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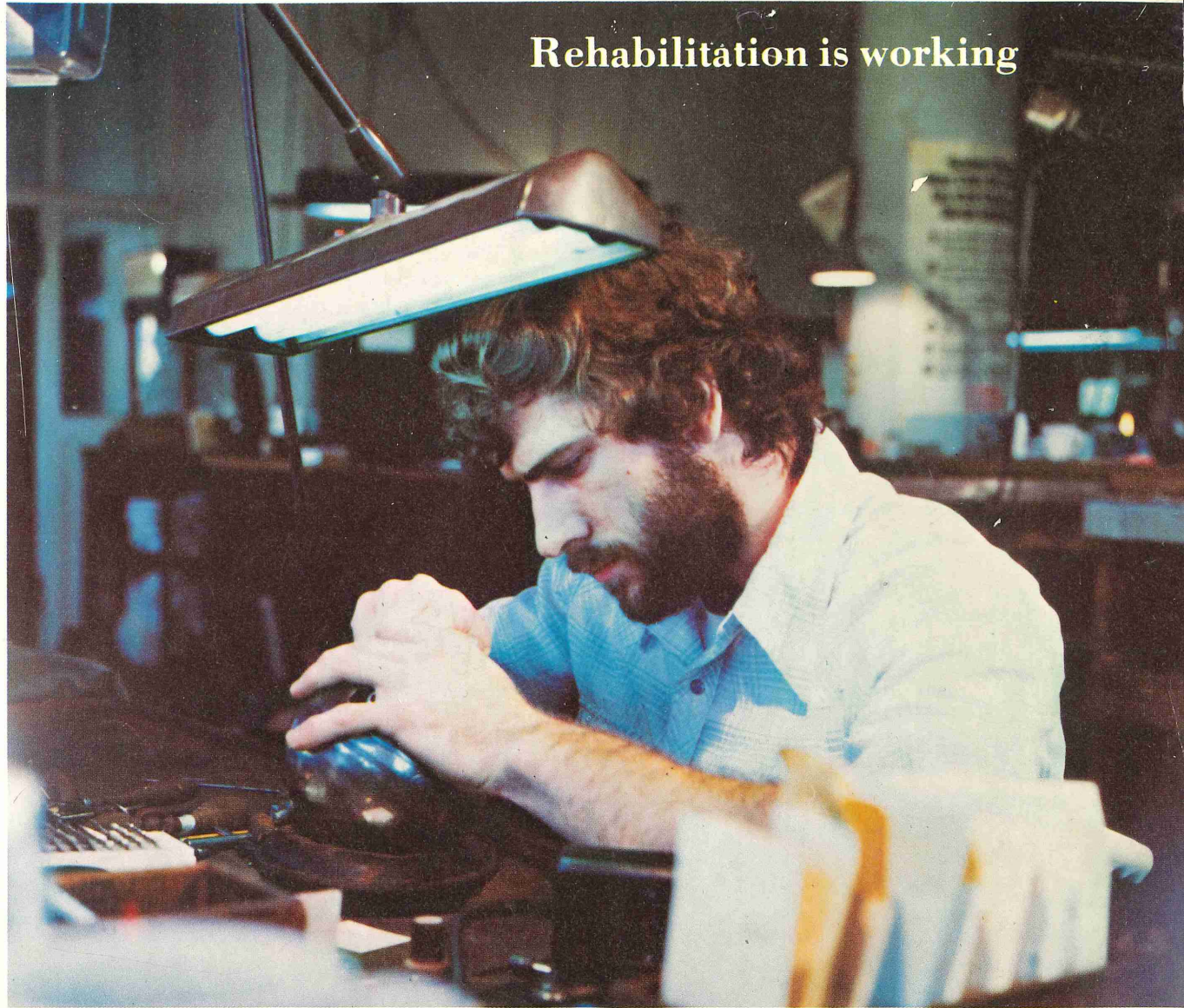


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1977 1977

ANNUAL REPORT

Rehabilitation is working



**Minnesota
Division of
Vocational
Rehabilitation
Department of
Economic Security**

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Minnesota, Division of
Vocational Rehabilitation,
Annual report

The fiscal year 1977 was a significant one for the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation by legislation of Economic Security by the 1977 legislature. The Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, a new division of the agency.

Again, as in the past few years, the emphasis on Working with and for these people has been

In this annual report we have tried to compile the information required for successful rehabilitation.

The various kinds of vocational rehabilitation programs and their entire results. There is a feeling of accomplishment in the program which is concerned with the total rehabilitation.

In reading this report you will see that there are many unique problems and concerns.

Thank you for your interest in Minnesota

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Minnesota, Division of
Vocational Rehabilitation,
Annual report

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STATE OF MINNESOTA

establishment of a Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and the creation of the Department of Economic Security. The Department is now operational and the results of the past few years, became a

the severely handicapped.

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r, does not portray the true picture. In DVR we have a program that covers housing and transportation.

