

# PELHAM PROGRESS

News and Activities of  
The New York Institute for the Education of the Blind  
VOLUME 27, No. 1    June 24,-1965  
999 Pelham Parkway, New York, N. Y. 10469

## **Activities in Music 1964 -1965**

As for the past four years in early December, students of the Institute presented a concert of choral and instrumental music at the Bernadotte Lutheran Church in the Edenwald section of the Bronx. A feature of this program and of the Christmas program at the Institute was the premiere of a Christmas cantata dedicated to our Chorus by the composer James Edward Reyes, who is at present on the Institute faculty.

Although not planned as such, our Anniversary program became a memorial to the poet T. S. Eliot whose death occurred after the rehearsals were under way. The Academic and Music Departments of the Institute collaborated in the presentation of the temptation scene from "The Murder in the Cathedral" with incidental music of the Medieval period and, also as a part of the program, choral selections by Benjamin Britten and Mozart.

In early April, a program of vocal and instrumental solos was presented for the Parents Association of the Institute.

Three vocal soloists and two pianists comprised the student delegation to the eighth annual Music Festival held this year at the New York State School for the Blind at Batavia, New York. Six schools participated. The Institute presented a recital on the morning of April 3rd. In the final concert of the Festival, one of the Institute vocalists was soloist with the Combined Chorus of 175 voices.

Trips by students to musical events included an organ recital by Alexander Schreiner at Riverside Church; and the concert and ceremonies attending the unveiling of the bust and tablet for Edward MacDowell at the Hall of Fame on October 25th.

Visiting artists included George Bennette, pianist, a sometime Fulbright scholar, who presented a concert in October; and Katherine Kaufman, the lyric coloratura who gave a song recital last year at the Institute prior to her success in the Metropolitan Auditions. This year, Miss Kaufman returned to the Institute as assisting artist to the Spanish class in their presentation of a scene from "Bodas de Sangre" by Federico Garcia Lorca. An inspired setting by James Edward Reyes of Garcia Lorca's poem "Despierte la Novia", appealingly sung by Miss Kaufman at several points in the play, made a moving impression and brought an ovation from the audience.

Music for Commencement will include selections from the oratorio 'Saul' by Handel, a choral setting of an English folk song by Deems Taylor and an Antiphon by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

*Elizabeth Thode*

## **BOYS' ATHLETICS**

By John Pless Von Hesse

This year our season was good, but not splendid due to the loss of some of our most outstanding athletes via graduation. The beginning of the year found us with new boys and small teams. We had a good wrestling season. In the dual meet we lost three and won five. In the four-way meet we came in second and in the tournament sixth of a field of ten.

Joseph Barr became a champion in his class, 154 lbs., and Melvin Barr third in his class, 138 lbs. We had only seven boys on our team instead of the usual ten. The boys were: Arthur Richardson, Ronald Connelly, Joseph Barr, Melvin Barr, Warren Hill, Gilbert Velez and Dennis Higgins.

The Eastern Athletic Association for the Blind Track Tournament was held at the Institute in May with eighteen participating. Representing the Institute were Ronald Connelly, Melvin Barr, Dennis Higgins and Warren Hill. Warren Hill placed second in the high jump and Melvin Barr fourth in the broad jump.

Awards to outstanding athletes were presented at the annual sports banquet held on June 10th.

## **A THANK-YOU TREE**

A Message from the Children of the Lower School

Have you ever heard of a THANK-YOU Tree? You may search through all the botany books but you will never find a tree with that

This spring, right in front of Van Cleve Hall, such a tree has been planted. Most people would call it a Tulip tree or a Lirodendron tulipifera, but it is a very special tree to us. To understand why we call it a THANK-YOU tree, you must think about all the lovely things trees stand for.

There is peace and joy in the shade of a tree and pleasure in its beauty at all seasons.

It stands firmly against storms, and birds find sanctuary in its leafy branches.

The fruit provides sustenance for man, animals and birds.

The deep-reaching roots hold the moisture and good soil that strengthen the earth around it.

Peace, joy, beauty, strength and sustenance — these are the qualities we also find in a good friend.

## A PAGE FROM THE LIBRARY

By Elizabeth Otto, Librarian

Nothing will erase from our mind that morning in September when, one by one, the students entered the library and welcomed me as their Librarian. Words cannot express the pleasure of my first day here, and the effect has lasted the entire year.

