

# At Goodwill Industries They Return Handicapped To Mainstream Of Life



Vivian Haselhofer, who spent most of her life as a recluse on a Watsonville farm after a childhood bout with polio, acts as receptionist at the Goodwill Industries plant on Encinal street. She is discussing custom work with Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Bowers of Santa Cruz. Before undergoing training at Goodwill, she had never even gone shopping on her own. "I was even afraid to talk to anyone on the telephone," she grins.

By Wallace Wood  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Crippled limbs, crippled minds and conscientious objectors.

This may sound like an unpromising group of persons to most of us.

But all three types of person work together at Goodwill Industries' warehouse and rehabilitation plant here.

Like the rejects of household clothing, furniture and appliances, the rejects of "normal" life usually emerge from the plant with a new look. They are back in circulation again.

Crippled persons often find they can cope with work and living as well or better than anyone, staff members at Goodwill can tell you.

But problems are solved much easier with education, training, and understanding, as good teachers also will tell you.

A top example of the rehabilitation program is Vivian Haselhofer, who never had ridden a bus, gone shopping, signed a check, had a boyfriend, or lived alone until a few months ago.

By 1968, she may be one of the best secretaries a businessman ever had. She will have been married by then, too.

Vivian is a bright, cheerful woman in her thirties. It's not easy to tell she had nerve-killing polio as a child.

It's also next to impossible to believe she lived almost all her adult life hidden away on an apple farm east of Watsonville, protected and coddled by a family with exactly the wrong ideas on the handicapped.

Not that they didn't try. She had jobs with such businessmen as Bill Johnston of Watsonville. She held that one eight months before becoming ill. It was the longest job she had ever had, before now.

"I couldn't even bring myself to talk to people over the telephone. Look at me now, acting as receptionist part of the day and answering the phone all the time," she grins.

It was during one of three operations in Palo Alto that someone discovered Vivian was wasting her life as a shut-in. That person (she won't say who) urged her to apply to the State Department of Rehabilitation when she was well.

Vivian proved she had the stuff to face this world by taking that first step herself. She was lucky they sent her to Goodwill.

Chaplain Duane Adamson explains that Goodwill always has more applications by handicapped persons for training than they can hire.

If a person is hired, or referred on contract by the state as Vivian, the individual goes through a two-month evaluation program. Personnel director Len Smith, production manager Tom Davies and Adamson all have a chance to evaluate him to see if he can take the simple physical strain of work. Dr. Emanuel Stolman and psychologist Dr. Katherine Field are asked their opinions.

Vivian protested she could not succeed at first, but inwardly she was determined to do just that. She could not drive a car, and had to ask friends, neighbors and family to drive her to and from the Santa Cruz plant each day. It was weeks before the Goodwill staff found out, and helped her find transportation.

Her outlook changed so quickly she soon found an apartment. "They tell me I've changed, though I can't see how," she admits.

After the evaluation period,

the worker begins the job in earnest, trying different posts in the large plant. This is where Vivian is now.

Soon, however, she will begin the actual vocational training process. The state probably will pay her way to a business school and then she has a chance at a job.

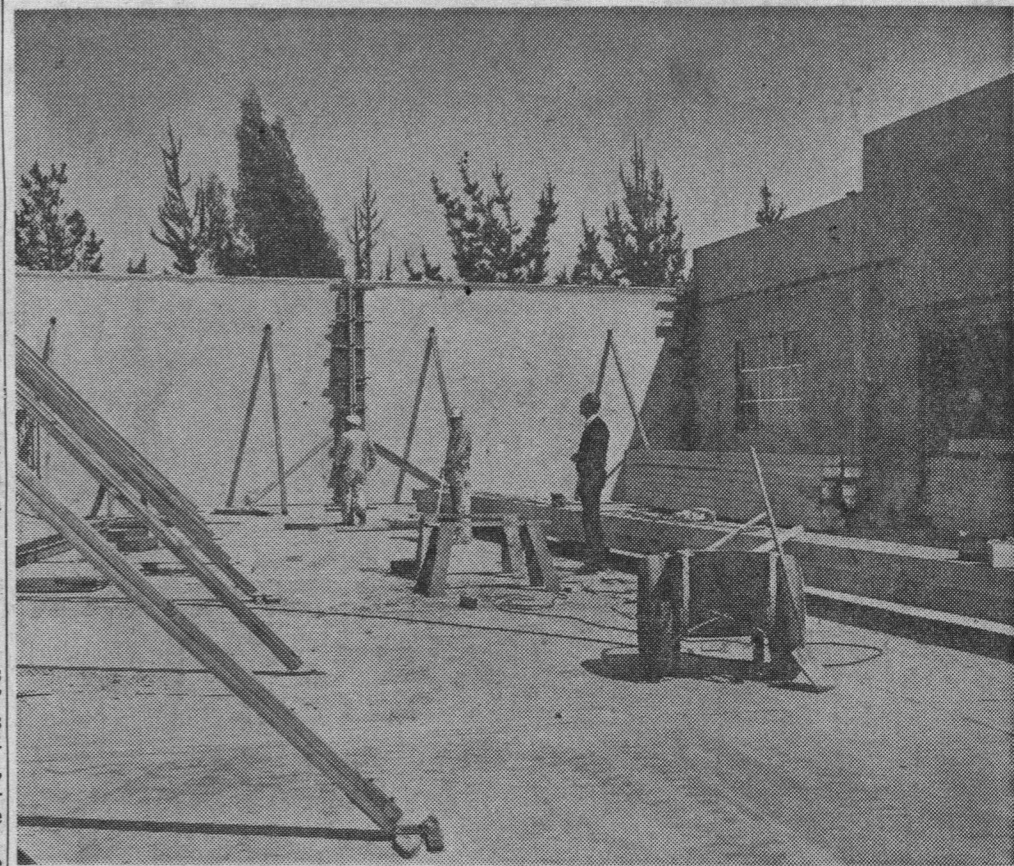
Meanwhile, she has fallen in love and plans to marry within the month to Wendell Est, a fellow employe at the plant.

