NRA CELEBRATES 50th ANNIVERSARY

The National Rehabilitation Association is celebrating its 50th anniversary during 1975 with the theme, "Saluting the Past; Dedicating the Future."

Lowell Green of Oklahoma City, president of NRA, states that, "Anniversaries usually are devoted to recalling past glories, and ours will be no exception. However, we are a service organization devoted to helping the handicapped people to help themselves, so we intend to focus on future responsibilities, challenges, and dreams as we dedicate ourselves anew to serving disabled people."

The association intends to emphasize the dual anniversary theme at regional, state, and chapter meetings and hopes to involve its 36,000 members in the personal and agency introspection which goes with taking stock and making future plans.

In a brief message to the membership in the January-February, 1975, JOURNAL OF REHABILITATION, Green stated that, "Your president-elect (August W. Gehrke, administrator of the Minnesota Vocational Rehabilitation Program), and I will share NRA regional meetings and as many others as we can arrange. Your association, in saluting the past and dedicating the future, hopes that significant attention will be devoted to our half-century of service."

William W. Lamprell, assistant director, Maryland Rehabilitation Center, Baltimore, is chairman of the 50th anniversary committee which is composed of present and former NRA leaders, volunteers, and professionals who serve handicapped people.

The steering committee includes the president and president-elect;

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ALTAMONT DICKERSON, JR.
NEW DVR COMMISSIONER

Altamont Dickerson, Jr., of Ashland, Virginia, has been appointed commissioner of the Virginia Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The appointment was announced at the June 7 meeting of the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation. On June 10, Dickerson was administered his oath of office by The Honorable Frank A. S. Wright, judge, Circuit Court, City of Richmond, Division II.

In naming Dickerson to head the agency, board chairman, Dr. Leroy Smith of Richmond, said, "It gives me great pleasure to announce the appointment...."

Dr. Smith stated that the board "after a nationwide search and the review of numerous well-qualified candidates, has chosen Mr. Dickerson as having the qualities and potentials that our agency needs as it enters the era of greater service to severely handicapped people of the Commonwealth."

A native of Virginia, the 50-year-old Dickerson has most recently served as program director of facilities development with the agency and brings more than 20 years of experience to his new position. He joined DVR as a rehabilitation counselor in 1956.

Under his leadership, the first comprehensive vocational evaluation program was developed at the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville, Virginia, and the pri...
DICKERSON NEW DVR COMMISSIONER

(Continued from page 1)

vate workshop facility's network has been expanded from six in 1969 to over 55 today.

Dickerson has served as president of the Virginia Rehabilitation Association and is currently president of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the National Rehabilitation Association.

Dickerson is Virginia educated, having attended the public schools of Spotsylvania County, received a B.S. degree in rural sociology from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, a M.S. degree in rehabilitation counseling from Richmond Professional Institute of the College of William and Mary (which is now Virginia Commonwealth University), and has done pre-doctoral study at the University of Virginia in educational psychology. He is the holder of numerous professional and training certificates.

He is married to the former Miss Margaret Dickinson of Rockbridge. The Dickersons have one son and two daughters and are members of the Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church in Ashland.

A group of interested DVR employees and friends witness the swearing in ceremony for DVR's new commissioner, Altamont Dickerson, Jr., as administered by The Honorable Frank A. S. Wright, judge, Circuit Court, City of Richmond, Division II. Among those present are (left to right): Edward F. Rose, deputy executive director, The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, and vice chairman, Virginia State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation; Judge Wright; Dickerson; Otis L. Brown, secretary of human affairs, Commonwealth of Virginia; and Dr. Ralph N. Pachelli, acting associate regional commissioner for rehabilitation services, Region III, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Philadelphia.

NRA 50th Anniversary

(Continued from page 1)

Vernon Hawkins of the District of Columbia Department of Vocational Rehabilitation; Art Richardson, director of information, Virginia Department of Vocational Rehabilitation; William Eshelman of the United States Rehabilitation Services Administration; and William McCaill, former executive secretary of The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

Organized in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1925, the association is divided into seven professional divisions and 80 chapters in seven regions. NRA has been a principal spokesman before the Congress in behalf of improved legislation and rehabilitation services for handicapped Americans. Its legislative achievements have meant a better future for millions of today's handicapped citizens.

