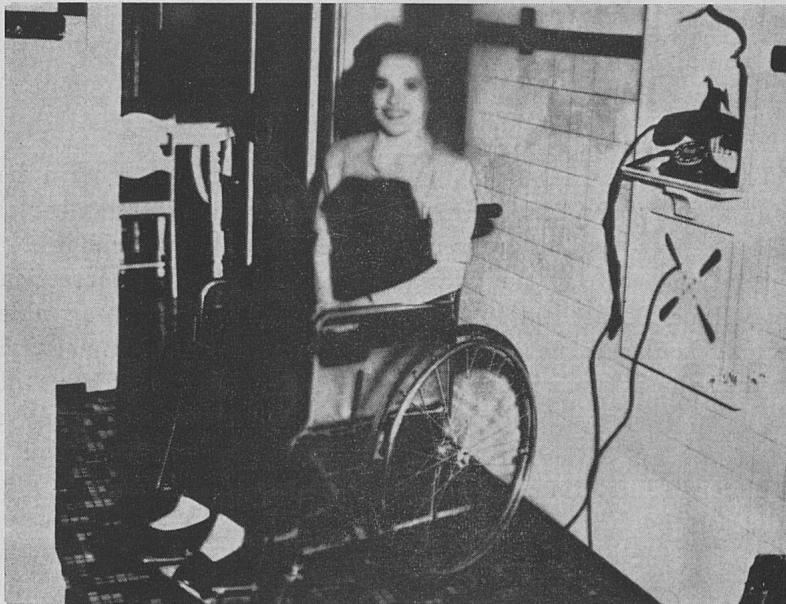


Commonwealth of Kentucky
EDUCATIONAL BULLETIN

**KENTUCKY'S REHABILITATION
PROGRAM**



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WENDELL P. BUTLER

Superintendent of Public Instruction



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This little teacher shown on cover was thrown from a horse about 6 years ago, and paralyzed from her shoulders to her toes. All limbs were left entirely useless. She was a quadriplegic. Rehabilitation provided her with training and physical correction at the Bellvue Rehabilitation Center, New York. She is now able to use only her arms, not the lower limbs or fingers. By means of a wheel chair, a typewriter operated by two pegs, and her million dollar personality, she manages her own insurance company and makes good. To the physically handicapped she says, "You still have more ability than disability. Make use of it."

FOREWORD

I am pleased to submit a brief report prepared by the staff of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and some of the services provided the disabled in Kentucky.

As a result of accidents, disease and congenital conditions at birth a number of Kentuckians are disabled each year.

It is better to rehabilitate a disabled person into a position of self-sufficiency than have many of them become a charge on local, state or private relief.

If you know of disabled persons who might profit from rehabilitation services, please communicate with the Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Frankfort, Kentucky.

WENDELL P. BUTLER
Superintendent Public Instruction

P R E F A C E

The Vocational Rehabilitation Division staff have prepared this bulletin to present the types and kinds of activities performed by its program. This program is growing in its value and quality of work each year.

Thoughtful consideration is given to any problem of the Handicapped in Kentucky, whether it be physical or mental.

May I suggest the reading of this bulletin for your individual pleasure and profit.

W. HICKMAN BALDREE
Director

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REHABILITATION SERVICES

Vocational Rehabilitation has been defined as the restoration of handicapped persons to the fullest physical, mental, social, vocational and economic usefulness to which they are capable. It will be impossible in this pamphlet to present in detail all the varying phases of rehabilitation but it is the hope that certain aspects may be mentioned that will give the reader a more enlarged view of its worthwhile values.

During the past three decades or more there has been more educational welfare and social legislation enacted in America than any comparable period in the history of the world. Welfare, public education and public health have come to the notice of all our citizens. Society has recognized the permanent obligation to assist and make provisions for social benefits because such benefits will add to the cultural and educational strength of our country.

Society's Attitude Toward the Handicapped

It is a sad and distressing story when we recall the attitude held throughout the centuries by the different social orders toward their physically and mentally handicapped persons. The ancient people destroyed them. They were hurled to the Crocodiles of the Ganges and left on the mountain tops to be devoured by the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air. Certain spots became feeding places for the animals. This was done because of blinding superstitions and the pressing necessity of group survival. A handicapped person was looked upon as a risk to the safety and economic well being of the group.

