

GREATER OMAHA ASSOCIATION
FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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the
GOARC
GAZETTE



5016 California

Omaha, Nebraska 68132

Phone 556-7562

608 Barker Building

Omaha, Nebraska 68102

346-6338

VOL. 2 No. 5

November 1969

MEET MR. TOM ROMICK!

Tom is our Recreation Director just recently employed by GOARC.

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

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

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



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

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

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

RUMORS FROM ROBERTA

By Mrs. Al Kaplan (556-5140)

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

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

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

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

BEATRICE STATE HOME ASSOCIATION

--Wilma Wills (333-4359)

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

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

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

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

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

RECREATION

By Shirley Dean (346-6338)

James

The City Parks & Recreation

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



Dramatics Music Swimming The Christ Child

THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY resumed their Saturday Social and Recreational Program for Exceptional Children on October 4. This should be a very excellent program again this year and will provide a wide variety of activities including: music, games, story time, dramatics, parties, arts and crafts, plus a new activity--SWIMMING!

This program is available to all mentally retarded children (over age 4) and adults. It will be held every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the new Christ Child Building, 1248 South 10th Street, 342-4566.

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



Swimming The American Red Cross

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS provides swimming lessons for the handicapped every Tuesday evening, from 5:30 to 6:30 at the West YMCA, 7502 Maple. Mr. Joe Miscek, volunteer, is in charge of the program. Instruction is provided on an individual basis--free of charge.

Application forms are available through the Red Cross, 341-2723, and are to be completed by your child's doctor or physical therapist.

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

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

--Dr. Maria Egg--

A CALL FOR HELP!

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

DEVELOPMENTAL CENTERS

--Penny Jenkins (551-9205)

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

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

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

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

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

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

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS--TMH

--Ruth Sharp

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

BEATRICE STATE HOME

--Mr. Brockmeier, Director of Education

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

DISTRICT 66

--Ruby Huebner

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

WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENTS IN THE OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

--Jim Lane (556-5665)

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

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

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

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

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

MARTIN LUTHER SCHOOL

--W.W.Wolf

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

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

PROJECT CHANCE

--Suzanne Bradley (346-5000)

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

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

MADONNA SCHOOL

--Sister Mary Evangeline (556-1883)

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

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

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

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

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

Wedding Bells Ring at GOARC!!

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

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

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

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

DIVISION OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

--Mel Knowlton (556-8229)

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

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

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

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

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

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

WORKSHOP

--Brian Lensink (558-3121)

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

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

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

CHAP Building Soon to be Reality

--Henry Schuttler (291-6700)

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

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

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

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

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

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

--June Henrikson (339-2756)

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

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

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

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

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

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

A PERSON LEARNS BY HIS OWN ACTIVITY

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

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We've Moved! Our new address is: 508 Barker Building
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346-6338
JUNE 1969

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GOYARC - GENERAL MEETING
June 6, 1969

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

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

PARK PROGRAM STARTS
June 19, 1969
Tuesday-Thursday Program

PARK PROGRAM STARTS
June 20, 1969
Monday-Friday Program

FREE-PLAY SWIMMING
June 24, 1969

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

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

CHRIST CHILD CAMP
July 13-19, 1969

CHRIST CHILD CAMP
August 3-9, 1969

CHRIST CHILD CAMP
August 10-16, 1969

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

See story page four

Benson Developmental Center
6319 Maple Street

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

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

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

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

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

E.M.H. Girls
See story page four

E.M.H. Boys
See story page four

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

ART WORK DONATED

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

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

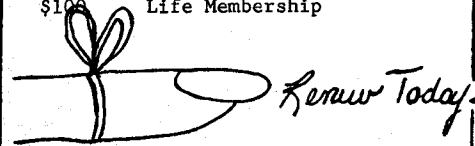
POETS COME FORWARD

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

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

Have You Overlooked Renewing Your GOARC MEMBERSHIP?

