

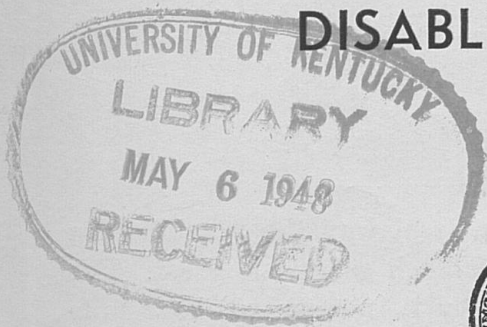
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**EDUCATIONAL BULLETIN**

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**THE REHABILITATION OF THE  
DISABLED CIVILIAN**



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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JOHN FRED WILLIAMS

Superintendent of Public Instruction

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### **FOREWORD**

This bulletin presents in a very general way the rehabilitation and training of civilians. The need for such service is great. This Division has expanded its service whereby it can provide benefits to practically all employable persons that have substantial handicaps which represent a hindrance toward employment. The material here presented was prepared under the supervision of W. Hickman Baldree, Director of Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

JOHN FRED WILLIAMS  
*Supt. of Public Instruction*



## PREFACE

During the past two decades there has been more educational, welfare, and social legislation enacted in America than any comparable period in the history of the world. The education, training and rehabilitation of civilians, although of recent times, has become a recognized and permanent obligation of our great country. When any country assumes an obligation to provide for its less fortunate, the handicapped, it not only means a more prosperous country, but a country that can continually add to its educational and cultural heritage. The handicapped only ask for a chance to be adjusted and trained to earn a livelihood in the American way.

W. HICKMAN BALDREE, *Director*  
*Vocational Rehabilitation*

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## REHABILITATION AND TRAINING OF THE CIVILIAN

### *Who is Handicapped?*

Few persons in this country are physically perfect. Most everyone has some slight defect that affects his normal manner of living and working. It may be a minor defect such as flat feet or color blindness, or it may be a major and more serious defect. It may be obvious and understandable, such as a crippled hand or a missing eye or leg; or it may be hidden such as epilepsy, heart trouble or diabetes. It could be a borderline case or transitory defect such as an allergy or migraine headache, but soon passes away.

The average person may have one or more of these defects and never be classified as a disabled person. To most people it means a very serious or obvious disability. No one has yet devised a definition of the handicapped that could be universally accepted. Most disabled people are only partially handicapped.

In industry any deviation from normal may be considered a physical disability if it:

1. Requires a person to modify or change his occupation
2. Makes it more difficult to get a job
3. Required special consideration to avoid situations that may aggravate the disability or jeopardize the health or endanger the safety of his fellow workers.

If a defect creates certain work limitations, it becomes a physical disability industrially.

### *How Many Persons are Handicapped?*

More persons require selective placement than is generally realized if they are to work with maximum efficiency and health and with the greatest safety to themselves and others. According to the Baruch Committee on Physical Medicine, it is estimated that there are 23,000,000 persons in the U. S. who are handicapped because of disease, injury, maladjustment or disabilities incurred in former wars.

Since this program is primarily concerned with the civilian disabled, such information is only indirectly connected with the discussion at hand.

It has been conservatively estimated that there are now between 15 and 20 thousand disabled people in Kentucky. A great number of these can be served with profit by the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

In spite of safety regulations, safety education, and safety campaigns, there are 70,000 persons who suffer some permanent disabling injury in industry each year. In an average year about 85,000 persons are permanently injured in traffic accidents and about 130,000 in home accidents.

In some of these cases a person can be employed in a job without any adjustment or training. Many others require a great deal of assistance from the Vocational Rehabilitation program before employment.

#### *What is Vocational Rehabilitation?*

Rehabilitation has been defined to be "The restoration of the handicapped to the fullest physical, mental, social, vocational and economic usefulness of which they are capable".

Rehabilitation in recent years has become rather popularized. We speak of rehabilitating Europe, rehabilitating various institutions or agencies that directly or indirectly affect the welfare of many people, but this is not, however, to be confused with the vocational and restoration phase of such a program which reclaims an impaired human creature, restores and rehabilitates him into productive employment.