Although the physically and mentally disabled were allowed to live during the Middle Ages, they were objects of ridicule and jesting. They were left at the gate to beg. Earliest organized social interest in the welfare of the disabled came in the 18th Century in the form of custodial care. The first institution to devote its entire resources to the care of the disabled was established in Orbe, Switzerland in 1780. Not until the 19th Century was any effort made to educate the physically handicapped person. Not until the last three decades of this Century did society realize that care and support of the individual is not enough and that they should be given special education opportunities as handicapped individuals. At last we are beginning to realize that handicapped people compose a very important part of our society. The cause to free humanity of servitude

and slavery far out marched the recognition of the handicapped individual's rights and values.

It is now realized that many disabilities can be removed or substantially improved, and that it is an economic saving to a country, or a state, to prepare for and place in employment many individuals who would otherwise become liabilities instead of assets. The increased earning capacity of rehabilitated individuals, their morale and constructive citizenship are of immeasurable value to society. Some one has said that the highest expression of a civilization is the provision society makes for its unfortunate persons. Those of us who have never heard through deafened ears, never looked through vision dimmed eyes, never talked with a stammering tongue, never felt a strange flutter of the heart, never dragged on a crutch, nor felt an empty sleeve dangling at our side, will ever know the full meaning of the word "handicapped" in this game called life.

Eligibility for Rehabilitation Services

Any person with a physical or mental disability which constitutes a vocational or employment handicap is considered for Vocational Rehabilitation services. The disability must be certified by a licensed physician on medical forms furnished by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. The individual must be over 16 years of age and such physical or mental condition must be of a static or relatively unprogressive nature. Active tuberculosis, for example, would not be a feasible case for rehabilitation to serve. If it were an arrested case of tuberculosis, which means that it is not progressive, such a case would fall within the limits of Vocational Rehabilitation services.

A boy with one eye, one limb, or a deaf mute would be unquestionably feasible for rehabilitation benefits, since such a disability is a substantial handicap of a non-progressive nature. The central thought for all rehabilitation counselors to keep foremost in their minds is the employability of the individual. The person served must be made employable. If a case cannot be orientated to some vocation he is not feasible for rehabilitation service but is a case for welfare or some charitable institution.

There are a number of things to consider in determining eligibility after a case is medically feasible. I mention only a few, such as

a person's age, education, mental capacities, physical capacities, experience, and self-determination. For example, a few years ago one of the district counselors interviewed a young boy graduated from high school, crippled in both limbs by infantile paralysis, who was interested in a course in law. He had very poor high school grades, and the principal of the school advised the boy that law was not advisable and the counselor was likewise reluctant in recommending a pre-law course, but finally such a course was arranged. The boy struggled through his pre-law course and asked that he be sent to a law school. Again we were somewhat doubtful, but after much deliberation let him try. To make a long story short, the young man today is earning approximately \$6,000 a year in a Kentucky town as a practicing attorney. His self-determination was the thing that caused him to finally succeed. This is a rather isolated case, but it will illustrate, to some degree at least, what self-determination by a person can accomplish.

Kentucky's Rehabilitation Service

This is a program of preparation of physically and mentally handicapped for, and adjustment in employment. It is a program of counseling, medical attention, training and placement on the job. It is a service for creating, improving and restoring the earning ability of handicapped persons. The purpose is the restoration of the disabled individual to the maximum physical, mental, social, vocational, and economic usefulness of which he is capable. The Kentucky State Board of Education, through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, of the State Department of Education, offers services for the handicapped as mentioned below.

Finding the Disabled

The first job of the Rehabilitation Service is to locate any handicapped person who needs and wants services toward satisfactory employment. The Division maintains good working relations with all agencies with which disabled persons might come into contact, such as schools, health departments, insurance groups, welfare offices, labor organizations, the State Employment Service, civic clubs, Workmen's Compensation, Crippled Children Commission, Society for Crippled Children, Veteran's Organizations, doctors and hospitals, the Red Cross, and others. Many disabled people make personal application directly to one of the district offices, the loca-

tion of which is shown elsewhere in this bulletin. After the counselor locates the applicant, arrangements are made for an early contact.