There are many plans that I have formulated for the future benefit of the students, but as first things come first, I have had to spend the greater part of the year in cataloguing the books we have. This has been a mammoth task and I anticipate that at least half of this work will be completed by the end of the school year.

The New York Public Library has been a most helpful source for supplementing the reading material which this library does not possess. Approximately 125 volumes of braille and talking books have been loaned by the New York Library for the Blind at 166 Avenue of the Americas and another 25 volumes have been loaned by the Grand Concourse Branch Library at 174th Street. The Recordings for the Blind has also aided us with loans of talking books.

I have to give a special thanks to Mr. Harry Farrar for the magnificent job he did in brailleing the 22 volumes of Carl Becker's Modern History. He has brailled ten copies of each set which totals a pretty staggering figure of 220 books. Through volunteer braille book binders, we hope to have them professionally bound during the summer months. One of these volunteer braille book binders is the Five Towns Braille Bindery on Long Island and the women in this organization have done a fine job on the play given by last year's graduation class, The Bat, by Mary Roberts Rinehart, and have also bound the book by Sparks: Wrestling.

There have been 1,660 volumes of Braille books added to the library this year, 40 of which were gifts, 837 volumes of print books, 67 being gifts and 10 pamphlets.

Special thanks are given to the many volunteers who have donated their time to reading to the students and taping both during the daytime and the evening hours.

They have been most helpful to the students, and both the students and I are most grateful to them for this service.

That is why we have chosen a tree to be a living "thank you" to the friends who are no longer with us. Some have gone away to live and work elsewhere, and some have come to the end of their lives on this earth, but each has left an enduring gift with us in Van Cleve Hall.

## **GIRL SCOUTS**

By Dorothy Linkhorn, Troop Leader

The enrollment this year in Girl Scout Troop 1-93 was the largest in the history of Institute scouting—35 girls were enrolled with special permission of the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York.

A scouting first for the Institute was the all day cook-out with other Bronx troops at Hunter's Island. The day's activities included preparation of food, fire building, table decoration, clean up and presentation of an excellent program by our troop for the enjoyment of the other City troops. Two girls from the Cerebral Palsy Blind Department joined with us this year and were able to participate in all of the trips and work projects and are most eager to continue as full fledged scouts.

Our cookie drive to assist the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York was a huge success with Troop 1-93 being rated among the highest in sales of the entire Metropolitan area.

Another first with the Institute troop—a three day camping trip to Camp Brady in Towners, New York, the most primitive site for Girl Scout camping for the Greater New York Council. Twelve of our girls coupled with twelve sighted girls from another Bronx Troop met together during the year to plan programs, meals, and all of the other duties necessary for a weekend of this kind.

Scout Court of Awards Ceremony was presented in morning assembly so that classmates and teachers may be aware of the achievements during the year.

Deeds for others included caroling at Jacobi Hospital and distribution of gifts, caroling at the Catholic Center, memorial gift to Heart Fund raised by the Scouts, flowers for ill; and all around service and assistance with gift Thanksgiving baskets distributed to two needy families.

Entertainment activities included a cook-out picnic supper, an all day trip to the World's Fair, a trip to the movies and dinner at one of the local restaurants. Funds for all of these pleasures were earned by the Scouts themselves.

New uniforms and accessories were prevalent throughout the year and were always in good order with both Cadets and Junior Scouts being meticulously dressed at each meeting.

It was decided with the assistance of Scout Leader Miss Dorothy Linkhorn, to name Nancy Steinhauser as the most outstanding scout of the year for her work as Treasurer, keeping the girls together and interested, quick thinking in emergencies and her special endeavors to work for the most badges of merit.

Dr. Frampton kindly consented to offer our facilities for the Park East District of the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York Annual Association Meeting. Refreshments were prepared and served by our Troop.

## **THE PUBLIC SPEAKING CLUB**

Until this year, the Club never had a full- rank Ambassador at a guest speaker. The ability to feel at ease with others, especially with strangers, while putting them at ease, is a great gift, and the audience which had the pleasure of hearing Ambassador Amin Hilmy all agreed on one thing, the Ambassador possessed that great gift.

Ambassador Hilmy was born in Cairo and attended the public schools there. In 1951 he was appointed Brigadier General and supervised the evacuation of British troops from the Canal Zone. Later as a Major General he was to become Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces. He also served as Adviser to the U. N. Forces in Palestine, the Congo, and the Yemen.

