Roanoke - Portsmouth
REHABILITATION
PROGRAM

Two new three-year cooperative projects aimed at the vocational rehabilitation of an increased number of disabled public assistance applicants and recipients were started recently in the cities of Roanoke and Portsmouth.

The programs are administered by DVR, with cooperation from the Department of Welfare and Institutions, the Roanoke City Department of Public Welfare, and the City of Portsmouth Department of Social Service.

Budgets for the two projects come from special federal vocational rehabilitation money allocated to DVR and earmarked for rehabilitation of public assistance applicants and recipients, matched with DVR state funds.

The first year's budget for the Roanoke program, from November 1, 1971, to October 31, 1972, will match $370,704 federal with $41,189 state funds, for a total amount of $411,893. The projected budgets for the second and third years from state-federal matching funds are $453,080 and $521,042 respectively.

Budget for the Portsmouth project, for the first year, from November 1, 1971, to October 31, 1972, will consist of $300,000 in federal funds, matched with $33,333 state funds, for a total of $333,333. The estimated state-federal matching funds budget for the second year total $400,000 and for the third year, $460,750.

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VIRGINIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING IN ROANOKE

The Virginia Rehabilitation Association held its 12th annual meeting in Roanoke November 7-9. Around 380 people attended.

A highlight of the meeting was the address made at the annual luncheon on November 8 by T. Edward Temple, commissioner of administration, Governor's Office, Richmond.

He told the VRA members that dependency on public assistance must be reduced.

"You have studies," said Temple, "which demonstrate that rehabilitation services can and do decrease dependency. Every person removed from public assistance to a job is a vital service to your state—and to your client."

Panelists at an earlier meeting that day agreed that public assistance recipients are extremely difficult to rehabilitate.

"If you're in a hurry and working with welfare recipients, you'd better change your philosophy," said Lionel Parker, assistant state supervisor for the vocational rehabilitation department of CVH. "The public assistance recipient is not a 30-60-, or 90-day case. It may take much, much longer to get him back on the job."

In another panel discussion, West Virginia research psychologist Dr. Joseph Moriarty said there is no scientific evidence that evaluation during a rehabilitation program is helpful. He said he felt that it was but that there was no proof one

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VRA MEETING
CONT'D

way or the other. He said that this was because rehabilitation workers had not been sufficiently data conscious.

Dr. Moriarty said that social traits—getting to work on time, staying on the job—were as important in vocational rehabilitation as physical skills and dexterity.

In an address on November 9, Mrs. Miriam Stubbs, director, division of planning and management, Rehabilitation Services Administration, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, said that one reason for the success of the vocational rehabilitation program nationwide is "rehabilitation has a 'can do' attitude."

VRA elected three new directors for three-year terms at its business meeting on November 9. They are Mrs. Cherie Fox of Richmond, John Hutchison of Staunton, and Robert L. Brocklehurst, Jr., of Richmond. Altamont Dickerson, Jr., of Ashland will be serving a second year as VRA president, and Kirk Averett of Lynchburg is president-elect.

STATE POLICE
SPECIAL TRAINING

At the urging of Florida Association for Retarded Children officials, the State Police Standards Board recently approved the addition of a two-hour course on mental retardation to the State Police Academy graduation requirements. This new addition to the curriculum became mandatory in September.

The standard course familiarizes trainees with the nature and causes of mental retardation and offers several simple tests which a police officer can use to roughly determine an individual's functioning level.

Similarly, the Virginia State Police have a regular schedule of eight hours for their trooper-trainees on human behavior. According to a State Police spokesman, the course, given by a psychiatrist, covers every phase of abnormal human behavior.

Travel Directory
For Handicapped
Available

The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, Washington, D. C., has published a directory designed for glove compartments of handicapped motorists. The directory lists, by state, the more than 330 rest areas of the nation's interstate highway system which are accessible to handicapped travelers. The information was gathered with the cooperation of the Federal Highway Administration and the officials of state highway departments. Copies are available from The President's Committee.
DEVICE LIFTS WHEELCHAIR INTO CAR

DEVELOPED BY CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF REHABILITATION

An assistive device that lifts a handicapped driver’s wheelchair into or out of his car has been produced by the California Department of Rehabilitation.

The loader was developed by Charles P. Eckles, workshop consultant to the department in Los Angeles, following specifications prescribed by A. G. Garris, an assistive device specialist in the department.

The loader is driven by a small electric motor controlled by a two-way switch on an extension cord at the driver’s seat. Power is furnished by the car’s battery. A horizontal lifting arm extends out from the side of the car and under the seat of the wheelchair. As the lifting arm rises, it collapses the wheelchair and raises it off the ground at the same time. The entire loader is mounted on rollers in a track extending across the floor behind the front seat. When a wheelchair is raised to the proper height, the handicapped driver pulls the loader and the wheelchair into the car.

To unload the wheelchair the process is reversed. After the wheelchair is lowered, the holding arm retracts from under the seat of the wheelchair. When the wheelchair is disengaged, the handicapped driver swings himself from the car into the wheelchair and then pushes the device back into the car and shuts the door.