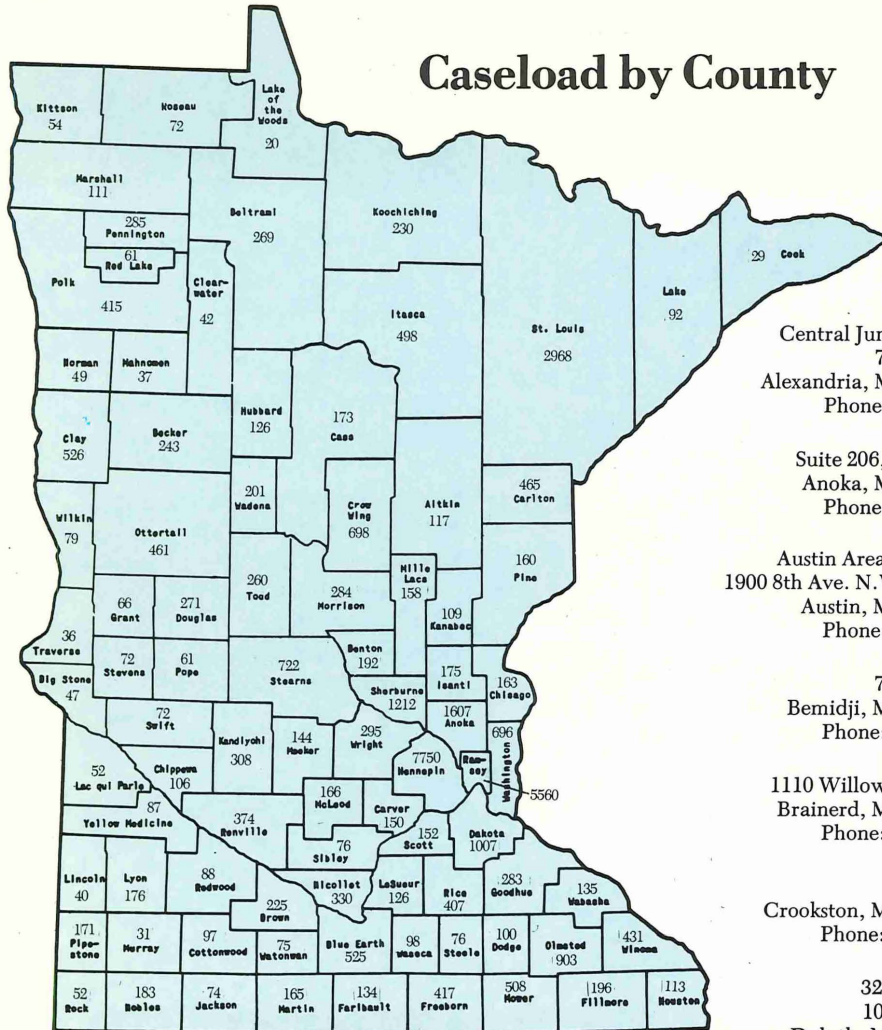
is an individual with

W. A. Olson

Olson
Commissioner of
Vocational Rehabilitation
Department of Economic Security

Field offices

Caseload by County



- Grand Rapids**
401 — 11th St. S.E.
Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744
Phone: (218) 326-1201
- Rochester**
717 3rd Ave. S.E.
Rochester, Minnesota 55901
Phone: (507) 288-5406
- St. Cloud**
54 — 28th Ave. N.
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301
Phone: (612) 255-2224
- Hastings**
1250 Highway 55
Hastings, Minnesota 55033
Phone: (612) 437-2137
- International Falls**
Drawer M
South International Falls
International Falls, Minn. 56679
Phone: (218) 283-3436
- St. Paul (3 offices)**
180 Griggs-Midway Bldg.
1821 University Ave.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104
Phone: (612) 646-7841
- St. Paul (3 offices)**
368 Selby Ave.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55103
Phone: (612) 222-5828
- Mankato**
709½ S. Front St.
Mankato, Minnesota 56001
Phone: (507) 389-6511
- Marshall**
Box 168
107½ E. Main St.
Marshall, Minnesota 56258
Phone: (507) 537-7280
- Alexandria**
Central Junior High School
7th and Fillmore
Alexandria, Minnesota 56308
Phone: (612) 762-2141
- Austin**
Austin Area Voc-Tech Inst.
1900 8th Ave. N.W., Room 124A
Austin, Minnesota 55912
Phone: (507) 437-3209
- Minneapolis (5 offices)**
3101 W. 69th St.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55435
Phone: (612) 926-6537
- 811 E. 27th St.**
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407
Phone: (612) 874-1874
- 6500 Brooklyn Blvd.**
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55429
Phone: (612) 560-2960
- 1315 Penn Ave. N.**
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411
Phone: (612) 348-4727
- 9th Fl., Grain Exchange Bldg.**
412 S. 4th St.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415
Phone: (612) 348-8510
- Thief River Falls**
LaBree Ave. S. at Zeh St.
Thief River Falls, Minnesota 56701
Phone: (218) 681-7598
- Virginia**
Pearsall Industrial Park
1500 — 18th St. S.
P.O. Box 18
Virginia, Minnesota 55792
Phone: (218) 741-5855
- Wadena**
223 Jefferson N.
Wadena, Minnesota 56482
Phone: (218) 631-4601
- Willmar**
3rd Floor, Canard Center
200 W. 4th St.
Willmar, Minnesota 56201
Phone: (612) 235-0707
- Winona**
1160 W. 7th St.
Winona, Minnesota 55987
Phone: (507) 457-2198
- Worthington**
909 Fourth Ave.
Worthington, Minnesota 56187
Phone: (507) 372-2149
- Anoka**
Suite 206, 403 Jackson St.
Anoka, Minnesota 55303
Phone: (612) 427-3070
- Beמידji**
722 Fifteenth St.
Beמידji, Minnesota 56601
Phone: (218) 755-3980
- Brainerd**
1110 Willow St., East Wing
Brainerd, Minnesota 56401
Phone: (218) 828-2530
- Crookston**
202 S. Main St.
Crookston, Minnesota 56716
Phone: (218) 281-1946
- Duluth**
327 Bradley Bldg.
10 E. Superior St.
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
Phone: (218) 723-4698
- Faribault**
Depot Square Bldg.
303 Northeast First Ave.
Faribault, Minnesota 55021
Phone: (507) 334-7572
- Fergus Falls**
108 N. Cascade
Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56537
Phone: (218) 736-5658

Vocational Rehabilitation

Thousands of physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped Minnesotans come to the state's Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) each year for help in preparing for and getting employment. Registering with DVR is often the first step toward a new life of vocational and personal independence for a handicapped person.

Handicapped persons come to DVR through community field offices and through the more than 30 cooperative vocational

rehabilitation programs the agency operates with public school districts, state hospitals and other agencies.

Each of these persons has a disability. Some have been disabled in their adult lives. Some are disabled youth. All have employment problems because of their disabilities.

To assist them, DVR provides a comprehensive set of vocational rehabilitation services. The services vary depending on the person's

needs, starting with vocational evaluation. This can include medical, psychological, social and educational evaluation as well as guidance and counseling, medical, psychological and social treatment, job placement, and follow-up after the person is employed.

Rehabilitation success is not achieved in all cases, but it is in a great many. And a successful rehabilitation is a success that really belongs to the handicapped person and his or her community.

This report outlines DVR operations for the 1977 fiscal year — a year that saw an emphasis on serving the severely handicapped of Minnesota.

Vocational rehabilitation is really an individualized program, a program that solves problems and provides opportunities for the people it serves. For that reason you will see how vocational rehabilitation works by looking at some of the people it has helped.

Detailed program and statistical information is also provided on the following pages.

Agency Administrators

Michael C. O'Donnell
Commissioner of Department of Economic Security

Donald Buckner
Deputy Commissioner of Dept. of Economic Security

Marijo A. Olson
Assistant Commissioner of Vocational Rehabilitation

Edwin O. Opheim
Director of Program and Management Support

Marvin Spears
Director,
Office of Client Services

William Niederloh
Director,
Office of Rehabilitation Facilities Services

Robert Sternal
Director of Disability Determination Section

Statement of mission

Vocational rehabilitation is actually a public investment

**As a result of DVR
services, handicapped
people become income-
earning, tax-
paying citizens.**

The Minnesota Vocational Rehabilitation program was authorized and began operations as a state agency on July 1, 1919. Its role was to provide vocational re-education to persons who were physically disabled as a result of industrial accidents. Over intervening years the types of clientele have expanded and the original emphasis on the vocational rehabilitation of handicapped persons has continued, but now medical, psychological, social and educational aspects are included as well.

MISSION OF DVR

The mission of Minnesota's Vocational Rehabilitation is two-fold. The agency provides services that are necessary for handicapped persons to become employable, taxpaying, independent citizens.

Secondly, the agency creates conditions and circumstances throughout the state which enable others to see first and foremost that handicapped persons are people who have the same civil and personal rights as any other citizen.

GOALS OF DVR

Identify persons in the state who have disabilities which interfere with their ability to get and keep employment while making sure that vocational rehabilitation services are made available to them.

Evaluate the effects a disability has on a person's employability and to determine what services are necessary to minimize or overcome those adverse effects.

Provide individualized rehabilitation services to handicapped persons as such services are needed throughout the person's lifetime.

Perform a leadership role in the planning, development and provision of rehabilitation services to handicapped persons throughout the state.

Provide continuing program and financial support for Sheltered Employment and Work Activity programs, designed for those severely handicapped persons unable to attain competitive employment levels.

CLIENTELE

Disabled and handicapped persons who are in need of vocational rehabilitation services are referred to DVR from such sources as educational institutions, state and general hospitals, public and private social agencies, central referral agencies, physicians, lawyers, social workers, labor unions and employers as well as the individual concerned. In every instance there must be the belief that DVR is the agency which can help an individual resolve his vocational problem. There is no age limit except that an individual be of employable age. There is no residency requirement except that the individual live in Minnesota. There are no income restrictions.

Programs of Vocational Rehabilitation

Main program

The main program of the agency is the vocational rehabilitation for physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped persons throughout the state of Minnesota. These persons are served through the thirty field offices located throughout the state.

Cooperative rehabilitation

DVR operates special vocational rehabilitation programs for disabled persons through cooperative programs with public school districts, correctional institutions and state hospitals for the mentally ill or mentally retarded.

Security fund

The agency furnishes vocational rehabilitation to disabled persons who are recipients of Supplemental Security Income. Special federal money covers the entire cost of services.

Trust fund

DVR provides vocational rehabilitation services to help disabled Social Security beneficiaries overcome their work disability and secure employment. Social Security furnishes complete funding for this program.

