

SPECIAL KIDS

DeKalb Will Host Olympics

By DOROTHY NIX

DeKalb County will be host to state Special Olympics for exceptional children in 1971 and plans are under way to insure the project's success.

"We haven't been turned down once in requests we have made for donations of time and money," says Frank Spence, state director. "And many people are calling us asking if there is any way they can help.

"We've received pledges of support from several of the organizations for retarded children and before it is over we hope to involve everybody from all walks of life."

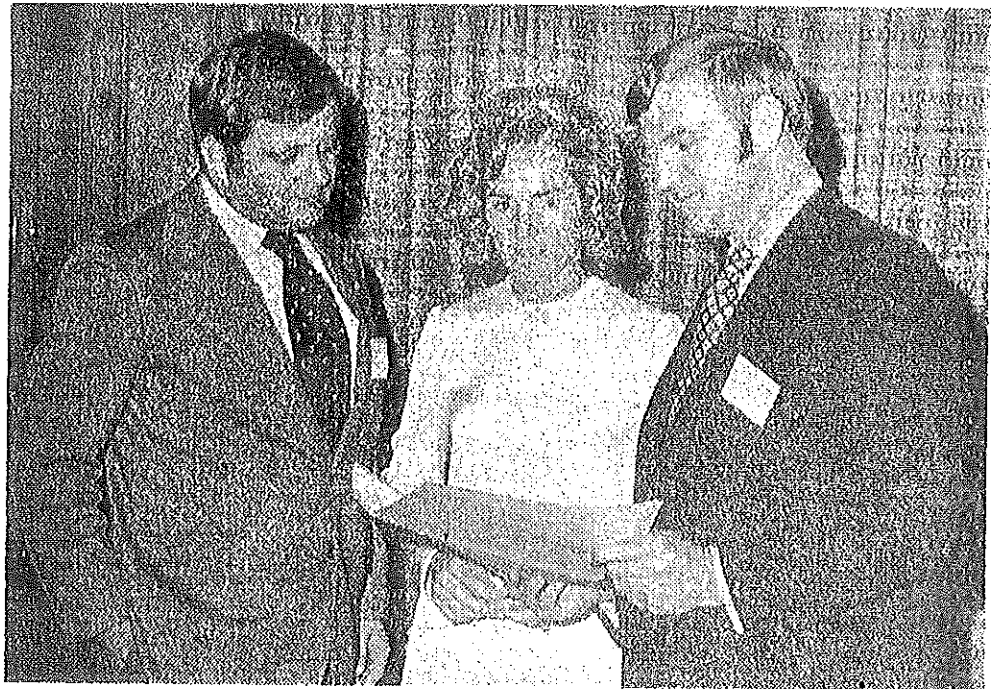
Spence, with Jim Cone, director of DeKalb Parks and Recreation, the host agency for the olympics, has just returned from a third annual conference attended by 91 state special olympics directors in Washington.

Here they met and talked with Mrs. Ethel Kennedy and Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver, president of Special Olympics and executive vice president of the Kennedy Foundation.

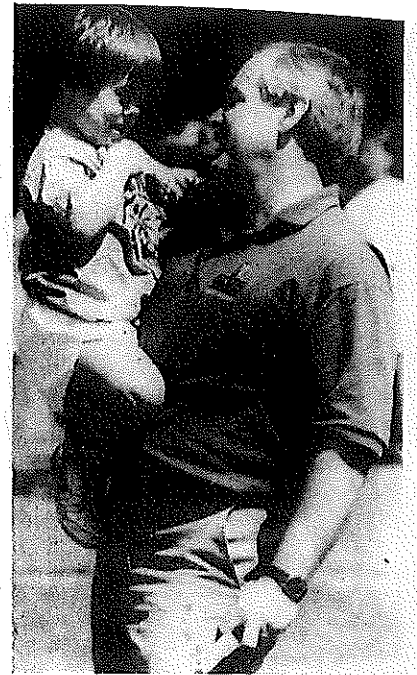
THE OLYMPICS program was developed by the foundation to provide athletic training and competition for the mentally handicapped. It began with a single meet in 1968 for 1,000 children and has since grown to some 1,400 meets in 48 states, the District of Columbia, Canada and France.

Mrs. Shriver, in an address to the directors, said, "Five years ago most people thought the retarded could not even run a race. Today over 100,000 are running, jumping and swimming their way to victory and showing determination, dedication and sportsmanship that would do credit to an Olympic athlete.

"For many of America's three and one-half million retarded children the special olympics can be the beginning of a happy and constructive life within society, not separated from it."



DEKALB COUNTIANS FRANK SPENSE (LEFT), JIM CONE WITH ETHEL KENNEDY State Organizers Met Mrs. Kennedy at U.S. Conference for Special Olympics



Kalb residents help Special Olympians go for the gold

1994 DeKalb County Special Olympics Track and Field Meet held April 14-15 at Memorial Stadium. Several hundred elementary, junior high and high school students participated the help of more than 100 local volunteers. At top left, Deatur High School senior Charles Wright watches closely as 6-year-old Christopher Hunnicutt participates in the softball throw. At top right, Chris Hunnicutt shares a special moment with his

son, Christopher. At lower right, 10-year-old Oak Grove Elementary School student Reid Cornish receives a first-place ribbon for the 50-meter run from volunteer Annie Grier. At lower left, 5-year-old Coralwood School student Junior Dennis celebrates a good softball throw as Deatur High School senior Mark Sanders cheers him on. (Staff photos by Donna Williams).

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