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



OUR TRAVELING TEAM

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

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

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

OVER A CUP OF COFFEE

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

NEW DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

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

NEB ARC PRESIDENT ELECTED

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

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

KMTV SPECIALS

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

GOARC ELECTIONS

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

President
ROBERTA KAPLAN

2nd Vice-President
LEIGHTON GOODRICH

Corresponding Secretary
SISTER MARY EVANGELINE, RSM

1st Vice-President
WILMA WILLS

Recording Secretary
DORINE GILMORE

Treasurer
JOHN PLEISS

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

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

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

NEB ARC CONVENTION - SCOTTSBLUFF

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

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

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

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

STATE YOUTH PRESIDENT ELECTED

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

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

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

Hats off to both BRIDGET and JUDI!!!

ARTHUR

Little man of elfin size
You hardly reach my knee
An yet you being in our home
Has profound effect on me.
We rattle together and I hear you laugh
And I feel a rapturous joy
For it has an infectious quality
My miraculous little boy.
He is so loving to mom and dad
I cannot help but feel
He knows, that even when were mad
We love him a great deal.
And when he smiles the sunbeams shine
For he makes the whole world right
Though many problems came with him
His laughter makes them light.
You're mommy and daddy's sorrow and
Joy, but your life is just begun
We'll always be happy to have you near,
Our wonderful little son.
KAY L. MACDONALD

GOYARC

On June 6, at 7:30 pm, the General members of GOYARC will elect new officers for the term beginning July 1, 1969 and ending June 30, 1970.

Two of GOYARC's members from the South Omaha Boys Club were named "Boy of the Month": JIM FRANKS for March, and JOHN CARRILLO for April.

KMTV SPECIAL

TERRY FORSBERG of KMTV (Channel 3) has asked us to prepare a 30 minute television special entitled "Medical Aspects of Mental Retardation." This show will appear on Sunday, June 9, 1969 at 12:30 pm. DRS. FRANK J. MENOLASCINO, and PAUL PEARSON will discuss some of the most common forms of mental retardation with TERRY FORSBERG.

So don't forget to watch this show! And please let KMTV know that we appreciate their interest and support!

PARK RECREATION PROGRAM

GOARC is again grateful to the City Parks and Recreation Department for their interest and cooperation in providing a summer parks program for our mentally retarded. They have hired DENNY SCHLADETZKY as the director of this summer program. DENNY is a special education teacher (EMH) in California who will be in Omaha for the summer.

The Parks Program will include group games and such activities as hiking, singing, story-telling, and possibly, crafts. The hours will be from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at both Hanscom and Benson Parks. This program will be held at Benson Park on Monday and Friday, and Hanscom Park on Tuesday and Thursday, EXCEPT for the two-week period of June 30 through July 10 when all the parks programs will move to Miller Park. This is so that the children may also attend the concentrated Learn-To-Swim Program at Miller Park, if they wish. The park program at Miller will be from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Mondays through Thursdays. The Learn-To-Swim Program will be from 11:00 am to 12 noon the same days.

SWIMMING PROGRAM

The City Parks and Recreation Department has once again agreed to provide swimming programs for our mentally retarded. These programs will be open to all mentally retarded children who are over 42 inches tall.

The Learn-To-Swim Program is a concentrated, two-week session starting June 30 at Miller Park between 11:00 and 12 noon. There will be a registration fee of \$2.00 for eight lessons. Registrations must be in the GOARC Office by June 6!

The Free-Play Swimming Program will be at Hanscom Park from 12 noon to 1:00 pm on Tuesday, June 24, July 15, July 22, July 29 and August 5. There will be a 25¢ charge each time.

Many volunteers will be needed in these Swim Programs. Trained Water Safety Instructors and people with Junior and Senior Life Saving are particularly needed for the Learn-To-Swim Program and would also be helpful at the Hanscom Free-Play Sessions. Any teenagers and/or adults who are interested in volunteering, please contact SHIRLEY DEAN at the GOARC Office. So don the bikinis, splash on the suntan lotion, grab your swimming cap and let's all help!!

CAMP PROGRAM

Once again the Christ Child Society will be offering camping experiences for the mentally retarded. Educable mentally retarded boys between the ages of nine and fourteen years will attend the regular camping session from August 3 through August 9. The educable mentally retarded girls, between the ages of nine and fourteen years will attend the regular camp session July 13 through July 19. The camp fee is \$30.00 paid by June 1, and \$32.00 if paid after this date.

