

looking ahead

DALLAS COUNTY ASSOCIATION / LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND / SUMMER 1978

Fun, Recreation, Crafts Highlight Summer Activities for Blind



With the thermometer reaching into the 100s, many days this summer, the Lighthouse participants found various activities to beat the heat. There are a few special activities that occur during the summer months that are looked forward to by all.

For over 20 years, the Dallas Summer Musicals have provided complimentary tickets to blind individuals and their sighted escorts. Herschel Bernardi, star of "Fiddler on the Roof", took a moment before the performance to sign autographs for Lighthouse participants.

Swimming at the Knights of Columbus pool, has been a summer time favorite for all. Not only do they provide transportation each week, but also hours of family fun and refreshments.

The Dallas Downriver Club sponsored the first annual canoe outing for blind individuals and their families at Bachman Lake.



For most, it was a new experience that left a few a little wetter than they had anticipated. Despite some tipsy canoes, all are looking forward to next year's outing.

Don't be surprised if you see several participants of the Independent Living Program at the disco, or local dance gatherings. Fundance Studio of Dallas is teaching our elderly blind the latest dances. It is excellent exercise for all.

The summer heat hasn't stopped the Friday morning card and domino players. Many of our players are learning to win or lose very gracefully.

Arts and crafts class got into full swing with some of the ladies proudly displaying their projects, many of whom are getting ready for the Senior Citizen's Fair.

Summer of 78 has been exciting. Making new friends, sharing ideas and experiences through Lighthouse activities has been beneficial to all.





Vote "Yes" For S.J.R. 50 In November

By Austin G. Scott

In November, Texas voters will have the privilege of changing one of the most outmoded laws in our state statutes. Reference is made to Section 21 of Article 16 of the Texas Constitution which currently reads:

"All stationery and printing, except proclamations and such printing as may be done at the **Deaf and Dumb Asylum**, etc." First of all, the reference to Deaf and Dumb Asylum is archaic. Deaf persons are not necessarily dumb. Intelligent society dropped this expression a long time ago. As the third foremost State in the Union, we should not allow such a reference to appear in our laws.

Further, the Article goes on, "No member or officer of any department of the government shall be in any way interested in such contracts; and all such contracts shall be subject to the Approval of the Governor, Secretary of State, and Comptroller."

Realizing the importance of revising this "behind-the-times" ordinance, astute legislators have been able to put before the public an amendment known as S.J.R. 50 (Senate Joint Resolution) which deletes all reference to deaf and dumb asylum, opens the door to wider distribution of products and services provided by handicapped workers throughout Texas, and rests the authority for purchases and contracts with a Board of Control rather than requiring the Governor, Secretary of State, and Comptroller of Public Accounts to be personally involved with such transactions.

Approval of Bill S.J.R. 50 would mean more sales, more jobs and better earnings for our blind workers alone. In Texas there are a number of Sheltered Workshops for the Blind which produce and market high quality paper products and writing instruments perfect for use in State offices and agencies. The Dallas Lighthouse is among those which would benefit from a change in the law.

Of course, any business derived from the State would be through competitive bidding and on a quality for quality basis.

Another reason for approving S.J.R. 50 is to keep more of State expenditures with businesses in Texas which otherwise might go elsewhere. If we can give more jobs to the blind by purchases from the State and its various agencies, it would seem wise to do so, especially since buying would be on a competitive basis.

Currently 29 states have what is known as State Use Programs permitting purchasing of products and services provided by the handicapped. In November, let us support Amendment S.J.R. 50 thus further activating our own States' Use Program, resulting in furthering the blind to help themselves.

Hinds Heads New Texas Organization Aiding Blind



"We have layed the groundwork to aggressively implement the Texas State Use Law and open the door to more sales for products and services provided by the blind and visually handicapped in Texas," reports Mrs. Jackson (Artie Lee) Hinds, President of the newly organized Texas Industries for the Blind, with headquarters in Austin, Texas.

This organization replaces the Workshops Industries of Texas now abandoned.

