

# NEW

# HORIZONS

SOUTH CAROLINA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

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## STATE DOCUMENTS 19 VR Staff Salaries Transferred To Case Services

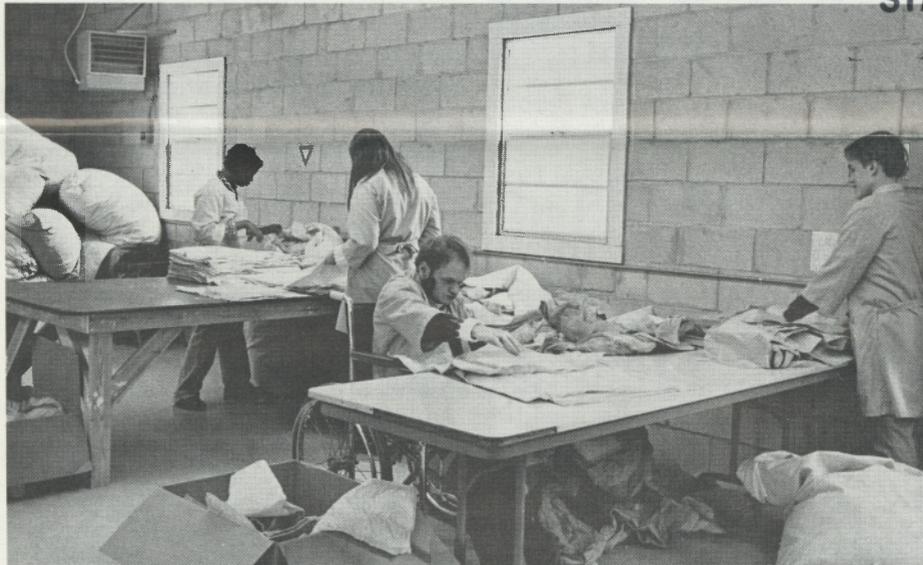
Representatives of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department recently appeared voluntarily before the Senate Finance Committee, requesting that salaries for nineteen staff members be transferred to client case service funds.

"This move," according to Joe S. Dusenbury, Vocational Rehabilitation Commissioner, "is our attempt to deal with our inability to adequately provide for all client requests for services, which came about as a result of rising costs of services and shortage of substantial federal government appropriations."

"The reduction in staff came as a result of normal attrition," Dusenbury explains, "and workloads were redistributed accordingly."

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department has not requested an increase in the number of state employees paid by matching funds in several years. All growth in the past four years is a result of one hundred percent federally funded programs.

"Our purpose is to provide South Carolina's physically and mentally handicapped citizens with quality services," Dusenbury says, "and we'll do whatever is needed to work toward that goal."



Students in Graniteville VR-PS program work on contract with Parke-Davis to help improve skills and prepare for employment in the community.

## VR Assists Severely Handicapped Students in Aiken Area

Severely handicapped students in the Aiken County area are getting extra attention in helping them prepare for employment in the community once they are through with high school.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department is assisting these students through its Graniteville Vocational Rehabilitation Public School Program at Freedman Vocational School, a school in which all students are physically, mentally or emotionally handicapped.

In an effort to comply with PL 94-142, construction of a new workshop was begun in a cooperative effort between Voca-

tional Rehabilitation and the school district. The school district approved a proposal whereby they would purchase materials for construction of a workshop at a cost of \$8,200, and Vocational Rehabilitation would provide the labor. Clients of the Department worked during the summer of 1979 on construction of the building, under the supervision of an instructor from Freedman, for which they were paid through Community Action. Once the building was completed, the school district agreed to pay an additional \$6,000 for installation of lighting, plumbing and heating. The 2,200 square foot building, which has been

*(continued on page 3)*



## Eddie Welborn Becomes Radio Dispatcher

It takes Eddie Welborn a little time to move about, but he's quick to set others in motion when the need arises.

Eddie Welborn, a victim of cerebral palsy, is a radio operator at the Newberry County Law Enforcement Complex.