Facilities, workshops and work activity centers

DVR provides informational, technical and financial aid to the state's rehabilitation facilities, sheltered workshops and work activity centers. The agency also works with community groups in the establishment of rehabilitation facility programs. Work activity center programming, based primarily in developmental achievement centers, is supported cooperatively with the Department of Public Welfare. Facilities Section Staff is responsible for the certification of all sheltered employment and work activity programs statewide.

Disability determination

The Disability Determination Section of the division adjudicates claims for Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income benefit programs under sections of the Social Security Act.

**5,231 handicapped
persons completed rehabilitation
and became employed during fiscal
1977. Together, they're earning
incomes totaling more than
\$32 million.**

Let's meet some of them.

Barry Hite

Can a 23 year old Emily, Minnesota truck driver become a diamond setter for a nationally known jewelry manufacturing firm? For Barry Hite the answer is 'yes' — but he hadn't planned it that way.

During the summer of 1974, as a result of a motorcycle accident, he found himself at the University of Minnesota Hospital paralyzed from the waist down. The next 18 months were difficult as he pursued physical therapy both at the University Hospital as well as at Camp Courage.

For those 18 months it was a time for decisions as well as trying to rebuild his life. As a result of various tests and evaluations, he began his step by step rehabilitation as coordinated by his vocational rehab counselor. After Camp Courage he began a work retraining program at Minneapolis Rehab Center where emphasis was placed on his learning to be a machine operator or factory assembler.

In the spring of 1976 he did make the change from the rehab center to factory employment. However, there wasn't any challenge so he made the decision to enter an apprentice program for

the jewelry manufacturing firm.

The decision was a wise one. The jewelry firm likes the work Barry is doing and Barry likes his work.

"It takes a fellow who is strong in his arms and shoulders to do this work," Barry's supervisor at Ostby and Anderson explained.

And Barry agrees. "I was a truck driver and I had no background for this type of work at all," he said. "I really do like the job because I can handle it well. They don't have to change anything for me to work here. I am equal to the next guy!"

Even though currently he is an apprentice learning the craft under an experienced journeyman setter, he does set diamonds or other precious stones into pendants, earrings or any type of jewelry which the firm manufactures.

It will take him four years in the apprentice program before he, too, can become a journeyman diamond setter.

And even though that is a long way down the road Barry is looking beyond that. "My dream is to learn the trade well enough," he concluded, "so that I can open my own shop up north!"



Frank Huber

"I could see the car coming and even though I had the right-of-way I slowed down because I knew he wasn't going to stop," Frank Huber explained of the accident which has left his left side paralyzed. "But I didn't expect that the truck in trying to avoid him would crush the side of my vehicle. I was rushed by ambulance to a hospital in St. Louis Park, but they didn't discover that a blood clot had cut off the flow to the part of my brain which controls my left side until the damage had been done. The accident has had the same effect as if I'd had a stroke."

That meant that Huber's growing television sales and service store in Montgomery had to be closed for a little over a year. For a married man, 42 years of age, with a wife and three children to support that was not a very hopeful future.

Huber had learned his electronics trade 20 years earlier at Dunwoody Institute and was fully capable of repairing cameras and guns as well as radio and television sets. Just a few years prior to the accident he had bought a filling station building in Montgomery and had completely remodeled it

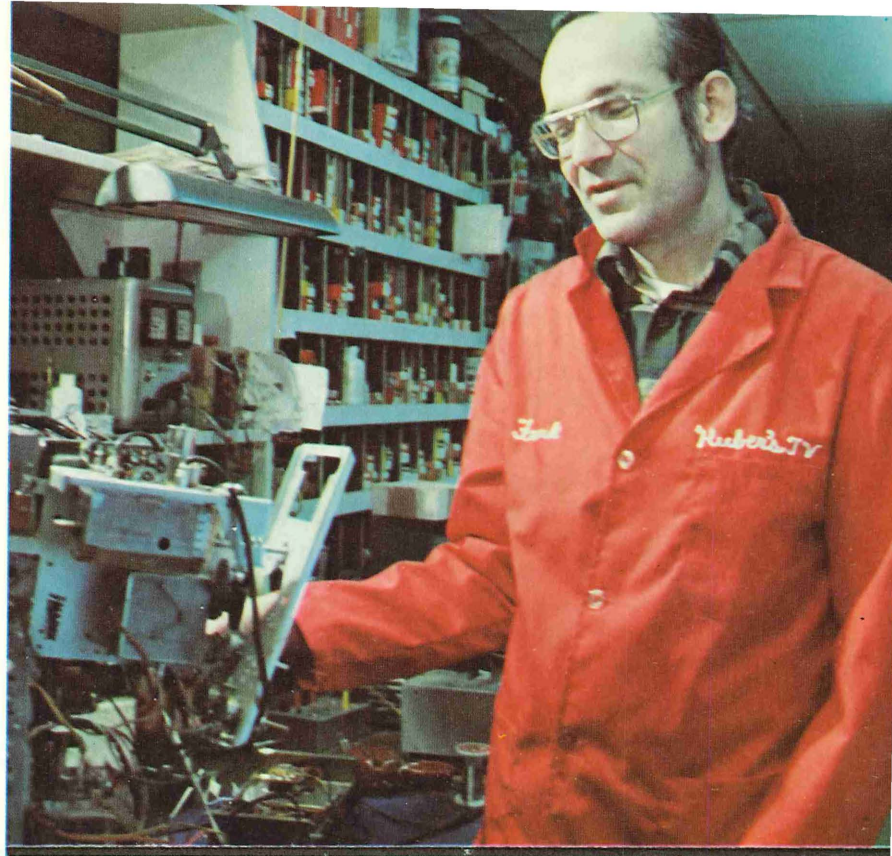
himself to fill his needs for sales and servicing RCA electronic equipment.

After months of hospitalization and physical therapy he returned to his television shop uncertain as to whether he could do the work again and whether he could support his family. But with DVR's assistance he's been able to make a go of it.

"It's been a long hard pull," Huber opined, "but it's still worth it. Of course there were times when I didn't think it was. Then I'd see some other people worse off than I and I'd think 'if I sit at home I'm not going to change it' and I'd get back to figuring out how I'd do things.

"I've made myself a bunch of special tools," he continued, "so I can do things with just my right hand. Things which I used to hold in my left hand while I fixed them I now put in a vice and work on it with my right hand. It takes me twice as long so now I have to work twice as hard. However, I've been in this business since 1957 and it was a shame to let it all go down the drain."

And Frank Huber hasn't let it go down the drain. With help from DVR to install equipment



to handle the television sets as well as the addition of a small ramp he's been able to continue his work. He has had to hire a man to assist him with some of the repair and to help him do the lifting as well as the installing of sets.

"The future for me looks great," Huber concluded, "because most television sets now are solid state and we repair

them by replacing 2 by 4 or 4 by 6 circuit modules. My DVR counselor helped me and encouraged me along the way. He just about did everything that he could do except make me well again and he would have done that, too, if he could have!"

And for Frank Huber of Montgomery, Minnesota he is well again — even though his left side is useless.

James H. Cook, Jr.

"There were times when, at the beginning of a day, I wanted it to be the end of the day so I wouldn't have to face another day." Those are the surprising words of 28 year old James H. Cook, Jr. of Red Wing.

Cook graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1971 receiving his B.A. degree in journalism. After two years of unsuccessful search for employment in his trained field he began the welding course at Red Wing Area Vocational Tech-

nical Institute and earned his diploma from that school in 1974.

However, symptoms which had been very minor earlier in his life began to envelop him. "At first it was a matter of physical symptoms," Cook explained, "and I could still take a row of figures and add them up. Farther along I started to lose mental functions and I knew I was in bad shape." And then he said, almost as an aside, "It's funny how your memory functions can go away."

And go away they did, but all the time he realized that he had to have professional help. Consequently he went over to Rochester State Hospital and asked to be admitted.

