

REPORT



to employees concerning people, programs and progress
of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation

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No. 6

Scott Is Acting TDMHMR Chief

Earl M. Scott has been appointed Acting Commissioner of TDMHMR by the Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

Scott's appointment as Assistant to the Commissioner was approved by the Board on April 28. He will serve as Acting Commissioner while the Board seeks a replacement for John Kinross-Wright, M.D., who resigned as Commissioner effective June 1.



SCOTT

Board chairman Ward R. Burke of Lufkin is chairman of a board committee which will screen applicants and present recommendations. Serving on the committee are board members Bernie E. Rushing, Jr., Lubbock; Robert S. Tate, Jr., D.D., Austin; and Edwin R. VanZandt, Beaumont.

Scott has been chief of legal services since the Department's creation in 1965. He previously served as chief of legal services and claims representative for the old Board for Texas State Hospitals and Special Schools.

(See "Scott," page 4)

AT CORPUS CHRISTI

First Residents Arrive

Corpus Christi State School's first residents are being accepted this month.

The initial residents—including several transfers from Austin and Travis State Schools—will be assigned to the new facility's 90-bed non-ambulatory unit.

The \$3.6 million first phase of the school also includes five 32-bed units for ambulatory students.

Tornado Damage Is Minor At Lubbock State School

Lubbock State School students and personnel escaped serious injury in the May 11 tornado which crippled the city of 170,000 persons.

The campus was not in the path of the storm which claimed many lives and caused millions of dollars in damages. Some staff members' homes were severely damaged or destroyed and some of their families sustained minor injuries.

Campus damage from wind, rain and hail was generally confined to the school's irrigation system and grounds. Building rooftops are being inspected for damage.

Heavy rains inundated roadways and campus grounds, washing away topsoil which will require an estimated 350 manhours to restore for planting.

A commercial laundry under contract to serve the campus was destroyed, but Big Spring State Hospital has been providing emergency laundry service. The Lubbock United Fund coordinated delivery of 1,000 diapers on loan from Denton State School, and Continental Airlines offered to transport the diapers from Denton to Lubbock.

Emergency generators provided

electric power for the infirmary and non-ambulatory unit after regular utility service and secondary power sources failed.

Telephone connections to the school were severed, but communications were maintained by battery-operated VHF two-way radio contact.

Residents of the community loaned the school two generators to provide electricity for the administration building and food service units. Volunteers donated ice, soft drinks, donuts, drinking water and other provisions.

About 20 young men from the Oak Cottage unit assisted in cleanup operations in the downtown area.

The Lubbock Halfway House, an extension of the school in the downtown section, was damaged beyond repair. Women residents were furloughed to their homes and men were moved to the school. Other structures which might be suitable for a new halfway house are either non-existent or unavailable, school officials said.

Board Accepts Site For Brenham School

The Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation has accepted a 200-acre site from the citizens of Brenham for construction of Brenham State School.

The site, about a mile south of Brenham on State Highway 36, will be annexed to the City of Brenham this month.

Brenham officials submitted plans for fire and police protection, sewage, gas, electricity, water and telephone services for the new school.

(See "Board," page 4)

New TRI Encoder Aids In Brain Wave Analysis

Researchers at Texas Research Institute for Mental Sciences, Houston, have developed an encoder for electroencephalographs that will analyze brain waves with mathematical precision. Because the encoder logs EEG information

San Antonio Earns Accreditation From Joint Commission

San Antonio State Hospital has been accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals.

The one-year accreditation effective April 22, was announced by Joseph G. Cocke, M.D., superintendent.

"Dr. Cocke and his staff are to be commended for their accomplishment in achieving this accreditation, which is awarded to a relatively small percentage of the nation's mental hospitals," said E.M. Scott, Acting Commissioner, TDMHMR.

San Antonio is the seventh Texas hospital for the mentally ill to receive accreditation. Others previously accredited include Austin, Big Spring, Terrell, Wichita Falls, and Rusk State Hospitals and the Texas Research Institute of Mental Sciences in Houston.

Volunteers' Art Work Brightens Lufkin Campus

Volunteers at Lufkin State School are decorating campus buildings with more than 200 colorful paintings.

Series of paintings with appeal for various age groups are being hung in each dormitory. The cartoon-like drawings, emphasizing charm and humor, include action scenes, domestic pets and zoo animals. Scenes are also being prepared for dining halls, the canteen and the clinic building.

Two volunteer groups meet twice each week with from eight to ten workers at each session.

Using an overhead projector, they sketch pictures from children's books, magazines, wallpaper ads and newspaper ads onto large plywood squares, rec-

in numerals instead of "wiggles", data is more measurable.

Describing the process, Neil R. Burch, M.D., head of the psychophysiology division, said, "Analyzing an EEG with words is like describing a painting; you can describe it verbally, but how much information will be lost? This new process squeezes more information out of an EEG."

The encoder's automatic reduction of EEG data has possibilities for providing information that researchers have been tracking for years. It could be used to trace the stimulus of drugs and alcohol on a patient's brain, spot his reactions in a psychotherapeutic interview, or in dreams while he is sleeping, shortening the time a patient spends in therapy. It could also answer questions about the mode and site of action of hundreds of drugs used in treating mental illness.

