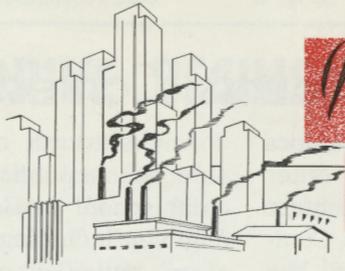


V 8515
3.N38
v.17/9-10



New

HORIZONS

S. C. STATE LIBRARY

NOV 16 1976

STATE DOCUMENTS

VOL. 17, NO. 9-10

SOUTH CAROLINA
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1976

CETA PROGRAM HELPS MANY FIND EMPLOYMENT

Many people evaluated through the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) program in Vocational Rehabilitation Centers and other locations are finding careers which add meaning to their lives.

The program is funded through the Comprehensive Employment Training Act under the United States Department of Labor. It is designed to provide manpower training and other services to assist the unemployed, the underemployed and the disadvantaged population. The goal of the program is to allow these individuals to be better prepared to enter the labor market.

It has been found that a number of these individuals under the CETA program also have mental and physical disabilities, for which Vocational Rehabilitation experience is most appropriate.

The State Employment Security Office is the intake agency for CETA referrals. Employment Security recruits people who meet eligibility criteria set forth by CETA and who usually have insufficient training to enter the labor market successfully.

After completion of the intake process, CETA participants are then referred to the Vocational Rehabilitation office serving their

(continued on page 3)



What A Job Can Really Mean

By Harriet Rose Lowe

(Editor's Note: Harriet Lowe, severely handicapped since birth with cerebral palsy, spent most of her life confined to a wheelchair. In order for her to become self-sufficient, Vocational Rehabilitation assisted with special equipment and training to prepare her for a career as an accountant. Harriet is the daughter of Mrs. T. Jackson Lowe and the late Mr. Lowe. In the following story, she tells of her struggle in finding employment even after she had been properly trained and had graduated with honors — because she was handicapped.)

Do people take having a steady, well-paying job for granted? Yes. The usual way of growing up in America is to go through school and then go on and be trained for the life's mission in some college or university.

Well, not so easily by someone with a handicapping condition. Oh, one goes to school, but where? I am employed by the Richland County Department of Finance as Assistant to the Finance Director in Charge of Property Records.

I am a severely handicapped person. Now, how did I make it? How can others like me make it?

(continued on page 2)

WHAT A JOB . . .

(continued from page 1)

It was a long, hard road for me. My parents had vision and foresight to see and understand the long, hard hours that go into training a handicapped child. They spent their lives sacrificing to give me every opportunity to prepare myself for what was in store for me. The economic situation of my family was not a major obstacle initially.

I went to a private school for seven years for special training. Then, there was surgery to help me be more independent. During my senior year in high school, I decided what I wanted to do in life: I wanted to be an accountant.

This seemed out of the question for me, since I could not even take a pen or pencil and write my name, much less the figures! I did all my writing on an electric typewriter. I remember when I was taking senior level bookkeeping in high school, my teacher worried because I was doing "A" work, but doing it on a typewriter.

When I graduated from high school, there was no doubt that I would go on to college just like all my other friends. But, as always, there was a difference. Where could a handicapped student go to college? At that time, I went to Vocational Rehabilitation for assistance in preparing myself for a career. I attended the University of Illinois, which was built for handicapped people, but later transferred to the University of South Carolina. I was able to take only a partial load, but managed to graduate in 1972 with a triple major in accounting, management and economics.

My college life was not to end there. I was offered an assistance-ship to obtain the degree of Master of Public Administration at the University of South Carolina. I would still be an accountant, not in private business, but rather in government employment. I had

1977 Ability Counts Contest Begins

High school juniors and seniors in the state are eligible to enter the 1977 Ability Counts contest sponsored by the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

First prize winner will receive a four-year scholarship for the state-supported institution of the winner's choice, all expense paid trip to Washington, D. C., to attend the annual meeting of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and a cash award.