The Texas State Use Law provides that offices and agencies of the State may through competitive bidding purchase products and services from the handicapped.

Overlooking the activities of this revitalized organization is the Governor's Coordinating Committee for the Handicapped. Mr. Austin Scott, Executive Director of the Dallas Lighthouse, is a member of that committee and

chairman of The Texas Committee on Purchase of Blind Made Products.

Texas Industries for the Blind is a private, non-political, non-profit, organization; funded through a staffing grant and wishfully from foundation support. Texas Industries works closely and in a united effort with the Lighthouse Industries of Texas, Inc.

Artie Lee Hinds, former president of the Houston Lighthouse for the Blind, and Board member of the National Industries for the Blind, is recognized for her dedicated services to the handicapped over a period of many years. Wife of a petroleum industrialist and mother of two adults, Artie Lee sees her responsibilities in this new role as president as vitally challenging and rewarding.

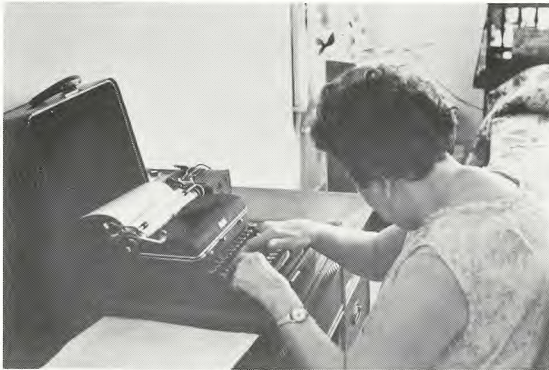
Supporting Hinds as volunteer officers and board members are: Ed Mills, Vice President, retired Executive Director, San Antonio Lighthouse; Fred Weber, Treasurer and Executive Director, Travis Association for the Blind; Robert Plunkett, Executive Director, San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind; Dean Cobb, Attorney; and Carl Chandler of the State Commission for the Mentally Retarded.

Newly appointed as Staff Executive Director is Lindel Rembert, effective October 1st. Rembert has been with Exxon in the Marketing Division.

"Erma Wilson, A Bundle of Determination"



Erma enjoys the challenge her work at the Lighthouse provides for her.



Learning to type at the Texas School for the Blind is one of the main ways Erma communicates.



During her leisure time, Erma enjoys reading Braille books.



Doing her part around the house and keeping her appearance is important to Erma.

For many people of age 60 or over, work is past history, a part of their life that could bring back pleasant or unpleasant memories. This is not true for Erma Wilson, 62, who has been employed at the Dallas Lighthouse for more than nine years. Work is not only a challenge for Erma, but something she looks forward to daily.

Erma has been blind since she was two, and lost her speaking ability at age seven. In addition to these two handicaps, she also has cerebral palsy. Despite these barriers, Erma states, "My advice to everyone who is able, especially blind, is to get a job. They will be happier and enjoy life more. Working will give them pride and they will have the satisfaction of earning their own money."

"Working at the Lighthouse gives me the feeling of being alive."

Because of her multiple handicaps, Erma is limited in many jobs she can perform.

According to Mr. Abbie Lewis, Vocational Training Supervisor, after Erma finished evaluation, there were very few jobs she could handle, but that didn't stop her determination. She contacted the Lighthouse weekly until she was placed on a subcontract job, bundling hangers.

Sometime later that contract ended and finding jobs Erma could handle was difficult. Many people at the Lighthouse had confidence in Erma and respected her desire to work and to become independent. With this in mind, Terry Burleson, Director of Rehabilitation, and Abbie Lewis assured the industrial center they would assure her capabilities and safety in the plant. The challenge was apparent for both Erma and the Lighthouse.

Erma met the challenge head on. In a very short period of time, Erma showed potential and convinced her supervisor that she could do the work.

"There are not many jobs Erma won't try, and she really gets disappointed if she doesn't meet her own expectations," according to Opal Adamson, her supervisor. "What she would really like is to work on the Thermatron machine, which produces the eyeglass cases."