Analyzing all EEG channels at once and automatically feeding back information, the encoder records brain action in seconds. In time the new system will help to classify neurological and emotional disorders by EEG pattern, making it easier to diagnose complex diseases and to treat patients with greater probability for success.

tangles and various free form shapes.

After the pictures are painted with bright acrylic paints they are sprayed with a clear plastic coating for durability and easy cleaning.

The school's maintenance department cuts the plywood, builds the frames and hangs the finished pictures.

The project was originated by Mrs. W.W. Beaver and Mrs. Paul Mayberry in cooperation with school officials interested in brightening the appearance of the campus.

Mrs. Katie Lackey of the Lufkin Art League is consultant for the project. The Diboll Art League has donated supplies.

PERSONAL MENTION

James A. Adkins has been appointed Acting Chief of Legal Services for TDMHMR by E.M. Scott, Acting Commissioner of the Department.

New staff appointments at Travis State School, Austin, include Glen D. Weise, business manager; Robert L. Nyland, purchasing and supply officer; and William H. Troth, unit director.

Mrs. Joy Davenport of Austin, physical therapist consultant at Austin State Hospital, has been named "Outstanding Physical Therapist of Texas, 1970."

Service Awards

Mrs. Marie Griggs is retiring after 46 years as licensed vocational nurse and nurse technician at Austin State Hospital.

Mrs. Alvin E. (Sarah) Markham has been lauded for 40 years' service at Abilene State School. She began work as a cook in 1930 and is now trust fund clerk in the accounting office.

Mrs. Pearl Jenkins received a 20-year service award on the eve of her retirement from the nursing service at Big Spring State Hospital.

Mrs. Susie Maxwell, technician supervisor at Terrell State Hospital, is retiring after more than 20 years' service without a single day's absence.

Aelred B. Ahr, first staff member employed at Denton State School, was honored recently for completing 10 years as food service manager.

San Angelo Center Residents Qualify For Job Placements

Several residents of San Angelo Center have completed basic vocational rehabilitation training and are qualified as day workers in domestic, yard and other work assignments.

Richard Garren, director of recreational and occupational therapy at the center, says eight women and four men are available for placement and others will soon complete their basic training.

The workers are available from 9 a.m.—4 p.m. six days a week and at other times when employers furnish transportation. The minimum wage is 65 cents per hour, plus a meal if the work time includes normal meal periods.

Denton Center Evaluates Students' Work Abilities

Denton State School's Pre-Vocational Evaluation Center provides students with an important link between campus environment and the job setting.

Approximately 160 students have been evaluated since the program began on Sept. 1, 1968. Forty students are now enrolled at the center on a half-day basis.

The center staff uses a series of skill and dexterity exercises and actual assembly line production tasks to evaluate residents' present vocational status and their work potential. Students also re-

Rusk Open House Features Musical; Employees Honored

Traditional entertainment and new features attracted several hundred visitors to Rusk State Hospital's 18th annual open house, May 1-2.

The yearly all-patient musical revue—with a theme of "Love, Sweet Love"—was presented in the All-Faith chapel on the hospital grounds.

For the first time, a style show was part of the scheduled entertainment.

Patients from the hospital's maximum security unit entertained with musical combos and a marionette show, "Ferdinand the Bull."

Guided tours of wards, the day treatment center and other facilities were provided for visitors.

In conjunction with open house, the Rusk Chamber of Commerce honored hospital employees with the first annual "Employee Appreciation Day" at the hospital. More than 200 employees registered for door prizes and were served refreshments.

AT BIG SPRING

Chapel Fund Gets \$75,000

Early construction of an all-faith chapel on the campus of Big Spring State Hospital has been virtually assured by a \$75,000 donation to the building fund.

The major gift came from the Siblings Foundation, a philanthropic organization created 15 years ago by the late R.L. Tollett, Big Spring oil executive.

His widow and other trustees, Joe Moss and C.W. Guthrie, recently voted to dissolve the foundation and turn over all its assets—reliably estimated at

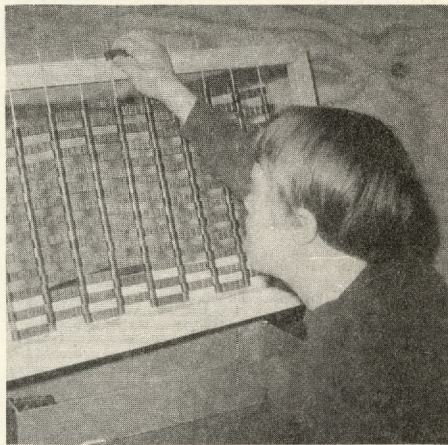
ceive instruction in various jobs such as maid service, custodial work, nursing service and yard work.

The basic 12-week program may be increased or shortened, depending on the student's progress.

After students complete the testing phase of the program, they enter the simulated workshop where coat hangers and rubber door mats are assembled on a sub-contract basis from area industries.

Workshop students are evaluated for custodial, maid service, yard work and nursing service unit work and are considered for training and job assignments most beneficial to their individual progress.