Shock treatments and medical dosages seemed to help temporarily. "I tried to work at various jobs — even for my dad at his welding shop," Cook continued, "but my condition made my performance very inconsistent. Finally it got to a point where I couldn't conceive of any situation that I could tolerate!"

Then, the need arose to keep Cook busy and at least somewhat in the area of work activity while professionals tried various trial and error methods. Rochester State Hospital, Fairview Hospital in Minneapolis, and a firm of psychologists in St. Paul all probed for the answer to Cook's situation.

During this period of time DVR came into the picture and helped him be placed in work activity at the Red Wing sheltered workshop. His physical problems of distorted perception, foggy eyesight, headaches, nausea and tension were diagnosed as not being created by physical causes.

There would be brief periods of success for Cook then longer periods of regression. Then, after two years of failure, Fairview Hospital doctors began a vitamin therapy program for him and it seems to be successful.

After a relatively brief period as a welder, Cook has now become employed as a welding supply salesman with southeastern Minnesota and part of Wisconsin as his territory. Although his nervous-mental condition has not completely stabilized, because he must return for treatments on a regular basis, he is now self-sufficiently employed and happy with his work.

"I don't know what I would have done without my DVR counselor," said Cook. "He checked up on me, kept me going during those rough years and underwrote me. He really had faith that I would come around."

Then, he admitted, "I still don't perform very well in a required attendance situation, but this job gives me plenty of leeway, and I'm doing pretty well. However, I can't tell you how grateful I am to DVR and to the sheltered workshop in Red Wing!"



Rodney Drager

“Right now I know that I’ll never fall back!”

Those are the words of Rodney Drager, who is now an appli-

ance service technician for one of the Twin Cities’ larger refrigeration and appliance repair firms. For Rodney it’s been a long series of steps up a very long climb.

The climb began in 1972 when he was at the St. Cloud state reformatory. At the age of 16 he had started using drugs. He enlisted in the army but was discharged because of an eye condition after he had completed his basic training. And then returned to the state reformatory after being convicted on a forgery charge.

He had the uphill climb of kicking the drug habit while being incarcerated. In 1972 he was transferred to Sandstone where he began a vocational training program in the field of refrigeration and air conditioning.

Two years later he began an on-the-job training program — while on parole — at Frank Refrigeration Appliance Service Center, Minneapolis. But even his on-the-job training period didn’t go along very smoothly.

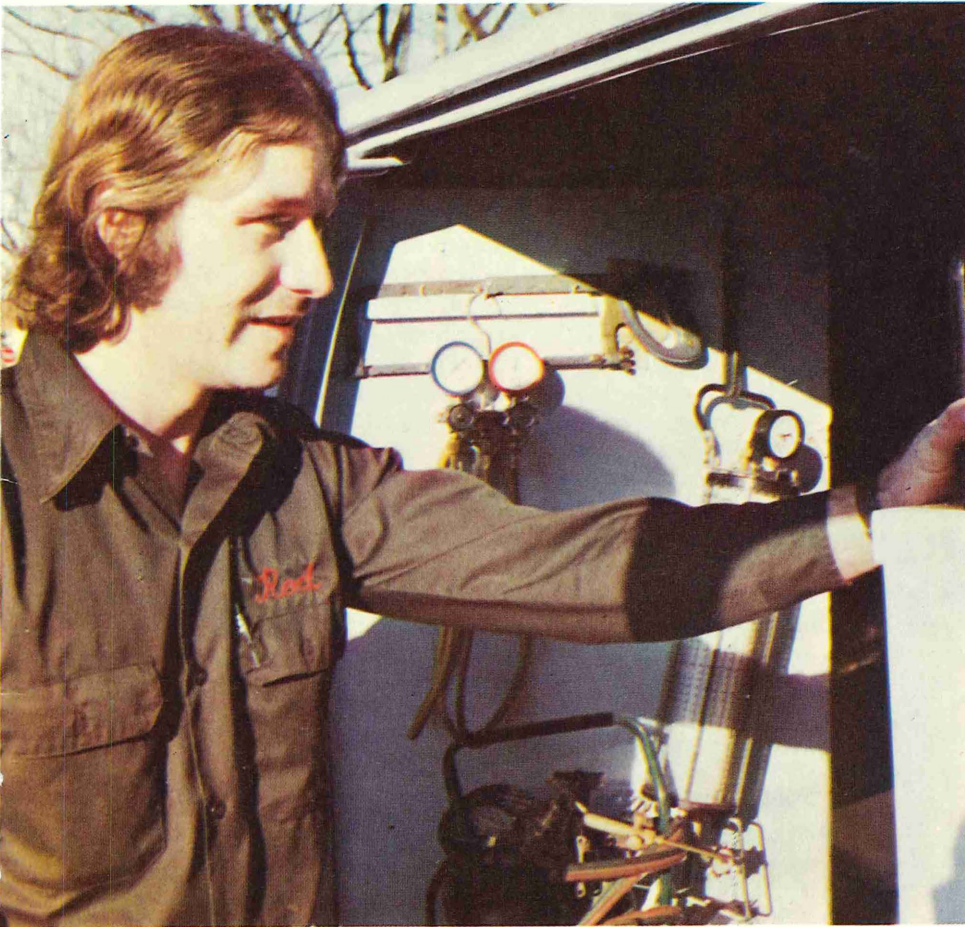
“When I first came here I was a lost person,” Drager explained without making any excuses for his somewhat erratic behavior.

“I had no friends. These people stuck by me and my boss would talk with me and give me tips not only about my work but about living. After those talks I would feel better. Now I’ve squared myself around and I am finally to the point where my life is my own and I’m doing something of which I am proud. I’m sure that I’ll never fall back into the same rut. I’ve developed the power to turn my back and I love to be able to say that now I can make it!”

And Drager is making it. As an appliance repair technician he repairs not only refrigerators and deep freezes but also microwave ovens, electric ranges and “any other appliances of any make or model.”

Now, at age 24 he admits to having his “ups and downs” but at the same time he is thinking of the future when he can have his own appliance repair shop or work somewhere “up in north-eastern Minnesota.

“With DVR’s help and considerable patience on the part of my counselor,” he concluded, “I have been able to develop a happier life and a lot healthier outlook!”





Patricia Hein

For 28 year old Patricia Hein her employment as a seamstress at Winona Knitting Mills is the culmination of vocational rehabilitation efforts that began while she was a ninth grader.

At the age of five she had polio. That illness left her with spine, hips and joint complications added to her slow learning capabilities.

"I have known my DVR counselor since 1966 when I was in grade school," said Patricia. "Then he worked with me for the next three years while I was going to Winona high school."

After high school there began the frustrations of trying to work part time at the Winona public library and then for a very brief time assembling shipping orders for a music distributor.

The next three years found her simply whiling away time at her parents' home. Then, the Winona sheltered workshop opened and Patricia, with the help of DVR, began a four and a half year stint. There she learned basic work habits, very slowly improved her production skills, got to know how to work with others and became aware of personal grooming. Her physical limitations impeded progress but at

the same time her pleasant personality was a strong asset.

"Mostly I did sewing at WORC, (the Winona sheltered workshop)" she commented, "so I was prepared for the job which I got at Winona Knitting Mills. I started at the knitting mill Oct. 17, 1977 and I am right on the production line."

Continuing she amplified, "I love the work. Here you're among other people and get acquainted more and you get more friends that way. My hours here are from 7 a.m. to 3:30 in the afternoon. Right now I'm sewing on sweater sleeves but later I'll be sewing other items of clothing."

She sighed and concluded, "It's taken a long time and my DVR counselor has been very patient with me. I have been very, very happy with my experience with my DVR counselor and with everything that DVR has done for me!"

Peter Dufault

"Peter Dufault has so much to offer the Indian people in his capacity as an elected member of the Fond du Lac reservation business committee and as an executive committeeman of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe," one person wrote.

