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SOUTH CAROLINA  
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

MARCH - APRIL, 1976

## COMMISSIONER VISITS EGYPTIAN REHAB CENTERS

Dill D. Beckman, Commissioner of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, and Louie Terango, Director, Division of State Program Financial Operations, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), visited rehabilitation facilities in Egypt.

This project is a part of the International Research Program of RSA. RSA has a joint project with Egypt, whereby delegates from the United States would evaluate rehabilitation facilities in Egypt and make recommendations based on their observations.

Beckman and Terango met with officials of the Egyptian government to discuss their mission. They

met with Dr. Aicha Rateb, Minister of Social Affairs, and Dr. Salah E. Hommassani, Deputy Minister of Social Affairs.

Their trip consisted of a series of meetings of rehabilitation personnel at various types of facilities, followed by visits at some of the facilities. Facilities they visited in Egypt include:

**Drug Rehabilitation Project** — The Egyptian theory of rehabilitation involves the entire family in the drug rehabilitation program. Beckman noted that their drug abuse problem involves an older age group than in the United States. He was told by the Egyptians that the reason for this is that

a man wants to provide well for his family, so he works longer hours to make more money. He often resorts to the use of opium as a stimulant, in many instances becoming addicted to the drug. Treatment takes place at a non-residential center, and the abuser learns to get back on a regular work schedule.

**Orthotic and Prosthetic Clinic** — Artificial appliances are fitted and made by rehabilitation centers in Egypt. Their staff members were sent to the United States for training at artificial limb companies. This prevents delays in providing the disabled with devices they need for returning to employment.

**Blind Rehabilitation Facility** — The blind are taught such occupations as rug-making and ceramics. There is no contract work like that in workshops in America. The products made in Egyptian workshops are marketed in outlet stores, with the clients receiving a portion of profits on the goods.

**Workshops for the Mentally Retarded** — The mentally retarded learn leatherwork for making items such as luggage and shoes at a workshop in the city. Another type of workshop in a rural area teaches the mentally retarded skills in landscaping and farming.



LOUIE TERANGO      MRS. DILL D. BECKMAN      DR. DILL D. BECKMAN  
DR. AICHA RATEB      DR. SALAH E. HOMMASSANI

(Continued on page 4)

## A Profile of Achievement

**HOW A HANDICAPPED PERSON APPROACHES LIFE**

By Lisa Hyman  
Dillon High School

"I decided to go ahead and live my life. Nothing stops me," declares "Doc" Bethea, an employe of Schafer Enterprises of Dillon, S. C. "I do most anything—drive a car, work at home, cut grass, rake yards, transport materials, and cook." Twenty-five years ago, Mr. Bethea had part of his left arm amputated. Hazel Bethea affirms her middle-aged husband's independence: "He doesn't have a handicap as far as I'm concerned."<sup>1</sup>

These attitudes are keys in determining possible achievements of a handicapped person. Realism, determination, and motivation characterize the attitudes of the handicapped who have overcome their disabilities. To maintain a positive outlook, however, is often difficult.

"Man, in general, stresses perfection," explains Judy Johnson, physical therapist at St. Eugene Hospital in Dillon. Working daily with the handicapped, Miss Johnson understands their frustrations with the environmental and social barriers surrounding them. She believes that the public can alleviate many of these frustrations: "The public must be willing to appreciate the handicapped for what they have now—not what they lost; each is an individual. Self-satisfaction, strong family backing, and the public's support are the basics for achievement by the handicapped."<sup>2</sup>

A strong encouragement to the handicapped is employment. Rehabilitation is often the first step toward finding a job. Last year South Carolina led the nation in

rehabilitation. "The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department was successful in placing 13,143 disabled men and women in productive employment during the 1974-75 fiscal year. The rehabilitated increased their annual rate of earning from less than \$9 million before rehabilitation to more than \$50 million after rehabilitation."<sup>3</sup> Considering unemployment rates and recession, this in itself is quite an achievement.

Mr. Paul Rogers, a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor in Dillon, views each handicapped person as a distinct entity: "Vocational Rehabilitation then proceeds to provide realistic, meaningful services that will enable the client to have a gainful, productive, rewarding life."<sup>4</sup>

What kind of achievements are possible from the handicapped? Franklin D. Roosevelt, Thomas Edison, Ludwig van Beethoven, and Helen Keller are frequently cited as handicapped people who accomplished magnificent feats. In my community, however, several handicapped people are quietly fulfilling their own profiles.

The Dillon police dispatcher, Ed McLaurin, has severe muscular disabilities, but is described by the city manager as "one of our best employees."<sup>5</sup>

Joel Butler, Dillon's postmaster, praises his deaf employee, Ira Wallace: "Ira is as good a postal worker as they come . . . very efficient and determined."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup>"First in the Nation in 1974-75," *New Horizons*, Vol. 17, No. 1, (January, 1976), p. 2.

<sup>4</sup>Paul Rogers, interview by writer (Dillon High School, Dillon, S. C.), 10 a.m., January 9, 1976.

<sup>5</sup>John Holpe, interview by writer (Dillon City Hall, Dillon, S. C.), 5:15 p.m., January 7, 1976.

<sup>6</sup>Joel Butler, interview by writer (Dillon Post Office, Dillon, S. C.), 3:45 p.m., January 7, 1976.

