

## RETARDED CHILDREN CAN BE HELPED

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 St. Paul Association for Retarded Children, Inc.  
 25 North Dale Street  
 St. Paul 4, Minnesota

April 1958

Vol. VI No. 8

CALENDAR

April 9 - Regular Meeting  
 25 North Dale Street  
 8:00 P.M.  
 Topic: Education  
 Speakers: Mrs. Florence Gerten  
 St. Paul School System  
 "Special Education in  
 Secondary Schools"  
 Father McDonough  
 St. Olaf's Catholic  
 Church  
 "Religious Education"

April 23 - Conference Committee  
 Representative  
 Jayne Frank  
 Pr 1-8191

Every Sunday - Sunday School  
 Christ Lutheran Church  
 11:00 A.M.

Every Monday - Girl Scouts  
 73 Leech Street  
 7:30 P.M.

NEXT MEETING

Two phases of the education of  
 our children will be the topic at  
 the April meeting of SPARC.

Mrs. Florence Gerten, a St.  
 Paul high school teacher, will  
 speak on "Special Education in the  
 Secondary Schools".

Father McDonough of the St.  
 Olaf's Catholic Church, Minneapolis,  
 Minn., will speak on "Religious  
 Education". Father McDonough's  
 church has set up a very success-  
 ful program to teach retarded  
 children. (continued on page 2)

LAST MEETING

Most heartening movies of re-  
 tardated children enjoying camping  
 were shown at the last meeting of  
 SPARC by Gerald Walsh, Executive  
 Secretary of the Minnesota Assoc.  
 for Retarded Children.

The first movie was of a day  
 camp, the more simple operation  
 necessitating only a good director,  
 teachers, and transportation.  
 Such a camp is even possible in a  
 reserved spot in a city park.  
 However, the camp shown, Indian  
 Chief Day Camp in Hopkins, has  
 extraordinary facilities.

The Silver Lake Island Camp is  
 held at Silver Lake in Columbia  
 Heights in an already existing  
 Salvation Army Camp. This is a  
 residential type camp with 45% of  
 the campers coming from the insti-  
 tutions. It handles both educable  
 and trainable children, giving  
 them such things as water play,  
 nature hikes, and handicrafts.

Mr. Walsh gave his philosophy  
 of recreation. It is his belief  
 that recreation should take advan-  
 tage of what is learned at home  
 and in school, should be fun,  
 should use trained leadership  
 whenever possible, and should make  
 use of existing facilities. Under  
 this philosophy a group meeting  
 about once a week is the easiest  
 form of recreation to initiate  
 and the most satisfying in terms  
 of result from expenditure of time  
 and money.

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Next Meeting (continued)

This meeting was originally planned as a workshop but both of our speakers are so interesting we knew you would develop a minor complex trying to decide which workshop to attend. Therefore, both speakers will address the entire group and there will be time for questions from the floor following their talks.

If you do not have transportation to the meeting, call Peg Welte, Ca 6-9124.

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MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

April 21 through April 30 will be a statewide membership drive. With this in mind it is imperative that we, as members, do our part to urge relatives, friends and other interested people to join and assist in the functions of our organization.

We would like to see our organization grow because we know there is strength in numbers. We would like to see SPARC strong because we want to help retarded children and because we feel the utmost development of all children is the responsibility of the entire community.

We would like an increased membership of SPARC because of the benefits many would receive from belonging and even more so the benefits we would receive by having additional ideas and support.

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VANILLA - PEPPER SALE

Orders are still being taken for Watkins vanilla, 11 ounces for \$1.75, and pepper, 8 ounces for \$1.25. Remember, the Association will receive \$50 when \$100 worth of products are sold. Orders will be delivered C.O.D. Just phone them in.

We have sold almost half the needed amount already. Let's sell the rest now.

Peg Welte  
Ca 6-9124

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## RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION GIVEN

A catechism period for Catholic children at Crowley and Hammond schools has been instituted by the Reverend Raymond Lucker of the Confraternity Center. Under this program children who are interested are released from their regular school periods one hour per week for special instruction given by volunteers.

Those teaching the children are Miss Helen Sweetman, and the Mmes. William J. Johnston, Michael Sperl, Gene Huot, Russell Dick, Cyril Gobeil, Vincent Jenny, Irene Cardinal, Ernest Winter, Kenneth Fischer, and Joseph Loughlin.

