

REPORT

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

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No. 7

Harrison Named MH Consultant

Preston R. Harrison, M.D., Ph.D., superintendent of Big Spring State Hospital, has been appointed TDMHMR consultant on mental health services by Earl M. Scott, acting commissioner.

Dr. Harrison will serve until a new commissioner is appointed by the Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.



HARRISON

As mental health consultant, Dr. Harrison will supervise the programs of the state's seven mental hospitals, the Vernon Center, the Rio Grande Center at Harlingen and state mental health clinics in Fort Worth and Dallas.

Dr. Harrison has a B.A. degree from East Texas State College, a master's degree from The University of Texas, his medical degree from Baylor Medical College and his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

Big Spring Chapel Approved By Board

The Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation has approved construction of an all-faith chapel on the campus of Big Spring State Hospital.

Bids for construction have been opened. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held June 11.

Money for the chapel is being raised by private subscription since the state cannot appropriate funds for religious activities. Upon completion, the chapel will become the property of the state.

A major donation of \$75,000 by the Siblings Foundation last month raised the chapel fund to near its goal of \$200,000.

Vernon Center Dedicated By State's Top Officials

Gov. Preston Smith has dedicated the Vernon Center "to those patients who someday will be returned to useful, active lives."

The governor spoke at ceremonies dedicating the multi-purpose mental health and mental retardation facility on May 28. Other speakers included Texas House Speaker Gus Mutscher, State Sen. Jack Hightower of Vernon and State Rep. W.S. (Bill) Heatly of Paducah. More than 600 persons attended the ceremony.

Gov. Smith had high praise for the Vernon Center's superintendent, Frankie Williams, M.D.; for the facility's staff; and for the citizens of Vernon for their strong support of the center.

"My participation in this ceremony is made all the more enjoyable and

worthwhile by the fine people gathered here to support our goals in the field of mental health," he said.

The Vernon Center serves a 14-county area and was opened last September. It currently has about 530 patients, including 190 on the new main campus and 340 at the Center South, formerly the geriatric annex of Wichita Falls State Hospital. It recently began a special mental retardation rehabilitation project. (See story pg. 4.)

Speakers at the dedication paid special tribute to Rep. Heatly, referring to him as "the father of Vernon Center."

Dr. Williams presented Gov. Smith with a small, framed United States flag that flew over the center on its opening day.

TDMHMR Art Exhibit Scheduled July 4-5

Gov. Preston Smith has invited visitors to the Capitol rotunda to view the second annual fine arts exhibit by residents of state mental hospitals and schools for the mentally retarded.

The exhibit begins at 9:45 a.m., Saturday, July 4, and will continue on Sunday, July 5, until 2 p.m.

Sponsored by the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, in cooperation with the Texas Fine Arts Commission, the exhibit includes drawings, paintings, ceramics, sculpture, and handcrafts created in classes conducted by the department's rehabilitation services.

Local showings, staged with the assistance of Volunteer Councils of the hospitals and schools, have been judged by qualified jurors who are members of the Texas Fine Arts Association.



THE U.S. FLAG that flew over the Vernon Center on its opening day is presented to Gov. Preston Smith by Frankie Williams, M.D., Superintendent.

TDMHMR Officials Active In State Drug Abuse Plans

Earl M. Scott, acting commissioner, TDMHMR, and Robert Hendrix, Jr., director of alcoholism and drug abuse programs, are representing the Department on the state's Interagency Drug Abuse Council.

Scott is serving as chairman of the Treatment Task Force, one of nine task forces which comprise the Interagency

Council. Hendrix is chairman of the Community Assistance Program. The Interagency Council is developing a manual to provide guidelines of organization and action for community leaders' use in combating drug abuse.

Leadership in the state program includes the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and speaker of the House. Harold Dudley is director of the State Drug Abuse Program.

The Drug Abuse Program is a united effort to inventory and evaluate present programs in the state, recommend a comprehensive state plan and suggest legislative and policy changes pertaining to the drug problem.

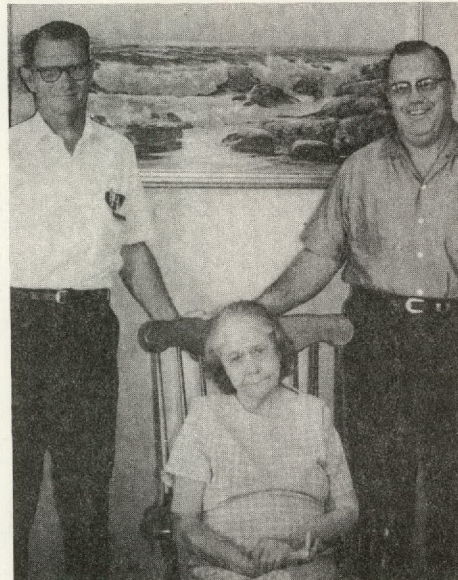
Annual Open House Attracts Visitors to Austin State School

Open house activities at Austin State School June 6 culminated a nine-month special education program and opened the summer vacation for many of the school's 1900 residents.