It must be continually remembered that Vocational Rehabilitation to justify itself must make people employable or more advantageously employable.

#### *Who is Eligible for Rehabilitation?*

Any person with a physical or mental disability which constitutes a vocational or employment handicap is considered eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services. The disability must be certified by a licensed physician on medical forms furnished by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. The individual must be over 16 years of age and such physical or mental condition must be of a static or relatively unprogressive nature. Active tuberculosis, for example, would not ordinarily be a feasible case for rehabilitation to serve. However, pre-service training is often planned and carried out during the period of hospitalization when such procedure is recommended by the doctor. If it were an arrested case of tuberculosis, which means that it is not progressive, such a case would always fall within the limits of Vocational Rehabilitation services.

A boy with one eye, one limb, or a deaf mute would be unquestionably feasible for rehabilitation benefits, since such disability is a substantial handicap of a non-progressive nature. The central thought



for all rehabilitation supervisors to keep foremost in their minds is the employability of the individual. The person served must be made employable. If a case cannot be orientated to some vocation, he is not feasible for rehabilitation services, but is a case for welfare or some charitable institution.

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

#### *What is Being Done for the Handicapped in Kentucky?*

Considerable effort is being expended to provide the right kind of educational training and adjustment service to the physically and mentally incapacitated in Kentucky. During the past year there were rehabilitated into profitable employment 894 Kentuckians. This great group of disabled citizens are now contributing to our society. The rehabilitation of any person today into a profitable vocation requires much study, time, money, and effort. Each case is reviewed in great detail in establishing his or her right plan of service. Rehabilitation is no longer a hit or miss method of record keeping on people. It is a scientific procedure all the way from the first interview until rehabilitation service is terminated. Strict accounting of the case from a medical standpoint is kept in a confidential file. The economic status of the cases are closely evaluated. The educational social, environmental and vocational factors are fully measured in the rehabilitation process. At all times the individual is aware of the range of service open to him and the methods employed in his behalf.

Time will not permit the human interest stories connected with the many cases served. I do wish, however, to call your attention to

some actual cases provided rehabilitation services and a brief story of each.

Photographs and descriptions of five cases served appear on the following pages.

### *Does Vocational Rehabilitation Pay?*

As stated previously, the 894 persons rehabilitated in Kentucky last year are now wage earners. The average weekly wage before rehabilitation for this number of persons was \$4,164.00. The average weekly wage after rehabilitation service is \$24,195.00. Hence, a difference of \$20,130.00. They are now earning 5 times as much as before service.

The total cost to the Department of Education for the 894 persons was \$110,042.00. In terms of their earning power, they could fully repay the cost to the Department of Education in a little over 5 months.

It is a known fact that economically it is cheaper to rehabilitate a person into employment than to keep him in idleness.

There still remains much to be done, but the opportunity for service in this division is better than it has ever been before. No finer challenge can come to those engaged in educational and civic betterment than to properly provide service to the less fortunate in society—the handicapped.



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**DIVISION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION  
 CLOSED CASES 1946-47  
 REHABILITATED INTO EMPLOYMENT  
 TYPES OF DISABILITY**

	Ortho- pedic	Deaf	Blind	One Eye	Mental	Polio	T. B. Arrested	Other	Grand Total
Number Served .....	360	95	52	50	10	77	41	209	894
Weekly Wage Before Service ..	\$ 2,174.00	\$ 508.00	\$ 126.00	\$ 359.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 196.00	\$ 49.00	\$ 640.00	\$ 4,092.00
Weekly Wage After Service ....	10,122.00	2,271.00	1,191.00	1,292.00	302.00	2,064.00	1,073.00	5,599.00	23,914.00
Total Cost to Department .....	40,978.00	11,143.00	6,578.00	2,834.00	963.00	12,758.00	5,753.00	29,035.00	110,042.00





HOLBROOK, Abbott C.  
Mayking  
Letcher County

Disability: Affected left wrist, left ankle, and nose due to osteomyelitis at the age of 12.

