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TRC news & views

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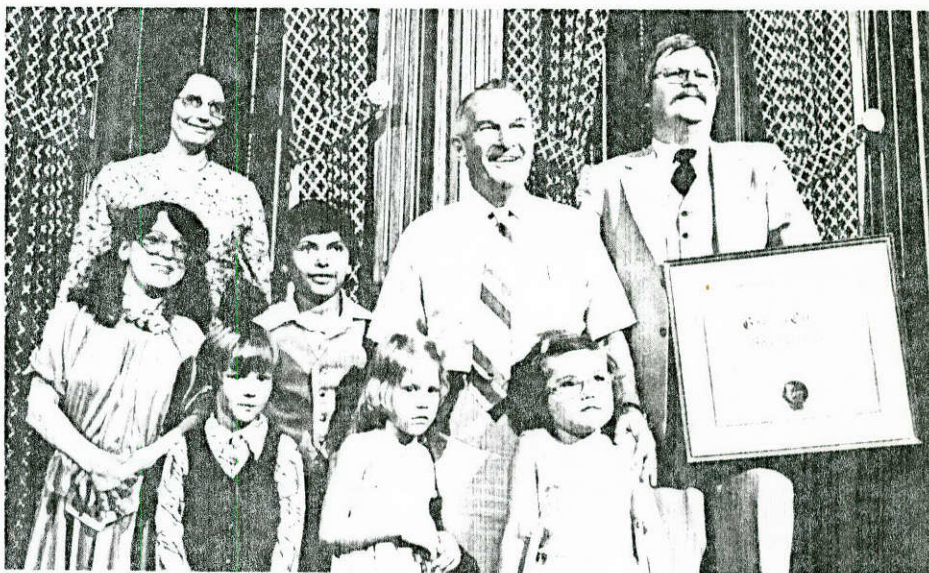
September, 1980

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State Employment of the Handicapped Awards Outstanding Individuals, State Facility Honored

Two individuals and a State facility received Governor's Citations for Meritorious Service last month, for their outstanding efforts in helping handicapped people get, and keep, jobs. In a ceremony held in the Governor's Reception Room at the State Capitol, Robert Tubbs, Candice Sailers and the Abilene State School were presented with the awards, sponsored by the State Employment of the Handicapped Program. Governor Bill Clements and TRC Commissioner W. K. Harvey, Jr. made the presentations, as members of the TRC Board of Directors and a crowd of the recipients' families and friends looked on.

Robert Tubbs of Dallas was honored as the Outstanding Handicapped State Employee. Tubbs was born without



SEH Outstanding Handicapped State Employee Robert Tubbs and family with Governor Bill Clements.

normal arms, hands or fingers. But, he has not let his condition stand in the way of a successful career in television. Tubbs has covered the spectrum of television work, from cameraman to production supervisor. Currently, he works at the

University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, where he is the Television Director and Studio Operations Manager. Tubbs is also a real family man. He and his wife, Zerita, have adopted three severely handicapped children and

Cont. on page 6



Dora Huston Retires

The Executive Director of the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, Mrs. Dora Huston, has retired. Her 12 years of service to the Commission ended Aug. 31st. But, Huston says, her retirement will not be the end of her service to the handicapped.

During her stay at TRC, Huston served in a number of capacities. When she first came on board in 1968, she was assigned the job of implementing the Vocational Rehabilitation Plan for the State. Later, after the Commission separated from the Texas Educa-

Cont. on page 5

Harvey Receives Voyle C. Scurlock Award

SEP 24 1980

by Cindy Counts

TRC Commissioner W. K. Harvey, Jr., was the recipient of the Voyle C. Scurlock Award in the ceremony conducted during the 1980 Southwest Region National Rehabilitation Association Convention in Oklahoma City on July 24th.