The theme for 1977 is "Handicapped People and Affirmative Action." Under Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, employers with government contracts of \$2,500 or more must take affirmative action in hiring, promoting and training of qualified handicapped people. Students entering the contest are required to do research into this topic, doing interviews with handicapped people and reporting their findings in a paper no longer than three pages.

on-the-job training that has proven most helpful now that I am fully on my own.

I had met various things that caused a change in direction throughout my life. But those small changes were taken with a sense of purpose and made me a better person for having to endure them. I received my Master of Public Administration in May, 1974, but I was to meet another brick wall. The problems I ran into in getting a job seemed almost insurmountable.

For months, my Vocational Rehabilitation counselor and I worked on trying to find employment for me in a federal job. Things never seemed to fall into place.

Just to be able to have something to do, I went to work as a volunteer without pay for the Easter Seal Society the following September. I completed a three-

Any eleventh or twelfth grade student in a public, private or parochial school in South Carolina is eligible, including those students at an equivalent educational level in public and private institutions, such as handicapped students taking separate training.

National prizes, which are provided by the Disabled American Veterans, are \$1,500, first prize; \$900, second prize; \$600, third prize; \$450, fourth prize; and \$300, fifth prize. The national winners will also receive a plaque and the state winners a certificate from the DAV.

Reports should be mailed to the Chairman of the Governor's Committee, J. S. Dusenbury, Chairman, P. O. Box 4945, Columbia, South Carolina 29240 by January 15, 1977.

Rules and details of the contest may be obtained from Vocational Rehabilitation area offices and local State Employment Service offices.

month internship and was able to use that as work experience.

But the thrill came while I was attending a federal hearing in Washington on implementation of the 1974 Vocational Rehabilitation Law on December 9, 1974.

I had been interviewed for a job in the Richland County Finance Director's office. I was called out of the hearing because I had a long distance telephone call. The voice was that of Mrs. Nancy M. Meek, my VR counselor, asking "Harriet, how would you like to begin working Monday, December 16?" I was so excited and delighted, I forgot to ask what my salary was to be. All I really wanted to know was where and for whom.

It took about two weeks for everyone to overlook "our new

(continued on page 3)

NRA DRIVE BEGINS IN OCTOBER

An increase in the number of consumer memberships in National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) is the goal of the 1977 membership drive in South Carolina which began on October 18, 1976, to run through April 29, 1977.

NRA is a nonprofit, voluntary association of approximately 35,000 members who are professional persons in the field of rehabilitation, consumers, volunteers, students, and interested citizens. The purpose of the organization is to advance the rehabilitation of all

(continued from page 2)

handicapped employee" and begin saying "our not-so-new employee."

My job has been a learning experience for me. The little things I needed help with got to be fun things for my fellow staff members. They are continually teasing me whenever I want something "whited out" so I can correct something. They have helped me learn to do even more for myself than ever before.

I am very thankful that my father, who passed away on August 26 of this year, lived long enough to see me as I am now and to know that the faith he and my mother had in me over the years was not in vain. Without their encouragement, support and assistance, I could never have made it.

My advice to others seeking employment: "Get the proper training, then be hard workers, and realistic, but above all, have faith, faith in God, yourself and the people you work with."

If one is determined enough, one will surely make it. I did and I believe other handicapped people can, too.

handicapped persons. South Carolina has approximately 1,300 members.

It began as a citizens group, but through the years the number of professional memberships has grown more rapidly than other groups, according to Edward H. McMillion, South Carolina's NRA membership chairman. "Through this effort to recruit more consumers and interested individuals, NRA is attempting to strengthen its voice."

Each NRA member in South Carolina is urged to solicit at least one new membership to a friend or associate. "In the past, no great effort has been made to solicit memberships to those in the business groups, such as banks," according to McMillion.

The national NRA office has initiated new incentives for selling memberships this year. Gold, silver and bronze pins will be presented to those members recruiting new members, according to the number they solicit.

The South Carolina chapter of NRA has incentives in addition. The person with the highest number of membership points will receive a trip to the national NRA meeting in Washington, D. C. The salesman with the highest number of new membership points will attend the regional NRA meeting in Louisville, Ky. All salesmen obtaining 180 new membership points and retaining 50% renewals will have his NRA membership paid. The area with the highest new membership points will receive the traveling NRA trophy.