In spite of his handicap, Mr. Holbrook was determined to get an education. He taught in the Letcher County Schools 12 years. He also worked for the Air Technical Service Command, Dayton, Ohio, from February 1943 until September 1945 doing clerical work.

In September 1943, Mr. Holbrook applied for rehabilitation assistance which was given him in his college training at Eastern State Teachers College, Richmond, Kentucky. He was given 27 months assistance through rehabilitation, and now has a B.A. degree.

At the time of closure 9-30-46, Mr. Holbrook was receiving \$189 a month teaching school at the Evarts High School, Evarts, Harlan County. He surely appreciates what the rehabilitation program did for him.





MAYS, Richard  
Insull  
Bell County

Disability: Paralyzed in both legs—fell from tree when 7 years of age.

At the age of 20, Mr. Mays completed his training as a barber at the Tri City Barber College, Louisville, Kentucky, at his own expense. He barbered at his home, but couldn't seem to get ahead, as the location was very unsuitable.

October 19, 1943, he applied for rehabilitation assistance. We purchased a barber chair and other equipment for Mays, and he moved his shop to a room near a store and filling station. After moving into a new location, his business gradually improved. He is now making \$200 to \$250 a month and gets all the work he can do.

The barber chair, clippers, combs, and mirrors cost the Rehabilitation Department \$150, but to Mr. Mays it meant a job and happiness. His adjustable wheelchair makes it possible for him to cut any person's hair. He says he will always be grateful to rehabilitation for helping him.





## BEAUTICIAN

### *History*

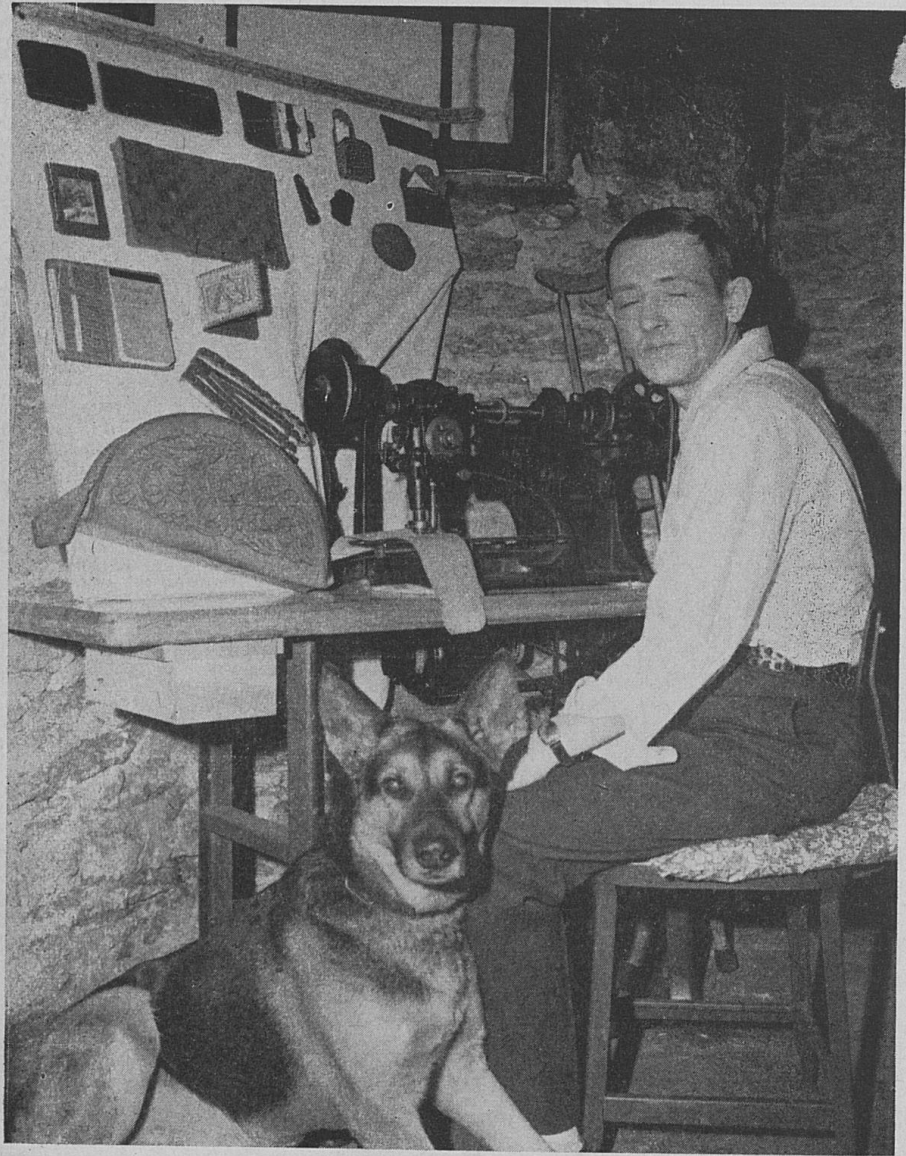
Elizabeth Maxine Bartley was found on 2202 Parrish Avenue, Owensboro, Kentucky, confined to a wheel chair. She was stricken with Infantile Paralysis at a very young age and has never been able to walk. At present she is paralyzed from hips down. Miss Bartley was taught by visiting teacher until she reached about 8th grade, but her training and experience far exceeds that in that she has studied a lot on her own.

