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NEW HORIZONS

SOUTH CAROLINA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

VOL. 22, NO. 2 | SOUTH CAROLINA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT | APRIL-MAY, 1981

Saluda Student Takes Top Honors in Nat'l Contest

Saluda High School senior Edna Elaine Crawford has taken top honors in a national writing contest sponsored by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

As first place winner from South Carolina, her essay on "Mainstreaming of Disabled Students in My Community's Schools" was sent to Washington, D. C., for consideration along with top winners from across the nation in the 1981 Ability Counts essay contest. She was notified of her accomplishment as first place national winner by Governor Richard Riley at the annual awards luncheon of the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped Monday in Columbia, at which time she was being recognized as winner in the state contest.

From the state contest, she receives a four-year scholarship to

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Roger Lewis Honored

Roger Lewis of North Myrtle Beach recently had his day at the State House when he was introduced during sessions of the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as meeting with Governor Richard W. Riley.

Rep. Lois Eargle of Conway arranged for Roger and his mother, Mrs. Linda Lewis, to travel to Columbia for this event, accompanied by John Winn, area supervisor of the Conway Vocational Rehabilitation Center, and Treva Smith, evaluator at the Center.

Disabled as a result of cerebral palsy, Roger has worked within the Conway Vocational Rehabilitation Center for the past six years in the Work Activity Center program. This program is operated by the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Mental Retardation.

Because he is unable to work with his hands, he has learned to do many things with his feet. He propels himself in his wheelchair by a walking motion with his feet. One of his first jobs at the Center involved sorting zippers with his toes.

He is now a "straw boss" at the Center, assuming responsibilities in the area of quality control.

Since he was never able to attend school, Roger has always wanted to learn to read. He is now attending adult education classes at North Myrtle Beach High School, as well as having a tutor to teach him reading skills. He has been in the program for two years, and is showing tremendous progress.

Roger was recognized by the Conway Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped as its Handicapped Employee of 1981.

Pictured from left: Treva Smith, Governor Riley, Rep. Lois Eargle, Mrs. Linda Lewis, John Winn, and (center front) Roger Lewis.

Aiken Center Packages Riegel Product

AIKEN — Pat yourself on the back next time you buy a pop-up dispenser of pre-moistened towelettes.

You'll be helping a lot of handicapped people gain dignity.

Chances are those Wet Wipes or Baby Wipes you see on the shelves at many retail stores are packaged by handicapped clients at the Aiken Vocational Rehabilitation Center.

For more than a year nearly 25 handicapped people have been turning huge rolls of absorbent paper into small, moist towels that are handy for baby, household, car trips and removing makeup.

The handicapped clients operate a paper-slitting machine, label the dispensers and fill them with a lanolin solution, stuff them with towelettes and package the product for shipment.

The work is done under contract with Riegel Textile Corporation's Convenience Products Division in Aiken.

And everybody benefits.

Riegel is meeting customer demands for the Wet Wipes and Baby Wipes and the handicapped clients are paid for the work, based on their rates of production, while they learn how to get along on the job.

"We're training our clients to work in a factory or on an assembly line and with the Riegel contract they're getting on-the-job training because we've now got our own factory and assembly line," said Alan Coleman, supervisor at the center.

Coleman pointed out that the towelette contract represents the only vocational rehabilitation program in the country that has handicapped clients working 24 hours a day, in three shifts.

It's a trade secret with Riegel just how many dispensers of moist towelettes are turned out by the handicapped workers, but the company did say a large volume is shipped by rail and truck across the country.

Danny Stanton presents a check to Governor Riley on behalf of Riegel Textiles. Also pictured are H. P. Stephenson of Columbia, Al Smith of Riegel, Doug Hall and Alan Coleman.

"This is working out real well for us," said Danny Stanton, manufacturing manager for Riegel's Convenience Products Division here.

"We're dedicated to doing the kind of things that will help people to help themselves and the clients are providing a valuable service to us in that they run that operation and do it at a price that's as low as the price we would be able to do it at," said Stanton.