"We handle calls for city and county law enforcement," Eddie explains, "as well as for fire and ambulance."

Eddie's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe H. Welborn, were familiar with services offered by the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, and had talked with Bill R. Hester, a VR counselor at the Newberry Vocational Center, about services which may be available for their son. His medical needs had been taken care of, but there was a need for training to prepare Eddie for employment.

Vocational Rehabilitation sponsored Eddie at Piedmont TEC in Greenwood, where he completed one year of training in human services.

Hester helped work out on-the-job training at the Law Enforcement Center beginning in August,

1978. "Tommy Longshore, his training officer, deserves much of the credit in helping Eddie learn the ins and outs of being a radio operator," Hester says.

Eddie also received further training at the Law Enforcement Complex in Columbia operated by SLED for specialized training in radio operation.

"When I started working here," Eddie explains, "the hardest part of the job was handling calls for fires. There are 11 fire departments in the county, and we dispatch for all of them. I had to look at a map to decide which fire department should be called on each call I took."

"My job also involved running teletypes on such things as criminal records and vehicle license registrations," Eddie adds.

"I used to do a lot of volunteer work," Eddie says, "but with my job I don't have time for it any more. I worked at Boys Farm with some of the children there, and I also worked at Newberry County Memorial Hospital in the lab. I still play the organ at different churches, when they call me, though."

## New Medical Regulations Implemented By DDD Unit of Vocational Rehabilitation



Dr. Harrison Peebles (seated), President of the South Carolina Medical Association (SCMA), looks over a copy of the revised "Disability Evaluation Under Social Security," along with Richard A. Vandiver, Director, South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Disability Determination Division (DDD); Dr. Fred H. Fellers, DDD Medical Consultant; and Dr. Euta Colvin, Chairman of the SCMA Executive Council. The handbook, which will be distributed to all physicians in the state, sets up guidelines for evaluation of Social Security disability claims. It was revised in March, 1979 — the first major revision in approximately 15 years.

## Awards Presented In Spartanburg



Achievement Awards were presented, Feb. 28, by Spartanburg Mayor Frank Allen, right, to Roger Grote, who employs 14 handicapped persons as manager of food services at Converse College; and to Janice Lipscomb, a guidance counselor at USC-Spartanburg who has multiple sclerosis; at the annual awards ceremony of the Spartanburg Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

*(continued from page 1)*

operational since the beginning of this school term, has been assessed at approximately \$60,000.

As a result of construction of the additional workshop, those students who need additional services can continue them after they have completed their high school requirements.

Students in the program have been able to get adjustment training and on-the-job experience through contract work at the satellite workshop. During a student's junior and senior years at Freedman, he is involved in two hours of work adjustment training daily, depending on his needs. During this time, he is working on contract work and is paid according to his production.



Ten (10) students enrolled in Freedman and also involved in the VR program worked during the summer of 1979 on construction of the building which houses the VR program for severely handicapped students in Aiken County.

Then, if the student is too severely handicapped to go into employment immediately, arrangements are made for him to receive further vocational rehabilitation services. The student may continue with his program at Freedman, but he then begins to receive four hours of adjustment training and two hours of classroom training. These services can continue until the student is 21 years of age, if there is a need.

The program has recently received a grant from the Office of Vocational Education in the State Department of Education for a new evaluation system designed especially for the mentally retarded and severely handicapped. The system will contain 16 work samples, which will help determine the vocational potential of the clients on an individual basis.

Freedman has assigned four teachers to work in the program in cooperation with vocational rehabilitation. In addition, CETA has assigned a job placement specialist to the program in an effort to place the handicapped students participating in the program in employment once they are ready.

Contracts in the workshop programs come from business and industry in the community to provide work experience for the clients involved. Those now in operation within the workshop include repairing harness frames for mills, chair caning, and re-salvaging bed pads for resale as seconds. Companies such as Parke-Davis and Graniteville Company have provided the support and assistance to make the program possible.