### *Training*

After much investigating and counseling it was decided to give her a beauty course. She was enrolled in Henderson Beauty College April 22, 1946, and finished a 1000 hour course after which she took the State Examination with a good grade.

### *Result and Objective*

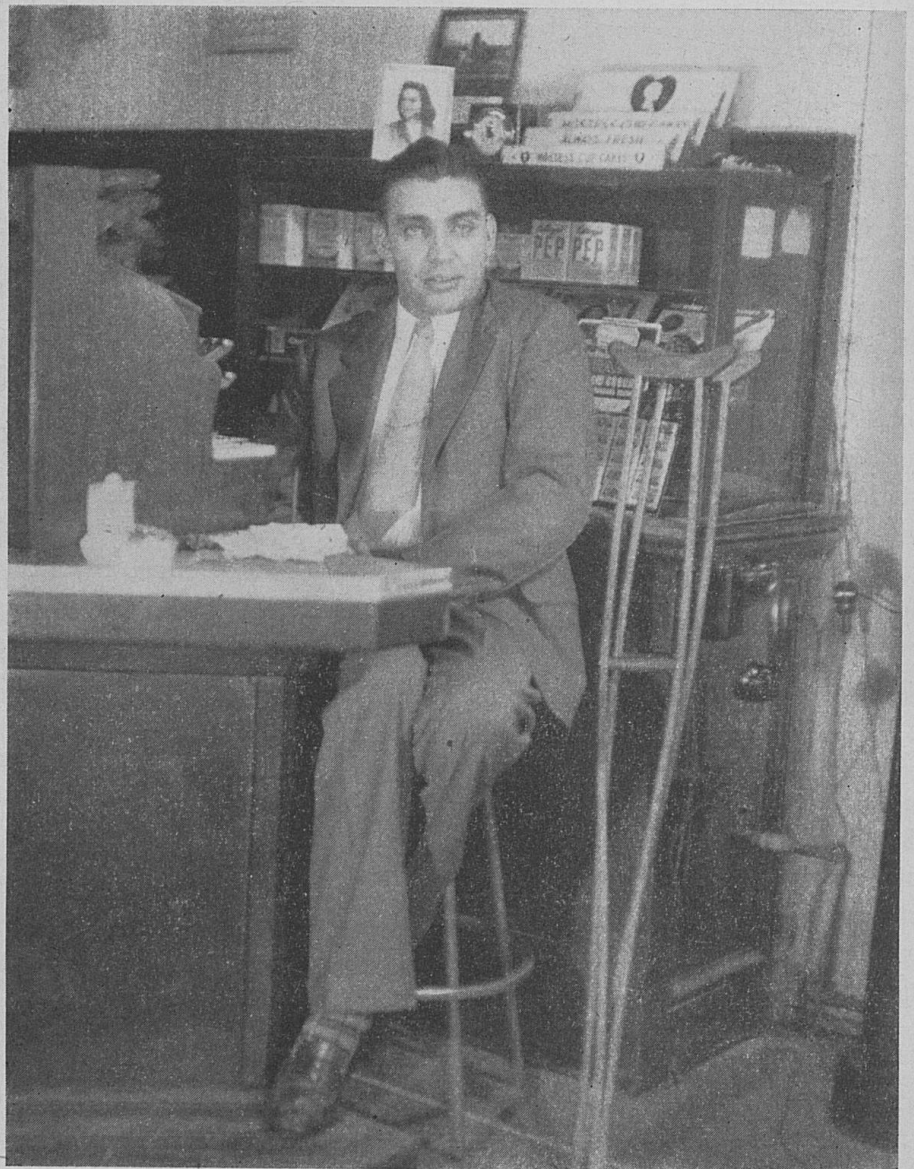
She reached her objective by getting employment in Ruth's Beauty Shop, Owensboro, Kentucky, and at the time her case was closed she was making approximately \$30.00 per week. Miss Bartley plans to own her own beauty shop later.