That statement is true but it does not express the vitality 70 year old Peter Dufault approaches his work as secretary-treasurer for both organizations. At the Fond du Lac reservation headquarters building he knows his job and the members of his tribe so well that his activities almost seem effortless.

But it's hardly that for Peter Dufault is diabetic and since 1974 has had both legs amputated. After working for 30 years as truck driver, crane operator, and millwright for Wood Conversion Company's Conwed division, Dufault was not the kind of person who wanted to sit around. With assistance from DVR in providing necessary body lifts and hand controls where needed he has been able to continue in the midst of every phase of the reservation's operations just as he had been doing.

From his window in the headquarters building he can watch

the new building in which the reservation's furnace company operates. "We're making wood burning furnaces as well as combination wood, oil or gas furnaces which we sell nationally. The demand for these has jumped within the last year," Dufault explained.

His eyes are on the future as he continued, "We will be going into wild rice processing in about a year. We have the building already set up. We'll have to buy the green rice, process and package it for sales, but that means we'll have to set up our own processing equipment."

He kept on explaining that in about a year the reservation would be using about three shifts and hiring about 100 employees year around. Currently the reservation business committee does about four million dollars of business annually.

However, it's not only jobs and payrolls that this energetic tribal business manager supervises. He also directs or watches over 20 programs throughout the reservation such as chemical dependency, Indian legal service, community health, the marina project at Big Lake, the elderly nutrition program, the



building of new homes and the modernizing and repairing of the ones on the reservation, and the game conservation officers' patrolling program.

In his quiet way Dufault goes about his work for the 750 people on the Fond du Lac Reservation

as well as for the more than 30,000 Chippewa Tribe members scattered throughout Minnesota including those at White Earth, Leech Lake, Nett Lake, Grand Portage, Mille Lacs Lake and Fond du Lac native American reservations.

Thomas Hepola

Tom Hepola is a Brookston young man who has crammed more failures and some successes into his 23 years than most people do during a lifetime.

With an immobile palate he has had a very severe speech problem even with the use of a palatal lift appliance to aid the velopharyngeal closure. This ap-

pliance was fitted for his use by the cleft palate-maxillofacial clinic of the University of Minnesota.

He has also been bothered with a seizure disorder as well as a ventricular septal defect between the two pumping chambers of his heart. And his idiopathic hypoparathyroidism require Vitamin D and serum calcium treatments every three months to insure proper calcium level balances.

His vocational training really began before he graduated from Coon Rapids high school. Between his freshman and sophomore years he went to Camp Courage. There, through the use of camp experiences of interest to him, he received hearing and facial quality drills to improve his speech.

All through high school he worked on his nasality speech problem, but between his junior and senior years he spent his summer at a work activity center to prepare him for vocational training in automotive training or auto reconditioning.

Upon his graduation he stayed out of school for nearly a year, at which time he moved with his parents and his family to the Duluth area. For three months he attempted the machine shop work at Duluth Area Vocational school, but it proved to be too difficult for his friable health.

While awaiting an opening in the baking course at Duluth Vocational he began a training program at the Duluth Skill Center in their food service and baking classes. Here he did very well and after just four months there began on-the-job training at a Duluth bakery.

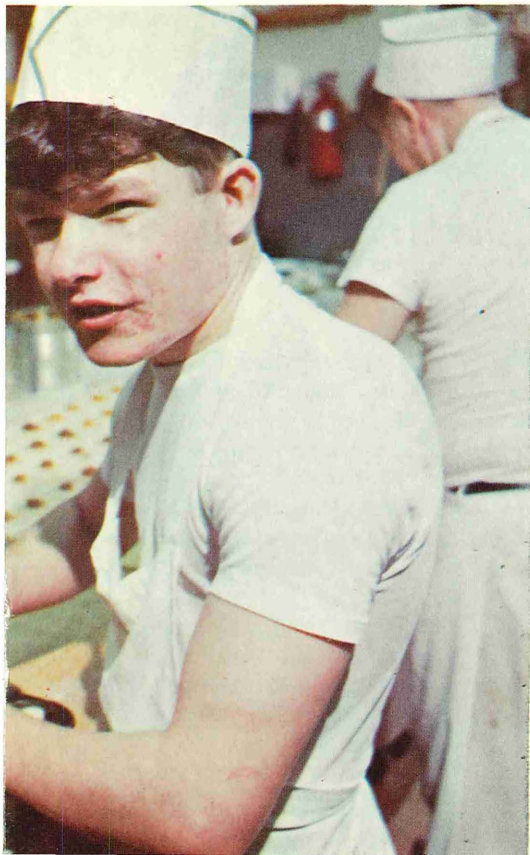
Upon completion of the training program he was hired by the Patty Cake Shop, Duluth, as a



baker's helper and now works there.

"I really like my work here very much," Tom said as he moved from making Danish rolls to blueberry turn-ups; "and, although I work nights, I don't live too far from here so it's easy to get back and forth."

And for Tom it means that at last he's working and earning his own way.



Randy Anderson

For many people the Fourth of July holiday in 1973 has long been forgotten, but not so for Randy Anderson of Litchfield. Randy had just finished his sophomore year at Litchfield high school where he had broken several of the school's swimming records and had well represented the school at the state swimming meet.

July 4, 1973 was a warm summer day and Randy with several others had gone swimming. Diving through "the doughnut hole" of a large tractor inner tube was the sport of the afternoon even though a strong wind made it difficult. However, for Randy it was an inner tube of disaster for he struck his head on the side of the tube, completely unable to control his motions being paralyzed from the neck down.

The next three months he spent at the University of Minnesota hospitals undergoing treatment and physical therapy for his fractured cervical spine. Upon his release from the hospital he returned to his parents' home in Litchfield and began the slow recuperative process.

"I was in a wheelchair for a couple months after I got out of

the circular bed in the hospital," Randy explained, "because that was the only way I could get around. But I got well enough so I could finish high school by using a tape recorder and taking oral tests."

Randy did graduate from Litchfield high school and in the fall of 1975, with DVR's help, began a year's training course in watchmaking at the St. Paul Area Vocational Technical Institute. Upon the completion of his vocational training and on the recommendation of the school DVR helped Randy purchase such necessary tools and equipment as needed for him to become employable.

The vocational training proved productive because he is now employed as a watch and jewelry repairman at Hager Jewelry Store, Hutchinson.

The owner of the store, Dale McLain, made it plain by stating "I needed a watchmaker and Randy applied for the job. I hired him and it has been an excellent combination. He has come along very well and is making real good progress. He is now doing basic sizing work in gold and silver as well as doing light jewelry repair work."

For Randy it means that he is working. He is doing a job that he likes but he will never forget the Fourth of July 1973.



Emmarella Westrom

One person said of Emmarella Westrom, "She has the capability of being an excellent teacher and the only thing that she ever needed was the opportunity to prove it."

However, proving that she had the capability was not the easiest thing for this mother of three. Cerebral palsy and emotional problems served only as roadblocks which had to be hurdled. On referral by the Lake-land Mental Health Center, Fer-

gus Falls, DVR encouraged her to complete her college education at University of Minnesota-Morris while providing limited financial support.

Despite the fact that she had many responsibilities of raising a family she was able to complete successfully in an excellent manner her four year degree in elementary education. She received her B.A. degree in elementary education in June, 1976.

Because she, her husband and



her family did not want to move from the Elbow Lake area she at first did substitute teaching, but in the fall of 1977 began work as a teacher under the Head Start/Home Start program of the West Central Community Action Program.

During the first six weeks of the program she drove around to the homes getting to know the children on a weekly basis. Then, in November the group began meeting together at the St. Charles Catholic Church, Herman, with home visits being worked in alternately.

"The main goal of the program," Emma explained, "is to have the child think he's worthwhile while equipping him with some skills needed for kindergarten. At the same time, being with other children will give him a better social perspective."