The success of the program has been a cooperative effort among the school district and the school administration, the community and vocational rehabilitation.

## Staff Promotions Announced

Several promotions of staff members were recently announced by Vocational Rehabilitation State Commissioner, Joe S. Dusenbury.



David Fair, quality control specialist in State Office, was promoted to the position of project supervisor at the Department's facility at the Department of Youth Services. A counselor in the Columbia Local Office from 1974 until 1977, Fair has a BA degree in physical education and a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from South Carolina State College.

### Hotline Answers Legislative Questions

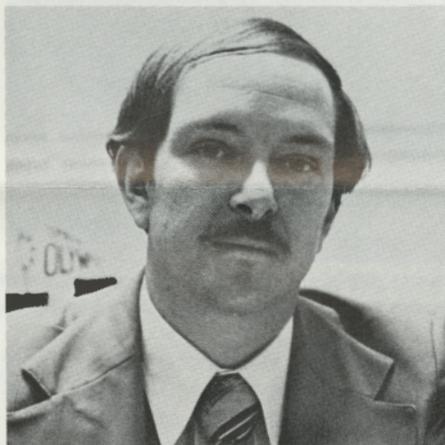
A national toll-free hotline service has been installed by Mainstream, Inc., to answer questions and supply information on legislation concerning handicapped people. The name of the hotline is "Mainstream on Call." A TTY communication unit is available for deaf and speech impaired people.

Mainstream, Inc., is a nonprofit agency which acts as an information bridge between the corporate sector, disabled consumers and the government.

The toll-free number is (800) 424-8089.



Mike Bowman assumed responsibilities as quality control specialist to fill Fair's vacancy in State Office. He began working with Vocational Rehabilitation in 1974 as a counselor at State Hospital, then at the Columbia Local Office and the Counseling and Referral Elective office. He has an undergraduate degree from Benedict College in Social Science and a Master's degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling from South Carolina State College.



Chuck Mullis, a vocational evaluator at the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School since 1972, has been promoted to the position of project supervisor at the Sumter VR-PS program. He is a 1971 graduate of the University of South Carolina with a B.S. degree in business.



Harriet Hatcher, a counselor for deaf clients in the Columbia Area Office, was promoted to the position of project supervisor for the Lexington VR-PS program. A graduate of Winthrop College, she has a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Auburn University. She has worked as a counselor at the Vocational Rehabilitation facility at Whitten Center and at the Florence Local Office.



Roy Burbage was appointed project supervisor of the Camden sub-office, also serving as supervisor of the Camden CETA office and Kershaw VR-PS. He has worked with the Department as a disability examiner and as a counselor in the Columbia Local Office. He has his undergraduate degree in psychology and his master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of South Carolina.

# Housing Assistance for Handicapped Available

Handicapped individuals on limited income may be eligible for federal housing assistance through a U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program called Section 8.

Under the program, an individual would pay no more than 25 percent of his income for rent. Rent must, however, fall within the community's fair market range, and earnings must be no more than 80 percent of the median income for the area. Median income varies throughout the state, and therefore

individual subsidies vary from community to community.

Disabled or handicapped single people wishing to apply for the program must meet the same qualifications as families. Such individuals can receive subsidies even if they rent an apartment in a house owned by a relative — an advantage also for the owner, who may want to help but needs fair market rent.

Landlords of rental units must sign a contract with the tenant in order for the tenant to receive the

subsidy. A portion of the rent will be paid by the family or individual and part by the federal government.

Tenants in existing apartments may receive assistance for five years, while those in new housing — built with Section 8 in mind — are eligible for assistance for up to 40 years. Participants are reviewed periodically.

The program is not limited to people with disabilities. Senior citizens, those over 62, and their families are also included in the program.

The Section 8 existing construction program is administered by local Public Housing Authorities. Owners of newly constructed or rehabilitated projects advertise their units by various news media.