Graham Strang flew into New York from South Vietnam recently to make a report to UN headquarters. Miss Strang is an old friend and all of us were delighted to see her. Two years ago she met with the Club and told us about a tour of duty she had just completed in the Congo. This year she brought us up-to-date on developments in South Vietnam. Miss Strang, following a tight schedule, met with the Club on a Monday, flew to London that night for a reunion with her family and has since taken up a new assignment for the UN in Cambodia.

Mr. Victor Hall, a probation officer for the City of New York, met with the Club and presented an extremely interesting lecture centering on "Probation: the past, the present, and the future." Blanche Brown, the most popular lecturer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, came back for another visit with the Club this year. Her topic centered on a history of gardens which covered the early methods used by the Egyptians, the Greeks, the Romans, and the French.

The Public Speaking Club enjoyed another increase in enrollment. Three years ago we were only 7 in number. The membership this year went beyond 40. On the occasion of the lecture on probation all the seats in our large meeting room were taken and many stood throughout the session.

# THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 1965



## **MARIA RIOS Valedictorian**

Maria has been accepted for admission at Utica College of Syracuse University. Maria has been in the Institute since her enrollment in the nursery school. She has participated in Girl Scouts, dramatics, variety shows and student cabinet. She has also been active in the program of the music department.

## **SHARON NOLAN Salutatorian**

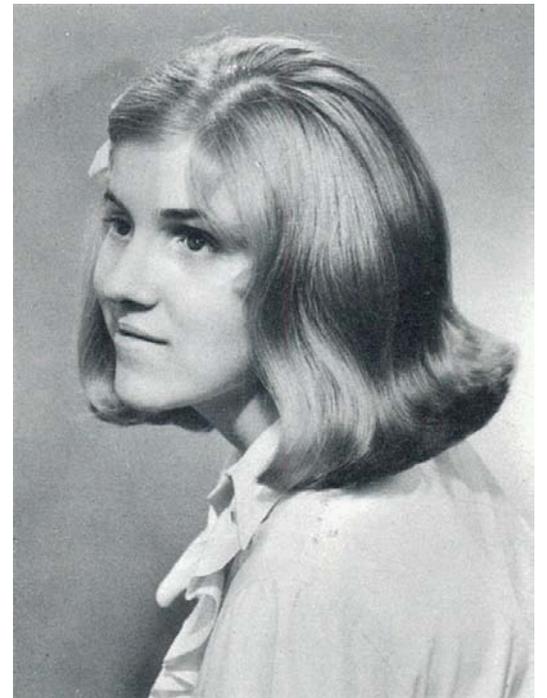
Sharon will attend Bishop Molloy College on Long Island. She has participated in the Girl Scouts during her four years at the Institute. She has also been a member of the student cabinet, senior chorus, and has participated in a number of dramatic productions.





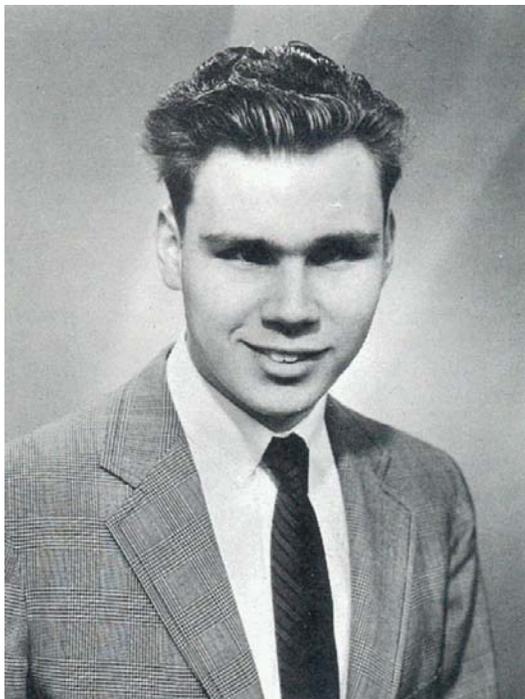
### **DONALD MOORE**

Donald will be attending Hunter College in New York City. Donald has been active in a number of extra-curricular projects, including crew and drama.



### **ARDELLE CABRE**

"Pat" will be attending college. Patty is a transfer student who has pursued a college prep course and has been most helpful to her fellow students.