A Medical Study

A medical examination and diagnosis is made for each case to determine and analyze the disability, in regard to work capacity, the advisability of corrective service, and to help in establishing eligibility. This is a diagnostic service purchased from qualified physicians throughout the state. It includes a general medical examination on each individual, and a special and further study if recommended. This information is interpreted to the rehabilitation staff by a medical consultant in terms of advice applicable to the rehabilitation services. There were 1,004 medical examinations, plus the studies and diagnosis of handicapped individuals last year. This is a very important part of the service, since it enables the client, as well as the counselor, to know the extent of his disability and have the medical recommendation in regard to its improvement.

Counseling

Individual counsel and guidance is given in each case to assist the disabled person to select and attain the right objective. This involves the gathering and analysis of much information concerning the individual in light of the limitations brought about by his disability. It is necessary to get a complete history of his work record, his personal and family background, his financial status, and his educational record, along with necessary aptitude tests or studies. Naturally it further includes the study and analysis of suitable vocations and selective placement.

This study is followed by careful planning for services to reach the employment object set up by the counselor and client. This plan may call for one or more services to remove or improve the disability, to prepare for suitable and satisfactory employment, enter upon, and progress within that employment.

Vocational Rehabilitation is a rather highly personalized service due to the fact that the counselor should know many things about the individual he is serving. It becomes the duty of the counselor to thoroughly analyze the educational interests and the vocational objective for each person applying for Vocational Rehabilitation services. After much study with possibly the results at hand of an



314

Another view of the same person seen on the front cover of the bulletin. She is shown here at work in her office, using the typewriter with wooden pegs held in each hand.

aptitude test and a physical capacity evaluation, the Counselor determines the nature of the service that will be provided the individual. For example, you would not want to train a person who has a serious speech impediment to become a receptionist where she would have to meet many people each day. It would be better that such a person be trained as a file clerk or bookkeeper where meeting the public would be at a minimum. All services rendered the individual are provided by rehabilitation directly to the organization or agency for his benefit. The individual never receives any money from Vocational Rehabilitation. His benefits always are passed on in service.

The first step in the Vocational Rehabilitation process, as has been mentioned previously, is that all persons being served must have a medical diagnosis from a licensed physician to help determine eligibility. This is a federal requirement by the U. S. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. In many cases it is necessary for a great amount of medical information and diagnosis to be submitted on an individual before determining a plan or training objective for a person. Each individual must have a substantial physical or mental handicap. Such handicap must be to such an extent and of such a nature that it will definitely impede the vocational opportunity of the individual. Many reasons can be advanced for authentic medical information. There are many disabilities hidden or unseen—for example, a person with a serious organic heart appears from outside appearances to be perfectly well. The same could be said for weak lungs, hypertension, and other physical impairments. If proper medical information is submitted, such disabilities are found at once. Such information permits the state rehabilitation program to legally serve the person under consideration.

There are many ways of determining the proper objective for physically handicapped individuals. We attempt to guide the individual vocationally into the proper channels necessary for his complete rehabilitation. It may be necessary to give the individual a battery of intelligence and aptitude tests or maybe it could be determined by his previous high school record and sometimes it is pretty well determined by a personal interviewing of the case. It is necessary always to keep in mind that this type of guidance is somewhat different from the normal process in that many handicapped individuals are not equipped to perform the same activities or operations on a job as the normal individual—for example,

it would be unwise to advise an individual that has serious eye disabilities to be trained in precision tool making. It would be just as harmful to counsel an individual who is affected with bronchial asthma to work in dusty places in basements or buildings. A great deal of freedom, however, is given to the individual in choosing his life work with the two thoughts in mind—that of protecting his physical health and of preparing him in the best possible way to perform satisfactorily on the job.

