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SOUTH CAROLINA
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

MAY - JUNE, 1972

"Ability Counts" Winners Named State Winner, Fourth In Nation

Laura Richardson of Newberry won first place in the South Carolina "Ability Counts" writing contest for 1972 and was named fourth place winner in the national contest. The contest is sponsored state-wide annually by the South Carolina Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, Dill D. Beckman, Chairman. It is open to high school juniors and seniors.

As a national winner, Miss Richardson's entry competed with entries from 44 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Of the five national winners, Miss Richardson is the only high school junior to be named.

Governor John C. West presented Miss Richardson with a check for \$50 and a certificate signed by the President of the United States. The presentation was made April 21 at 11:00 a.m. in the Governor's office. In addition to the check and certificate, the first place state winner receives a four-year stipend to cover tuition and fees at the state supported school of her choice.

Miss Richardson received an all-expense paid trip to the annual meeting of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped in Washington, D. C. on Friday, May 5. At this meeting she received her national award of \$300.00 given by the Disabled American Veterans.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Richardson, 1302 Hunt Street in Newberry, Miss Richardson is a past member of the Beta Club and



1972 "Ability Counts" contest winners meet with Dr. Dill D. Beckman and Governor John C. West to receive awards. From left to right are: Dr. Beckman, Vickie Horton of Columbia, Governor West, Laura Richardson of Newberry and first place winner, Jeanne Fowler of Mullins, Bob Brown of Newberry, and Dawne Adams Ferguson of Abbeville. The 1972 contest theme was "Employment of the Handicapped: How Well Is My Community Informed?" The contest is open to juniors and seniors in South Carolina high schools and the state winner's entry is submitted to the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped for competition in the national contest.

Employment of the Handicapped: How Well Is My Community Informed? Newberry: A Disinterested Community?

A college student frantically jots down the last footnote on a term paper due that afternoon for a one o'clock class. A store manager gulps down the remaining coffee in his cup before leaving his office to check if that big shipment finally came in. A housewife scurries nervously about her kitchen trying to decide if she has time to toss a

salad before her husband arrives for lunch. Are these three individuals aware that the greater percentage of their town's handicapped are jobless, neatly tucked away into unobtrusive corners?

The town is Newberry, where nearly one hundred forty people, despite their talents and responsibilities, collect approximately

Employment of the —

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\$7,500 monthly in welfare checks vital to their existence merely because the disability they possess increases the scarcity of job openings for them. Are Newberry citizens apathetic to or uninformed of the rate concerning favorable terms of handicapped employment?

In surveying the community, I prepared three types of questionnaires, using as a basis the five main points about handicapped employees suggested by a government study:

Handicapped people have as wide a range of interests, skills, and abilities as non-handicapped individuals.

The production rate of handicapped people is slightly higher than the rate for the non-handicapped person.

The disabling injury rate is lower for handicapped persons than for non-handicapped persons when both groups are exposed to the same work hazards.

There is no increase in the absenteeism rate among handicapped persons when compared with the absenteeism rate of able-bodied individuals.

Handicapped workers are not job hoppers.

The first type was made for high school and college students, another was for employers of both private and large-scale enterprises, and the third was for a door-to-door inquiry of average citizens.

Of the student questionnaires, twenty were distributed to a high school class and twenty to a college class. Knowledge of facts about employment of the handicapped was more widespread among the college students with an average score of 67 percent, while the high school students showed a 50 percent knowledge of the facts. Fifty-five percent of the high school students, as opposed to 85 percent of the college students, expressed obtaining their information through television. Their next most

influential sources were newspapers, magazines, and radio, constituting 40 percent of the two groups' information. The greater majority of high school students, 90 percent, and 75 percent of the college students indicated that no study of the handicapped had been included in their education. All of the high school students and 85 percent of the college students stated that they would welcome a speaker on this subject into their school assembly.

Surprisingly enough, employers were only slightly better informed than the students. Of the fifty questionnaires mailed, only twenty-five replies were received. The fifteen small business employers knew 75 percent of those facts listed and the ten large-scale employers knew 52 percent. Information sources ranked 58 percent from television, 18 percent from publications, and 8 percent from radio. Sixty-four percent of the employers who had hired handicapped employees agreed that the five basic facts had been consistent with their experience and 33 percent stated their reason for not employing handicapped workers was that they had never been approached. From all twenty-five businesses who responded, sixty-eight jobs were available for handicapped workers.

Of the thirty average citizens chosen — rich, poor, old, young, black, white — there was a mean score of 60 percent. Eighty-three percent indicated that their information came from television, 9 percent from publications, and 3 percent from radio.

Newberry has no locations for training specific types of handicapped individuals but has access to all state facilities; however, in the spring of 1970, with the help of the Newberry College chaplain, a program was initiated in Newberry in cooperation with the State Literacy Agency for teaching adults who missed the opportunity earlier in life to read and write. Thirty-three community citizens

have been trained to teach and classes have begun, so far, successfully.

At present Newberry is fairly well informed on hiring the handicapped, and it has a great potential for becoming one of the most informed communities in the nation. In all, 77 percent of the students, 29 percent of the employers, and 60 percent of the citizens indicated their willingness to spend one afternoon a month informing others of the facts they have learned about handicapped labor. The majority seem interested already and the mass media is touching the disinterested. Employers are becoming aware of the advantages of having handicapped employees. But still the handicapped wait patiently for recognition of their abilities.

"A little knowledge that acts is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that is idle."

—Kahlil Gibran

Ability Counts . . .