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EDWARD SCHLITT, 1102 Main Street, Covington, Kentucky—diabetic from childhood, at the age of 24 lost his sight. Client came to the attention of Vocational Rehabilitation in 1944, at which time, through the cooperation of the United States Employment Office, he was placed with the Michael Art Bronze Company, Covington, where he successfully operated a tapping machine. A few months later his foot became infected and was immediately amputated below the knee. Due to his diabetic condition the physicians did not recommend an artificial appliance at once. With this double handicap, Mr. Schlitt's employer felt he could not retain client on the job. Possibilities of placement for this man elsewhere were practically nil. After much thought and investigation, and considering client's background, training and future possibilities, Vocational Rehabilitation and client decided to turn a hobby into a paying business venture. Vocational Rehabilitation purchased a power perforator and power sewing machine, and with the cooperation of the Covington Lions Club, secured an initial supply of leather stock. Client is now operating his own shop in his home where he makes leather and plastic articles throughout (shown on accompanying photograph). Client does the cutting of articles, perforating, stitching, lacing, assembling, etc., necessary for completion of such leather articles. He is selling his products retail and wholesale.





## **OPERATOR, RESTAURANT**

### *History*

Chesteen Hood Crowell was referred to Vocational Rehabilitation in 1945. He was living with friends with no education except high school. In 1929 a horse threw Mr. Crowell and later arthritis set in which left him with a disabled neck, spine and legs. He drags around on crutches and must say is one of the worst cripples I have ever seen to be walking.

### *Problem*

After proper counseling it was decided that a commercial course would be what he would need to prepare him for a life work. He was enrolled at Lockyear's Business College, Evansville, Indiana, for a period of ten months with Vocational Rehabilitation paying room, board, tuition and supplies. This case cost approximately \$750.00.

### *Result and Objective*

After completing business training he began keeping books for private businesses in Evansville, Indiana, and also worked as cashier at a restaurant in Evansville. At the time his case was closed he was making \$35.00 per week and meals. Since that time he has gone into the restaurant business with a friend and he stated at time this picture was made he was making \$185.00 a month and his meals. We are proud of Hood Crowell.

### SUMMARY

Rehabilitating the physically handicapped involves medicine, surgery, education, welfare, and all other desirable benefits provided in a civilized society. A chance to earn a living should not be denied any person because of a physical handicap he may unfortunately possess if he is properly prepared and vocationally adjusted to work.

It becomes increasingly urgent that more and more service be provided this group of less fortunate citizens in order for them to take their rightful place and make their contribution to the generation in which they live. We must continue to provide vocational opportunities for this group of people in order that we may have a well balanced educational and social order.