Physical Restoration

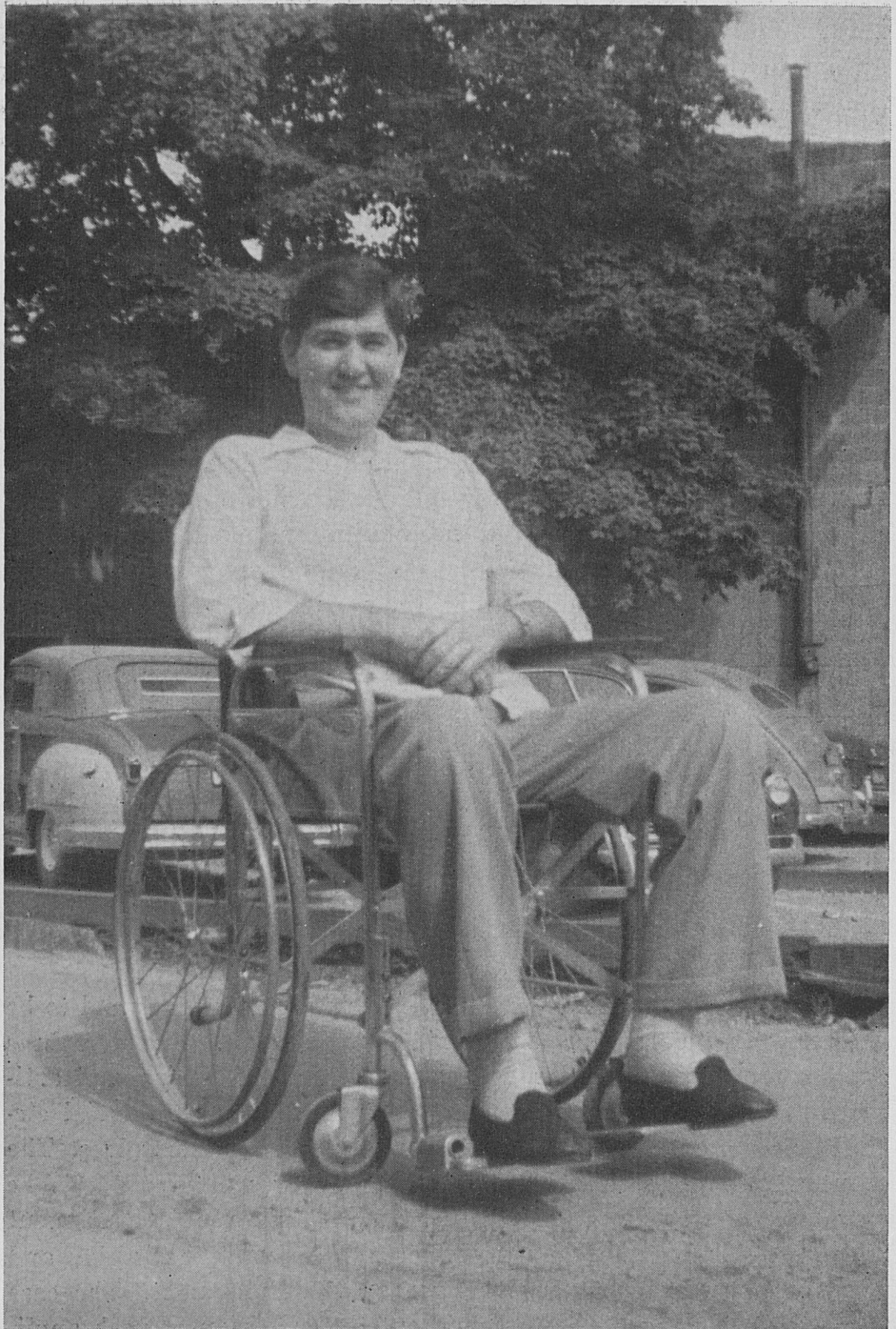
Physical restoration services are provided for those whose physical disabilities, according to best medical advice, can be removed or substantially improved so that they can be made employable or more suitably employed. This service is applicable only to those individuals who, after close investigation of their economic status, are found not to be financially able to provide it for themselves. These services include surgery, hospitalization, medical and therapeutic treatment. They are purchased only from institutions and individuals who are qualified in their particular fields and are approved by the medical profession.

Below is a brief statement of what is now being done in the field of physical restoration of handicapped folks in their rehabilitation program.

During the year 1951-52 there were 913 medical examinations and diagnosis given. There were 143 persons hospitalized and 123 of these received surgical treatment. This covered 39 types of surgical services.