Paralyzed from the waist down, Lois Dove works from her wheelchair at South of the Border near Dillon. The personnel director, Carol Jordan, depicts Lois Dove as a "dynamic person, an excellent worker, very dependable. She is never absent."<sup>7</sup>

Moses McFadden, who drives the delivery car for Jay Bee Drug Company in Dillon, has an artificial right arm. His attitude towards his job? "It's my belief that if I'm told to do something, I'll make the effort—maybe not as fast, but I always find a way. It's a built-in desire."<sup>8</sup>

Many people never face their flaws, hiding them in the shadows; however, these achieving handicapped persons have come to grips with their imperfections because their disabilities are out in the light. They have examined themselves, answering in positive action Carl Sandburg's "The shadow struggles to get loose from the light. Shall I say I'm through and it's no use? Or have I got another good fight in me?"<sup>9</sup> Being forced to determine realistically their attitudes toward life, these handicapped are one step ahead of the rest of us. They have developed a practical approach towards living—realizing their disabilities and stressing their abilities to project a profile of achievement.

<sup>7</sup>Carol Jordan, interview by writer (South of the Border, Hamer, S. C.), 4:15 p.m., January 6, 1976.

<sup>8</sup>Moses McFadden, interview by writer (Jay Bee Drug Store, Dillon, S. C.), 6:00 p.m., January 18, 1976.

<sup>9</sup>Carl Sandburg, "Evening Questions," in *Honey and Salt*, (New York, Harcourt Brace & World, Inc., 1953), p. 35.

<sup>1</sup>The "Doc" Bethea Family, interview by writer (Tall Pines Community, Dillon, S. C.), 8 p.m., January 8, 1976.

<sup>2</sup>Judy Johnson, interview by writer (St. Eugene Community Hospital, Dillon, S. C.), 12:15 p.m., January 10, 1976.

(Editor's Note — The story above is the first place winner in the 1976 Ability Counts competition.)

# Dillon High School Students Win Contests

## Lisa Hyman Wins

### 1976 Ability Counts Competition

History repeats itself in the J. Charles Hyman family of Dillon.

Both Lisa Hyman and her mother, the former Marjorie Barrington of Dillon, have been winners in the Ability Counts contest. Lisa placed first in the 1976 contest, and her mother placed fifth in the 1955 contest.

The contest is sponsored annually by the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

As statewide winner, Lisa receives a four year scholarship to the state-supported institution of her choice, providing for free tuition and fees. She also receives an expense paid trip to Washington, D. C., to attend the annual meeting of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

Governor James B. Edwards presented her a \$50 cash award and a certificate signed for the President of the United States.

A Furman Scholar and Presbyterian College Fellow, Lisa is a member of the Beta Club and has been on the highest honor roll through grades 8, 9, 10 and 11. She has also been an active participant in the choir program at First Presbyterian Church in Dillon.

Lisa placed first in the state DAR essay contest in 1973. She takes piano and organ lessons and works as a candy stripper, in addition to holding a part-time job at a drive-in restaurant.

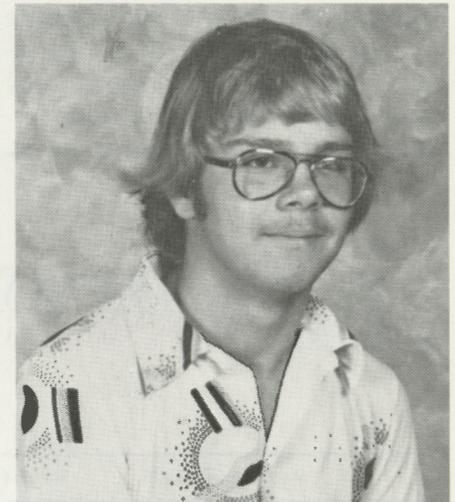
Other winners in the contest include: Walter Allread of Mullins, second place; Joyce Ex of North Charleston, third place; Winston King of Mullins, fourth place and Vicki May of Florence, fifth place.

Second and third place winners receive \$35 and \$15 respectively. All top five winners receive a certificate signed for the President of the United States.

Awards for the contest are made by the J. E. Hangar Company, the W. T. Hinnant Artificial Limb Company and the South Carolina Labor Council.

Dill D. Beckham, Commissioner of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, is chairman of the Governor's Committee.

## Tommy Cottingham Wins Poster Contest



Tommy Cottingham of Dillon High School is the 1976 Poster Contest Winner.

The contest is sponsored by the South Carolina Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and the South Carolina AMVETS.

The winner receives a \$100 cash award for first place. The winning entry is submitted to the President's Committee for national competition.

Tommy has received four years of formal art training in the Dillon High School system. His plans for the future include attending Francis Marion College at Florence to major in history and minor in art.



Allread King Hyman Governor Edwards Ex May Beckman

**REHAB CENTERS** (Continued)

*Deaf Facility* — This educational facility teaches manual communications and finger spelling to the deaf, as well as teaching them vocational skills.

*Rehabilitation Center* — The Egyptians have set up multi-disability workshops similar to the ones opened in this country.

After visiting these facilities and talking with vocational rehabilitation personnel in Egypt, Dr. Beckman concludes that the program will succeed because of the enthusiasm, knowledge and skills of the staff. He noted that in some cases the staff did not have the resources for rehabilitation which are available in America. But because of their sincere interest in the rehabilitation of the disabled, they are successful in their mission.

**Handicapped Citizens Visit Riverbanks Zoo For Second Annual Zoo Day**



Sen. James B. Stephen of Spartanburg, Chairman of the Committee on Mental Health and Mental Retardation, speaks to those attending Zoo Day.



U. S. Senator Strom Thurmond greets handicapped citizens at Riverbanks



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