When the evaluation program is completed, a student may receive advanced training and work experience in the school's sheltered workshop. If he does not need or will not benefit from further training, he may be placed in an on-campus job. In rare instances, students are placed in off-campus job settings.



DEXTERITY EXERCISE helps determine work potential of students at Denton State School.

\$75,000—to the all-faith chapel fund. Guthrie also announced another gift of \$5,000 cash to the chapel fund.

Before the new gifts, the chapel fund amounted to about \$107,000 of the ultimate goal of \$200,000. Planners had estimated that some \$150,000 cash would be required to take bids on the building.

The project requires private subscriptions since the state cannot appropriate monies for religious facilities.

Texas Special Olympics Will Emphasize Skills Of Retarded Athletes

Mentally retarded athletes from all areas of the state will compete in the second annual Texas Special Olympics, June 3-6, at Baylor University, Waco.

Gov. Preston Smith, honorary chairman of the event, and Travis DuBois, Waco mayor, have issued official proclamations designating June 1-6 as Texas Special Olympics Week.

"Ultimate goal of the project is to provide the mentally retarded with an athletic competition which will demonstrate to them, their families and their communities that they can succeed," said Edward M. Yarmac of Waco, executive director of the special olympics.

The four-day state meet will include recreation, special entertainment, a dance, parade, victory banquet and competition for the mentally retarded athletes. Sponsors and organizers will attend training clinics during the meet.

The Texas Special Olympics is sponsored by the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Texas Junior Chamber of Commerce, Texas Education Agency, Texas Association for Retarded Children and Texas Teens-Aid-Retarded (TARS).

Amarillo Workshop Stresses Retardate Recreation Program

Amarillo State Center for Human Development recently sponsored a three-day workshop for representatives of Amarillo recreation agencies emphasizing the value of recreation for the mentally retarded.

Sessions were held at the Center and also at North Heights School, special education unit of Amarillo public schools.

Workshop director was Dick Smith, recreation program developer at Beaumont State Center.

Participating staff members from Amarillo State Center included Frank Davis, psychologist; Betty Tilley, R.N., director of nursing and day care; Charles Walford, program developer; and Ernest Kanemura, director of education and training.

WHO'S WHO IN TDMHMR

Director: Rehabilitation Services

Robert E. Vassallo

Robert E. Vassallo, director for rehabilitation services, assists the deputy commissioners for mental health and mental retardation in planning and developing halfway houses, comprehensive rehabilitation centers, evaluation and work adjustment centers and sheltered workshop facilities.

Vassallo is the Department's liaison with local, state and federal rehabilitation agencies. His division develops specialized education, training and rehabilitation projects in cooperation with the Texas Education Agency, Texas Rehabilitation Commission and the Commission for the Blind.

He also serves as director of the Leander Rehabilitation Center for rehabilitation, training, education and recreation for the mentally ill and mentally retarded.

(This is the eleventh in a series of articles explaining the role of administrators in the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.)



The Rehabilitation Division also keeps TDMHMR facilities and community centers informed of possible federal grants and other financial support for rehabilitation programs.

Prior to joining TDMHMR in May, 1966, Vassallo was assistant superintendent of the Warren G. Murray Children's Center, Centralia, Illinois; vocational rehabilitation counselor at Austin State School; and worked extensively with emotionally disturbed adolescents and retardates at a private residential facility.

A native of Galveston, he has a bachelor's degree from Sam Houston State University and a master's degree from The University of Texas at Austin. His major training is in sociology, educational psychology and administration.

Scott. . .

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The Acting Commissioner received his LLB degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

He is a lieutenant colonel in the Judge Advocate Generals Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve. He is a member of the North Austin Civitan Club, the State Bar of Texas, and the First Methodist Church in Austin.

Board. . .

(continued from page 1)

A survey of 52 Washington County organizations showed that 1,262 citizens are willing to work as volunteers serving the mentally retarded residents at the facility.

The Board, meeting in Austin on May 16, also accepted \$102,020 in federal and state grants to extend services for the mentally ill and the retarded.

Richmond State School received \$73,995 for the second year of a three year physical development research grant for semi-ambulatory retardates.

Abilene (\$4,700), Austin (\$4,800), Mexia (\$4,800), and Travis (\$4,700) State Schools were recipients of U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare grants for Student Work Experience and Training. A \$9,025 Texas Foundation for Mental Health and Mental Retardation grant will be used by the Texas Research Institute for Mental Sciences, Houston, in its alcoholism research.

Rusk Patients Enjoy Charm School

A charm school for 45 women patients at Rusk State Hospital has caused a noticeable upsurge of interest in personal grooming.

The patients have been attending classes at Mr. Lynn's International Charm School in Tyler. Another session is planned for 15 others.

Charles Hall, Ph.D., coordinator of rehabilitation services, said the personal

grooming habits of patients have greatly improved.

The first groups attended twice each week for 4-hour sessions. Future groups will attend only one day each week.

"One of our young women was offered a full scholarship and four or five others have been asked to return for additional instruction," Dr. Hall said.

Texas Department
of Mental Health
and Mental Retardation



E.M. Scott

Acting Commissioner

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