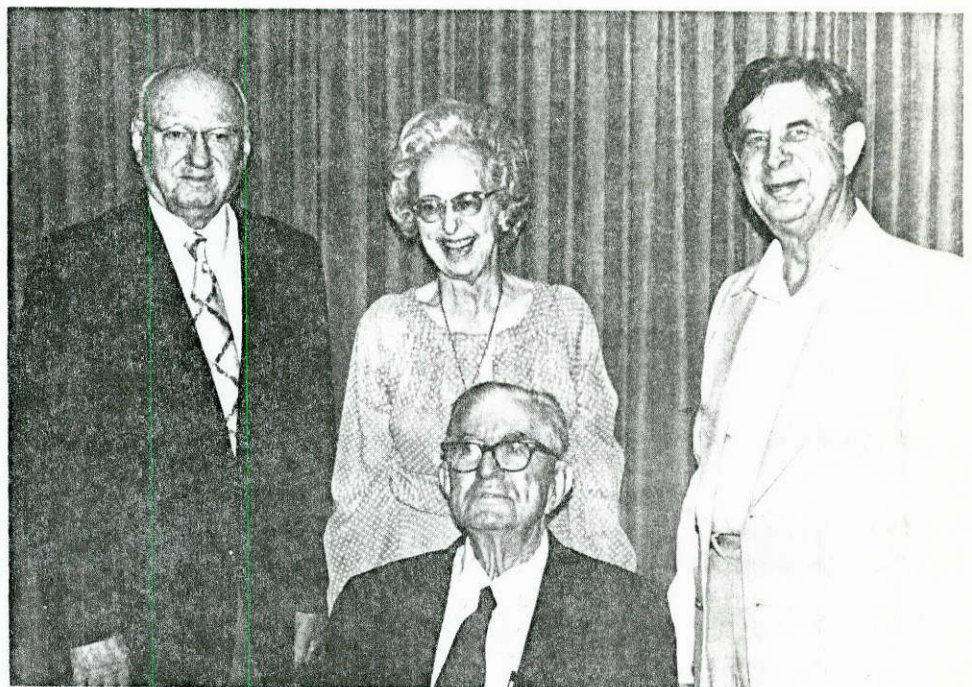
This is one of the most prestigious awards given by an affiliated group of the National Rehabilitation Association and recognizes outstanding leadership, dedication and devotion in serving handicapped people. To be eligible for the award a nominee must be a person employed in one of the 5 state rehabilitation programs in Federal Region VI. The nominee must have made an outstanding contribution in rehabilitation, displayed outstanding leadership and be recognized for their efforts to the cause of serving the handicapped. Harvey is a 35 year veteran of the State-Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Program having worked at all levels of the vocational rehabilitation delivery system. He has worked as a Counselor, Supervisor, Regional Director, and Deputy Commissioner for the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and at the present time serves as the TRC Commissioner.

The Texas Program is one of the largest rehabilitation programs in the Nation and is noted for having one of the best programs in the Nation.

In accepting the award Harvey expressed his

appreciation in having been selected and stated that this would not have been possible if it had not been for the dedicated professionals in the TRC Program. He also stated that he was deeply moved in receiving

the award because of his sincere appreciation for Voyle C. Scurlock who was one of the pioneers in the program and for many years was the Director of the Rehabilitation Program in Oklahoma.



Commissioner Harvey with former Director of Vocational Rehabilitation J. J. Brown (seated), Mildred Spillmann and Dr. J. W. Edgar.

Brown, Spillmann, Edgar Honored at Luncheon

It was not unlike a family reunion Aug. 18th, when a good number of TRC employees, past and present, gathered to honor some very special people. The occasion was a luncheon honoring the first Director of Vocational Rehabilitation in Texas, J. J. Brown; his secretary of 44 years, Mildred Spillmann; and Dr. J. W. Edgar, Commissioner of Education for many of the years that Vocational Rehabilitation was part of the Texas Education Agency.