"And we find that the clients doing the work are extremely dedicated to what they do," he added.

The Riegel Corporation last month showed its appreciation for the state's vocational rehabilitation effort by handing Gov. Dick Riley a check for $1,000 to be used in rehab work. Riegel also has a contract with the Columbia Vocational Rehabilitation Center for production of towels.

In accepting the Riegel donation, Gov. Riley said, "In times of economic austerity, this is the kind of civic responsibility that makes up for fewer government dollars."

Coleman said the handicapped people working on the Riegel contract could be dependent on family and friends for a living and some could even be institutionalized at taxpayer expense.

Now, thanks to Riegel and other businesses and industries, the clients have become economcially self-sufficient, they have pride and dignity, and feel that they have become a useful part of society, Coleman said.

Coleman's operation, which began in 1947, now has nearly 200 handicapped persons working on nearly 50 contracts from 22 area industries.

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Governor's Committee Awards Presented

Governor Richard W. Riley honored several South Carolinians at an awards luncheon recently for their contributions toward helping handicapped persons and for their support in the employment of handicapped individuals.

Among those recognized at the luncheon sponsored by the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped was Paul R. Hibbard of Spartanburg. Hibbard, paralyzed below the neck as a result of polio when he was 14 years old, received the Governor's Trophy for "Handicapped South Carolinian of the Year" for his participation in the community and help with other handicapped persons.

In spite of his physical limitations, Hibbard managed to graduate Summa cum laude from Wofford College and Magna cum laude from the University of South Carolina law school and to have an active legal practice. Because of his experience in coping with a disabling condition, Hibbard has personally counseled numerous individuals who have suffered disabling injuries or illnesses.

The Governor's Committee also honored two outstanding employers in the state for their efforts in hiring handicapped citizens. Cannon Mills Company of Rock Hill received the "Large Business Employer of the Year" award and Waccamaw Pottery of Myrtle Beach received the "Small Business Employer of the Year" award.

Edna Elaine Crawford, a Saluda High School senior, received an award as the first place "Ability Counts" essay contest winner. As a winner of the contest, which is sponsored by the Governor's Committee, she receives a four-year scholarship to the state-supported school of her choice and a trip to the annual meeting of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped in Washington, D. C.

Other winners in the contest were: John P. Roddey, Northwestern High School, Rock Hill (second place); Susan C. Greene, T. L. Hanna High School, Anderson (third place); Tara Dawn James, W. Florence High School, Florence (fourth place); and Becky L. Roache, Wren High School, Piedmont (fifth place).

The Governor's Committee also specially cited Meredith Drakeford and Associates (architects) of Sumter with a meritorious service award for their efforts and interest in designing public and private facilities that are accessible to the handicapped.

1. **Governor Riley chats with luncheon guests.**
2. **A crowd of 150 listens to Governor Riley's remarks.**
3. **Edna Elaine Crawford is congratulated on winning state and national first prize in 1981 Ability Counts contest by Sen. Robert C. Lake, Jr. of Whitmire, who came to be with Miss Crawford; Dr. Ruby Herlong, her English teacher; Gov. Riley; Commander Charles Ferguson and Paul Jordan, representing AMVETS, who sponsored the cash prizes in the contest.**
4. **Charles LaRosa presents citation to Meredith Drakeford.**
5. **Joe Dusenbury and Governor Riley with Ability Counts winners: Edna Elaine Crawford, first place winner; John Roddey, second place; Becky Roach, fifth place; Tara Dawn James, fourth place; and Susan Greene, third place.**
6. **"Small Business Employer of the Year" — Earl Conn accepts award for Waccamaw Pottery.**
7. **"Large Business Employer of the Year" — Ralph Hoke accepts award for Cannon Mills; congratulated by Mayor Emmett Jerome of Rock Hill.**
8. **"Handicapped South Carolinian of the Year" — Paul Hibbard along with Moody Henderson, Joe Dusenbury, and Governor Riley.**

S.C.R.A. Will Hold Annual Meeting May 26-27

The annual meeting of the South Carolina Rehabilitation Association will be held this year at the Holiday Inn, City Center, in Columbia on May 26 and 27.