What does Emma think of her job? "I enjoy it thoroughly," she said with strong feeling. "It's what I've always wanted to do. This particular job is ideal because it permits me to flexibly schedule classes around the life of my own young children.

"Furthermore," she continued, "my college education has given me a better self-image. I am more outgoing, much happier, and have a great feeling of self-fulfillment."

Those are strong words for any one!

John Droszewski



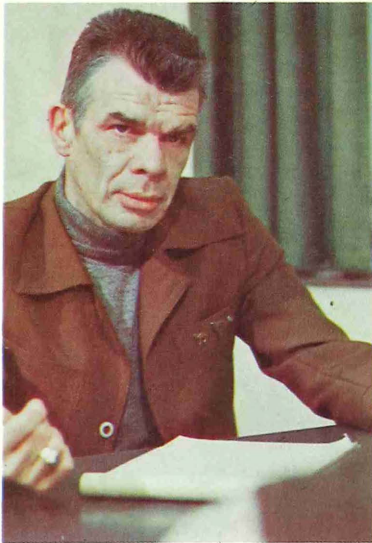
When the police shortwave radio proclaims "We're bringing in a 57," it simply means to John Droszewski that they're bringing in another intoxicated person to the Duluth Detoxification Center.

For John Droszewski as a technician at the center it means being on the other end of the spectrum. Four years previously he was going through the routine, too, but went through his 'drying out' process at the Bethel Rehabilitation Center, Duluth.

However, independence from chemicals was but part of the problem for this 40 year old Duluth native. He had a severe hearing problem which simply amplified his difficulty in getting and keeping a job.

After Bethel came a period of time with Port Rehabilitation Center and a work training program at the Duluth Sheltered Workshop. In 1976 with DVR's assistance John began schooling in the nurse's assistant courses at Duluth Area Vocational Technical Institute.

Now the years of being a handyman would be over and John



would have a worth to his life as he completed his vocational school training and began an internship program at St. Luke's Hospital. That was step number two in the rehabilitation process and before he accepted a job as Technician I at the Duluth Detox Center.

As such his nurse's assistant training comes into excellent use for he is the first person to see the intoxicated or drug abuse client at the detox center. As such he gets all their background information as possible, and getting their medical history for nurses to read later.

"Basically it's client care," John noted. "I talk to them, help them out in various ways. Sometimes that means cleaning them up — doing their clothes when they need to be washed — just helping them along. Understandably I like my work very much."

And then he finished by saying, "Getting this job here helped me keep sober. Furthermore, having been here before myself I am able to help them more. I am a member of the Moose Lake Alumnus Association, and being employed here means also that I'm part of the team counseling concept."

For John Droszewski it means that he's come full circle in his life and has made it very worthwhile not only to himself but to his fellow man.

Barbara Erickson

"Barbara Erickson is real patient and listens well to instructions. She's so very friendly and works in so well with the others here at Hibbing General Hospital," her supervisor said.

However, it hasn't always been so for this 36 year old woman whose vocational path to independent living has extended for more than eleven years. She had been referred to DVR after

having attended special education classes at Lincoln Junior High School, Hibbing and after living at home with her parents for more than four years after that.

Barbara had spent those years after leaving Lincoln Junior High helping around her family's home, watching television and doing puzzles. Her parents came to the conclusion in 1967



that better plans had to be made for her and with DVR's assistance those plans were put into operation.

The next several years were especially difficult for Barbara as she began living at Homes, Inc. in Hibbing and took work activity training at CWDC, the sheltered workshop.

However, it wasn't only in work training that Barbara needed help. She had behavioral problems with other persons at Homes, Inc. as well as personal control of funds which she earned. By 1975 she had progressed to the point where she was able to begin a 16 week on the job training program at a Chisholm bakery through the cooperation of the National Association for Retarded Citizens.

The training program continued to its conclusion but Barbara was plagued with personal and monetary problems that almost got in the way of her getting a job as kitchen helper in the dietary kitchen in Hibbing General Hospital.

However, she's been working at the hospital for nearly a year and is now living independently in her own apartment in Hibbing.

"Everybody's so very friendly here and so kind to work with. I really like my job," Barbara said. But the success didn't come easily — but it has come!

Diane Hodgman

"You have multiple sclerosis." That was the unwelcome news which Diane Hodgman received from her physician just four years ago.

But the news has simply meant planning around the diseased condition rather than giving in to it for Diane. This divorced mother had moved to an 80 acre farm near Pine Center just a year or so before the malady was diagnosed. She refuses to let it make a difference for her and her two teenage sons and eight-year-old daughter.

"I had worked for a telephone answering service when I had lived in the Minneapolis area back in 1963," she said. "I stayed there for three years doing phone answering — and even went back after that on a part time basis to help them out."

When Diane came to DVR for help it was after she had tried to go to the Brainerd Area Vocational Technical Institute but discovered that the rigors of school work were not compatible with her physical capabilities.

The DVR counselor and Diane looked at various job possibilities after she had taken vocational tests. The evaluations indicated

that she could do some type of bookkeeping such as tax work, but because of the seasonal nature of the work and her physical capabilities that possibility was ruled out.

It seemed only natural that she could return to the work force by establishing her own telephone answering service in the Pine Center area. With DVR's assistance she began the service with three construction firms, two fuel oil and gasoline distributors and a Christmas tree cutting firm as her customers.

"It's been working out pretty well," Diane explained, "because the Christmas tree firm does the bulk of its order taking in the

summer months of June, July and August. However, I really could handle more accounts and probably will be able to get them when my telephone is interconnected with the Brainerd exchange. When that happens my answering service will really take off!"

With this arrangement she is able to work right from her home. "I even take my naps right by the phones. Furthermore, I wouldn't want to live in the city again. We just love it here in the middle of our 80 acres," she concluded.

And for Diane Hodgman it has meant keeping her family intact in spite of multiple sclerosis.



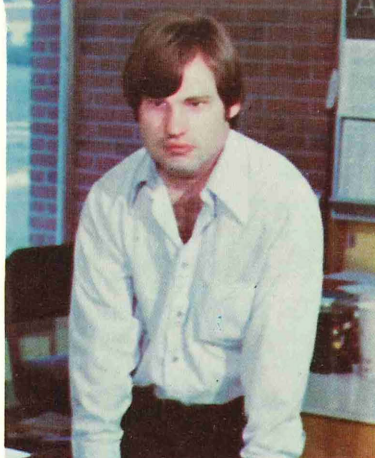
Robert Hudson

"I make my own sandwiches which I take along with me for lunch," said Robert Hudson maintenance worker at the Faribault State Hospital, "because I live quite a distance from where I work."

That would be a common statement for a common worker — but Robert Hudson is anything but a common worker. Right now he's in his probationary period but there's little doubt in the mind of his supervisor that Robert won't be on the job for many years to come.

The uncommon part of this story is that Robert was born in Wellman, Minnesota 21 years ago but has lived in foster homes all his life. While he was at Willmar his formal education was limited to special education classes. For the following five years he was a ward of Rice County at the Laura Baker School, Northfield, and since 1971 had been living at Haven Home, Faribault, where he had been going to the Rice County Day Activity Center.

Then in the fall of 1976, with the assistance from and with the encouragement of a DVR counselor, Robert enrolled in the Faribault Area Vocational Technical



Institute's janitorial training program. While at the school he demonstrated good work skills, so that on completion of the course he applied for a janitor's job at the Faribault State Hospital.

This meant having a state civil service oral interview in St. Paul before he could be hired. But on successful completion of the interview Robert was employed by the state and began working at the Faribault State Hospital in July.

"I like my work here and I like to work with the staff and all the others," Robert concluded. "I like my supervisor and I really enjoy working at the Faribault State Hospital."

And for Robert it means that for the first time in his life he's earning his own way. To him that means personal independence and a worthwhileness to his life that he had never known.