Commissioner W. K. Harvey, Jr. presented each of the honorees with a copy of the Golden Anniversary edition of the Report to the Governor. The report tells the story of the Commission from the early days (when the Vocational Rehabilitation Division had a budget of \$12,500 and two employees) to the present. Many of the accomplishments made over the past 50 years are the direct result of the hard work and dedication of these three fine people.

College Funds Still Available

TRC Counselors with clients planning to attend college during the spring and summer semesters of fiscal 1981 should know there are still funds for tuition and interpreter services available in the 1980 budget. In a commission letter dated July 28th, Deputy Commissioner Doyle Wheeler asked that Counselors go ahead and authorize the fees for those semesters before the end of this month (Sept. 30th). This situation has occurred in years past, Wheeler says. It means that funds set aside now will not have to be taken out of next year's budget.

Warehouse Worker Honored

Evelyn Johnson spends most of her working days in the Central File Warehouse in Austin. But, recently, Johnson made a rare visit to the Central Office and left the building with a Meritorious Service Award tucked under her arm.

Johnson received the award at the TRC Board meeting Aug. 21st. In presenting the award, Commissioner Harvey commended Johnson for running "an efficient, clean and economical operation that is a valuable and necessary function to the Commission." In 21 months at the warehouse, Johnson and staff have received, organized and filed closed case folders for Fiscal years 1973-77 as well as all fiscal documents which are retained until their destruction dates.



Meet Gloria Collins...also known as the "Voice of Region II." If you call the Fort Worth Regional Office, chances are the first person you'll speak with is Gloria, who lists the duties of receptionist among her many responsibilities at that office.

Gloria grew up in Fort Worth, where she graduated from I. M. Terrell High School. Before starting work in the Regional Office, Gloria worked in the TRC/DHR Project Office in Fort Worth.

TRC People

Much of her time is devoted to her husband, J. C. Collins, Jr.; three children (two daughters and one son); and four grandchildren. But, Gloria still finds the time to participate in church work, sing, read and write inspirational material.

As for her work with TRC, Gloria says, "I find personal pleasure in meeting and greeting all the persons with whom I talk to by phone."

(Editor's Note: With this article we are beginning a new feature in the newsletter. Each month we will highlight one TRC employee chosen, at random, from one of our many offices. There are lots of nice folks working in our offices around the state. We hope you will enjoy the chance to meet some of them.)



Evelyn Johnson was nominated to receive the Meritorious Service Award by her supervisor, Bob Dale, Chief Accountant.

Autistic Clients Recycle Plastic

by Dennis Kutach, Extended Rehabilitation Services

An interesting and innovative work program for the severely disabled autistic has been developing in Dallas. For several years now the Extended Rehabilitation Services program (ERS) has been contracting with the Lynn Development Center to provide work for autistic clients who would otherwise be living in institutions. The Lynn Development Center (LDC) is a unique and well-known facility in Texas which provides residential care (teaching homes), day school, transportation, and sheltered employment.

During the past few months, the Lynn Development Center has been working very closely with Charles Winsman III and Dan Graves at Metro Polymers, Inc., a plastic recycling center in Dallas. Both men are very interested in working with the handicapped and have hired four autistic clients to grind plastic in their warehouse. This salvaged plastic is then resold to companies who will use it for their products. Clients have been grinding 250 - 400 pounds an hour, or more, of the plastic; or approximately 45,000 pounds each month. A staff member from the LDC supervises and teaches the clients the skills and duties of the work.

Since much of the plastic needs to be prepared before grinding, other clients at the workshop have been removing and discarding the rubber seals, brackets, metal, etc. This had required moving materials



Tony Barrett, an autistic client of Extended Rehabilitation Services, demonstrates the machine used to grind plastic for recycling.