"The Year of the Disabled Person: Building Partnerships Among Business, Industry and Government" is the theme of the meeting. The program will include state, national and international perspectives on rehabilitation.

Tuesday's events will include a general session, the annual business meeting, and division meetings. The President's reception and a dance sponsored by the South Carolina Association of Rehabilitation Secretaries are scheduled for that evening.

Another general session will begin Wednesday's activities, followed by the annual meeting of the Professional Staff Association.

The meeting will conclude with the annual awards luncheon at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Orangeburg Recreation

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quantity of work is better. I hope our program at the rehabilitation center will prove this correct."

Pansy L. Grimes, who has only limited use of her upper extremities due to congenital malformations, participates in the physical fitness program along with her coworkers. "I can tell it's helping me in my reach and in being able to move around. We have a lot of fun, too."

One of the clients, Delma Jo Pearce, is using the program as a supplement to her weight reduction plan. "I've been going to weight watchers since last year, and I just lost my first 100 pounds. I hope these exercises are going to help me reach my goal."

Dr. Mosely says, "the clients really enjoy the program, and I think we're already seeing positive results. If it works at the center, I hope to take it to businesses."

Others assisting with the program are Ray Cooper and Jean Proctor from the Center, and Jerry Bethea and Regina McDonald, students at State.

Aiken Center

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The clients repair and assemble storage skids for Clearwater Finishing Company, repair coveralls and lab coats for the Savannah River Plant, fill gas grill hardware bags for Ducane Heating Corporation and assemble wheeled toys for the Roses Stores.

They work on their jobs at the rehabilitation center until they are ready to enter the job market. About 6,000 clients have found jobs after receiving rehabilitation training in Aiken.

"We couldn't do it without the help of our industries," said Coleman.

During 1980 the state's industries and businesses paid over $2 million for contract work done at centers like the one in Aiken, enabling handicapped people to gain experience in realistic work settings.

Ideas Sought on Computing Technology

A search is underway, in the form of a contest, for ideas on harnessing personal computing technology to help disabled people.

The national competition for ideas, devices, and computer programs is sponsored by the Applied Physics Laboratory of The Johns Hopkins University, the National Science Foundation, and Radio Shack, a division of Tandy Corporation.

The contest is for ideas to help handicapped people overcome difficulties in learning, working, and successfully adapting to home and community settings. Categories that may be addressed include computer-based aids for the blind, deaf, and mentally retarded; for persons with learning disabilities, neurological or neuromuscular conditions; and the othopedically handicapped.

There will be 100 awards, including a $10,000 grand prize, personal computer equipment, computer training, other cash prizes, and certificates of merit. Entries will be sought from computer specialists, high school and college students, and from interested people generally, including those with handicaps. Regional and national awards will be made in all categories. Contestants will have until June 30, 1981 to submit their entries.

Those who would like additional information or an application, write to Personal Computing to Aid the Handicapped, Johns Hopkins University, P.O. Box 670, Laurel, MD 20810.

Saluda Student

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a state-supported college, a $100 cash prize, and an expense paid trip to Washington to attend the annual meeting of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped (May 6-8). A $2000 cash prize will be presented to her at that time as national first-place winner.

Miss Crawford received the Best In-depth Reporting Award given by the S. C. Scholastic Press Association in 1978, and was recognized as Most Valuable Staff Member by the high school newspaper staff in 1979-80.