The loader attaches simply to the inside of the car with only four bolts. Garris estimates the cost will vary from about $150, without installation, to about $250, installed. He warns, however, that the loader is designed principally to fit in a number of full-size, two-door cars but not in the smaller compacts.

A free sketch of the device is available upon request from A. G. Garris, State Department of Rehabilitation, 1494 South Robertson Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90053.

The raised wheelchair in the position in which it can now be pulled into the car. When being pulled into the car, the loading device slides along a track installed on the floor of the car.

The roller track in which the lifting device is fitted. In this position the loader has been pulled to the open door of the car to receive the wheelchair or to lower it.

WELFARE REHABILITATION

CONT’D

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The Roanoke and Portsmouth welfare-vocational rehabilitation DVR project staffs will consist of a supervisor, three rehabilitation counselors, three rehabilitation social workers, three project aides, and supportive personnel.

Both the Roanoke project, and the Portsmouth project, aptly named "RIDE," for “Portsmouth Rehabilitation and Individual Development Effort," will act as catalysts in coordinating all human service and manpower agencies in the respective cities by an inter-agency referral system, to help increasing numbers of dependent persons to become self-supporting.

The Roanoke City Department of Public Welfare and the Portsmouth Department of Social Services will screen and refer clients to the welfare-rehabilitation projects and continue to provide such historic and ongoing programs as social services, assistance payments, homemaker services, and others aimed at strengthening family life. Special emphasis will be placed on young adults who may be school dropouts, or potential dropouts, and concerted efforts will be made to continue them in school or special training programs.

Earlier this year, a cooperative welfare-vocational rehabilitation project was started between DVR, the Department of Social Services of Pittsylvania County, and the Social Service Bureau of the City of Danville.
VRA “OUTSTANDING REHABILITANT – 1971”
SPECIAL HONORS IN ROANOKE AND RICHMOND

Philip W. Crews, Jr., an accounts clerk at the Federal Reserve Bank in Richmond, received a special, first-time, Virginia Rehabilitation Association award as Virginia’s "outstanding rehabilitant" of 1971 at the annual VRA meeting. Crews, a former paratrooper and first lieutenant with the 101st Airborne Division, was rendered voiceless, blind, and paralyzed by an automobile accident late in 1961. His physical rehabilitation took four years, and it was another four years before he went to work with the bank on January 14, 1970.

During the long years of struggle for life and, later, to obtain a new place for himself in society, Crews was a patient at Walter Reed Hospital and at McGuire Veterans Hospital. The VA hospital sponsored his admission to Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, where he received training in business, paid for from the Social Security Trust Fund as administered by DVR.

Even with the WWRC training, Crews, who is also a graduate of the University of Richmond with a B.A. degree in psychology, was forced to take a job as a dishwasher because neither he nor his counselors could locate an employer who would hire him, because of his severe disabilities.

Finally the counselors, secretaries, and supervisor of DVR's Richmond area office simulated a work situation and helped him regain the skills he had acquired at WWRC. It was this additional experience, plus his own determination, that eventually obtained him the position with the Federal Reserve Bank.

To pay further tribute to Crews and to honor the Federal Reserve Bank for hiring nineteen handicapped persons during the past two years, John A. Profitt, placement counselor for WWRC, attached to the Richmond area office of DVR, arranged a special luncheon in Richmond. He was assisted by placement counselor, Miss Nancy Dance.

The luncheon, sponsored by the VRA and the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center Foundation, was held in Richmond on November 23. Douglas Hill, news manager of WWBT-TV, Richmond, was master of ceremonies. William B. Robertson, special assistant to Governor Linwood Holton, was the luncheon speaker and was introduced by Don W. Russell, commissioner, DVR. Harold Russell, chairman, President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, presented awards to Crews and to Aubrey N. Hefflin, president, Federal Reserve Bank, Richmond. Russell was introduced by William L. Heartwell, Jr., commissioner, Virginia Employment Commission. Ben J. Brown, chairman of the board, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center Foundation, spoke on the foundation's efforts to help WWRC.

Because of Crews' background as a paratrooper, the United States Army contributed greatly to the luncheon program. The 392nd Army concert band played delightful music, and the Fort Lee, Virginia, Honor and Color Guard was featured. Colonel Gorman Oswell, deputy commandant at the Fort Lee Army Quartermaster School, representing Major General John D. McLaughlin, commanding general at Fort Lee, presented Crews with an honorary “Rigger Certificate” and a red cap to be worn only by master parachute riggers. The riggers school, a part of the quartermaster school at Fort Lee, packs all parachutes used by the U.S. Army, worldwide.
The Roy M. Hoover Award was presented to Dr. Rachel Weems Gann, psychiatrist at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center. Frank O. Birdsall, retired former director of WWRC, presented the award, which "honors physicians practicing in Virginia" who are contributing to the rehabilitation of disabled persons.