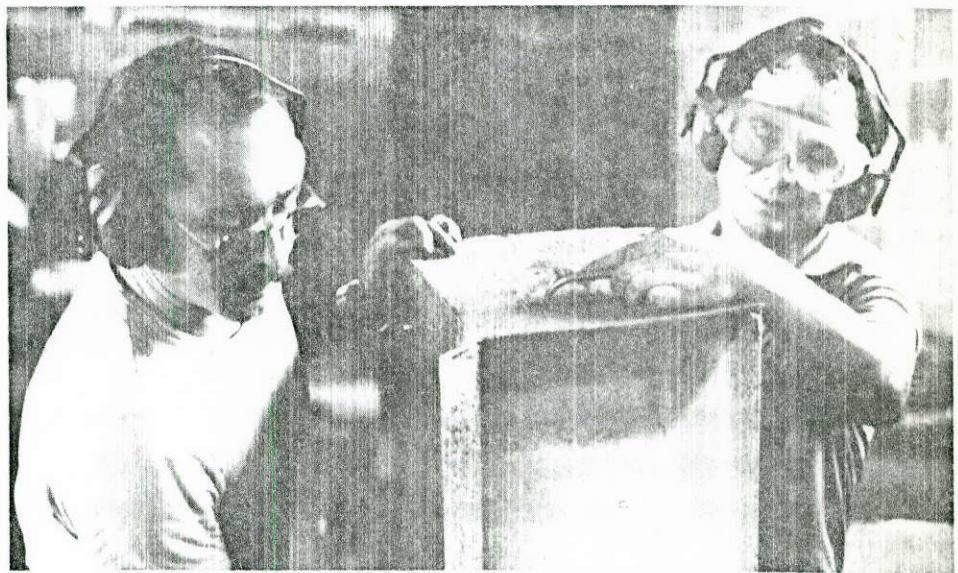
back and forth between the warehouse and the workshop - a distance of 8 miles.

But in August, the workshop was moved to Metro Polymers, Inc., and all the clients are now working at the warehouse.

This move is significant because clients are in a real work environment and are able to see the end result of their work. In

addition, materials no longer need to be transported from warehouse to workshop, thus saving valuable man hours and expense.

The cooperative effort of Metro Polymers, Incorporated and the Lynn Development Center is a working example of rehabilitation and industry meeting the needs of each other, and ultimately improving the life of the handicapped person.



The clients work is closely supervised by LDC supervisors and Metro Polymers officials. Here, Dan Graves of Metro Polymers helps autistic client Tony Barrett unload a box full of grinded plastic, ready for resale.

Huston Cont. from page 1

tion Agency, Huston was called upon to establish the State Employment of the Handicapped Program. As part of that program, Huston and staff developed a New Careers Program and developed a career orientation manual and two week training program for "hard to place" clients. The manual is still in use in many states across the nation.

In 1978, Governor Dolph Briscoe ordered TRC to provide administrative services for the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. The assignment was given to Employment Resources and Huston was named Executive Director. In July 1979, Employment Resources and GCEH were divided into two departments and Huston stayed with the Governor's Committee.

One of the top priorities of the GCEH is to establish Mayor's Committees on Employment of the Handicapped in all major cities in Texas. Since 1978, the number of such Committees has grown from three to 11 and approximately 10 more are being developed. Huston is pleased with the progress and grateful to TRC for its support of the program.

Huston was born in Sabine County. She grew up in South Texas and graduated from high school in Robstown. She attended Texas Women's University, Texas College of Arts and Industries and the University of Texas at El Paso. She has worked in a variety of jobs from Executive Secretary to El Paso's Zoning

Board of Adjustment to selling life insurance in Austin to managing a boys camp in Kerrville. She has also worked as a Section Supervisor in the Governor's Office and as Executive Director of the Travis County Tuberculosis Association.

Huston's career has not stood in the way of her family life. She is the mother of five children and now has 21 grandchildren.

Her interest in the handicapped started when Huston discovered her own son was mentally retarded. At a time when handicapped people were hardly acknowledged by society, Huston started trying to find services for her son. Eventually, her interest and concern expanded to helping all handicapped people.