"I know I don't have the stamina to do that, but I feel I play a big part in the finished product," said Erma.

When Erma isn't working, she is busy at home with her landlady, Mrs. Duncan.

"Erma has been with me over nine years, and every moment has been special," Mrs. Duncan states. "Erma is responsible for keeping her room clean and for helping around the house in anyway she can."

Erma enjoys arts and crafts, talking books, Braille books, and playing the piano, when she thinks no one is listening.

One of the special things cited about Erma by both friends and co-workers, is the enjoyment of giving to others, whether it be gifts or kind thoughts.

"I like to work to earn extra spending money, and I like to share my joy with others. Being blind or having other handicaps doesn't make me different from anybody else. I've accepted my handicaps and I want to do the best I can."

United Way

Give them something to live for.



Bob Fannin New Sales Manager

Promotion from within is the order of the day for the new Sales Manager, **Bob Fannin**. Prior to his recent appointment, he served in production.

"Sales have always been challenging to me", said Fannin. "With my knowledge of production and blindness, it is fun to sell the Lighthouse and our workshop capabilities."

Primarily, as Sales Manager, Mr. Fannin will try to expand wholesale and industrial sales, as well as procurement of more subcontract work.

Mr. Fannin is also responsible for our door to door sales and, most importantly, our rack program.

The Lighthouse has recently designed a new rack (below) which is more compact, holds more products, and can be merchandised easily. The new rack is currently being installed in area Tom Thumb Super Markets.

Look for Skilcraft Products In the New Racks in Your Supermarket



Lighthouse Briefs



Lloyd Sparkman, Assistant Director of Rehabilitation, retired in May after 31 years at the

Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind. Mr. Sparkman is probably best remembered for planning and coordinating the Family Night recreational activities, providing hours of entertainment for everyone. The Dallas Lighthouse recognizes and appreciates the many contributions Mr. Sparkman has made to the blind and to the community for the welfare of Lighthouse participants. The many friends who shared his experience* and knowledge will miss him greatly.



Mary Kay Ash, President of Mary Kay Cosmetics, Inc., greeted the Dallas Lighthouse Board of Directors at their May meeting at Mary Kay's newly completed headquarters. Mrs. Ash, a supporter of the blind for years, spoke to the group of the important progress the blind has made in industry and the business world.

The luncheon meeting was topped off with a tour of the new Mary Kay facility. Mr. Ronald Pearce, Purchasing Agent, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Inc., a member of Lighthouse Board, was responsible for setting up the meeting.



Texas Agencies on Aging Hold Workshop in Dallas

The Dallas Area Agency on Aging in coordination with the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind, Texas State Commission for the Blind, and Eastfield College, Dallas Community College District, sponsored a statewide workshop on Implementing Independent Living Programs for the Blind at the Dallas Lighthouse recently. Ideas were shared by over 45 participants from statewide agencies in an effort to implement programs for the elderly blind. Dick Miller, Ph.D., Counseling Psychologist, North Texas State University, was the keynote speaker, addressed the workshop on The Psychological and Sociological aspects of disability, and left the participants with new approaches on staffing and disability.

Special Summer Trainees Earn and Learn at Lighthouse

Each summer the Dallas Lighthouse, in close cooperation with the State Commission for the Blind, initiates a special summer training program for high school and college students. The number of students in the program is determined by the amount of work available in the industrial shop. This year the Lighthouse started the program with eight students.

The program is unique in that the trainees start immediately to earn money, which is unlike the regular vocational evaluation and training program. Some of the students are second-summer trainees. In the latter case the more highly productive trainees earn the workshop minimum rate of pay. The others, beginners, and untrained, earn the regular vocational training wage.

The real value of the summer interim employment is the work experience it affords the students. Most of the students have never worked at any kind of job before, and the work/training is even more valuable than the money which the students earn.