Dedication of a new sheltered workshop building and a talent show were among open house activities attended by more than 250 parents and other visitors.

The sheltered workshop building at the school's Annex Campus on Bull Creek Road was dedicated in memory of the late Joe T. Jones, director of the Evaluation and Work Adjustment Center and son of Vernon Jones, former superintendent of Mexia State School.

The Evaluation and Work Adjustment Center, jointly sponsored by the Austin State School and the Texas Commission on Vocation Rehabilitation, provides comprehensive training and rehabilitation services to residents of the school and the nearby community.



A ROCKING CHAIR for Bertha Freeman, center, Wichita Falls State Hospital patient, was presented by Arthur D. McNaughton, left, and Earl D. Martin, on behalf of an aircraft crew at Sheppard Air Force Base, who heard of her need for the chair.

Center Treats Alcoholics

An alcoholic treatment ward has been established at Rio Grande Center for Mental Health and Mental Retardation in Harlingen.

The center's entire service program has been reorganized under a geographic unit system, making psychiatric care available without diagnosis, income or age restrictions to everyone in 12 South Texas counties.

Jorge Cardenas, M.D., center director, said the change is an advancement toward a stronger therapeutic program to

meet the increasing demand for patient services.

The center was established in 1962 as an outpatient clinic for San Antonio State Hospital and to provide early psychiatric care for patients not requiring hospitalization. It now provides outpatient and inpatient services, hospital day care, education and consultation services and outreach clinics in Laredo and Kingsville. The center also has parent-child programs and a structured day care program for retarded children.

PERSONAL MENTION

John Croxson former personnel officer at Austin State School, has joined the central office staff as a recruiting specialist in the Personnel Division.

New staff appointments to the Rehabilitation Services Division of the Department include **Charles Chadwell**, rehabilitation programs consultant, and **Louis Corenblith**, rehabilitation consultant.

Ronnie N. Johnson has been named director of personnel at Terrell State Hospital.

Ron Hughes has joined Rusk State Hospital as a staff psychologist in charge of the adolescent ward.

Eleanor K. Hays, nurse consultant at Wichita Falls State Hospital, has been appointed to the national seminar committee of the medical advisory board on educational film productions.

Homer Rogers, cited by the National Mental Health Association for "outstanding and dedicated" service, is 1970 "Attendant of the Year" at Rusk State Hospital.

Mrs. Alma Cocke, C.V.C., coordinator of volunteer services for the Rio Grande State Center, Harlingen, is a new district director of the Texas Association of Staff Directors of Hospital Volunteer Services.

"The Greatest Contribution," an article written by **Bobby G. Riley**, attendant at San Antonio State Hospital, is featured in the March/April 1970 edition of *Staff Magazine*.

Service Awards

Mrs. Hazel Madden, administrative social work consultant at Wichita Falls State Hospital, has retired after 32 years' service.

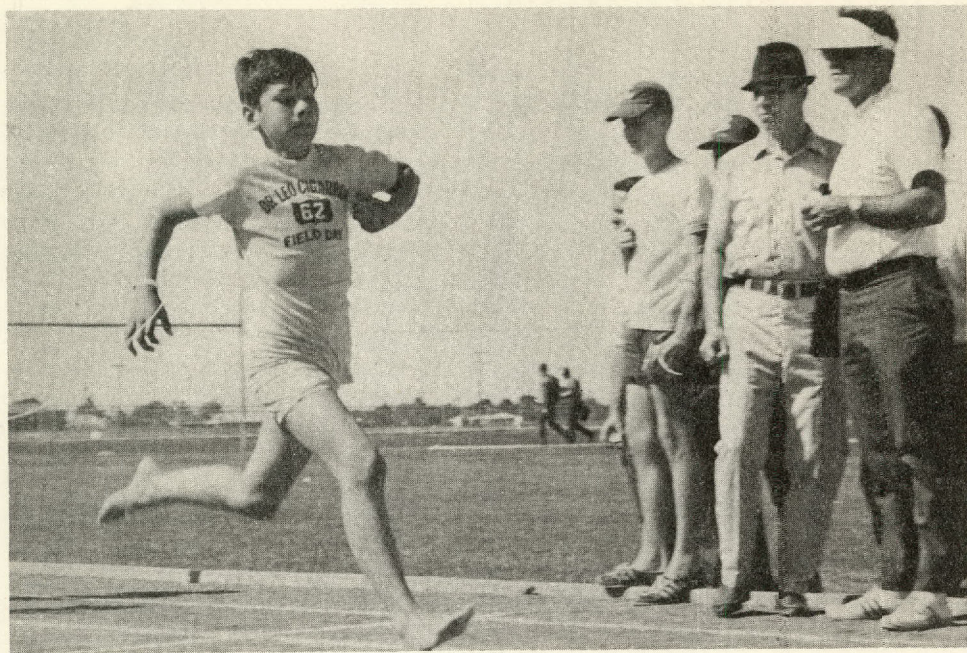
Deaths

Harvey C. Baldwin, M.D., former staff member, Travis State School, Austin.