School Units

Albemarle...Jack Jouett Annex, 901 West Main St., Charlottesville
Alexandria...1001 Prince St.
Chesterfield...8610 Perrymont Rd.
Fairfax...10201 Manassas Rd.
Harrisonburg-Rockingham...Lucy F. Simms School, Harrisonburg
Richmond...Room 1397, City Hall
Roanoke...520 College Ave., Salem

Published bimonthly by the Virginia Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation, P. O. Box 11045, Richmond, Virginia 23230
THIRD ANNUAL VIRGINIA WHEELCHAIR GAMES HELD

The games were dedicated to Ben Lipton, executive director of the National Wheelchair Athletic Association. Among the competitors was Dr. Andrew Adams, commissioner, U. S. Rehabilitation Services Administration, a polio paraplegic and former professional baseball player.

Eight national records and one international record were broken as several hundred spectators watched.

Al Alcocer of Baltimore broke a record in swimming the individual medley. Billy Myers of Virginia, the Pan-Am lightweight champion, passed his own record in weightlifting. Eddie Coyle from New York, the international middleweight champion, broke his own former record in weightlifting.

Ms. Susan Bloxham of Virginia, a new entrant in the games, smashed two national records in shot put and in javelin throw. Ms. Chris Lambrouscati, an employee of DVR, surpassed her own previous national record in shot put. Also in shot put, the spectators saw Dale Wiley of Nashville break his own record.

Bob Hall of Belmont, Massachusetts, cut seconds off of his own previous record in the mile run.

A bowling tournament, which was added this year, drew several more competitors in that sport.

The third annual Virginia Wheelchair Games were held in May at the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville.

Competitors came from 12 states and totaled 149.

NEW HUMAN RESOURCES PRIORITIES COMMISSION NAMED

Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr., recently appointed a nine-member commission to set state guidelines for welfare, health, rehabilitation, and related programs.

The Virginia Commission on Human Resources Priorities will suggest eligibility and other guidelines for state agencies considering applications for welfare and other services under "shifting federal regulations and funding."

Commenting on the new commission on May 20, Governor Godwin said, "We have been relying too much on responding to federal initiatives and not enough on defining our own policies and priorities."

The Governor appointed Herbert C. Moseley of Richmond to head the new state commission. Moseley is president of the Virginia Bankers Association.
TWO VIRGINIANS AMONG TEN NATIONAL CO-WINNERS OUTSTANDING FEDERAL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Frank Sears, Jr., technical data clerk at the Defense General Supply Agency, Richmond, a paraplegic and Vietnam War veteran, is one of the two Virginians named in the "Outstanding Federal Employee of the Year" competition.

Two Virginians were among the ten co-winners in this year's "Outstanding Federal Employee of the Year" competition. They were honored by The U.S. Civil Service Commission in special ceremonies recently in Washington, D.C., and were presented awards by Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller.

One Virginia winner is Miss Norma E. Milam, vocational rehabilitation specialist at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Salem, who was born with multiple congenital birth defects. She has no arms and has one normal leg and one leg that reaches approximately to the knee of her functional limb.

When she was born, Miss Milam's father was told by doctors that she would never be able to do anything but "just lie there." Now, with the assistance of a motorized wheelchair, she has complete mobility at the hospital where she is employed as a counselor. She is a former client of DVR.

Raised in Roanoke, she earned a B.S. degree in sociology from Emory and Henry College and currently is working on her master's degree in rehabilitation counseling at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Seated in her wheelchair, Miss Norma E. Milam, a former DVR client who is a vocational rehabilitation specialist at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Salem, is honored in Washington, D.C., as one of the ten "Outstanding Federal Employees of the Year." Taking part in the ceremony are (foreground left to right): Mrs. Jane Baker Spain, vice chairman, U.S. Civil Service Commission; Nelson A. Rockefeller, Vice President of the United States; and Arthur Schultz, Jr., associate deputy administrator, Veterans Administration.

The other Virginia winner is Frank Sears, Jr., a technical data clerk at the Defense General Supply Agency in Richmond.

Sears, a native of Florida, who is a paraplegic and a Vietnam War veteran, spent many months in military hospitals, ending with the McGuire Veterans Administration Hospital in Richmond. While there he learned how to cope in a wheelchair and to drive a specially adapted automobile. (Continued on Page 5)

REHABILITATION SECRETARIES MEET

Officers and committee chairpersons of the Virginia chapter of the National Association of Rehabilitation Secretaries held their first board meeting in Richmond on May 15. (Seated left to right): Ms. Betty Allen, DVR, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, chairperson, constitution and bylaws; Mrs. Diane Woodring, DVR state office, reporter; and Mrs. Debbie Sutton, DVR Portsmouth area office, chairperson, awards and citations. The officers are (standing left to right): Ms. Robbie Blackburn, DVR, WWRC, secretary; Mrs. Pamela Warriner Gritz, DVR, disability determination division (Richmond), treasurer; Mrs. Rachel Smith, DVR state office, president; and Mrs. Becky Rector, DVR's Region III office (Richmond), president-elect.
JACK YOUNG PAYS FLYING TRIP TO VIRGINIA

Mrs. Jacquelyn Flammia (right), rehabilitation counselor, describes the cooperative program between DVR and the Richmond City Public Schools' Career Education Center to (left to right) Jim Moran, senior analyst, and assistant secretary Jack Young, U. S. Department of HEW; Lawrence Charity, assistant principal, Richmond Career Education Center; and Dale E. Hanks, assistant commissioner, program planning and development, DVR. Seated with back to camera is Dr. Ralph Pacinelli, acting associate regional commissioner for rehabilitation services, Region III, HEW, Philadelphia.