The 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Kenneth Crawford is also active in the National Beta Club, Senior Club and is listed in the 1981 edition of *Who's Who Among American High School Students.*

Orangeburg Center Gets Recreation Program

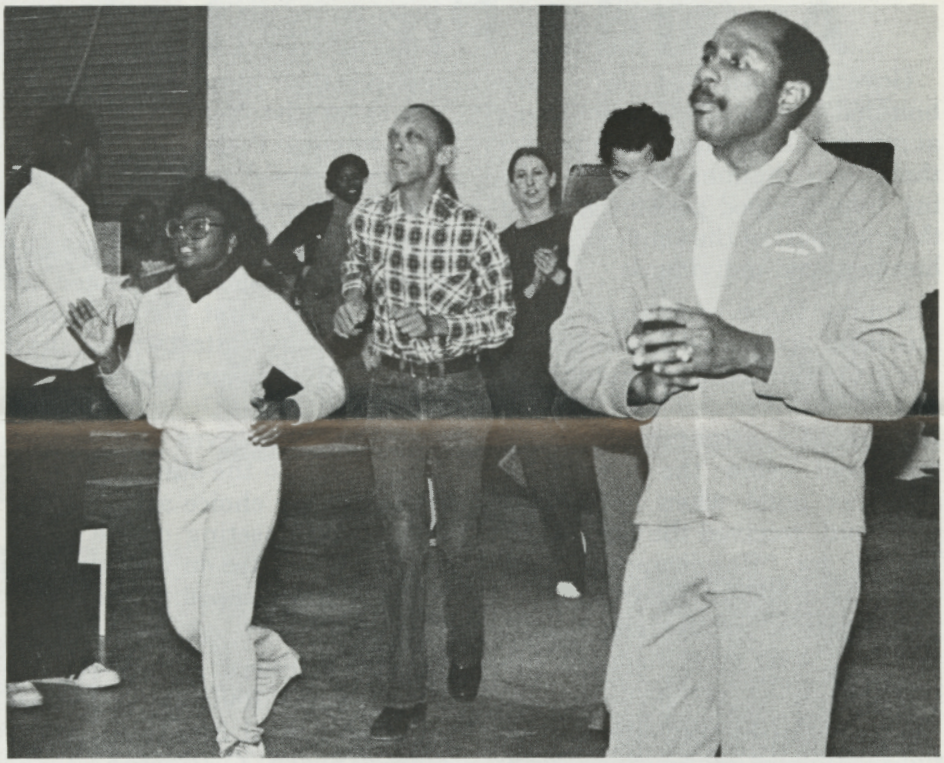
Clients at the Orangeburg Vocational Rehabilitation Center are getting a planned physical fitness program as a part of their work adjustment training.

The program, conducted by Dr. Kenneth Mosely of the Physical Education Department at South Carolina State College, is a pilot project which is expected to become a statewide program for handicapped citizens in South Carolina. Work Activity Center program clients are now participating in this health-related physical fitness program.

"We have just received approval of a grant to fund expansion of the program," Dr. Mosely says. "We hope to train individuals to conduct similar programs in facilities dealing with handicapped people in other locations of the state."

The clients in the program participate in 30 minutes of physical exercise three times a week for a period of 16 weeks. In addition, they learn about other health concepts such as diet.

John Lybrand, Vocational Rehabilitation Area Supervisor says, "since the start of the program, the clients have shown more enthusiasm and interest in their work. We feel that they're more productive as a result of the physical fitness program."



"Prior to beginning the program," Mosely says, "the participants were tested so that we could measure their progress. These tests included a run-walk test and heart rate test to measure cardiovascular endurance, a skin fold test to measure body fat, sit and reach test and sit-ups. They will be tested again at the conclusion of the 16-week program.

"I think there's a real need for this type of program for all people, but for handicapped people in particular, since they are not as likely to be involved in any sort of physical fitness program as their non-handicapped counterparts.

"I'm particularly interested in physical fitness as it relates to employment," Dr. Mosely continues. "Studies on job-related productivity have shown, for example, that in Japan, where physical fitness programs are a part of the workday, the quality and

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Vol. 22 APRIL-MAY No. 2

Published
by the South Carolina
Vocational Rehabilitation Department
State Agency of
Vocational Rehabilitation
E. ROY STONE, JR., Chairman
J. S. DUSENBURY, Commissioner
301 Landmark Center, Forest Drive
Columbia, South Carolina
LYN D. JOHNSON, Editor

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department offers equal opportunity in its employment and provision of services without regard to race, color, creed, national origin or handicapping condition 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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