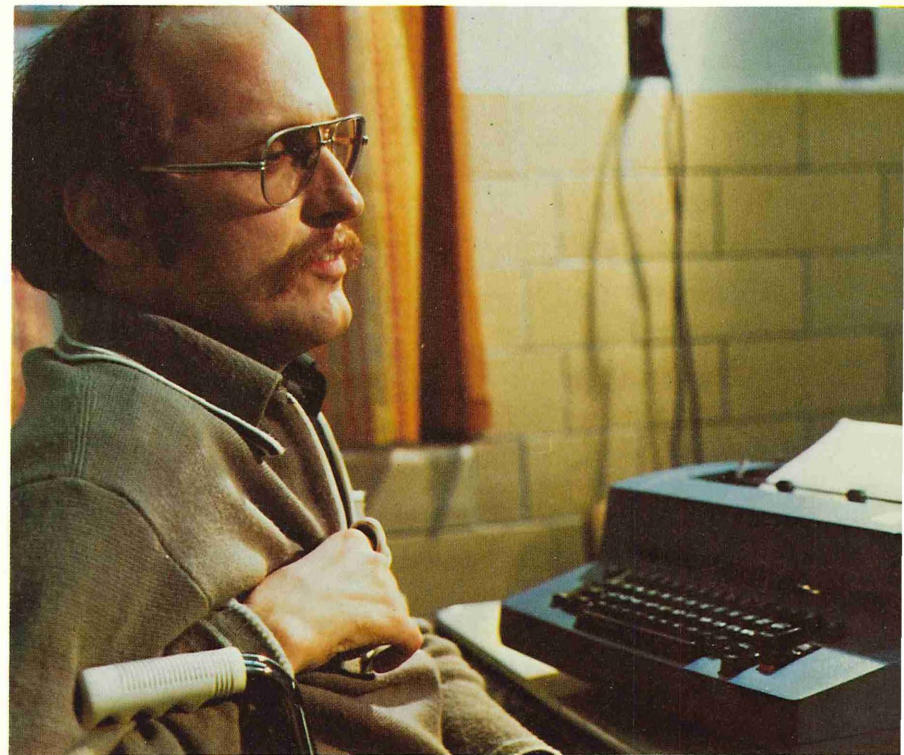
David B. Gray

Alert and sure of himself once again, Dr. David Gray has returned to his position as the program director for the Rochester Social Adaptation Center (RSAC) "Be sure to get my good side so that my bald head won't ruin your camera," this 33 year old psychologist admonished.

However, scarcely eight months earlier he would not have

been as whimsical or as cheerful. At that time he was going through excruciating pain and requested that the Mayo clinic physicians attempt a dangerous spinal cord operation.

During the summer of 1976 while working on the roof of his home near Byron, he fell and severed his spinal cord. That day drastically changed the life of





Dr. Gray who had earned his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in the discipline of behavior genetics with a specialty in mental retardation.

Prior to his accident he had been employed at the Rochester State Hospital, but the question now was whether or not he would be able to return to his work. With the help of DVR, the Mayo clinic, the Rochester State hospital staff and understanding and willing neighbors, he has been able to return to full time work at the Rochester Social Adaptation Center.

“My actual hands-on work with the retarded citizens has all but been eliminated, but other aspects of my job have increased so that I put in a full day,” he continued. “I basically orchestrate the many programs offered to the retarded citizens living at RSAC and try to meet the needs of the retarded individuals in southeastern Minnesota. We have individual program plans for each resident of the center. These plans vary as the needs of the retarded residents vary. Some may

need a wide range of programs from behavioral, recreational, occupational, vocational, physical and speech therapy, while others may need a single program emphasis.

“Some members of the hospital staff remodelled my office and bathroom in order that I might be able to return to work, and the purchases of an electric typewriter and dictating equipment by DVR made my work at RSAC more independent and satisfying. The special typewriter allows me to produce final copy without having to ask for constant revisions from my secretaries. DVR was also most helpful in the remodelling of my home. The electric door opener, the special hand controls for the van, the lift for the van, the ramp into the house and especially the remodelled bathroom allowed me to live at home instead of a nursing facility.”

As a psychologist Dr. Gray had been used to helping others with problems. Through the help of DVR, he has now been able to return to this role.

Rehabilitation

Services and basic procedures

- Counseling and guidance
- Vocational evaluation and training
- Medical evaluation and training
- Job placement
- Follow-up

Who is eligible?

Minnesota Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is an agency that helps handicapped people prepare for and get suitable jobs. Vocational rehabilitation services are available to all disabled men and women who are residents of Minnesota and of working age.

The disability can be physical, mental or emotional and must cause current or potential difficulty in getting and keeping employment. There also must be a reasonable expectation that the disabled person will benefit from vocational rehabilitation so he can become gainfully employed as a result of DVR services.

Gainful employment includes competitive employment in the general labor market, sheltered employment and employment as a homemaker or family worker for which payment is "in kind."

Services are available on a completely non-discriminatory basis without regard to sex, race, color, creed, religion, national origin or type of disability.



Vocational rehabilitation is working, but the person with a handicap needs to learn how to apply for work. Job-seeking training, such as the course offered at Willmar, is a vital link. Throughout the state DVR holds these classes for work-ready clients, showing them employment-directed procedures and how to best present themselves.

Who pays for what?

Counseling and guidance, medical evaluation, vocational evaluation, job placement and follow-up are provided to all DVR clients without cost to them.

Within limits, necessary job training can also be provided without cost to the individual. Generally DVR pays for short-term training costs, but the client is expected to pay part of the costs such as for long-term college or vocational school training, if he is financially able. DVR can pay full long-term training costs for needy clients.

Insofar as costs for medical treatments, clients are expected to participate financially but services to a handicapped person are not refused if they cannot.

DVR can also provide needy clients with limited amounts of maintenance and transportation aid while they are in a rehabilitation program. Furthermore, the agency can help them in the purchase of work tools and equipment necessary to train for and enter a specific work field.

Why delays happen.

DVR provides services to its clients as promptly as possible. In most instances there is very little time lost in beginning rehabilitation services for a person referred to the agency.

However, there are times when temporary delays are unavoidable. Excessive workloads or limited resources at various times may cause delays. Under such circumstances, a client's rehabilitation plan moves forward as soon as possible.

How are referrals made?

An individual, organization, or agency may refer a handicapped person to DVR. Many handicapped persons refer themselves. The handicapped person or agency should contact the DVR office serving the home area. A complete list of current office locations is printed at the front of this booklet.

When an individual or organization refers a handicapped person to DVR, the reference should give some initial information about the person as well as indication of the work problems. Such information is helpful in beginning services for the person.

Basic state-federal funding

The funding of the agency is primarily on a ratio of 80 percent federal money and 20 percent state and third party. This funding supports the central DVR program. The exceptions to these are that the Trust Fund and the Security Fund programs are paid for entirely by Social Security Administration funds while the cooperative programs and DVR aid to rehabilitation facilities, workshops and work activity centers are funded through a combination of sources.



Learning — or re-learning — proper work habits is part of the sheltered workshop training at the St. Paul Rehabilitation Center.

Sometimes limited services are provided.

Rehabilitation is achieved successfully in many cases, but, of course, there are times when it is not.

Some persons who apply for DVR services prove to be so severely disabled that they are unable to become employed—either competitively or in a sheltered work situation. Others encounter personal problems which prevent them from continuing a vocational program once they begin one. DVR counselors can help solve many of these social and personal problems which interfere with one's employment potential, but, of course, there are some they cannot solve.

In other cases, individuals are referred to DVR and probably could benefit from rehabilitation services, but they themselves decide not to participate.

About 20 percent of the people during 1977 dropped out of the rehabilitation program. The following is a breakdown of the portion of the caseload which received limited or abbreviated services.