Adamson can cite many cases of "astounding rehabilitation" besides Vivian's. He also points out that the mentally handicapped also work at Goodwill, and the county refers some persons with mental illness there for work therapy.

Among the employes also are two conscientious objectors, serving their legal military obligation by doing helpful civilian work.

Most of Goodwill's "graduates" join the mainstream of life again, getting jobs with their new-found skills and confidence. Some stay on, "since it makes sense to keep a good man," and go up in the organization.

Goodwill not only produces remanufactured goods for its stores, but also has begun to do "custom work" in the fields of



Goodwill's new addition will house a dry cleaning plant and storage area at 350 Encinal Street. The non-profit organization is celebrating National Goodwill

Week this week. The addition brings the plant's square footage up to 37,500 feet. Chaplain Duane Adamson, center, looks over the work on the cement walls.

printing, cabinetmaking, upholstering, television-radio repair, and appliance repair. By law, however, the company cannot undercut local businessmen with rock-bottom prices, Adamson says. "We are required to keep the price of our work competitive."

Workers in Santa Cruz are

paid by the amount they produce, and Adamson says proudly they earn an average wage "now second among Goodwill stores across the nation."

The service organization gets discreet, but effective help from local merchants. Right now, Goodwill is in the process of adding a new building to house a dry cleaning plant. Ken Merriam of Vapor Cleaners has volunteered much of his time

setting up plans for the operation. "I could name many, many others," Adamson says. "When we need help, all we have to do is ask."

This, then, is the opposite of the vicious circle. The community helps Goodwill, which helps the handicapped, who then learn how they can help the community.

It sounds like a good idea. It is.

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## Beckham Joins UCSC Library

Rexford S. Beckham has joined the staff of the UCSC library as head of technical processes.

Beckham received his AB degree in English at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1952. He continued his education there and earned his Master of Library Science in 1955. He is presently enrolled in the doctoral program in library science at the University of Chicago.

He lives with his wife, also a graduate librarian, and their three children in Aptos.

## National Goodwill Week

This week is National Goodwill Week.

The service organization which trains and employs the handicapped plans special celebrations in the county, which has a key workshop in Goodwill's 175 non-profit workshops throughout the nation.

The shop serves stores in Watsonville, Seaside, Salinas and San Luis Obispo, as well as Santa Cruz.

Larry Dominguez, executive director of the local agency, said many churches will speak on Goodwill's work today.

Chaplain Duane Adamson tomorrow will present a token of appreciation to San Luis Obispo County.

A group of residents from Pleasure Point Mobile Home Manor will tour the facilities at 350 Encinal Street tomorrow afternoon.

Visitors are welcome all week Dominguez said.

On Tuesday, the boards of supervisors of Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties will be given tokens of appreciation.

A ceremony will be held on the courthouse lawn here at 9:55 a.m.

Branciforte Junior High School students will tour the plant on Wednesday, and the Senior Citizens group will be given a tour Friday.

## Water Board Meets In SLV On Wednesday

San Lorenzo Valley county water district directors changed their regular date from next Monday to Wednesday because of the valley general hearing.

The board of directors declared that the general hearing "will include water disposal and the board is important that the keep well informed of activities of the valley."

No mention was made of age disposal in the earlier meetings, the county Treasurer James Mt. Hermon said that it be added in.

Water district directors will meet in offices in Bonaville at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

## Santa Cruz County's Only