There is a need for more teachers. If anyone is interested please call Father Lucker, Ca 6-4540.

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## PLEASE RETURN BOOKS

Our library is depleted. Many requests for books have come in recently but no books! If you have any books from the SPARC library please remember to return them at the next meeting.

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## ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

This has been a year of substantial growth for our Association; a year of improved financial status; a year of increased public interest in our cause; and a year of significant and important beginnings.

Because of our strong committees and many tireless members, we are at the threshold of goals, planned for, and dreamed of by our charter members.

A projected long-term budget has been worked out. Plans to have our own executive secretary, part time office staff, and office space have been made. Plans are being formulated for a fun club for the teen-age and young adult retarded.

The Community Chest Committee on Mental Deficiency has been reactivated to study the entire problem of transportation for the handicapped. Our Association is meeting with representatives of the State and Ramsey County Welfare, and Parents of Visually Handicapped, United Cerebral Palsy and the Rehabilitation Center. Through cooperation a wider area can be reached, particularly rural Ramsey County, making it possible for more children to benefit from existing specialized facilities without duplication of services, as at present.

The booth at Career Days required much effort and organization, but proved to be a very worthwhile venture. Much interest was shown in careers in the field of retardation.

I would like to thank all of the members who worked so devotedly and whole-heartedly to make this year the success it has been.

For more detailed information read the following committee reports.

Virginia Swifka, President

If you love the good you see in another, you make it your own.

St. Gregory the Great

## Finance Committee

Howard Huelster, Chairman, Robert Greengard, Betty Hubbard, Robert Schultz, Franklin Smith, Raymond Springer, Thomas Swifka

The SPARC Finance Committee was unusually active this year, for several reasons. First of all, we worked out the most comprehensive budget yet prepared by our group. This was made necessary by the sizeable sums brought in by last November's fund drive, and by the fact that we anticipated two major expansions of our program.

The first expansion has already occurred, in the opening up of a recreational program for our children. The second expansion is expected next fall, when we will open an office with a paid staff.

The expansion into a staffed program involved much careful budgeting. We will be in a good position as a solvent organization only if we are very careful in our expenditures; appropriate budgeting procedures are indispensable for careful control.

In addition, our nursery school transportation program apparently will continue for some time to come and makes up a major area in our budget.

The members of the committee met well over a dozen times and put in many hours of homework, as a budget for a group such as this demands skills not learned in household budgeting. As chairman, I should like to extend my thanks for the time and effort which they so generously put in on this job.

Respectfully: Howard Huelster

## Program Committee

Mrs. G. W. Bakken, Chairman

Programs are geared to the interest of parents of retarded children. Since our children are of all ages, some in schools, some living at home and some in institutions or in boarding homes, we

have a wide range of interests to meet. During the current year we have had one workshop, featuring an attorney, Mr. Joseph Maun, speaking on legal aspects; two educators, Miss Lettisha Henderson, speaking on the trainable child, and Mr. Hubert Kuefler, speaking on the educable child. This meeting seemed to arouse the most interest and the best attendance of any of the programs.

Speakers at following meetings included Lt. John Roberts, from the St. Paul police department; two psychologists, Dr. Helen Bishop, from the St. Paul department of education, and Mr. Arnold Madow, from the state school and hospital at Faribault; Mr. Solomon Shapiro, discussing sheltered workshops; Mr. Gerald Walsh, executive director of the State Association, outlining recreation programs; Miss Florence Gerten, giving a very enlightening talk on what is being done in special education in the secondary schools in St. Paul; and Mr. Richard Weatherman, bringing us up-to-date on what is happening all over Minnesota this year in special education.

Respectfully: Mrs. Bakken

#### Projects Committee

Robert Schultz, Chairman  
Mrs. Schultz  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Welte

After contacting our schools and hospitals last summer for lists of their needs, we have been able, through the neighborhood and city newspapers, radio, Parentalk, and letters, to collect new and used clothing, toys, magazines, greeting cards, yarn, handicraft materials, radios, phonographs and records, playing cards and table games, sports equipment, articles suitable for gifts, candy, tobacco, cookies, apples, favors, and money.