3,497 handicapped persons who received medical and vocational evaluation were found, through this evaluation, to have no reasonable chance of becoming employable.

3,216 persons who began a rehabilitation plan had to discontinue it because of health or personal problems. DVR attempts to refer these persons to other agencies or organizations which might be able to supply the services they need.

5,594 persons who received an orientation about vocational rehabilitation decided not to participate beyond that. DVR counselors encourage eligible persons to participate in vocational rehabilitation, but the decision is up to the individual. Actually a willingness to participate is a crucial element of a person's rehabilitation program.



Statistics

DVR Expenditures 1977

OASDHI disability determination:

(Totally funded by the U.S. Social Security Administration)

Administration and salaries	\$ 1,611,958	
Case development	642,115	
Total OASDHI prog. exp.	\$ 2,254,073	\$ 2,254,073

Basic VR program:

(20% state, 80% federal)

Counseling and Placement Administration	5,402,792	
Case Service to Clients	702,178	
	8,512,178	
Diagnosis	\$1,236,981	
Restoration	149,754	
Training	5,485,267	
Maintenance	982,121	
Other Services	504,991	
Grant Aid to Facilities	153,064	
Total basic VR program	\$14,617,148	\$14,617,148

Long term sheltered work activity:

Administration	101,727	
Direct Support to Sheltered Employment and Work Activity Programs	2,739,126	
Total long term sheltered work and work activity	\$ 2,840,853	\$ 2,840,853

Special projects:

Total all Special projects	341,375	341,375
Total DVR expenditures		\$20,053,449



DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICE REFERRALS

During fiscal year 1977, 10,917 persons were referred to Vocational Rehabilitation field offices throughout the state by the Disability Determination Services Section. Of these persons referred, 3,475 had been allowed disability benefits, and 7,442 had been denied benefits under Social Security disability programs. These referrals were selected by the Disability Determination Services Section from the 23,963 applications for Social Security disability benefits. These were cases upon which the section acted to determine the existence of a disability which could have qualified the applicant for Social Security benefits.

In many cases Social Security benefits provide a very important source of income for persons involved in a program of vocational rehabilitation. In addition, the Vocational Rehabilitation receives part of its funding from the Social Security Administration for the purpose of returning beneficiaries to gainful employment.

The 1977 Caseload

5,231	persons completed vocational rehabilitation and became employed.
19,809	persons were in process of a vocational rehabilitation plan at year's end.
5,356	persons were in evaluation at year's end.
2,453	persons were in registration and intake at year's end.
3,216	persons were in a vocational rehabilitation plan during the year but had to discontinue the program because of health or personal reasons.
3,497	persons received evaluation and were found to have no reasonable chance of becoming employable and therefore left the program.
5,594	persons received an orientation to vocational rehabilitation but decided not to participate beyond that.
45,156	

Referral Sources

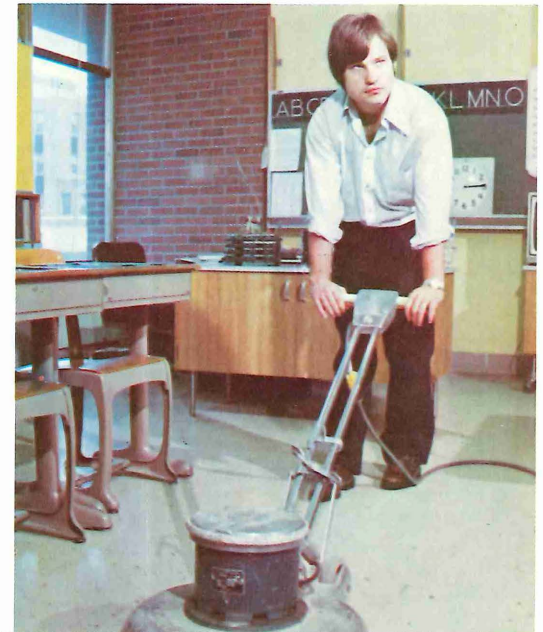
Educational institutions	1,500	28.7%
Hospitals and sanatoriums	717	13.7%
Person other than client	838	16.0%
Welfare agencies	422	8.1%
Self-referred	524	10.0%
Correctional institutions	249	4.8%
State employment agency	142	2.7%
Other health-related agencies	282	5.4%
Workmen's Compensation	113	2.2%
Social Security Administration	149	2.8%
Other sources	295	5.6%
	5,231	100.0%

Rehabilitant's Work Status at Beginning of Rehabilitation

Not working	2,951	56.4%
Not working—student	1,511	28.9%
Salaried worker	558	10.7%
Homemaker	37	0.7%
Self-employed	25	0.5%
Unpaid family worker	11	0.2%
Sheltered worker	32	0.6%
Trainee	62	1.2%
Not known	44	0.8%
	5,231	100.0%

Work Status After Rehabilitation

Industrial trades	1,564	29.9%
Skilled	543	
Semi-skilled	148	
Unskilled	873	
Service occupations	1,000	19.1%
Clerical and sales	848	16.2%
Professional, technical, managerial	882	16.9%
Homemakers, unpaid family workers	249	4.8%
Sheltered workshops	526	10.0%
Farming, forestry, fishery	157	3.0%
Other	5	0.1%
	5,231	100.0%



Disabilities of Rehabilitants

Personality and emotional disorders	1,847	35.3%
Orthopedic impairments (except amputations)	1,265	24.2%
Mental retardation	877	16.8%
Allergic, endocrine, metabolic and nutritional diseases	337	6.4%
Hearing impairments	211	4.0%
Epilepsy, nervous disorders	221	4.2%
Cardiac and circulatory diseases	119	2.3%
Absence or amputation of members	95	1.8%
Other	98	1.9%
Genito-urinary disorders	18	0.4%
Speech impediments	52	1.0%
Respiratory diseases	31	0.6%
Digestive system disorders	35	0.7%
Blood disease	12	0.2%
Malignant neoplasms, cancer	13	0.2%
	<u>5,231</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

Sex of Rehabilitants

Male	3,317	63.4%
Female	<u>1,914</u>	<u>36.6%</u>
	<u>5,231</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

Dependents at Beginning of Rehabilitation

No dependents	3,593	68.7%
1 dependent	667	12.7%
2 or 3 dependents	615	11.8%
4 or more dependents	337	6.4%
Not reported	<u>19</u>	<u>0.4%</u>
	<u>5,231</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

Long-term Sheltered Employment/Work Activity Programs

	No.
Sheltered employment programs	34
Development achievement center based work activity programs	60
Long-term sheltered employees	1,900
Work activity participants (full time)	400
Work activity participants (part time)	1,000

Characteristics

Age at Beginning of Rehabilitation

Less than 20 years	1,783	34.1%
20 through 34 years	2,209	42.2%
35 through 44 years	611	11.7%
45 through 64 years	598	11.4%
65 years and over	<u>30</u>	<u>0.6%</u>
	<u>5,231</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

Persons of Minority Races Rehabilitated

Black	133	2.5%
Indian	60	1.1%
Spanish Surname	46	0.9%
Other	<u>16</u>	<u>0.3%</u>
	<u>255</u>	<u>4.8%</u>

Education of Rehabilitants

No formal education	6	0.1%
1 through 8 years	497	9.5%
9 through 11 years	1,760	33.7%
12 years	1,863	35.6%
13 through 15 years	631	12.1%
16 or more years	149	2.8%
Special classes	177	3.4%
Not reported	<u>148</u>	<u>2.8%</u>
	<u>5,231</u>	<u>100.0%</u>



Services are provided on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, creed, sex, religion, national origin or type of disability. Each applicant has the right to file a complaint if discrimination is believed to exist; each applicant has the right to appeal any action with regard to the furnishing or denial of services. To do so contact Minnesota Department of Economic Security, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, 390 N. Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101, Assistant Commissioner of Vocational Rehabilitation; or the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D. C. 20201.