There will also be a one-week residential camp for the trainable mentally retarded boys and girls over age eight from August 10 through August 16. The camp fee is \$40.00 for non-GOARC members and \$30.00 for GOARC members (with GOARC paying the \$10.00 difference).

For more information on either of these camping programs, please contact SHIRLEY at the GOARC Office.

HAPPY HORIZONS!



JUDIE RASCO

THE GREATER OMAHA ASSOCIATION
FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.
608 BARKER BUILDING
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

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SUMMER EDITION

WHAT SHOULD A PARENT DO?

Any parent who has a child enrolled in a special class or group of an Educationally Handicapped Program--if they want to help their child--should first, become knowledgeable and then, apply that knowledge in a manner which will ensure that their child secures the assistance he needs to achieve an equitable place in our society.

How does one become knowledgeable?

Go to the school, find out what their reasons were for placing your child in a special program. Talk to his teacher. Determine her viewpoint on the subject. Take the child to a physician experienced in dealing with these type children and have a thorough medical diagnosis made. And, as necessary, secure a series of special tests to pinpoint, as much as possible, the exact nature of your child's problem and all its physiological, psychological, and sociological implications.

Then, secure all the literature on the situation as possible. (You may be surprised to find out how much is already in existence.) Read it--and what you don't understand--ask a professional or more sophisticated parent. You will find that these type of parents are usually active members of a group. They have probably already run the gamut for their children and can provide some first hand information and insight that you could only obtain through bitter or frustrating experience.

Seek out and attend meetings, lectures, and conferences that are being held within your locale on subjects relating to your problems and your child's handicap. At first, you may feel out of your depth and that the information being disseminated is over your head, but, after a while, the pieces begin falling in place and you are on your way to becoming a knowledgeable parent. One parent, with knowledge, can do a lot to alleviate the situation. However, when both parents have understanding, then the task becomes easier for all concerned.

All right, now that you have the knowledge--how do you put it to use?

By this time, it will already be in use--within your home--but actually you will come to realize that it isn't enough. For, during your gathering of knowledge, you will come to realize that help for your child is also dependent on a great many outside influences. His school programs are directly related to the actions of your school district and the school board. They, in turn, are subject to directives from higher county or state levels. And, of late, there have been several actions by the Federal Government with respect to these type of children.

Your actions cannot be limited to your home environment if you want to insure that there will be a future for your youngster. A wholesome home life that provides you with a minimum of headaches is not going to help your child to cope with his problems if he is unable to secure the education and training to see him through his later years.

So--find out the names of the people on your school board, how they may be contacted, and what is their position on the Educationally Handicapped Program. Check with your school district. Find out who is the administrator for the special education programs and what are his and/or the district's plans relating to the future conduct of these programs within the district. Secure the names and addresses of your legislative representatives within the state government and those legislators who are on the various educational committees. Determine what legislation is on the docket, its relative effect on your plans or your child, and communicate your opinions to these people.

Sounds like a tall order -- it is -- and you really shouldn't try to do it alone. One person cannot achieve much although all of the things mentioned should be done. So, if you really want to help yourself and your child, become involved by joining with other individuals who are trying to do the same thing. In this way, the tasks can be shared and minimized and everyone can benefit from the results.

A group of people--with common objectives--can accomplish much, much more. School boards can totally ignore individuals but cannot easily dismiss the opinions of an organized group. This method also can be applied at virtually every level where you would want to get something done. You would be surprised how the resistance level drops with an increase in people. Also, in order to increase your own effectiveness, you may have to secure additional assistance from some source. No one can function in a void.

Only by becoming totally involved can you hope to really put your hard gained understanding to its full use. Take your knowledge and use it to assist others so they may, in turn, contribute to the well being of all. Use it to provide a better tomorrow for yourself, your child, your family, your neighbor, your schools, your community, and your society.

That's what a parent should do!