Donors, to whom we're most grateful, include: Toni Co., Northern Pacific Railway, American Legion Auxilary, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Leier, Mr. and Mrs. R. Racine, St. Vincent De Paul Gift Drive,

Pearson Candy, Reynolds Tobacco, Base-Boys Wear of The Golden Rule, Brown & Bigelow, P. E. O. Sisterhood Chapter C E, Searchlights Class of Riverview Baptist Church, Circles 7, 8, and 9 of Hamline Methodist Church, W.S.C.S. of First Methodist Church in Jackson, Minnesota, Women's Welfare League, Greetings Unlimited, Genevieve Young Sunshine Branch, Klein's Supermarkets, Inc., Mothers Friend, Epsilon Sigma Alpha, and members and friends of SPARC.

A map has been set up for contacting members, by area, for rides to meetings and pick up of articles for the committee.

We had fine weather and a good turn out for our annual picnic in July. A toy party and collection for adult Christmas gifts for the institutions was held in October. Mr. Fitzenberger and Mrs. Frank organized a very successful Christmas party for retarded children and their families.

The Telephone Committee canvassed members as to their status and work interests. They also urged members to help at the Rummage Sale.

Members appeared on Calhoun's show, "T.V. Toyland", and we received a commission on toys sold by catalog through SPARC.

We have only a few items to sell before we make \$50.00 from the Watkins sale.

Tentative plans for next year include selling Christmas cards and expansion of our trading stamp depot.

Respectfully: Robert Schultz

#### Recreation Committee

Mrs. Robert Greengard, Chairman  
Rosemary Schultz  
Betty Hubbard

Within the past three months, SPARC has received \$250 which was designated for recreation. A committee was approved at the February board of directors meeting to study types of programs and needs for St. Paul.

The newly formed committee had a

meeting with Clyde Bezanson, Program and Research Director of MARC, and Ernest Davis, Gym instructor at Crowley for the purpose of discussing the Minneapolis teen-canteen and possible ideas for a St. Paul program. Since then we have been collecting names of interested members.

Next on the agenda are meetings with Miss Frances Coakley and representatives of other group work agencies.

Respectfully: Elsie Greengard

#### Parent Counseling Committee

Mrs. James Frank, Chairman

The Parent Counseling Committee has not been as active in actual family contact work this year because we have not had as many referrals from agencies as we have had in previous years. Perhaps one of the functions of this committee next year could be to solve the "whys and wherefores" of this situation.

However, we have not been totally unproductive. I have kept a file card system on the new parents that we have met. All these parents were invited to a special meeting last summer at the Wilder Nursery to tour the nursery.

Following the tour we had an informal discussion in which several of our members shared their views on how and why they chose their particular plan for their retarded child. The new parents were invited to become members, and the work of our Association was explained to them.

The second highlight of the year was the special meeting we had with several professional people from the Wilder Child Guidance Clinic in January. This meeting was also an informal round-table discussion of how the Clinic operated. Mrs. Lee did an outstanding job of explaining the entire operation to us, and then told of how she felt our committee could be of service to some of their parents. I am happy to report that we have since had referrals

from them, and it is my sincere hope that this meeting established a relationship between the Wilder Clinic people and our Association that will further the understanding and acceptance, and foster wise planning for each retarded child and his family. THIS, OF COURSE, HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR REAL GOAL.

Respectfully: Jayne Frank

#### Membership Committee

Mrs. Paul Donlin, Chairman

The Association now has 192 paid up members, including 45 new members.

This year a letter and brochure concerning the Association were sent to 92 parents of children in Christ Child School.

One hundred twenty-five past due notices were sent out.

Respectfully: Mrs. Paul Donlin

#### Public Relations Committee

Don and Bev Le Roy, Co-Chairmen

The main job of the Public Relations Committee has been the editing of Parentalk. The newsletter has been published every month with the help of Mrs. John Hanna, who typed the stencils, the Industrial Workshop, who did the mimeographing, Elsie Greengard, who took over in the pinches, and many others.

The May issue of Parentalk is multilithed for the first time.

Area newspapers were used for special events.

All news releases in the St. Paul Dispatch-Pioneer Press were ably handled by Gerald Smith.

Respectfully: Bev Le Roy

Please let us know of any changes of address. This will insure you of getting your Parentalk before the meeting.

St. Paul Assn. for Retarded Children  
25 North Dale Street  
St. Paul 4, Minnesota



Sec. 34.65 (e) P. L. & R.

Dr. E.J. Engberg  
Faribault School &  
Colony  
Faribault, Minn.

Form 3547 Requested