Artificial Appliances

Artificial appliances are furnished clients if they are found to be necessary in securing or maintaining employment. These include limbs, hearing aids, trusses, braces, glasses, wheel chairs, and artificial eyes. They are provided only for those whose financial circumstances prevent them from purchasing same for themselves. The client, in all cases, will be required to apply whatever funds he may have available. The purchase of an appliance is contingent upon direct employment set up in each individual client's plan and not made promiscuously without regard to employment. The case folder must bear evidence that without the provision of such appliance the individual can not secure or hold employment.





This 19 year-old boy who was, three years ago, stricken by polio is now a wheel chair, paraplegic. Rehabilitation has planned for and entered him in a training program for commercial art. His corresponding aptitude and courageous outlook on life give bright hopes for his success. He is progressing nicely with his work.

Customary Occupational Tools and Equipment

These and occupational licenses may be furnished an individual if they are necessary for his satisfactory employment, and if he is unable to provide for them. Such occupational tools and equipment are provided only to those individuals who already have the skills and abilities, but need such equipment before they can secure or maintain employment. Such a purchase or provision must come within the standards of the rehabilitation agency which considerably limits these expenditures.

Placement and Adjustment

Placement and adjustment in a suitable type of work is also a very important service of this agency. This includes the necessary supervisory follow-up after placement to insure proper and needed adjustments before the case is closed. In most cases this service is in agreement with the previously planned program in which the individual has been prepared by training, physical restoration or other services for a particular type of employment. However, some certain cases including some of the blind persons require only placement and adjustment services.

Training

Training is one of the principal and perhaps will continue to be the most important function of the rehabilitation service. It, by no means, excels physical and mental restoration as to intrusive value, since it is always more important to remove the handicap than to train around it, however, it can not be minimized. Every handicapped individual, even more than those of physical fitness, needs to be sufficiently trained to know a skill, a trade or a profession by which he can earn a living. This constitutes the need for a very important type of educational program in Kentucky. This training program is the chief educational function of rehabilitation.

The training function of rehabilitation is the only service cost which is not conditional upon the client's inability to furnish it for himself. All tuition, fees and instructional costs are offered eligible clients without regard to financial status rating. Training supplies, however, are not provided if the client can do so. Living costs during training are first the responsibility of the disabled person or his parents. If he cannot supply such funds, and they cannot be obtained from any other source, the rehabilitation program may

assist with that necessary part to enable the completion of the preparation.

The types of training are as broad as the fields in which handicapped folks may work, and that is just about any job any person can do. The agency, of course, uses the training facilities already set up, like colleges, business schools, vocational schools, and on-the-job training with institutions, agencies, and shops qualified to do so. If facilities are not found within the state, arrangements are made for such services outside of state. There were 352 persons in training last year being prepared for a life's profession, trade or skill. These were young people, with an average of less than 26 years of age, training for jobs ranging over fields of 42 different occupations.

Services to a Special Group—THE BLIND

There are hundreds of industrially and totally blind persons in Kentucky who need the services available through rehabilitation and should be informed as to what is now being done by this program to serve the adult blind. The rehabilitation program is at present helping to:

1. Provide restoration and improvement of sight, when possible, by means of surgery, treatment, hospitalization, and glasses.
2. Orientate and adjust newly blinded persons to their loss of sight. This service is provided largely through counseling services and concentrated orientation training which provides travel training and techniques along with methods used by blind persons in providing for their daily needs as independent people.
3. Set up new objectives of life and service when necessary.
4. Acquaint them with and secure necessary living and work materials.
5. Prepare and fit them for employment, assist in securing satisfactory work, and to progress within their occupations.

Who Were the Blind Persons Served Last Year—1951-52?