Mrs. Patricia Ernst, Volunteer Coordinator, Kerrville State Hospital.

Robert E. Headlee, M.D., staff physician, Abilene State School.

Retarded Excel in Texas Special Olympics



More than 450 mentally retarded athletes from all areas of the state participated in the second annual Texas Special Olympics, June 3-6 in Waco.

The meet was 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).

Age groups for both boys and girls were 12 and under; 13-15; 16-18; and over 18 years of age. Events include 50 and 100 yard dashes, 300 and 880 yard runs, mile run, 440 relays, standing and running broad jumps, softball throw, high jump, tug-o-war, pentathlon and swimming races.

More than 1,000 chaperones, relatives, friends and special guests including U.S. Senator Ralph Yarborough, Waco Mayor Travis DuBois and Baylor University President Abner McCall watched athletic competitions.

Track and field events were held at Waco's Frank Tyson Stadium. Swimming competition was held at the Kiwanis Pool. The Baylor University campus was headquarters for the Olympics. A parade, victory dinner and dance were also part of the four-day event.

Ed Yarmac, executive director of the Texas Special Olympics, said, "the project demonstrated to all that the mentally retarded can succeed."



WHO'S WHO IN TDMHMR

Director: Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Programs

Robert E. Hendrix, Jr.

Robert E. Hendrix, Jr., director of alcoholism and drug abuse programs, TDMHMR, is responsible for developing, instituting, coordinating and enhancing alcoholism and drug abuse programs in MH/MR facilities throughout the state.

His division works closely with state hospitals, outreach clinics and community MH/MR centers and other state agencies to develop and implement education, treatment and after care services.

Reporting to the deputy commissioners of mental health and mental retardation services, Hendrix coordinates the Department's alcohol and drug abuse efforts with other state, federal and local agencies. Hendrix is currently serving in the



state's interagency Drug Abuse Program, established to assist communities throughout the state in combatting drug abuse. One of his major assignments is to develop a manual of guidelines for community organization and action.

Hendrix joined TDMHMR in June, 1969 as Southwest Texas Regional Coordinator and was appointed to his present position in January, 1970. He also served as chaplain in the alcoholism unit of Austin State Hospital for 18 months.

A native of San Antonio, he has a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Southern Methodist University and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

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

Teens Enroll in Work Program at San Angelo Center

A program to encourage high school students to choose careers in mental retardation work is in progress at San Angelo Center.

Known as Student Work Experience and Training, or SWEAT, the program is providing summer employment for five high school seniors at the center. U.S. Senator John Tower and Rep. O.C. Fisher announced a \$2,965 grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to finance the program.

The students are working in recreation, social service, volunteer services, nursing and student life departments. Work assignments are rotated so that each student can receive a comprehensive view of the facility's total operation.

Mrs. Mary Bullard, R.N., is director of the program.

Jaycee Group Sponsors Playground Project at Corpus Christi School

Ground has been broken at Corpus Christi State School for a \$30,000 campus playground, a project of the Corpus Christi Junior Chamber of Commerce.

A wading pond, playhouse, climbing dome, basketball court and roller skating area, miniature golf course and other play areas will be built on the one-acre site. Design and planning work for the playground was donated by Ralph Burden of Anchor Construction Co. and architects Sam Pennington and James Boggs of Corpus Christi.

Vernon Begins Rehabilitation Program

The Vernon Center has established a new rehabilitation program designed to help mildly retarded young people achieve social and vocational adjustment in the community.

The Vernon program has been designated the "Willows Project" since participants are housed in the Willows ward building.

The program, provided under an interagency contract between TDMHMR and the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, is the state's first coeducational

vocational rehabilitation project. Similar programs are provided for male students at Denton State School and for female students at Richmond State School.

The TRC provides the project director, a technician and a secretary, while Vernon Center furnishes facilities and attendants.

Participants in the voluntary 18-month project are from 16-27 years of age with minimum physical impairments and an I.Q. range of between 50-70, or comparable social adjustment.

Texas Department
of Mental Health
and Mental Retardation



E.M. Scott

Acting Commissioner

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