All of Huston's accomplish-

ments in the field of rehabilitation would fill an entire newsletter. In 1974 she was named Austin's Boss of the Year and perhaps she is best described by a couple of paragraphs written as part of the nomination for the award. Of her boss, Georgia Reeves wrote, "Long before 'Women's Lib' was fashionable, or retardation understood, this lady was a pioneer, speaking out in church, school and community for the human rights of all persons... especially the handicapped." "She is a great boss, making a job become a vocation, constantly reminding us that no matter how menial our tasks, they are worthwhile and essential. Her motto and the guiding theme of her life and work she imparts to us all: 'Let us do at all times that which will best help serve the handicapped people of Texas.'"



Congratulations to Mrs. Martha Arbuckle, selected as Handicapped Person of the Year by the Austin Mayor's Committee for Employment of the Handicapped. In a July 25th ceremony, Austin Mayor Carole McClellan presented the award to Mrs. Arbuckle, who is a TRC client and member of the I.M.P.A.R.T. Advisory Committee.

(Photo courtesy the City of Austin.)

Awards Cont. from page 1

are in the process of adopting a fourth child. The Tubb's have also served as foster parents to more than a dozen children.

Candice Sailers, an Accounts Examiner in the State Comptroller's Office in Austin, was chosen as the Outstanding State Employee for her contribution to handicapped people employed in State government service. Sailers has served as an interpreter for the deaf for her hearing impaired colleagues in the Comptroller's office. She also works with the personnel division when hearing impaired persons apply for jobs there. Sailers also teaches in-house sign language classes. She is described by co-workers as extremely sensitive to the needs and feelings of her handicapped colleagues.

The Abilene State School was honored as the Outstanding State Agency in the Placement of Handicapped People. Leonard W. Cain, Superintendent, accepted the award on behalf of the school. The school is part of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. It was chosen for the award, in part, due to its efforts to make its facilities more accessible to handicapped people. Abilene State School made a few simple changes that made it possible to hire handicapped employees. Some of the changes include expanding an entrance and adding a ramp to accommodate a paraplegic employee confined to a wheelchair, providing medicine bottles without



Candice Sailers (center) was awarded a Governor's Citation for being SEH's Outstanding State Employee.



The Abilene State School was named the Outstanding State Agency at the SEH awards ceremony. School Superintendent Leonard W. Cain (center) accepted the award.

child-proof caps so that an LVN with only one arm can dispense medicine in the school pharmacy, and giving blind food service employees oral instructions and reading any written information to them.

In the ten years since it began, the State Employment of the Handicapped Program has grown to include 53 state agencies and 32 colleges and universities. More than 100,000 employees are involved in the program.

Halloran Spreads Rehab Word

Despite John K. Halloran's busy schedule as Director of TRC's Region 5, he is also an active member of Kiwanis International, a men's service organization that spans the globe. Through his association with Kiwanis, Halloran is helping to spread the story of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and rehabilitation programs nationwide.



Recently, Halloran attended the International Meeting of Kiwanis in Anaheim, California. At the meeting, the Kiwanis were discussing their "major emphasis project" for the coming year... Communications Disabilities. The program is directed toward children with hearing, speech or vision disabilities. Never overlooking an opportunity to spread the rehabilitation word, Halloran asked to speak to the convention.

As a professional in vocational rehabilitation, Halloran told the gathering, he is in a position to offer the services of all vocational rehabilitation agencies in the nation. He suggested that Kiwanis chapters, upon returning home to their various states, find out which rehabilitation agencies and programs are available in each state. Halloran says he is pleased to have had the chance to talk to a group largely unfamiliar with the rehabil-

itation process. And, keeping in mind there are over 5,000 Kiwanis Clubs in the U.S. and 79 in foreign countries, Halloran's few words are likely to go a long, long way.