* * * * *

MADONNA SCHOOL

How much fun we had making the gumdrop tree centerpieces for the Convention -- the gumdrops we ate as well as the ones that made trees!

Our intermediate group made a day of it last Wednesday. We started with luncheon at the Essen House before our visit to Cooper Farm. We saw the new born calves, foals, piglets, and bunnies.

The Marian girls sponsored a weiner roast at Benson Park for the teen-age girls.

--Betty Ferraguti
Sister Mary Evangeline

Senate Passes Developmental
Disabilities Act

Senate April 13 passed Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Act of 1970 (S 2846) by a unanimous vote of 69-0. The measure, which constituted a major new chapter of federal programs assisting mentally retarded and other handicapped persons, including cerebral palsy and epilepsy, extended and expanded the Mental Retardation Facilities Act of 1963 (PL 88-164), which expires June 30, 1970.

Measure places emphasis on formula grant approach to funding local programs, but authorizes up to 20% of funds for project grants to meet needs of urban and rural poverty areas.

Principal sponsor of the bill, and its floor manager, was Edward M. Kennedy (a Democrat from Massachusetts), a member of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Subcommittee, which considered the bill.

Declaration of Purpose: Provides grants which assist states in both development and implementing a comprehensive and continuing plan for providing services to persons with developmental disabilities, to assist public or nonprofit private agencies in construction of facilities and provision of services; and to provide for demonstrations, technical assistance, local planning, specialized professional training and related purposes.

Definitions:

- ° Developmental Disability - A disability attributable to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or other neurological handicapping condition of an individual which originates before such individual attains age eighteen, which has continued or can be expected to continue indefinitely, and which constitutes a substantial handicap to such individual.
- ° Eligible services for persons with developmental disabilities - diagnosis, evaluation, treatment, personal care, day care, domiciliary care, special living arrangements, training, education, sheltered employment, recreation, counseling of individual and his family, protective and other social and sociolegal services, information and referral services, follow-on services, and transportation.

TITLE I:

Grants for Planning, Provision of Services and Construction and Operations of Facilities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.

- ° Provides a new Part C to the Mental Retardation Facilities Construction Act of 1963. New Part C authorizes grants, in addition to those for construction, for comprehensive planning and for services. Assistance is available for all those with Developmental Disabilities.

TITLE II:

Construction, Demonstration and Training Grants for University-Affiliated Facilities for the Mentally Retarded.

- ° Amends existing law to make construction grants available for interdisciplinary training facilities. Construction authorization is maintained at \$20 million a year through fiscal 1973.
- ° Authorizes grants for administering and operating demonstration facilities and interdisciplinary training programs for personnel needed to render specialized services to mentally retarded.

Authorizations:

Fiscal 1971 - \$100 million
Fiscal 1972 - \$125 million
Fiscal 1973 - \$150 million

Total - \$375 million

State Allotments: Allocates funds among states according to following formula:

- ° population
- ° need for facilities and services for developmentally disabled
- ° financial need of states

Committee Report

In submitting its report on S 2846 (S Rept. 91-757), Labor and Public Welfare Committee said measure would:

"Provide for the first time in the field of mental retardation and other developmental disabilities the basis for a state-federal partnership comparable to those already developed in such fields as health, mental health and vocational rehabilitation. Inasmuch as disabled persons may also benefit from certain other federally assisted programs in health, education and welfare, S 2846 would direct the benefits of the proposed legislation to areas of need not now covered by existing programs."

The Report also said that it was the intention of the Committee that:

"Special attention will be given under the bill to the improvement of residential services through the development of new patterns of care and a major redistribution of facilities. In addition, the Committee urges improvements in existing facilities by eliminating the overcrowding, oversize and inadequate or inappropriate staffing and environment that now exists. For example, the committee believes there is a need to develop appropriately staffed, community-based nonmedical day care facilities that can and should be made available to certain of the developmentally disabled under other federal programs, such as the health facilities provisions of the Hill-Burton Act."

House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Health Subcommittee has not scheduled hearings yet on its version of Developmental Disabilities Act (HR 14237); however, hearings are expected in May.