### **ROY SIERSSEN**

Roy has attended the Institute since his nursery school entrance in 1951. His many activities include chorus, dramatic productions and variety shows. Roy expects to be employed as a piano tuner.

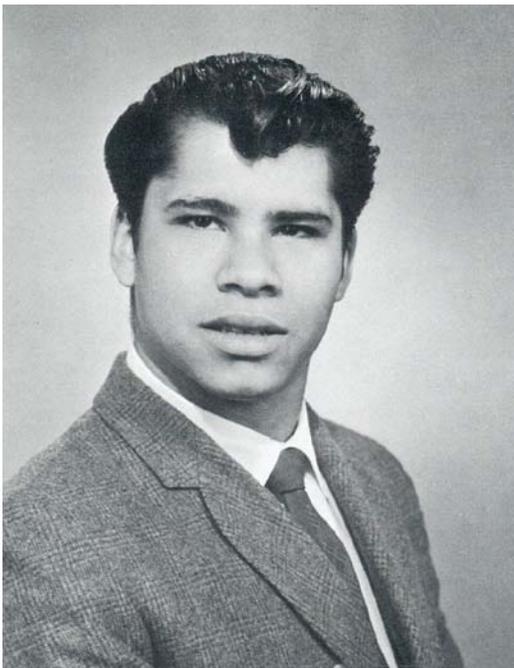
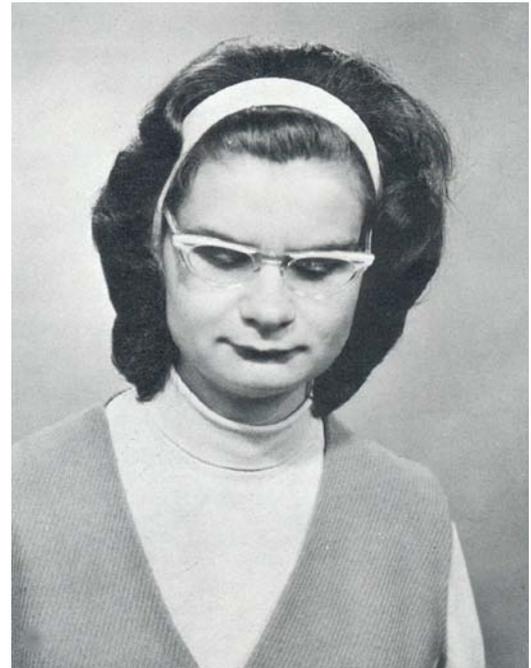


**PEGGY EASON**

Peggy entered the Institute having graduated from Lavelle School. She has been active in musical events and has served as a member of the student cabinet. She will be returning to the Institute for a post-graduate year.

**JUDITH SCHWARTZ**

Judy is a long-time student at the Institute having entered in 1951. Judy's contralto voice has been heard in a number of variety shows, as well as the senior chorus. She has been active in Girl Scouts, and will receive further Training by the Vocational Rehabilitation Service.



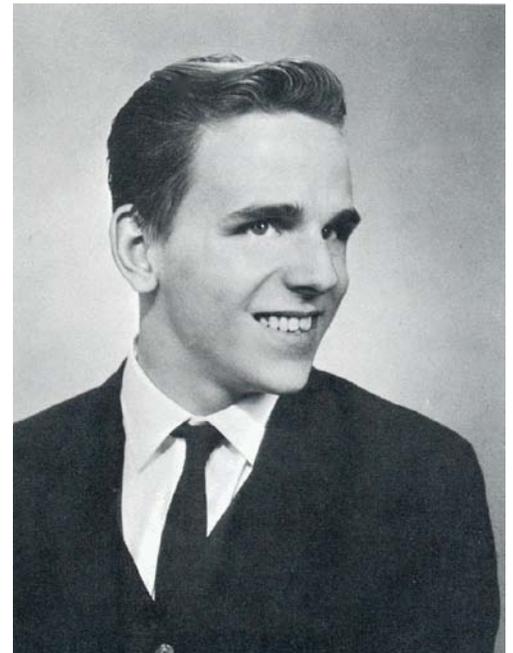
**GILBERT VELEZ**

Gilbert has pursued a vocational program during his five years at the Institute. He has been placed for employment in a furniture finishing plant.



**LESLIE BALL**

Leslie will be attending Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie, New York. During her years at the Institute she has been especially active in dramatics. She has also served as a member of the student cabinet.