Perhaps not quite typical of the summer trainees is Pat Canty, currently a senior at North Texas State University. This is Pat's second summer at the Lighthouse. Pat is fast, skilled, and work oriented. These are traits which should serve him in good stead when he enters his chosen vocation after graduation from NTSU. Pat intends to become a teacher in one of the independent school systems. When questioned about the real value of working summers at the Lighthouse, Pat had the following things to say:

"I think that most of all I enjoy the fellowship. I like working with and around the Lighthouse people. And the money I earn is nice: I earn while I learn, and it helps pay for my education."

Lenitta Coulter had this to say: "More important than anything, I have learned to work and to do things on my own. I have learned to ride the bus, and each day I grow stronger as I get used to the work."

Shelia Ward stated: "I have developed work skills, and I have learned many things which I can and cannot do."

Looking Ahead is a quarterly publication of the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind, an affirmative action agency.

Leah Tubbs, Editor



Lighthouse Founder Dream Comes True

Mrs. Eva Cameron, 96, founder of the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind, passed away May 22, 1978, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Cameron, herself blind, came to Dallas in 1920 and went to work as a Dallas County Red Cross Chapter Volunteer worker, transcribing and proof-reading Braille material. Mrs. Cameron recognized the needs of Dallas' blind population primarily in the area of employment opportunities which at that time were almost nil outside of selling newspapers or begging on the streets. Thus, with her knowledge of blindness and the needs of the Dallas community in mind, she dreamed of starting a facility in Dallas to provide opportunities for the blind. She visited Lighthouse facilities throughout the United States before opening the original Dallas operation in the 300 block of Ervay. In 1934, at her request, the Red Cross took respon-

sibility for the Lighthouse operation. Later, the Lighthouse moved several times, utilizing unrented building space until 1940 when the Dallas County Association for the Blind was formed. Mrs. Cameron served as Executive Director until she retired and moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1947. The company continues to operate as the Dallas Lighthouse in three buildings at 3940 Capitol, producing household aids and plasticware primarily under contract to the U.S. Department of Defense and the General Services Administration. In 1977 over \$2.2 million in sales was produced by its 100 workers.

The Dallas Lighthouse is eternally grateful for Mrs. Cameron's perseverance and determination in providing opportunities for the blind and visually impaired of Dallas County.

Dallas County
LIGHTHOUSE
FOR THE
BLIND

Training and Industrial Center

4245 Office Parkway
P. O. Box 64420
Dallas, Texas 75206
(214) 821-2375



Austin G. Scott, Executive Director



Cecil Mills, President
Ralph Brinegar, Vice President
Mrs. K. E. Burg, 2nd Vice President
Tom B. Rhodes, 3rd Vice President
and Treasurer



Lloyd F. Silberberger, Secretary
Ted A. Workman, Ex-Officio

Mr. Gene G. Freeland
Dallas AFL-CIO Council
2011 Cedar Springs
Dallas, TX 75201

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Dallas, Texas
Permit No. 7268

Directors: George Allen, J.P. • Norman Alweis • Bill Barrett • Doyle Best • Dr. Devere E. Biser • J. E. R. Chilton, III • C. J. Clark • Mrs. Wm. L. Crawford, III • Sherrill E. Edwards • Gene Freeland • Ivan Irwin, Jr. • Elizabeth Loper • Rex McNabb • Ed Meador • M. T. Minyard • R. L. Oetting • Ron Pearce • Richard Roden • David Schaffnit • Wilson Schoellkopf, Jr. • George R. Schrader • John M. Turner • Albert D. White.

Life Members: Pearl Anderson • Mrs. Frank Austin, Jr. • James N. Landrum • Robert H. Nix • Mrs. Wilson Schoellkopf.