## Grand Strand Areas Given Funds For Beach Accessibility



Myrtle Beach Mayor Erick B. Ficken accepts a \$15,000 grant from South Carolina Coastal Council members, Rep. Jean Meyers and Bill Sigmon of Myrtle Beach. (Photo by Sun-News)

The South Carolina Coastal Council has awarded \$15,000 each to the cities of Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach to improve public access to Grand Strand beaches. This will enable the cities to construct wooden walkways over sand dunes to improve access to beaches, thus preserving the sand dunes in the area.

According to Rep. Jean Meyers of Myrtle Beach, "these projects should greatly enhance the pub-

lic's ease of access to the beaches in this area. The inclusion of walkways which can accommodate the handicapped is also a major consideration in this work." Mrs. Meyers is also a member of the Myrtle Beach Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

Construction of the walkways has begun and should be completed before the tourist season.

## City of Orangeburg

### Resolves To

### Assist Handicapped

The Mayor and members of City Council for Orangeburg recently passed a resolution requiring that any renovations of buildings within corporate city limits for use by the general public make reasonable accommodations for the handicapped and elderly. The City's Building Official has the responsibility for carrying out the mandates of the resolution.

The resolution further states that the City of Orangeburg exercises Affirmative Action in the hiring of City employees, regardless of the funding source.

The City of Orangeburg is the first city in the state to pass such a resolution.

A framed copy of the resolution was presented to the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped at an awards luncheon sponsored by the Orangeburg Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

# Spartanburg VR Center Honors Sen. Horace C. Smith

State Senator Horace C. Smith was honored at the recent dedication of the new Spartanburg Vocational Rehabilitation Center.

The building is named in honor of Sen. Smith in appreciation for his diligent efforts on behalf of handicapped citizens of South Carolina. "Sen. Smith has been a staunch supporter of the rehabilitation program in our state," according to Joe S. Dusenbury, Commissioner of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

"He sponsored the original request of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department for state bonding," Dusenbury adds, "even though Spartanburg was not to be one of the first locations for construction of a new facility with the additional funding."

Program participants at the dedication included: Governor Richard W. Riley; Robert R. Humphreys, Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Stephen J. Cornett, Regional Pro-



Horace C. Smith

gram Director, Office of Rehabilitation Services, Atlanta; E. Roy Stone, Jr., Chairman, S. C. State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation; Rep. T. W. Edwards, Vice-Chairman, Spartanburg County Delegation; Daniel E. Martin, State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation; and U. S. Rep. Carroll A. Campbell, Jr., of Greenville.

The Center, located at 353 South Church Street in Spartanburg, provides services to physically and mentally handicapped citizens in Union, Cherokee and Spartanburg counties, to help prepare them for employment in the community. The building is totally barrier-free and designed for effective operation in providing vocational rehabilitation services.

Subcontracts within the Center enable clients to develop work skills and habits, as well as to help them decide what type of employment they want to pursue.

Businesses and industry in the Spartanburg area provide this contract work, which last year resulted in \$109,227 paid in gross wages to clients.

Some of the subcontractors include: Abbott Laboratories, Carlisle Finishing Company, Duke Power Company, Felt Parts Company, Gould Incorporated, Greenleaf Incorporated, Gries Reproducers, Hersey Products, Hoechst Fiber Industries, International Wire Corporation, Klapat Textiles, Kohler Company, Kusters Corporation, Mayfair Mills, Michelin Tire Corporation, Milliken and Company, Reeves Brothers, Roebuck Plastics, Shippers Supply, Southeastern Paper Company, Spartan Mills, The Timken Company and Wendell Fabrics.

## TTY NOW AT WHITE HOUSE

Deaf citizens now have an opportunity to voice their opinions about the Administration and actions of the federal government to the occupants and staff at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. The TDD (telecommunications device for the deaf, also known as TTY) has been installed in the two vital offices for public access: the Visitor's Office of the East Wing of the White House and the Comments Office in the Old Executive Office Building.

The telephone numbers are: Visitors office (202) 456-2216 and Comments office (202) 456-6213.



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The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department offers equal opportunity in its employment and provision of services in keeping with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

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