* * * * *

CONFERENCE ON DAY CARE

A Team of Day Care Specialists from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D.C., was in Omaha at the request of the Omaha Committee for Community Coordinated Child Care, better known as the 4 C's.

The team, headed by Gertrude Hoffman, Day Care Consultant, included the following members: Louis Weissman, Training Specialist; Gladys Lawson, Specialist on In-home Care for Children; and Maurice Meyer, Specialist on Community Planning for Social and Rehabilitation Services for Children.

During the week of May 18, work sessions were held to discuss training, funding, programming, parent involvement and community planning.

U.S. And European M.R. Programs

Both the United States and the European nations have outstanding service programs for the retarded as well as many similar problems, Francis P. Kelley, superintendent of Connecticut's Mansfield State Training School, told a gathering of PCMR and Health, Education, and Welfare Department staff recently.

Kelley toured mental retardation programs and facilities in the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, England, France and Germany last summer on a Rosemary Dybwad Fellowship study.

U.S. programs, Kelley reported, are superior to the European in the following areas: education of the retarded (except workshops); program development methods and innovation; interest on the part of government, particularly at the national government level; regional services and community involvement in direct services; the role of parent organizations; the effective use of volunteers; and rehabilitation, community placement and employment of the retarded.

Programs in the six European nations are superior to U.S. programs in the following areas, Kelley said: all levels of residential care, particularly in Sweden and Denmark; development and operation of hostels and group homes; standard care for all handicapped individuals; application of the principle of as-near-normal-as-possible living as developed in the Scandinavian countries; in-service training; public awareness and community acceptance of the needs of the retarded; architectural design of facilities; implementation of the human rights of the mentally retarded; development of services for the retarded adult.

"Mental retardation program leaders on both sides of the Atlantic have valuable experience to give each other, I found," said Kelley. "It isn't a case of one side having all the answers and the other side none."

The best organized workshops for the retarded that he has ever seen, said Kelley, are in the Netherlands. He was especially impressed by the large numbers of severely retarded individuals employed in these workshops and by Dutch success at breaking down tasks into component steps for handicapped workers (for example, among manufactures at Dutch workshops are bicycles).

But other aspects of the workshops were less impressive, Kelley reported. They often seek to create a self-contained world in which the retarded individual can live and work happily without any community contact. Many of the workers are mildly or moderately retarded individuals who might better be part of the community work force.

Kelley found the same mixture of features in other programs in the six nations. Denmark's and Sweden's small, beautifully designed facilities for near-normal living for retarded persons are justly renowned. Less well known, however, is the fact that all of the European nations still operate traditional large-population facilities for the retarded that have many of the same problems that U.S. facilities face--overcrowding, dehumanizing conditions and underfinancing. "None of these facilities," Kelley said, "are as bad as our worst, but it was a bit of a surprise to me to find them."

Among the points at which Kelley felt U.S. planners and program developers could profit from experience in the six European nations are:

- ° Dividing population areas into regions in which small, homogeneous, community-identified programs and facilities can be developed.

- ° Developing residential care facilities for five, eight and ten persons. (This is now being implemented in the Scandinavian programs. Wards presently are for 10 to 15 persons in the Scandinavian facilities, a considerable advance over the 35- to 40-person wards of several decades ago.)

- ° Application of the normalization principle to living arrangements and program in every facility.

° Construction of facilities with a planned obsolescence in view; employment of regional architects and landscapers; design of facilities according to function.

° Development of prefabricated educational facilities (patterned after Denmark's "Green Schools.")

° Development of a personnel academy for inservice training of workers with the handicapped. (Denmark presently has such an academy in which 4-year training, with salary, is available. Sweden's excellent special education program requires teachers of handicapped children to take more training than teachers of normal children and pays them more than teachers of normal children.)

° Development of more pre-school programs for severely and profoundly retarded children.

° Development of programs for the retarded adult.

* * * * *

CHANCE Awaiting New Facility

Project CHANCE's anticipated change of address to 17th and Grace will provide more than needed space for CHANCE's children. The move means an opportunity for two groups with very different objectives to implement their goals.

