deductible.

In another case, it was ruled that even though a child attended a private school on the advice of a psychiatrist, the cost was not deductible because the school offered no psychotherapy and had no psychiatrists or psychologists

on its staff. In other words, it is not enough for a school to offer a healthy or beneficial atmosphere for a particular child. It must offer specific programs or have special facilities to treat the child's disability if its cost is to be deductible.

Community Residences; Camps. A dependent may attend a specially selected home to facilitate the transition and adjustment from institutional to community living. The cost of this type of home is deductible.

Any special camp recommended by a doctor for your child is deductible. The rules for camps are the same as those for schools: the camp must offer a special program or special facilities relevant to your child's needs in order for its cost to be deductible.

You may also deduct all nonrefundable advance payments to a private institution for lifetime care, supervision, treatment and training for a physically and mentally disabled dependent in the event of your inability to care for him/her. To be allowable as deductions, these payments must be required as a condition of the institution's future acceptance of your dependent.

Transportation. All transportation costs related to medical care are deductible, whether you use your own vehicle, taxi cabs, a private transport service or

- to and from the doctor's office when the primary purpose of the trip is to receive medical services,
- to and from a special school away from home,
- to and from a meeting or appointment to receive treatment,
- to visit your child living away from home when visits are therapeutically necessary, or
- on a trip determined by your child's physician to be necessary to his/her health,

then you may deduct the cost of transportation. If you drive your own automobile, you may either deduct eight cents per mile and any parking fees or tolls, or, if you prefer, you may deduct your gas and oil cost instead of the rate per mile.

Not only trips to doctors and other medical practitioners are deductible. Transportation to and from any activity recommended by a doctor or other medical practitioner may be a deductible expense.

The cost of meals and lodging on long trips to get medical care is a deductible expense. In a recent case these costs were ruled to be deductible. A husband and wife traveled from Kentucky to Minnesota to receive

special medical care. The court ruled that the cost of their meals and lodging, as well as their mileage, was deductible as a transportation expense in that these expenses were an essential part of the cost of bringing them to the stipulated place of treatment. All living and traveling costs incurred in pursuit of medical care are deductible.

In this context, the living expenses incurred while taking a dependent to a special school, residence or camp — as well as to a hospital, clinic or doctor — are deductible. It is also possible that expenses incurred while visiting a dependent who is staying at a special educational or medical facility may be deductible. If you make trips like this, check with the IRS to find out if they are a deductible medical expense.

Is There Any Limitation On Deductions?

In figuring how much of your total medical expenses you may deduct, there are three factors to consider:

Medicine and Drugs. You may deduct payments for medicine and drugs to the extent they exceed one percent of your adjusted gross income, but not beyond three percent.

Medical Insurance. You may also deduct one-half of the amount you — not your employer — paid for medical insurance premiums in 1979. This deduction may not exceed \$150. The remainder of the cost of medical insurance should be included with your other medical expenses.

For example, if you spend \$400 on medical insurance you may separately deduct \$150 on your income tax. The remaining \$250 is added to your total medical expenses.

Total Medical and Dental Expenses. That part of your total medical and dental expenses that exceeds three percent of your adjusted gross income is deductible. In other words, after you have totaled all your medical and dental expenses — including the amount spent for medicine and drugs that is more than one percent of your income and the amount of your insurance payments not separately deducted — you may deduct that portion of the total which is allowed: that in excess of three percent of adjusted gross income.

How Does All This Work?

Take a specific hypothetical example. A family's adjusted gross income totals \$15,000. Their medical in-

surance costs \$200, medicine and drugs \$300, and other medical expenses \$2000. This family's medical deduction is computed as follows:

Medical Insurance. Expenditures were \$200. One-half of the cost of premiums is deductible from the outset. That equals \$100. Since the \$100 does not exceed \$150 limit, this family may deduct \$100. The remaining \$100 will be included in completing their expenses.

Drugs and Medicine. Expenditures were \$300, one percent of the adjusted gross income of \$15,000 is \$150. The cost of drugs and medicine in excess of one percent of the adjusted gross income is \$150. This \$150 will be included in completing their medical expenses.

Other Medical Expenses. Expenditures were \$2000.

To figure total medical expenses add:

Deductible payments for medicine and drugs	\$ 150
Medical insurance costs not directly deductible	100
Other medical expenses	2000

Subtotal	\$2250
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From this total subtract:

Three percent of total adjusted gross income of \$15,000	— \$ 450
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Subtotal	\$1800
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The total of deductible medical expenses is equal to:

Medical expenses minus three percent of adjusted gross income	\$1800
Plus the deductible cost of medical insurance	100

Total deduction for medical and insurance expenses	\$1900
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Child Care Credit

The Tax Reform Act of 1976 eliminated deductions for employment-related child care expenses. Recently-enacted tax laws give child care credit. The amount of the child care credit earned by a taxpayer is subtracted from the total amount owed in taxes after all deductions have been figured. The credit may be used on either Form 1040A, the short form with standard deductions, or Form 1040, the long form.

To qualify for the child care credit you must have:

1. a dependent under fifteen or



If someone cares for your children while you work, you may have a tax credit of up to \$800 coming to you. Check your tax instructions for details.

2. a spouse or dependent of any age who is incapable of self-care.