**WILLIAM MARTIN**

Billy has attended the Institute for ten years and his high school program was patterned around a vocational curriculum. Billy has served as manager of the wrestling team and has been active in the Animal Husbandry program. He will receive further training from the Vocational Rehabilitation Service.



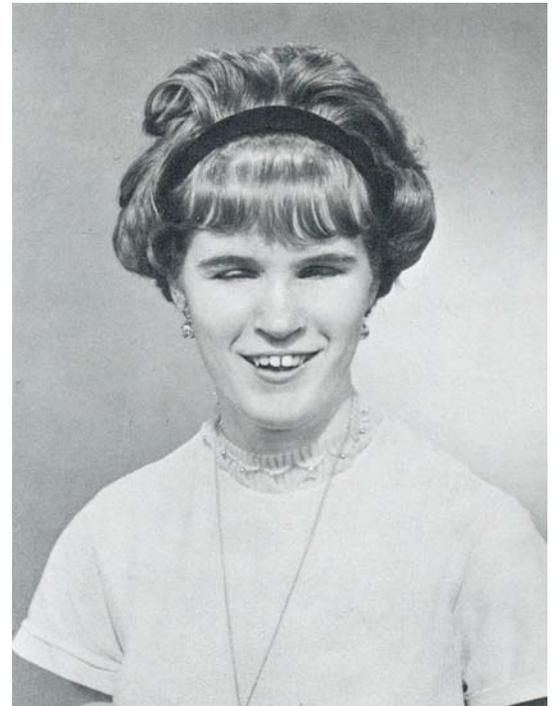
**BERNADETTE BARROWS**

Bernadette has been in the Institute for six years and upon commencement will receive further training in the Vocational Rehabilitation Center at the New Jersey Commission for the Blind. Bernadette has been a member of the Institute's Girl Scouts.



**ANN MARIE QUATTROCCHI**

Anne Marie entered the 9th grade as a graduate of the Lavelle School for the Blind. She hopes to become a Dictaphone typist and will spend an additional year at the Institute for a final year of preparation for the civil service examination.



**DIANE UMHAUER**

Diane has attended the Institute since her nursery school days. She has demonstrated a lively interest in music and has appeared in a number of variety shows. Diane will receive further training by the Vocational Rehabilitation Service.



**JADWIGA KOLAKOWSKI**

Jadwiga entered the Institute in the 9th grade having completed her elementary school at Lavelle. Jadwiga has excelled in a variety of vocational subjects and was a member of the girl's track team. She will return to the Institute for a year of post-graduate study.



**MR. JOHN PLESS VON HESSE**  
SENIOR CLASS SPONSOR

## **ROWING AT THE NEW YORK INSTITUTE**

### **1964-1965 Schedule**

May 1—Brooks School at North Andover, Mass.

May 19—Pomfret School at Pomfret, Conn.

June 5—Westside Rowing Club — Black Rock Course at Buffalo, N. Y.

### **1964-1965 Crew Members**

Raymond Heydet, Pedro Hidalgo, Thomas Wawra, Thomas Dailey, Donald Moore, Warren Hill.

**Organization:** Head Coach and Two Assistants. The two assistants are students at Manhattan College and are not otherwise connected with the Institute. The turnout is from 6 to 12 oarsmen. Schedule: During the rowing season (Fall: September, October; Spring: April, May, June) practice is held on the Harlem River, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 5:45 to 7:45. The crew leaves the Institute at 4:45 and returns shortly after 8:00 in the evening. Before a race, practice is sometimes held Friday afternoons.

**Equipment:** The Institute owns a boathouse with adequate facilities on the Harlem River at the Foot of Dyckman Street; two coaching launches with outboard motors; two training barges, two Pocock Fours in commission, and a racing pair-oar convertible that can be rigged for sweeps or sculls: The latter was acquired this year through the generosity of agencies and friends of the Institute.

**Objectives:** Rowing provides excellent exercise, employing almost all the muscles in the body. It is especially good for developing leg and back muscles. In addition to the actual physical exercise obtained, rowing is of great value to the blind in general orientation. The boys on crew get to know the boathouse and move freely about it, learn to handle a boat, launch it and maneuver it with grace and skill.



One of the most valuable contributions that rowing offers to the blind is the opportunity to socialize with boys from prep schools and high schools. It is an idealistic sport and is one of the few team sports suited to the blind.