One group consists of members of Bellevue's Saint James Methodist Church, Rev. Fred Loder, pastor. "Reconciliation," which is the year long international goal of the Methodist Church, was the subject of a four week study led by Karen Timmons, CHANCE's Psychologist. In an effort to explain the needs and problems involved in bringing us together despite our racial divisions, three black staff members, Fanny Claxton, Dorethea Wade, and Billy Cook met the group. The results of the dialogue were rewarding and productive: a decision was made to become actively involved in a community need of concern to both its black and white members. The group will solicit cleaning and repair equipment. The supplies as well as recruited volunteers will be put to good use in a grand clean up weekend.

The second group is made up of senior architecture students at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln who are using the building as a project in their Environmental Action Studio. Each semester the studio takes on a job of socio-economic significance. The students are working towards a design which will make the building more suitable for day care while preserving its historical significance as the territorial governors mansion. The tentative plans include an exciting approach to space with an eye towards fluid flexible use of the various areas. Tom Piper, an N.U. student from Omaha, has been CHANCE's liaison with the studio.

We at CHANCE are eagerly awaiting the move. It is encouraging to know the change serves multiple needs in our area.

* * * * *

The Youth Convention - Myra Hoefker

The YARC Convention was held this year at the Fontenelle Hotel on May 1, 2, and 3. The theme was: "Youth in Unity". The object was: understanding and caring. Mr. Peter Wirtz from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln was our leader. He helped the group to become acquainted and to realize the need to accept people.

The three workshops attended by the Omaha group were: "What is MR?" by Julie Meyerson, "SWEAT" by Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger, and "News Media."

Kathy Albrecht and Terri Freyer were GOYARC's voting delegates. Beth Goodwill, Katie Johan, Myra Hoefker, Kathi Lankford and Sherry Hald represented GOYARC. Bridget Moylan from Omaha, the President of NYARC, was re-elected to serve another term.

State Special Olympics - 1970

The first Nebraska Special Olympics was held on Saturday, May 16, 1970. There were 178 participants from the following programs:

Beatrice State Home
Martin Luther Home
Douglas County Vocational Services Center
CHAP
Madonna School
Capital ARC
Special Ed Programs
Papillion
Ralston
Gering
District #66
Plattsmouth
Omaha Public Schools

Some of the numerous people who took it upon themselves to contribute their time and effort toward the success of the meet were:

Dr. Aaron Armfield, Chairman of Special Education Department,
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Mr. Joe Gaughn, Mental Retardation Consultant for State Department
of Education
Physical Education Fraternity at University of Nebraska at Omaha
Special Education Department at University of Nebraska at Omaha
Council for Exceptional Children at University of Nebraska at
Omaha
Eppeley Boys Club, Director Jim Rameriz
Boxers: Art Hernandez and Ron Standers
Miss Omaha - Debbie Sullivan
Omaha Public Schools Board of Education

We would also like to thank the JOSEPH P. KENNEDY Foundation.

National Special Olympics

Arrangements are underway for Nebraska to be represented at the National Special Olympics to be held at Soldier Stadium in Chicago on August 13-15. Nebraska has been allotted a quota of 40 participants and the following is the number of participants that each program may send:

Beatrice State Home	6	Capital ARC	4
Plattsmouth	5	Gering	1
Martin Luther Home	6	Cozad	3
Omaha Public Schools	2	CHAP	1
Papillion	4	GO/ARC	4
Madonna	2	Westside (66)	2
			<u>40</u>

We are going to develop a bigger and better Special Olympics in the future so that we can take a bigger group of participants as representatives of Nebraska to the National Special Olympics.

A Money campaign is under way to send participants and chaperons to Chicago. We are going to use 2 buses for transportation. We would also like to dress our participants as being identified as boosters of the Cornhusker State - The Best in the Midwest!

