

Employ Physical Handicapped Week Being Observed in Area

(Editor's note: The following was written by Jack Stewart, personnel officer at the Veterans Ad-

ministration Domiciliary, White City, who is a member of the Jackson County Committee for the Employ-

ment of the Physically Handicapped.)

By JACK STEWART
Personnel Officer Domiciliary
President Kennedy by proclamation has set aside this week as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped" week.

A unique committee made up of federal, state and private organizations exists in Jackson county to support the President's proclamation and to promote the employment of the physically handicapped.

Members of the committee are Vic Newman, chairman, state employment office, Medford; Jack Stewart, Veterans Administration Domiciliary, White City; Marion R. Anderson, Crater Lake National Park, Medford; Jack H. Nichols, bureau of reclamation, White City; Donald Hansen, Oregon state division of vocational rehabilitation, Medford branch; Clyde Richardson, Oregon state commission for the blind, Medford; Dr. Andrew W. Foley, Veterans Administration Domiciliary, White City; John S. Duffy, Medford; John M. Spangler, Medford; Frank A. Bonsh, Medford; H. Chandler Drew, Medford; and Pete Ruef, Medford.

The committee has noted that the handicapped are a significant component of the American labor and management who have contributed to the prosperity of the country. Disability is a word that for some still has an unpleasant meaning. But why should it? When we look at the word we find that two-thirds of it is made up of ability. Why not look at the ability of the individual and not the disability?

Study of Performance

A study was made of the performance of physically impaired workers. In it, accident records and performance rates of 11,000 physically impaired workers in manufacturing industries were compared with 18,000 physically unimpaired workers.

You may be as amazed as everyone else was at the findings. The findings included the fact that properly placed in a job, the physically handicapped worker produces equally as well as those without physical handicaps. They were excellent safety risks—actually better safety risks than able-bodied persons.

One firm was surveyed which employed only physically disabled workers and records disclose that not a single "lost-time" accident had occurred in four years. Their insurance rates had actually come down.

Plenty of enlightened employers already know this and more, and they lean upon it. They realize that physical fitness is a relative thing and must be judged in relation to its specific job. Government and many companies have a written policy which states that equal consideration will be given to the placement of disabled workers on jobs they are qualified to do. Emphasis is placed on abilities rather than disabilities.

Do Not Distinguish
Many employers have stated, "Actually, when it comes right down to hiring people to work for us, we do

not really distinguish between who is handicapped and who is not." Everyone recognizes that a person must be placed in the proper job and many enlightened employers have found that if a handicapped person is properly placed, the fact that he is disabled disappears.

Veterans Administration Domiciliary at White City has as its major job taking care of handicapped veterans. Not only do they take care of handicapped veterans, but make it a point to employ physically handicapped per-

sons in their civil service positions. Among their working force they have approximately 25 per cent who are handicapped, ranging from severe heart conditions to amputations. Their production and

safety records are excellent and should be a guidepost for all employers. Support of the President's proclamation and the Jackson County Committee for the Employment of the Physically Handicapped is encouraged.



MEETS FORMER CHIEF—California Republican gubernatorial candidate Richard Nixon greets his former chief, Ex-President Dwight Eisenhower, upon his arrival at Los Angeles. The two went to San Francisco where Eisenhower delivered a political address. Nixon then returned to Los Angeles for a political gathering at Hollywood Paudium where Eisenhower's address was seen and heard on closed circuit television. (UPI)

Bringing Old Rail Engine to Ceremony Presents Problems

New York — (UPI) — To turn back the clock a century on a phase of railroad operations is one way to show the contrast with today's advances in the rail industry, but it presents some peculiar problems.

Diesel locomotives in the past 30 years have routed the old steam locomotives from the nation's 220,000 miles of rail lines, and from most of those overseas.

When the electro-motive division of General Motors turned out its 25,000th diesel locomotive and sold it to the Louisville and Nashville Railroad under the builder's locomotive replacement plan, the L&N agreed as part of the formal presentation ceremonies to trot out a 107-year old steam locomotive, the historic "General" of Civil War spy chase fame.

Loaded on Flat Car
Getting it from Louisville to the Chicago area was no problem; it was loaded on a flat car for most of the trip. But it was scheduled to run a dozen or so miles from Chicago, under its own power, over Burlington and Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad tracks to the G-M plant near LaGrange, and it had to be fed with fuel and water.

"That's where the fun came in," explained one railroad source. "It's no trouble to run the cars of one railroad over the tracks of another."

"But when you come to

40 Attend Meeting Of Sheriff Reserves

Approximately 40 persons attended the regular Jackson county sheriff's reserves meeting in the courthouse auditorium Monday.

After a short business meeting presided over by John Creel, reserves captain, a training session on traffic control was held. Instructors were Air Force Maj. George H. Williams, director of security and law enforcement of the 408th fighter group, Kingsley field, Klamath Falls, assisted by Airman First Class Robert Trumppower.

After a movie on traffic problems and procedures, Major Williams emphasized the importance of an organization such as the sheriff's reserve closely working with the Civil Defense agency to handle both man-made and national disasters or emergencies.

The Air Force major said the Jackson county sheriff's reserve is the first organization of its type which he has encountered.

TO BOYCOTT MEETING

Salem — Oregon officials have decided to boycott a personnel management conference to be held in Seattle this winter, "terminating" it but a recruitment program by the federal government to raid states of key staff employees.

motive power, there are complications. Regulations require a tariff be filed. So, officially, this was a "test run."

Converted To Coal
Originally, the General was a wood burner. In the 1870s it was converted to coal; out as the coal loaders vanished with the water tanks, an oil burner was installed to heat the boilers of the venerable but brightly painted veteran. Only last February, it was tested by steam from its own boiler, the first time it had been under pressure since 1914.

Even the oil for the burner presented a minor problem; it burns a different grade from that used by the Burlington. A supply was obtained so that the little locomotive could make its run to greet, face to face on a special track, the big-muscled 2,250 horsepower model GP-30 at the LaGrange plant.

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