**Practice routine:** Instruction in getting into a boat and a rudimentary knowledge of handling the oar is given on the rowing machines in the basement of Akerly House at the Institute. Training in the barges and shells rakes on the following pattern:

- 1) Pair oared rowing—bow pair, stern pair, middle pair each for 20 strokes.
- 2) Slow beat (5 counts to the cycle) for 60 to 90 strokes.
- 3) Cruising beat (4 counts to the cycle) for 120 strokes.

Finish usually with half slides or a racing stroke (3 counts to the cycle). Also time is given to practice maneuvering the boat: Backing it down; turns; holding water. A week before a race, much attention is given to practice starts which may vary according to the skills of the oarsmen. The usual procedure is an eleven stroke exercise. Constant attention is given to balance, slide control, proper feathering and release of the oar. The stroke used is the so-called "Connibear" stroke, or Washington style of rowing. Mr. Burk, at the University of Pennsylvania uses a

skying stroke which seems to be most effective in sprint races, but I have never dared to use it.

**Competition:** The Institute has annual competition with Pomfrer School, Pomfret, Connecticut; The Brooks School, North Andover, Massachusetts, and the West Side Rowing Club of Buffalo, New York. In former years we have raced Gunnery School, Hun School, St. Andrews School, Haverford Prep, St. Joseph's at Philadelphia and Poughkeepsie High School.

## **The Principal's Message**

The Academic year 1964-65 has been filled with many interesting and exciting events. The work of our teachers in preparing our children for college has been of the highest grade. Many of the students who have taken Regents have passed these tests with flying colors. Former pupils now in college are doing exceedingly fine work and are upholding the reputation of the Institute for its high academic standing.

Some new faces appeared on our faculty and staff this year, replacing retirements of older personnel. These new people have made an unusually fine adjustment to the program of our school and have contributed greatly to the success of this year's program.

Our athletic events have continued to be interesting and exciting but not as successful as in other years. Two new clubs were started during the school year for our students and have performed well.

During the year some major maintenance repairs were made. Chief among these was the complete remodeling of our heating system. Our old system having served its purpose faithfully had to be replaced by a new one. By the 15th of June the transfer was practically complete and we look forward to a more efficient and effective heating plant for the coming year.

Considerable additions were made to our library in the way of Braille, ink-print books and recordings. Our library continues to be a source of great pleasure to all students and staff alike.

We will open the 28th season of Camp Wapanacki on the 1st of July with a very large enrollment. We have added the Academic Program for advanced students and a remedial program for children wishing to brush up on school subjects during the Summer months.

Our P.T.A. has continued its fine record and has added many material things to blind students and the school for their profit and enjoyment.

On behalf of the Faculty and Staff we wish all of the parents of the children a very happy and joyous Summer holiday. See you in the Fall.

*Dr. Merle E. Frampton*

## **THE SCHOLARSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM - 1964-1965**

By Fred J. Reeve

This year at the Institute in our Scholarship Program we have had students from the Philippines and from Central and South America. We have several students majoring in the field of Special Education, taking work at Hunter College.

Miss Ester Santos Del Rosario, from the Philippines, has been with us since September and is completing her work in Special Education for the Master's degree at Hunter College.

Miss Liliana Scaron from Uruguay has also been at the Institute since September observing the program. Miss Scaron has been auditing courses at Hunter College and visiting and observing at other agencies for the blind in and around New York City.

Miss Olga Estrella from the Dominican Republic was with us for a three month period of concentrated observation.

Mr. Natesh Chandra Mohan from India is one of the youngest students we have ever had in our Scholarship Program. Mr. Mohan is serving as an attendant in our Multiple Handicapped unit, also attending Community College and plans to be with us for at least the next four years in order to complete his college training.

Miss Jolee Crane from New York, Institute graduate, is working toward her Master's degree at Hunter College.

Mr. Colin Morgan, from Jamaica, W.I., is finishing his second year as a Scholarship student. Mr. Morgan is our Cane Travel instructor and is studying at Bronx Community College.

Miss Graciela Cristina Poletti from Paraguay has also been at the Institute since September observing the overall program. Miss Poletti has been auditing courses at Hunter College and visiting and observing at other agencies for the blind in and around New York City. Miss Poletti will be returning to the Institute in September for additional scholarship training.