If a taxpayer has one such dependent, he earns a credit of twenty percent of all household and personal care expenses up to \$2000 (\$400 maximum credit).

If a taxpayer has two or more such dependents he earns a credit of twenty percent of all household personal care expenses up to \$4000 (\$800 maximum credit).

Payments for a child under fifteen can be applied to the credit whether the payments are for care in the home or outside the home. Thus, the cost of a day care center or of care in another person's home qualifies for credit. Note, however, that household and personal care for a spouse or other older dependent must take place in the home if it is to be deductible.

Under the law, child care payments to relatives qualify for the credit as long as the relative is not a dependent of the taxpayer and is not your child under 19 years of age at the end of the year.

In the past, child care expenses were deductible only when they were necessary to allow:

1. both parents to work full-time or seek full-time work; or
2. a single parent to work full-time or seek full-time work.

The new tax credit is available to married couples if one works full-time and the other is a part-time worker or a full-time student. However, if one spouse works only part-time, then the amount of child care expense

that counts toward the credit is limited to the earnings of the spouse with the lower income. For example, if Mr. Jones is employed full-time and earns \$10,000 a year, and Mrs. Jones works part-time and earns \$1500, then, regardless of how much they spend on child care, a maximum of \$1500 can count toward the child care credit.

A single parent taxpayer is subject to the same rules when he or she works part-time. That is, he or she earns credit equal to the amount earned in part-time work.

If one spouse or a single taxpayer is a full-time student and has no income, then the law treats that person as if he or she were earning \$166 per month if there is one dependent, or \$333 if there are two or more dependents. In this way, students may earn credit for those months they attend school full-time.

For example, assume Mrs. Jones works full-time and Mr. Jones attends college full-time for nine months. If the Joneses spend \$3000 this year for someone to look after their child, they may credit only \$1197 (nine months x \$133) of that total toward their child care credit.

Married couples may claim the credit only if they file a joint return. A divorced or separated parent may take the credit for a child under fifteen as long as he or she has custody of that child for a longer period during the year than the other parent, regardless of who claims the child as a dependent. A deserted spouse may claim the credit if the deserting spouse has been absent for the last six months of the year.

If a child turns fifteen during the year, all child care expenses incurred up to his or her birthday may be deducted. But the year-long limit remains constant. Therefore, if a child turns fifteen in June, and you have already spent \$3000 on care, you may earn credit on \$2000, the limit for one full year.

The child care credit is nonrefundable. That means that the tax credit cannot reduce your taxes below \$50. In other words, if, after you figure all deductions, you owe the government \$200 in taxes and you have a \$400 child care credit, then you would pay no taxes. However, the government would not owe you \$200, and there would be no carry-over to the next tax year.

In general the result of this section of the law is that middle-income parents of disabled children will pay more in taxes. For clarification of the new child care credit, call, write or visit the IRS with your questions.

This information originally appeared in the December 1978 issue of THE EXCEPTIONAL PARENT. It has been updated and is reprinted with permission.



27TH AND DOUGLAS STREETS

OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68131

PHONE 345 7777

November 16, 1979

Project II Members
c/o GOARC
3212 Dodge St.
Omaha, NE 68131

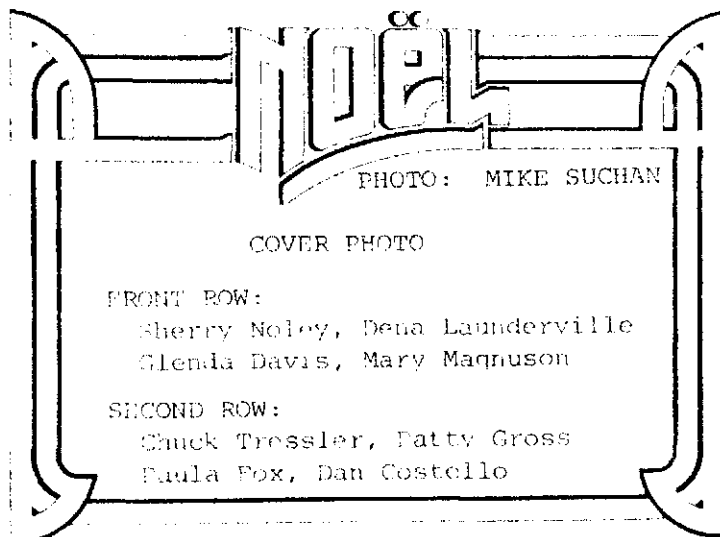
Dear Nancy, Ollie, Tom, Jack, and all my friends at Project II:

I have just sent a check of \$500 to GOARC to be used for Project II activities. This money was part of a recent award that KETV won for public service. I could think of no better organization to which to donate this money. I hope it will help you all to continue your important work in our community. As you well know, there is much yet to be done.

I hope this letter finds all of you well. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Fondly,

Bettie Shapiro-Denny



©VCK

TO ME CHRISTMAS MEANS PEACE AND LOVE AND LAUGHTER.
 LET THERE BE CHRISTMAS IN THE WORLD
 AND NO HATE IN THE WORLD
 AND LET THERE BE SONG TO SING AT CHRISTMAS,
 AROUND AT CHRISTMAS TIME.

YOUR FRIEND,
 THOMAS HOULIHAN



BRANDEIS
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 Retarded



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