

## Employers Urged To Eye Qualifications in Hiring of Handicapped

Editor's note: The following article was written by Mrs. John W. Sinders in cooperation with National Employ the Handicapped Week, now being observed. In the article Mrs. Sinders tells some of the feeling when her husband, blinded in World War II, was seeking employment. He now is coordinator of selective placement for the physically handicapped at the Camp White Veterans Domiciliary and is a member of the Jackson county committee on employment of the physically handicapped.

Have you ever been with a physically handicapped person as he made the weary rounds seeking employment? Or have you seen him come home at night dejected after hearing the same old story all day long, "Sorry, we can't use you"? You know he could meet the standards set for nearly every job he had sought - all the standards but one - physical perfection.

What did the prospective employers say to this handicapped man? Some said, "you are too old" - too old at 30! Others said, "we don't need anyone" - after having advertised that they did. A few said, "you do not meet our physical standards." None of them tried to see if he could actually do the job for which he had applied.

### Should Face Issues

Here, I think, is where the fault lies. The issue should be faced squarely by prospective employers. And that issue should be "is the man qualified to do the job - can he do the job?" Not, "is he physically perfect?"

Of course, the employer must have standards to meet. He can not permit a person - able - bodied or handicapped - to hold a job where his failings would endanger himself or others. Neither can he afford to place a man in a position which he can not adequately perform. However, selective placement permits him to fit the man to the job.

In a town in central Texas, there is a workshop for the handicapped. Here they make

various articles, ranging from special skirt hangers to furniture. I have seen these people at their tasks; I have even worked with them. Their speed and dexterity at their jobs amazed me.

However, they do not remain on these jobs. They have proved their worth and have no difficulty in obtaining better jobs. One young girl, nearly blind who started working at this workshop, now has her own secretarial service. Several others have moved on to bigger and better things in Dallas, Houston, and Fort Worth.

I am telling you about these people whom you do not know in order to show you that all the handicapped need is a chance to prove their worth. Isn't it time that you, the employer, give the handicapped a chance to prove himself? You'll be glad you did.

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MEDFORD, OREGON, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1958

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### SCATTER TACKS

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near the Tripp st.-Eighth st. intersection to discourage paper boys from riding their bicycles on the sidewalk.

## Eagle Point Grange Takes Second Place

Eagle Point - The Eagle Point Grange has won second place in the state for a community service project report, it was learned here yesterday.

First place was won by the Vale Grange. The Eagle Point Grange prepared a report on all public service activities carried out during the past year and submitted it in the statewide

**OLDER WOMEN WORK**  
Washington - (UPI) - More and more older women are going to work. Labor Department says many mothers of 40 or older are going back to work after their family responsibilities have lessened.

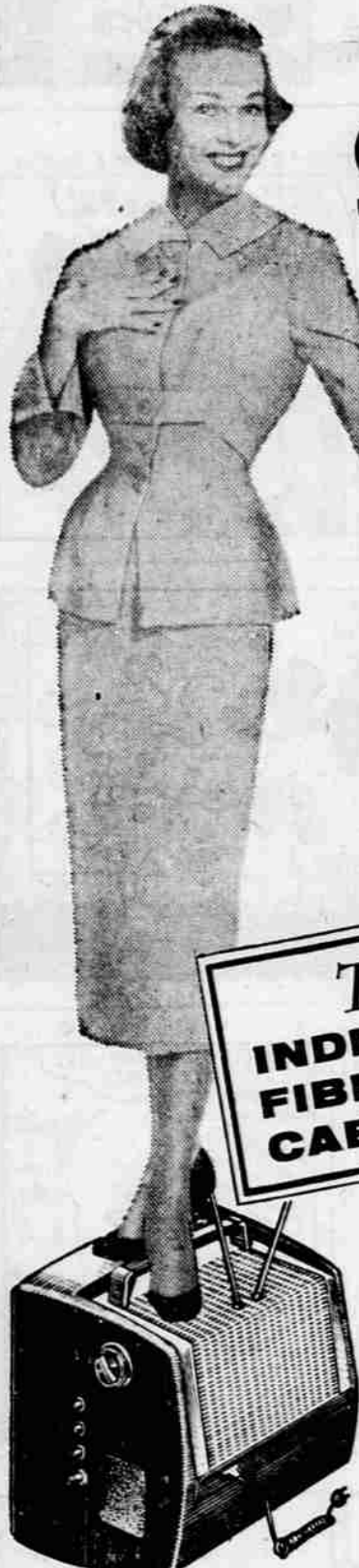
Memphis, Tenn. - (UPI) - Mrs. Walter J. Burke was cited Wednesday as "safe driver of the day" while her husband was getting a ticket for speeding.

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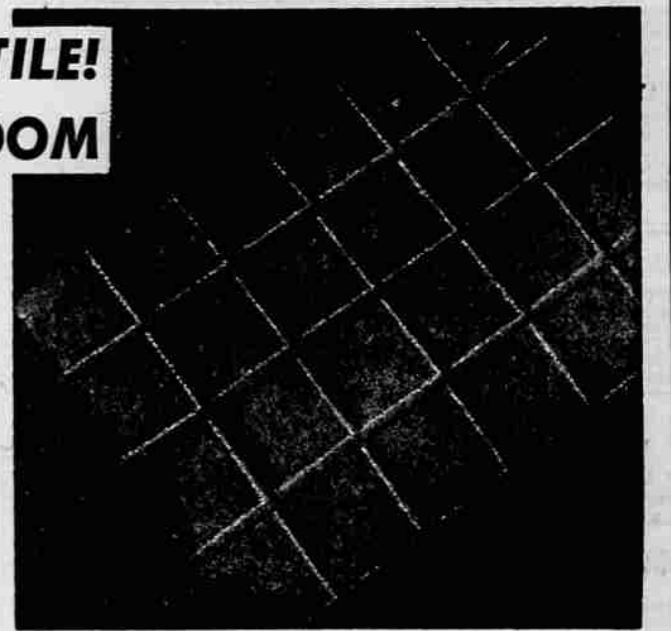
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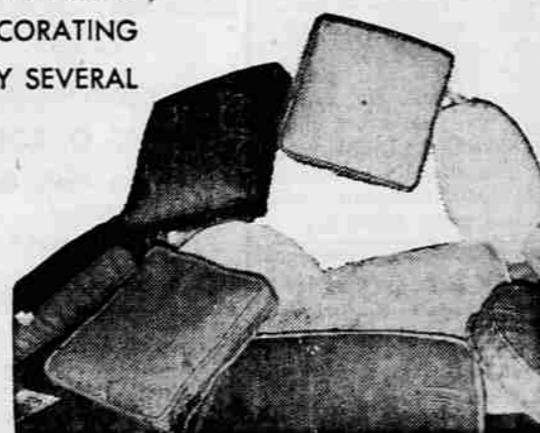
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