Among the 175 blind persons served by this program last year the following will indicate the nature of the services. Forty-five of them were closed from the agency's case load as having been provided with one or more rehabilitation services and placed in employment with sufficient remuneration to make them self-supporting. There were 130 other fine cases in the process of rehabilitation, most or all of whom

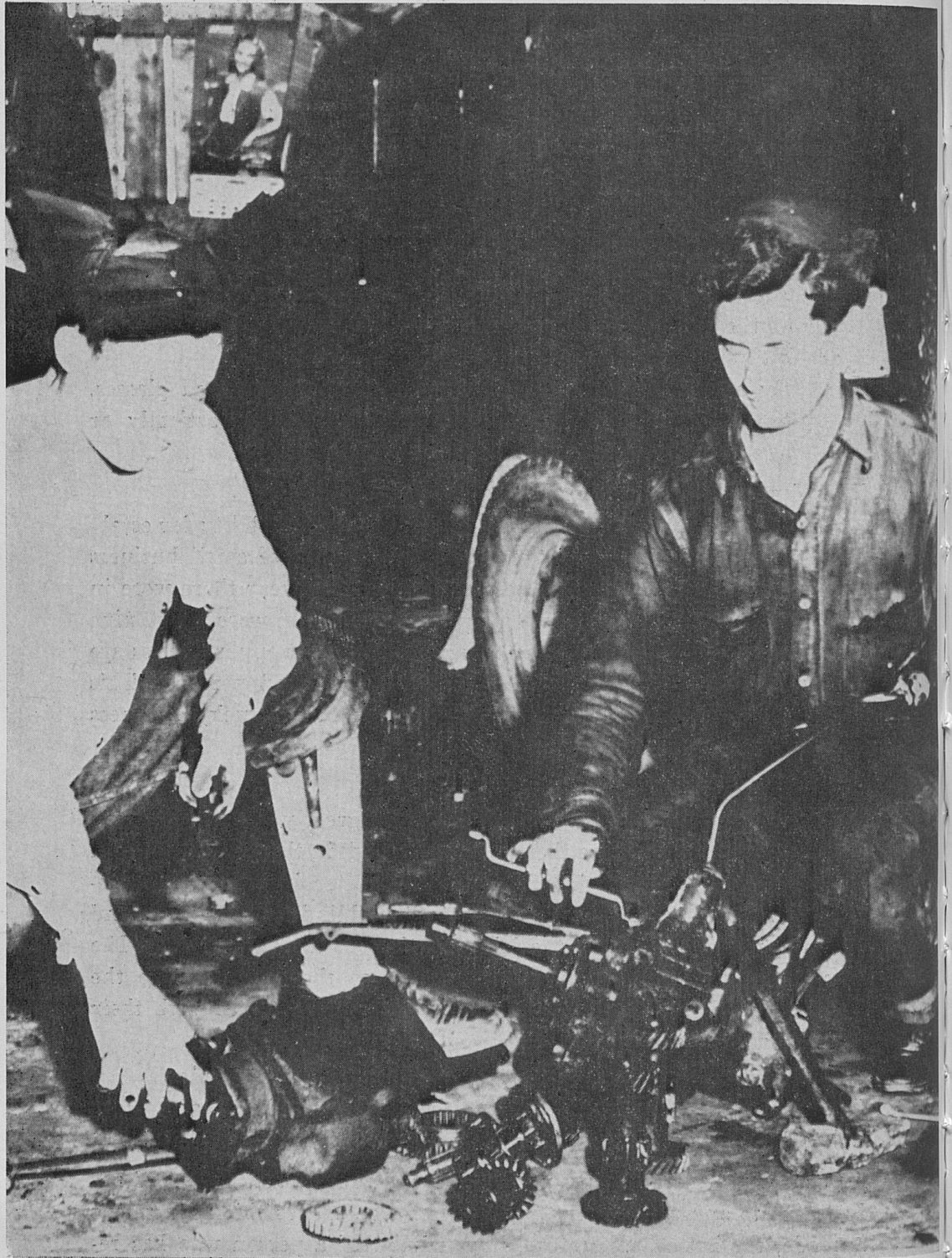


will be provided with the needed services and placement to make them satisfactorily employed. A substantial number of these persons served by Kentucky's program of rehabilitation are thereby removed from the State's program of Aid-To-Needy-Blind and are made self-supporting. In addition, a number of these rehabilitants also support a number of dependents who would otherwise look to the State for public assistance.