The man with the awesome responsibility of the fiscal control of one-third of the federal government's budget visited Virginia's DVR in May.

Jack Young, assistant secretary, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, whose job is that of comptroller of the agency with its $118 billion budget, paid a flying visit to Virginia to relate with "the real world." He indicated that he sees in Virginia's human services agencies "an atmosphere that really lets things happen."

Young, a 26-year veteran of federal service (including a four-year stint in the Marine Corps), says he pays taxes in Virginia since he lives in Falls Church. He was born in upstate New York, but his wife was a Gwalthmey from King William County, Virginia.

Young, who was accompanied by HEW senior analyst Jim Moran and Dr. Ralph Pacinelli, acting associate regional commissioner for rehabilitation services, Region III, HEW, Philadelphia, paid a visit to DVR's state office—was given a tour by the DVR staff at the Richmond Public Schools' Career Education Center—paid a visit to DVR's Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville—and, visited with Virginia's secretary of human affairs, Otis L. Brown.

During his visit with Secretary Brown, Young agreed with Brown's statement that, "Vocational rehabilitation is the only agency that treats the whole person."

2 Virginians Winners

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Sears has received an associate degree in applied science with a major in business management from John Tyler Community College in Chesterfield County. He is a member of the Richmond Charioteers wheelchair basketball team and works with paraplegics at the VA hospital. He is actively involved in the Big Brother program and works with the juvenile court in rehabilitating youthful offenders.

Edward F. Rose, deputy executive director, The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, and vice chairman, Virginia State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, was master of ceremonies at this year's awards program.

The Civil Service Commission formally established the new nationwide recognition program in October, 1968.
MID-ATLANTIC NRA CONFERENCE MEETS IN D. C.

The Mid-Atlantic (Region III) Regional Conference of the National Rehabilitation Association was held in Washington, D. C., May 28-31. The conference theme was "Accountability—A Shared Responsibility."


Virginia state senator, The Honorable Charles L. Waddell, Sterling, was the recipient of a Distinguished Service Award for his sponsorship of Senate Bill 891, which empowers the State Board of Housing to make all new or remodeled "places of public accommodation" comply with design standards to assure their accessibility to physically handicapped persons.

Rehabilitation counselor at DVR's Franklin field office, Gordon W. Hanna, received a Mid-Atlantic Community Service Award for his efforts in development and support of the Tidewater Rehabilitation Institute in Suffolk.

Four DVR employees were installed as Mid-Atlantic Region officers for 1975-76. They are: president, Altamont Dickerson, Jr., DVR commissioner; secretary-treasurer, John A. Zinn, Jr., program supervisor, Eastern Rehabilitation Center; president, administrative and supervisory practices division, Mrs. Edith J. Taylor, evaluator, program evaluation unit, DVR state office; and president, National Association of Rehabilitation Secretaries, Mrs. Diane Woodring, clerk-stenographer at DVR's state office.

SOUTHEASTERN VA. TRAINING CENTER FOR MENTALLY RETARDED DEDICATED

The new Southeastern Virginia Training Center for the Mentally Retarded, located in Chesapeake, and serving Planning Districts 20, 21 and 22, was dedicated recently with Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr. as speaker. The Center is the second of the state's regional training centers serving mentally retarded citizens. The residential centers show how progress is being made, noted Governor Godwin, "away from the concept of the institutionalizing of the mentally ill and turning to local mental health centers and towards the regional concept." The center admitted its first residents on February 18 of this year.
VA. ASSOCIATION OF REHABILITATION FACILITIES MEETS

The fourth annual meeting and training session of the Virginia Association of Rehabilitation Facilities took place in early May at Afton Mountain and at the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville.

Theme of the conference, sponsored jointly by VARF and DVR, was "Continuing Service for the Severely Disabled."

The main objectives of the institute were to provide the VARF members with information concerning what state agencies and national groups are doing for the severely disabled and how their efforts might enhance the facilities' programs and ability to better serve these groups.

