

1960s

Parents Find Their Voice Through The Arc Government begins to take notice.

Parents are very powerful in what they can achieve.
—Charlotte Aladjem



One of the most visible celebrities who worked with The Arc to raise awareness in its earliest days was Rex Trailer. In 1959, his Wagon Train journeyed for a week from Greenfield, MA to the State House. Throughout the 1960s, Rex Trailer continues to make special appearances on behalf of The Arc. His is one of the first television shows to include children with disabilities.

In 1963, Massachusetts, working with The Arc, becomes the first state to establish testing and treatment for PKU which causes mental retardation when left untreated. It serves as a national model for future prevention efforts.



Photo: Magna Film Productions, Inc.

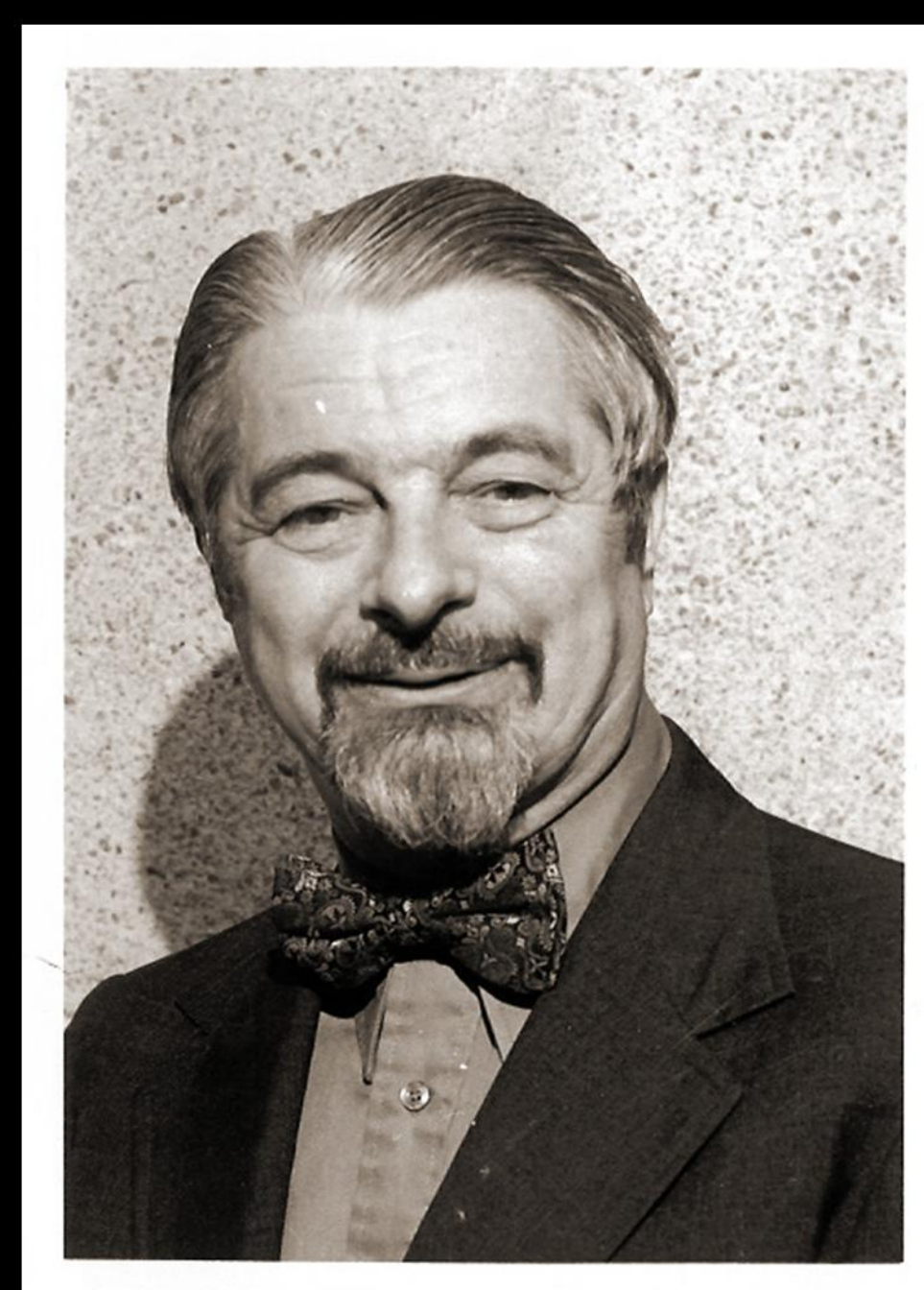
Also in 1963, leaders of The Arc of Massachusetts attend a White House ceremony where President John F. Kennedy signs the Maternal and Child Health and Mental Retardation Planning Bill calling for a comprehensive and coordinated plan to address mental retardation.



Photos: High-Light Studio of Photography & Davidson Studio

In 1966, Governor John Volpe passes Chapter 735, the Massachusetts Mental Health and Retardation Planning Projects, directed by Dr. Harold “Hal” W. Demone, Jr. These lay out the current area and regional structure and create a focus on community-based services outside of institutional settings.

Dr. Gunnar Dybwad begins a decade of teaching at Brandeis University in Waltham in 1967. A former director of The Arc U.S., Gunnar becomes the first director of the MR Policy Center at Brandeis’ Heller School, moving Heller to become a center of learning and advocacy for MR. Gunnar and his wife Rosemary become generators of knowledge and activity for The Arc.



Ride-a-Bike, sponsored by the Massachusetts Teachers Association, becomes an important fundraising and awareness vehicle for The Arc and will continue into the 1980s. The Veterans of Foreign Wars also work to raise both money and awareness for The Arc.

The Arc of Massachusetts

Remembering the past.
Celebrating the present.
Securing the future.