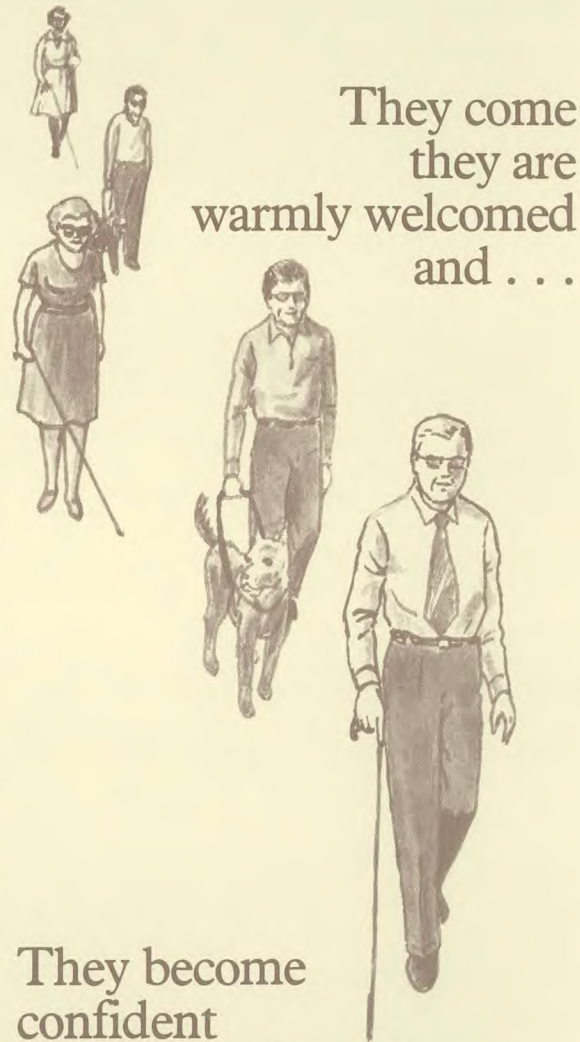
Advisory Council: Mrs. K. E. Burg • Frank Cuellar, Jr. • Mrs. W. A. Dorris • T. A. Workman.

Perhaps there is some way you would like to share

Such as . . .

- By contributing through memorial gifts, legacies, trusts, grants or foundation funding — large or small — no matter.
- By purchasing Skilcraft Products available in supermarkets or direct-to-the home — made by blind workers of the Dallas Lighthouse.
- By becoming a Lighthouse Volunteer and helping in any one of the many areas that is rewarding and fulfilling.
- By learning more about the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind Workshop and Rehabilitation Program.

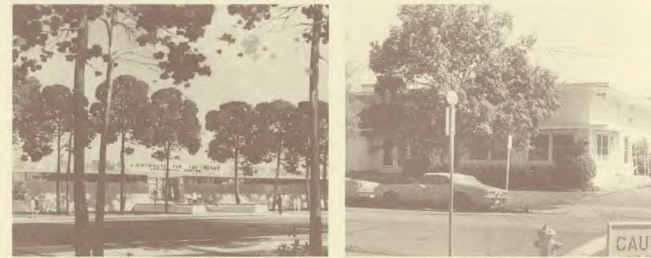
We invite you to visit the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind — both the Administrative and Training Center and the Workshop — and to tour the expanded facilities, meet the staff and see firsthand how meaningful and vital are the services *you* help provide for blind persons.



They come
they are warmly welcomed
and . . .
They become
confident
self supporting citizens

The purpose of this brochure is to bring an awareness to the public of the philosophy, the programs offered, the employment opportunities, and the social services available at the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind.

The Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind, a United Way Agency, provides these services to all visually impaired or multi-handicapped visually impaired individuals seventeen years of age or older, regardless of race, sex, creed, national origin, or geographic residency in the state of Texas.



A complex of facilities providing full services for the visually impaired. Our Administrative Training Center, above, top, was dedicated in the Spring of 1976. In this new building we are able to provide more efficient and thorough training to the visually impaired. Our workshop and warehouse, shown above, left, was expanded by some 16,000 sq. ft. in 1976 to enable us to hire more blind individuals and increase our storage for items produced. Our Social Services Center, above right, is now being used to provide activities for the elderly blind. All social services and counseling for the blind are provided through this center.