Dr. A. Ray Dawson (oval insert), director of geriatric and rehabilitation services for the Virginia Department of Mental Hygiene and Hospitals, presented two awards. He presented a special award to W. Harry Schwarzschild (left), chairman of the board of Richmond's Central National Bank and chairman of the Virginia Board of Vocational Rehabilitation. Schwarzschild has been the rehabilitation board's chairman since its creation by the 1964 Virginia General Assembly. Dawson also presented the A. Ray Dawson Award for outstanding service to the handicapped of Virginia by a practitioner, who is not in an administrative or supervisory position, to Harry L. Rankin, Jr. (right), a rehabilitation center charge attendant at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center.

The Elkins Counselor of the Year Award was made to Thomas C. Michael (left), former counselor and now state supervisor, vocational rehabilitation services, Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped, by Donald R. Chick, counselor at the DVR area office in Norfolk and awards chairman for the Virginia Rehabilitation Counseling Association.

William T. Coppage (left), director, Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped, received the 1971 R.N. Anderson Award for his work on behalf of Virginia's blind citizens since 1951. He was presented the award by R. N. Anderson, retired former head of vocational rehabilitation services in Virginia.

A special award was presented to Dr. Wade O. Stalnaker (left), retired director of the department of rehabilitation counseling, Virginia Commonwealth University, Stalnaker, now rehabilitation consultant for the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, received the award from Dr. Richard E. Hardy, chairman, department of rehabilitation counseling, V.C.U.
VRA AWARDS TO BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND INDIVIDUALS

The office of personnel, University of Virginia, was a citation recipient. H. LeRoss Browne (right), director of employee relations of the personnel office, received the award, which was presented by William C. Riddick, placement specialist with the rehabilitation department of the Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped.

Williamsburg Community Living, Inc., a nonprofit corporation formed to assist clients of Eastern Rehabilitation Center in their adjustment to independent living, received a citation. Dr. Charles F. Marsh (left), member of the corporation's board, accepted. Robert L. Hazlett, DVR unit supervisor at Eastern State Hospital, Williamsburg, presented the citation.

The Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center Foundation, a private, nonprofit corporation formed to help finance certain major projects at the Center, also was named for a citation. Ben J. Brown (right), chairman of the foundation's board of trustees, accepted the award from James T. Taliaferro, program supervisor, medical services, WWRC.

The University of Virginia food services division citation was presented to Mrs. Grace Ordel, director of training and personnel for the division, by John W. Gibson, counselor at the DVR area office in Charlottesville.

Mrs. W. O. (Hilda) Dundas (right), of the Staunton Area Association for Retarded Children, Inc., received her VRA citation from Mrs. Charlotte C. Ralston, secretary to the director of the Virginia Commonwealth University regional counselor training program, located at WWRC.

Keith C. Wright, professor, VCU department of rehabilitation counseling, accepted his citation presented for VRA by Dr. John H. Wallace (in background), assistant professor of the department of rehabilitation counseling.

W. T. Cunningham, Jr., vice president in charge of personnel of the Federal Reserve Bank, Richmond, accepted a citation for the bank, presented on behalf of VRA by Miss Nancy Dance, placement counselor, DVR.

Charles W. Thomas (left), of the Veterans Administration regional office in Roanoke was presented a VRA citation by Curtis Iddings, Jr., assistant director of WWRC.

Thomas E. Sechler of Salem (right), a representative of the American Trade Services Institute, Roanoke, accepted an award presented to VRA by Guy W. Bolling, DVR program supervisor for the Abingdon field area.
FROM PAY CHECK TO WELFARE CHECK TO PAY CHECK AGAIN

In May, 1971, the Walker family's social worker, Miss Nancy Worley, thought that he was ready to be referred to DVR's new Danville-Pittsylvania Vocational Rehabilitation-Welfare Project, which provides concentrated social services and rehabilitation services to public assistance recipients in an effort to return them to gainful employment.

Medical information revealed a hearing problem, in addition to his back and leg injury. Vocational rehabilitation provided Walker with a hearing device and ascertained that, while he still had some limitations in his movements, he had recovered to the extent that he could return to employment, provided he was in a job that did not require heavy lifting.

In that he preferred to return to the plant where he had been an employee since 1942, Virginia Carolina Veneer Corporation vice-president George Buchanan, Jr., agreed to place Walker in a different plant job that did not involve heavy, strenuous labor. Walker returned to work on July 26.

Rehabilitation counselor Byron Maddox put Walker on the rehabilitated list at the end of November. His social worker, Miss Worley, is continuing to follow him and his family in their adjustment to his new job.

Walker and his family are no longer on public assistance, and he is reported to be enjoying his work and performing his job "very satisfactorily." What he enjoys most, though, is being a self-supporting citizen again, in a job which allows him to provide for his family.

Tapley Walker

Tapley Walker of Danville now is receiving pay checks instead of welfare checks.

Walker had worked for almost 30 years for the Virginia Carolina Veneer Corporation in Danville before coming too severely disabled to continue work.

In 1970 when Walker was thrown from a horse, he suffered a comminuted fracture of the pelvis and a central fracture of the right knee joint. He was hospitalized for some six weeks.

Upon his return home, it was obvious that his injury would require considerable time for recovery; and although he hoped eventually to be able to work again, it was public assistance from the Danville Social Service Bureau that helped provide for him, his wife, and 11-year-old daughter.