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currently holds memberships in the Pep Club, Classical Club and Civinettes at Newberry High School. She is editor-elect of the school paper and ranks in the upper fifteen per cent of her class. She is a member of the Girls' Auxiliary of the First Baptist Church.

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Awards for the state contest are provided by W. T. Hinnant, J. E. Hanger and the South Carolina State Labor Council.

The other four state winners include: Vickie Horton of Hopkins, second place; Jeanne Fowler of Mullins, third place; Bob Brown of Newberry, fourth place; and Dawne Adams Ferguson of Abbeville, fifth place. Miss Horton and Miss Fowler received \$35 and \$15 respectively and a certificate signed by the President of the United States.

Member of Governor's Staff Visits Rehabilitation Center



Mrs. Patricia Cooper, Coordinator for Citizens Service for Governor John C. West visited the Department's newest facility, the Area Rehabilitation Center in Walterboro recently. Above Dr. Dill D. Beckman, Commissioner of the S. C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department points out some of the sub-contract work that is done in the workshop area of the facility. Looking on are Sam Causey, project supervisor, Ron Ordel, workshop manager and Billy Rogers, area supervisor for the Vocational Rehabilitation Department in Walterboro. From left to right are: Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Causey, Mr. Ordel, Dr. Beckman and Mr. Rogers.

Mrs. Patricia Cooper, Coordinator for Citizens Service for Governor John C. West and Dill D. Beckman, Commissioner, South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department toured the Department's newest facility, the Area Rehabilitation Center in Walterboro recently.

Project supervisor for the Center is Sam Causey. Other members of the staff include Wyman Carter and Lewis Howell, counselors; Mrs. Lynn Bagnal, Mrs. Patricia Ivy and Norris Reardon, vocational evaluators; Arnold Green and Dr. William Snyder, psychologist and consultant psychologist, respectively; Mrs. Martha Bailey, inter-agency liaison coordinator; William Boodle, personal adjustment instructor; Ronald Ordel, workshop manager; Mrs. Willie B. Rabb, social worker; Mary Louise McDaniel and Jacqueline White, counselor assistants and Bonnie Tucker, casework assistant.

In keeping with the Department's philosophy and tradition, the Center is designed to provide a total range of rehabilitation services. A difference in this newest facility is

that it is specifically designed and aimed toward the rehabilitation of the handicapped public welfare recipient. The ultimate goal of the

facility is to place handicapped public assistance recipients in wage-earning jobs, removing them from the welfare roles.

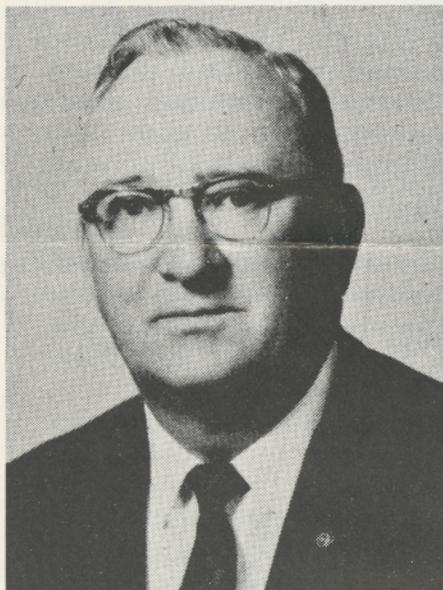


Shown above are participants in a recent training conference for those specialty counselors assigned to work with public assistance recipients in each of the offices of the S. C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department. The meeting was held at the Area Rehabilitation Center in Walterboro.

In addition to the local Project staff, Mr. William Rogers, Area Supervisor for Walterboro, and representatives from the State Office in Columbia were present. Mr. Harley Mills, District Supervisor for the Department of Social Services was on the program and was present throughout the day.

E. Roy Stone, Jr. Reappointed To Agency Board: Remains Chairman

E. Roy Stone, Jr., of Greenville has recently been reappointed by Governor John C. West to a second



E. Roy Stone, Jr.

seven year term of the State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation. Mr. Stone was first appointed to the Agency Board in 1960 and was named chairman in 1968.

The Greenwood native is a member of the American Legion, James F. Daniel, Post #3. He has served as post, district, and state commander. He served as chairman of the Legislative-Governor's Committee to **Study the Feasibility of Establishing Alcoholic Rehabilitation Centers in Certain Areas in the State and to Authorize Compulsory Commitment of Alcoholics.**

Mr. Stone has been the recipient of a number of awards including the Distinguished Public Service Award presented by the American Legion in recognition of his work and interest in Vocational Rehabilitation. In his honor, the South Carolina Department of Mental Health named a new 150-bed facility in Columbia, The E. Roy Stone, Jr., War Veterans Pavilion.

He is a partner in the E. Roy Stone Real Estate and Insurance Co. He is active in church work, a member of the Lions Club and holds the Silver Beaver Award for Service in Boy Scout work.

Young, Vocational Rehabilitation Employee of the Year

Charles Lee Young, Project Supervisor at the Palmetto Center for Alcoholics, South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department in Florence, has been named Vocational Rehabilitation Employee of the Year, announces Dill D. Beckman, Commissioner.

The committee of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department making the selection agreed unanimously on Mr. Young as the Department's outstanding employee.

Mr. Young has been employed with Vocational Rehabilitation since 1967 at Palmetto Alcoholic Center. Approximately three years ago he was named supervisor of the Center.

A native of Charleston, West Virginia, he received his Master's degree in vocational rehabilitation counseling from West Virginia University.

Mr. Young has been instrumental in organizing local community interests in the treatment of alcoholism throughout the state.



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