Membership dues for NRA will increase beginning November 15, 1976, to \$30 for a member; \$15 for an associate; \$15 for a student; and a minimum of \$50 for a sustaining member.

CETA . . .

(continued from page 1)

area. A Vocational Rehabilitation counselor begins to work with the participants, making arrangements for medical examinations.

After the medical appointment, the CETA participant begins assessment to assist the individual in learning more about his interests, ability and aptitude in preparation for the labor market.

The assessment centers are located within six Vocational Rehabilitation Centers located in Greenwood, Orangeburg, Sumter, Aiken, Florence and Rock Hill, as well as in the Beaufort satellite office. In addition, assessment centers are located at Tri-County TEC, Williamsburg Manpower Center and in Spartanburg in the CETA building.

Audio-visual equipment is used to assess the participants. The equipment requires the participant to perform tasks using the tools of the trade for which he is being assessed. The program can assess participants in a number of areas including plumbing and pipefitting, electrical wiring, needle trades, medical services, drafting and office and sales work.

Based on findings of assessment, plans are made to provide CETA participants with any further activities necessary to prepare them for future employment.

Full-time Vocational Rehabilitation counselors serve CETA enrollees, all of whom receive basic medical evaluation from Vocational Rehabilitation. In addition, ten assessment centers were established for the purpose of ascertaining the CETA enrollees' vocational potential. Two motorized units with sophisticated evaluation equipment provide evaluation services to clients in remote areas of the state. In addition, four adjustment programs were implemented this past year to serve CETA enrollees who are in need of specialized adjustment services before pursuing further CETA functions.

S. C. WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER 16 IN COLUMBIA

South Carolina's State White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals will be held from 9:30 A.M. until 5:00 P.M., Tuesday, November 16, 1976, at the Carolina Coliseum in Columbia.

Conferences similar to the one being held in South Carolina are being conducted in all states in preparation for the National White House Conference to be held in Washington, D. C., May 24-29, 1977.

The state conference has been designed to provide the handicapped and parents of the handicapped with an opportunity to suggest methods of improving the



quality of life for handicapped individuals. Professionals are invited to attend and are urged to encourage consumers to participate in the program.

"Three regional meetings were held in advance of the state conference," according to Dr. Charles S. Chandler, director of statewide activities for the White House Conference, "to give consumers and professionals an opportunity to address the problems faced by the handicapped and propose possible solutions to the problems."

Regional meetings were held in Florence on September 18; in Spartanburg on October 2 and in Charleston on October 9.

Input from the regional meetings is being used in formulating the agenda for the state conference.

The White House Conference is an effort to generate a national awareness of the problems faced by individuals with mental or physical handicaps. Further, it will make recommendations to the President and Congress to help these individuals with handicaps to live more independently.

Those interested in attending the state conference must pre-register by November 8 on reservation forms available at all Vocational Rehabilitation offices and many other agencies and associations serving the handicapped.



Vol. 17 September-October, 1976 No. 9-10

Published monthly
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 S. C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department makes no distinction on the ground of race, color, or national origin in providing to individuals any service, financial aid, or other benefit under the Agency program.

FIELD OFFICES

AIKEN 407 Hayne Avenue, S.W.
ANDERSON 1103 N. Fant Street
CHARLESTON 34 George Street
COLUMBIA 100 Main Street
CONWAY 203 Laurel Street
FLORENCE 1550 W. Evans Street
GREENVILLE Academy Bldg.
2 Hampton Avenue
GEORGETOWN 102 Screven
GREENWOOD 109 Oak Avenue
HARTSVILLE 328 South 5th Street
ORANGEBURG 396 St. Paul, N.E.
ROCK HILL 756 Cherry Road
SPARTANBURG 864 N. Church Street
SUMTER City-County Bldg.
WALTERBORO Hiers Professional Bldg.
DISABILITY DETERMINATION DIVISION
P. O. Box 4557, Columbia

Vocational Rehabilitation Department
P. O. Box 4945
Columbia, S. C. 29240

Return Postage Guaranteed

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBIA, S. C.
Permit No. 562