Anyone willing to donate to the cause please contact:

Mr. Tom Romick
Executive Director of Nebraska Special Olympics
5016 California Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68132

Schedule of Day Camp Activities

- * Hanscom Park - Playground Activities (Swim 12:00 to 1:00 Tuesday Monday and Tuesday - 9:30 AM until 2:30 PM)
- * Benson Park - Playground Activities Wednesday and Friday - 9:30 AM until 2:30 PM
- * Elmwood Park - Thursday - Tour Day. Meet at Elmwood at 9:00 AM for tour. (Swim from 12:00 to 1:00)

The two hostels which we have recently rented, one on Cumings Street and the other on Hamilton Street, have both been vacated and are ready to be renovated during the first week in June. Houseparents have been hired for each facility and the children who are to live in these facilities have been chosen. In all likelihood, the two childrens' hostels should be in full operation by July 1st, making the total number of operating hostels four.

During the last Board Meeting of May 18, 1970, the Board of Directors of the Association gave the staff permission to enter into a lease agreement for the hostel to be located on Burt Street. The lease is at the present time being drawn and we are currently deciding which people will be living in this facility. The general requirements for entrance in the Burt Street Hostel will be for females, moderately or mildly retarded, and of young adult or adolescent age. This primarily being ages 16 through 25. If everything goes according to schedule, this facility should be in operation sometime during the middle of July, and will make the total number of adult hostels three.

Finally, we are working on the Crisis Assistance Unit and we have a shaping unit. The Leo A. Daly Architectural Firm has been given the job of designing a small residential facility which would have an institutional rating to house the habit-shaping, and crisis assistance units. We will first be working with the habit-shaping unit. This facility will be small, homelike and integrated into an established residential community. We are presently looking for lots which could be purchased so that we can start building this facility at the soonest possible date.

The end of May has proved to be vacation time for many of our staff including Mel Knowlton, our Director of Residential Services. He will be back June 1, when we will be able to get back into full swing and be pushing forward toward more and better residential facilities for the retarded.

* * * * *

Many volunteers will be needed to help with MISSION: "Happiness", Day Camp. If you know of anyone interested, either teenage or adult, please have them contact Jim Hoffman or Tom Romick at 556-8229, 5016 California.

* * * * *

Exec's View - Robert L. Clark

The Development of a Regional Mental Retardation Services Agency

When the Douglas County Plan was written and presented to the Douglas County Board, in July of 1968, one of the proposals was for a "Douglas County Department of Mental Retardation Services," to be developed within a year.

Since the initiation of Douglas County Services, in September, 1968, complete consideration has been given by both the leadership of GOARC and the Douglas County Commissioners to the advisability of a regular "Douglas County Department for Retardation Services."

Over the past year, the thinking has shifted to a concept of "regional mental retardation services" on a local level. In December 1969, leaders of county governments and local ARC were invited to participate in a meeting. The counties represented at this meeting included: Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Saunders, Dodge and Washington. Out of this gathering grew the "Regional Mental Retardation Services Study Committee," which was formed by George Buglewicz, Chairman of the Douglas County Board, in April, 1970, and is now chaired by Mr. Norman Magnusson, Sarpy County Board Member from Bellevue. The Study Committee, with the assistance of Mr. Paul Peters of the Douglas County Attorney's office, has developed a legal agreement which is now being considered by the County Boards of Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders, Cass, Dodge and Washington counties which will result in the formation of a "Regional Governing

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Board" which will take control of services now operated by GOARC and will extend these services, on a regional basis, throughout the proposed six-county area. The development of a "regional concept of services" is consistent with the "Governor's Citizens Study Committee Report," delivered to Governor Tiemann in July, 1968. Our regional approach is serving as an example to other regions across the state of Nebraska, as we seek a full commitment on the part of state and local government to accept the responsibility of funding and operating comprehensive community services for the mentally retarded! These services will supplement the special education classes which are now being developed in the public schools and educational service units across our state.

Each member of GOARC can be proud of the role he and his organization has played in developing this "sense of public responsibility" for the needs of the retarded to be met with high-level, quality care, treatment, training and residential service at the community level!

Our "community services movement" has already resulted in a drop in the Douglas County population of Beatrice State Home from 642 patients 2 years ago to a level of about 480 patients at the present time! After two years operation of the Douglas County Plan, we are beginning to realize our goals, as they were expressed in the "Douglas County Plan" report.