A 21 year member of Kiwanis, Halloran joined the organization in Corpus Christi, where he worked as a TRC counselor. And, as he has grown within the Commission's structure, he has also grown within Kiwanis. In October, Halloran will be installed as Lieutenant Governor for the Kiwanis' District 5, which covers 16 clubs in San Antonio and south, central Texas.

Halloran is due our congratulations on his new post with Kiwanis, and our thanks for spreading the word about rehabilitation, even on his own time.

District, Area Offices are now Field Offices

On Monday, July 28th, TRC Commissioner W. K. Harvey, Jr. and members of the Executive Committee agreed to do away with all TRC District, Area and Project offices. Now that we have your attention, you should know the decision affects only the names of these offices, and, of course, not the offices themselves.

It seems there has been some confusion created by all the different terms used to describe a TRC office that is not a Regional Office or the Central Office. In order to minimize the confusion,

Commissioner Harvey asked that all such offices be referred to by one term. After a lengthy discussion the term "field office" was agreed upon by all present.

The change will be reflected immediately in all inner-Commission correspondence and in the next TRC Personnel Directory. However, all of the offices affected by the change were asked to wait until the present supply runs out before having the new title printed on stationery, envelopes and business cards.

NRA Elects McAlees as President-Elect

Dan McAlees, Director of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, has been elected President-Elect of the National Rehabilitation Association. His opponent in the race was TRC Commissioner W. K. Harvey, Jr. This year, as in the past two years, voting for the election was conducted through the mail. The results of the election were announced last week at the annual NRA Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

Letters . . .

A Retiree Looks at the Texas Rehabilitation Association

by Jim Abernathy Former El Paso Supervisor

I recently attended the TRA Convention in San Antonio. I had feelings of nostalgia, sadness, pleasure, and even elation. This emotional mix came from the realization that I am no longer in the mainstream of Rehabilitation. I also missed so very much some of the "old timers" that I knew so well. However, it was most gratifying to see the development of the programs, and to make a mental measurement of the progress that had been made.

As a retiree, I urge every person in the state of Texas who has an interest or position with Rehabilitation to become a very active member of TRA. I have heard the question many times "What will TRA do for me?" The best response to this question is "What can I do for TRA?" Once this concept is accepted and acted upon, the first question will be answered automatically. To become an active member, one will learn the dynamics of organization, enjoy social interaction, experience professional growth, learn and enjoy the technique of free expression, and more than anything one knows he has given all he can to the welfare of the handicapped citizens. The list of benefits is long and you can add to it.

If each of us do what we can, TRA will become one of the greatest forces for the handicapped.

Retirements

Jack Maxwell, DDD, effective Aug. 31, after 15 years of service.

Boyd Zoeller, DDD, effective Aug. 31, following 20 years of service.

Attention Retirees:

We are finding that TRC retirees are a pretty mobile group of people and, as a result, we may have lost some of you (accidentally, of course!) as you have moved from one place to another. If you have recently changed your address or, if you know of another retiree who has, please let us know. You can make the change simply by writing to Judy Wright, Staff Services, 118 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704. You can also contact Judy by telephoning (512) 447-0236. We surely don't want to lose track of you and your help is appreciated.

You've Got a Wrong Number, Oops!

If you've tried to call the Public Information Office using the phone number listed in the "For Your Information" column in last month's newsletter, you know that number was wrong. The correct number is 447-0745 (Tex-An 823-4745). We apologize if the misprint caused you any inconvenience.

ADVICE TO COUNSELORS: Keep your eye on the ball, your ear to the ground, your shoulder to the wheel and your nose to the grindstone. Then, try to work in that position!

TRC Calendar of Events

September

Various dates 7-10 DSM-III Training; various locations Human Resources Development Conference, Corpus Christi

10-12 New Counselor Follow-On Training, Galveston

October

1-3 Medical Training (Phase I) Dallas

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