May we thank you for your assistance to the Dallas Lighthouse. Your support is as crucial to the future of the blind and multi-handicapped blind individuals as is the dedication of our staff and the determination of the clients themselves.

Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind

Dallas County Association for the Blind

4245 Office Parkway
P. O. Box 64420

Dallas, Texas 75206
(214) 821-2375



“My blindness is my sight. The shadows that I feared so long are full of life and light.”

Alice Cary (blind)

Dallas
Lighthouse for the Blind

The Training Center

Here we are able to provide one of the most modern, scientific and yet practical vocational evaluation and training

programs for adult blind and multi-handicapped blind in the country. In fact, we have been chosen as a pilot in this field of training, by the State.

Adult blind individuals seeking employment opportunities are referred to the Lighthouse Training Center by the State Commission for the Blind. A thorough vocational evaluation is done on each individual admitted into our program to determine vocational potentials and goals. This evaluation is conducted by a well trained staff whose expertise in working with blind and multi-handicapped blind is second to none. Upon completion of this evaluation, a plan of training is developed for the individual which will enable him to use his vocational abilities to their optimum.

When the individual completes his vocational training, the Placement Specialist with the State Commission will assist the blind or multi-handicapped blind in employment opportunities.

After an individual does become employed, the services of the training staff of the Lighthouse are available to him to help him make the adjustment into the new work setting.

The Work Shop

The Lighthouse is recognized for the high quality of products manufactured in its workshop. The most important product of the

Workshop doesn't have a label. It is the self-respect of blind and multi-handicapped blind men and women gained through self-support. Through tremendous effort on the part of experienced supervisors with understanding of the blind; and continuous improvements of working conditions, these blind workers can be assured a good quality of life.

Unlike the image of blind workshops of the past, the Dallas Lighthouse is a model for efficiency, utilizing modern methods, techniques and automated machinery to manufacture its more than sixty different products, which are distributed widespread through Government, retail, wholesale and direct methods.

Sub-contract work from many diversified businesses provides another important source of employment and income for the blind.

The Dallas Lighthouse prides itself on operating one of the most modern and efficient facilities of its type in America. To earn and maintain our position in a highly competitive market, we must produce high *quality* products, for which the Lighthouse is known.

The Services Center

Serving the blind and multi-handicapped blind involves more than vocational training and employment. The

Lighthouse serves the whole person. The main objective of the Social Services Department is that of helping the blind to become as independent as possible. The social worker is constantly alert to social and emotional problems that might interfere with medical care or rehabilitation. The loss of jobs, disruption of the home, and emotional reactions to blindness are often a crucial hurdle that the social worker must help the client to overcome.

The rate of blindness increases with age. Seventy-five percent of those served by this department are fifty-five years of age or older. An additional service for these elderly blind is now being offered through the Social Services Department. The area of social activities is very important to the blind and multi-handicapped blind. These senior blind can participate in daily activities at our Social Services Center, which will enable them to socialize with others and also receive training in independent living skills. This is simply another way that the blind are helped to help themselves.

The services that the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind offers to the blind or multi-handicapped blind are not provided out of sympathy. The blind receive too much of this. Basically, these individuals do not differ from other people except for the fact that they are visually impaired. They were created by the same Creator, who created the whole of mankind. With proper training, they can perform numerous jobs the sighted individual can perform. It is this type of training, giving attention to the "entire person," that is provided at the Dallas Lighthouse.

Understanding and assistance rewards a worthy cause

When anyone, regardless of who that person may be, has a good self-image, and knows he is of some value, that person will respond in kind. This is why the Lighthouse is proud of the performance of its workers. They know they are accepted, not for what they are, but for who they are. They are self-sustaining citizens, taking their rightful position in society and maintaining full self-respect.

To assure a continuing full service program to the visually impaired persons, a tender understanding by responsive individuals and a willingness to assist where the need is greatest is required. YOUR assistance can be a rewarding experience.

Skills training necessary to earn a living is provided blind trainees.



Workers earn a livelihood through productivity in contract department.



Caseworker counsels elderly blind as well as workers and trainees.