Paul A. Breeding, director, program planning, DVR, addressed the group on the "Individualized Written Rehabilitation Program" for DVR clients. Bill Brownfield, supervisor, program evaluation, DVR, spoke on "Periodic Evaluation." Donald S. Frank, consultant, Epilepsy Foundation of America, Washington, D.C., discussed "Severely Disabled—Epileptic." Art Richardson, director, information division, DVR, spoke on "Effective Public Relations." Rudolf Schuster, director, community health and retardation services board, Virginia Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, discussed "Administration of Chapter 10 Grants" and "Purchase of Service for One Supplemented Security Income Recipient." Joseph H. Wiggins, deputy director for rehabilitation services, Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped, spoke on "Severely Disabled—Visually Impaired." Curtis Iddings, Jr., director, spinal cord injury project, DVR, discussed the "Severely Disabled—Spinal Injury."

The board and membership of VARF, representing most of Virginia's 63 private and public sheltered workshops and facilities, voted to begin a search for an executive secretary for VARF. Anyone who may be interested in applying can write to Michael Schriner, VARF president, at Goodwill Industries of Richmond.

Viewing the special award for excellence that was given to Ed Hamilton of Richmond, immediate past president of the Virginia Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, are (left to right): VARF vice president, Woody Van Valkenburg, Saluda; Altamont Dickerson, Jr., then director of facilities and now commissioner, DVR; Mrs. Susan Dawkins, VARF secretary-treasurer, Winchester; and Michael Schriner, VARF president, Richmond.

TENNIS ANYONE?

The Colorado State Department of Social Services Workshop for the Blind is making a new tennis racket with a lightweight aluminum frame. The brand name is the Skilcraft "Contender."

The workshop continues also to string five models of the AMF-Head tennis racket under a contractual agreement.

The area dealer for the "Contender" racket is the Virginia Industries for the Blind in Richmond. Frank B. Hart, Jr., superintendent there, states that the new racket, including its cover, sells for $21.50, plus tax.

To order the racket, or to obtain further information, contact Frank B. Hart, Jr., superintendent, Virginia Industries for the Blind, 1535 High Street, Post Office Box 27563, Richmond, Virginia 23220. The phone number is (804) 770-2056.

"Modeling" the new Skilcraft "Contender" tennis racket made at the Colorado State Department of Social Services Workshop for the Blind is Ms. Joan Ord, a homemaker with the Colorado Services for the Blind.
RED CROSS SUGGESTS SAFETY ANGLES FOR ANGLERS

That time is here again, so the American Red Cross is offering suggestions to keep fishermen from hooking themselves and others, or suffering more tragic accidents, as they wade into the fishing season.

To help prevent drownings and other accidents among the nation's amateur Izaak Waltons, the Red Cross recommends these pointers:

1. All fishermen should know how to swim, know how to give first aid, and remember to carry a first aid kit with them on fishing trips.
2. Fishing enthusiasts should listen to weather forecasts and not go on the water when threatening weather is forecast.
3. Fishhooks can catch anglers as well as fish, so fishermen should carry needle-nose pliers, wire cutters, and a pocketknife in tackle boxes. Always keep hooks in covered containers.
4. When casting, anglers should make certain there is room to do so without hooking someone else. Always look before casting and use an overhead cast while in a boat with others.
5. If you go on a fishing trip alone, leave word where you will be and when you plan to return. However, it is much safer to fish with a companion.
6. Stay away from water where there are swimmers, water skiers, and skin and scuba divers.
7. Along the shore, wade cautiously to avoid slipping on hidden rocks or stepping unexpectedly into deep water.
8. Learn how to hold a fish properly while extracting a hook. Many species of fish have sharp teeth or fins that can cause painful hand wounds.
9. If you snag yourself deeply with a hook, cut off the line, bandage the wound, and go immediately to the nearest doctor or hospital. Don't risk further injury trying to remove a deeply imbedded hook.
10. When fishing in channels or rivers, never tie your boat to channel buoys, which are traffic markers and must be kept clear.
11. Never stand up in a boat while fishing, and always have a properly approved personal flotation device for every person.
12. While fishing from the bank in snake-infested country, watch where you step and sit and what you touch. Wear high boots, because most snake bites are below the mid calf.

NEW FISCAL YEAR

Coinciding with the nation's bicentennial year, the federal government will have a new starting date for its fiscal year beginning in 1976.

A new law, P.L. 93-344, establishes October 1 of each year (beginning in 1976) as the start of the federal fiscal year.

The new starting date will provide Congress additional time to act on appropriation bills. Under the current fiscal year, the Congress has been unable to complete actions on many agency appropriations by July 1. Affected federal agencies, thereby, have had to operate under continuing resolutions based on appropriations for the previous year.