



Barney Gill enjoys his work with the multilith press at ARC Industries where the retarded in their sheltered workshop offer top quality printing and stationery services to the public, business and industry.



For Hannele Laine and Bobby MacNamara ARC Industries isn't only a place to work. It is also a place where friends are made while sharing pleasures and concerns.

Pictures And Story
By Susan Samila

ARC Industries Opening New Building On Friday



ARC Industries recently expanded by employing a full time ceramics instructor for its program. The staff have their own kiln on the premises. Enjoying the modelling in clay

(left to right) are Jim Farquhar, Pat Ramsey and Jack Begin. They also do glazing and make finished objects which are for sale.



While regularly in the ceramics training program, Gary Ogilvie like all the trainees at ARC Industries, spends a few hours each week in the office. Here he works at learning touch typing.



John Gibson is in the cleaning and custodial training program at ARC Industries. One result of his work is that the new building is spotless.

On Edward Avenue off Elgin Mills Road and across the street from Reynolds Extrusion Company in Richmond Hill there is a new building with a large - proud nameplate out front: ARC INDUSTRIES. Arc Industries is not new to Richmond Hill. In 1963 it was founded by the York Central Association for the Mentally Retarded (YCAMR) and has since been operating in rented premises as an adult training centre and sheltered workshop.

At 5:30 pm on Friday, May 10, there will be the official opening ceremonies for the new ARC building with attendance by The Honorable Robert Stanbury, Minister of National Revenue, and The Honorable Margaret Birch, Minister of Social Development. The general public is invited to join in to attend the opening and to tour the building on Friday from 4 to 6:30 pm and on Saturday from 2 to 5:30 pm.

Three per cent of the population of any community can be classified as mentally retarded - that is, unable to learn at the rate considered "normal" and unable to attain to the level of knowledge and skill considered "normal" in today's world. In rural, non-industrialized societies of the past, the mentally retarded lived within their families. They worked along beside their relatives and were allowed to lead relatively fulfilling lives. However, with industrialization and its emphasis on physical and mental speed, the mentally retarded were left without a place in society.

DEVELOPMENT PREVENTED
Often forgotten was the fact that each mentally retarded person is a unique human personality with need for love, devotion, play, work and self-expression. Too often such people were placed in large institutions which frustrated and prevented the development of their potential as human beings and brought them great personal unhappiness. Furthermore they became considerable financial burdens to governments and taxpayers.

Today, however, there is much happening to keep the mentally retarded from being placed in large de-personalized institutions. In our community the York Central Association for the Mentally Retarded provides a number of services which together try to meet various needs of the retarded of all ages. The association provides a home care program which assists parents and families of retarded children.

For 20 children the association runs Hope Haven Nursery five mornings a week. The nursery program requires the assistance of one volunteer per child. Thus, 80 volunteers are used from the community (volunteers are always needed!) for the period from Monday to Thursday. On Fridays 120 students from Markham District High School Grade 13 have chosen for their Day Six Program to help at the nursery. These students hold fund-raising events to cover their transportation costs and to sponsor annually a sports field day for the retarded of the community.

DRAMATIC EXPANSION
In the last two years the YCAMR has expanded its services dramatically - first through the building of High Point in Markham. This is a residence for mentally retarded adults who live in one of the three

smaller family-like units while daily attending school or going out to work at ARC or in the community. Secondly expansion came through the construction of ARC Industries' own building and the extension of its training program there.

In order to provide the services it does, Mr. Joe Dwyer, Secretary/Treasurer and Administrator of YCAMR, states that the association utilizes existing legislation to the limits of its potential. YCAMR receives from government sources about 40 percent of its capital expenditure and about 50 percent of its operating cost. The rest of the money required is raised by the association and its members through various fund-raising activities during the year.

To visit ARC Industries is a pleasure because of the bright and colorful building and the friendliness of the people who work there. Apparent among most of the 72 worker-trainees and confirmed in conversations with them is a dedication to the job at hand and a satisfaction in working together. And during coffee and lunch breaks there is a great deal of friendship and fun.

LEARN 2 JOBS

Two of the main training programs at ARC - printing and sub-contracting - are sustained through work commissioned by local business and industry. Much of this work is exacting - especially in the printing (offset and letterpress) department. Some of the work in the sub-contracting department such as packaging, assembling, collating and stuffing envelopes would seem to outsiders to be extremely repetitious. However, because the degree of many trainees' retardation prevents them from being able to do the particular job automatically without thinking the job remains more of a challenge than an outsider might imagine. Furthermore, the trainees confirm that they are changed from job to job in order to help prevent tedium or tiredness.

Other training programs are provided in clerical work, cleaning and custodial work, and ceramics. Some training is given in handicrafts and kitchen skills. But Miss Dolly Ketola, Director of ARC Industries, hopes an expansion of these programs will be possible when finances permit and more supervisory and volunteer help is available. Five of the people working at ARC are not mentally retarded but simply in need of a period of training in a non-pressured environment.

WAY TO INDEPENDENCE

Of the trainees at ARC some will become independent and self-supporting but will be contributing to their own happiness, their own financial support and to local business and industry by their work. The ceremonies at ARC on May 10 will also herald National Mental Retardation Week, May 12-18. During this time the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded, along with its provincial and local associations, hopes the general public will become more aware of the mentally retarded's real potential and rightful place in society. People need to be more aware of what the public can do and contribute, both personally and in funds, towards helping the mentally retarded help themselves.



Mrs. Ann Waagemakers of Richmond Hill is one of several volunteers who help at ARC. The sewing, handicraft and kitchen programs could be expanded if more volunteer help were available.



Trainees in the ARC Industries printing department have to learn to be responsible and exacting. Here (left to right) Richard Hodgson, Sandy Burney and Barney Gill sort out a printing problem.