Important Data Concerning The 45 Blind Rehabilitants

1. *List of jobs into which rehabilitated and the number in each.*

| | |
|--|---|
| vending stand operator | 3 |
| laborer, industrial, process | 1 |
| occupation in manufacture of furniture | 1 |
| bench assembler, carburetor parts | 1 |
| punch press operator | 1 |
| conveyor feeder | 3 |
| switchboard operator, telephone | 1 |
| housewife | 4 |
| biscuit packer, production line | 1 |
| farmer (sight restored) | 3 |
| broom maker | 2 |
| teacher | 1 |
| farm hand | 4 |
| cook, restaurant | 1 |
| laundry helper | 1 |
| yard man | 1 |
| musician | 1 |
| kitchen worker, restaurant | 1 |
| leather products worker | 1 |
| packaging, production line | 1 |
| salesman, door-to-door | 1 |
| Braille proofreader | 1 |
| teacher, music | 1 |
| coal miner (sight restored) | 2 |
| assembler, TV antennae | 1 |
| riveting machine operator | 1 |
| inspector, process, industry | 1 |
| dark room worker, photography | 1 |
| core cleaner, foundry | 1 |
| x-ray dark room technician | 1 |
| retail manager | 1 |



cently lost or is losing his sight, you may serve him by sending his name, address and other information to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Education, Frankfort.

Rehabilitation Pays

A limited study of last year's 722 closures indicates results which are no doubt valuable, not only in dollars and cents, but also in the benefits toward others, and other programs.

The cost to rehabilitate 722 cases was.....\$ 132,876.00
 Total annual earnings rate after services.....\$1,330,400.00

At this earning rate, the 722 persons would earn ten times the cost of their rehabilitation, during the first year. Their income tax alone will soon repay the cost.

The average rehabilitation cost per person.....\$ 184.00

Of these 722 cases closed in 1952, 108 were, when contacted, receiving some kind of welfare or relief benefit which amounted weekly to\$ 1,630.00

After rehabilitation these 108 persons were receiving a weekly rate\$ 3,843.00

Or an average weekly income per person of.....\$ 35.60

Before rehabilitation, each person was costing society an average weekly rate of.....\$ 15.09

It cost a total of \$20,134.00 to rehabilitate these 108 persons, while at their rate of earning when closed, their total annual income would amount to more than *nine* times the cost of their rehabilitation.

The real value in making these unfortunate people *earners* rather than *users* of others' earnings.

What does this mean? It means that 722 men and women of working age in Kentucky made the transition from dependency to self-sufficiency. It also means these disabled people are no longer drains upon state and local welfare agencies, family resources and private charities. It means they are helping to increase the productivity in Kentucky's industries, agriculture and commerce, and adding thousands of dollars to the purchasing power of our citizens.

Numbers alone do not tell the whole story. Many of those rehabilitated this year were men and women who had been seriously disabled for a long time, and many who would never have worked if it had not been for Vocational Rehabilitation. The cases who received physical restoration got the best medical, surgical and hospital services that Kentucky offers. If they were trained the same was true.



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Shown above is one of the most recently established vending stands operated by blind persons in public and other buildings. From left are: Supervisor in charge of the operation of vending stands, the blind person operating the stand, and the rehabilitation counselor who made the provisions for establishing the stand.





This young blind lady is being shown how to operate a machine in an industrial plant by Vocational Rehabilitation's placement specialist. He also is without sight, but has placed dozens of blind persons in many different jobs ranging from lathe and machine operation to the more simple types of assembly work. By demonstration of many jobs he is able to sell industry on the worth of blind folks.

LIMITED LIVES

We, the handicapped, salute Thee, Lord.
We bow our heads, the while we nurse our bruises.
To some have come afflictions visible,—
A crooked back, lost limbs or sightless eyes ;
To others, deeper hurts by man unseen,—
Defective hearts, or lungs that partly breathe ;
While those quite free from bodily defects
Are often handicapped by mental anguish.
Why should we limp and stumble thus through life ?
What is the recompense for living limited ?
Who has not suffered much has never lived.
His ears have missed the deep, full tones of life.
As white-hot fires burn out the dross from gold,
So handicaps refine the lives of men.
True men can singing sail through troubled seas,
Each white-capped billow buffets, but it lifts.
These troubles overcome are epics later,
The poets glorify their fathers' hardships.
All life is limited ; he only wins
Who plays the game within the rules that limit.

—J. Gustave White