* * * * *

Progress in Project "CHANCE"

"Project CHANCE" became an "operating program" of GOARC as of October 1, 1969. Since that time, the parent leaders of Project CHANCE have become acquainted with the GOARC Board. Mutually, the role within GOARC's structure of services has now been defined. In March, the GOARC Board authorized the acquisition of the "German Old People's Home Society" building at 17th and Grace streets as the new location for Project "CHANCE". At the present time, negotiations are under way with the German-American Society for the lease of this building. Hopefully, Project "CHANCE" will be relocated at 17th and Grace as of the middle of June, 1970. Because of State Fire Code problems, as well as other standards, Project CHANCE had to vacate the Bethel AME Church on January 31, 1970. Since that time, this program has been temporarily housed in the annex of the Men's Hostel, and for a short period of time -- at St. Luke's Lutheran's Church in South Omaha. Currently, part of the program is being housed at the Bethel AME Church, on a temporary basis, until the new facilities can be remodeled and prepared for occupancy.

SUMMARY - May Board of Director's Meeting of GOARC

On Monday, May 18th, the GOARC Board of Director's met at the Douglas County Vocational Services Center for its regular monthly meeting. The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Wilma Wills who has succeeded Mrs. Roberta Kaplan as President of GOARC for the balance of Mrs. Kaplan's term. Mrs. Kaplan was forced to resign because of ill health. The Board heard from Mr. Tom Moore, General Campaign Chairman, "1971 Heart of the Midlands United Appeal." Mr. Moore asked for the support of the GOARC Board and membership in making the up-coming United Appeal Campaign the most successful ever! He was given a warm reception by the Board!

The Planning Committee reported that it is still searching for an existing facility that can be approved by the Fire Marshall, according to State fire standards, for housing a "crisis assistance unit" as well as a "habit shaping unit" for which we have a Federal staffing grant which begins July 1, 1970. The Planning Committee also reported that the fifth hostel, which is to be acquired by GOARC, should be designated for the use of adolescent girls at the higher functional level. The Board authorized the staff to attempt to acquire a facility, for the unit, on Burt Street, directly across from Duchesne Academy.

The Board heard a report on negotiations, with the German American Society, for the lease of the German Old People's Home at 17th and Grace. The Board moved to confirm these negotiations and to proceed on
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acquiring a lease to this property on behalf of the Project "CHANCE" program.

Dr. Menolascino reported on a meeting with Federal officials in Kansas City in regard to the possible acquisition of Federal funds to support a "structured-correctional unit" for the mentally retarded youngster and adolescent who is in difficulty with the law. He reviewed the problems that have historically developed when a "mentally defective-offender" has been sent to Kearney, Geneva or the State Reformatory -- where such facilities are not prepared to deal with the mentally retarded person who is a legal offender.

The Executive Director reviewed, with the Board, the tentative budget to be presented to the United Community Services for the 1971 calendar year. The basic approach used in preparing this budget was approved by the Board. UCS will become the major source of financial support for the Association, in the very near future, as our daily programs are delegated to the new Regional Services Agency, which is being formed by several counties in the metropolitan area.

The Board of Directors empowered the Executive Committee of the Board to act in its behalf during the traditional "Board recess", in the months of July and August. Executive Committee meetings will be publicized and open to any Board member, GOARC member or member of the general public who wishes to attend.

The Board considered the need for an "Ad Hoc By-Laws Committee" to review the by-laws, as they pertain to "automatic appointments" to the GOARC Board. Historically, automatic appointments to the GOARC Board have often resulted in those automatically appointed having a generally poor record of attendance. Whenever the Board has attendance problems, it is difficult to obtain a quorum and, therefore, to conduct business. The Ad Hoc By-Laws Committee will look into the possibilities of restructuring membership of the Board, so as to have a more effective working group as members of the Board of Directors.

The June Board Meeting will be held on Monday, June 15, 1970 beginning at 8:00 P.M. at the Douglas County Vocational Services Center, 6001 Military.

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There are still a number of families who have not yet renewed their membership. The deadline for renewal is July 1 - so please hurry!!!!