

# State Rehabilitation Counselor Specializes In Helping Students to Help Themselves

By LOUIS MORGAN

Almost without notice an office for the rehabilitation of handicapped civilians was set up in College Station in October. Cloaked with a title that includes most of the letters of the alphabet, James Abercrombie, Chief of '44 heads the office. Technically, he is known as Counselor for the Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the State Board of Vocational Education, and he operates from an office in Room 30, PMA Building.

Purpose of his program of Rehabilitation, Abercrombie says, is to enable physically handicapped individuals to become employable. He points out that the service is a public service, in the same sense as the school systems, health centers, and public libraries; it is not charity. He looks upon vocational rehabilitation as a legal right.

Abercrombie graduated from A&M in 1944 in education and rural sociology. He borrowed money for his first three years, but for his last two semesters here he went under the same program he now serves as counselor.

A self-styled accident hazard, Abercrombie lost his arms in a railroad accident in Louisiana in 1935. Before that he had been struck by lightning and pronounced dead by a physician. To the doctor's dismay, Abercrombie survived the bolt, although it caused deafness in his right ear. His father and one of his brothers have also been struck by lightning.

The Rehabilitation office of College Station handles the business of rehabilitation for about

40 students now attending A&M, and Abercrombie plans to increase that number. In addition to serving A&M, the office also serves Blinn Junior College in Brenham, Brazos, Grimes, Burleson and Washington counties.

The office contains testing equipment to determine abilities and interests of men applying for rehabilitation service. From test results and interviews, Abercrombie determines what training procedure should be used to help the individual in obtaining employment. Tuition in college or business, trade or technical school may be paid by the rehabilitation office if it appears that the training will enable the individual to become employable and self-supporting.

Other services available to those who need them include hearing aids, artificial limbs, braces, wheel chairs, or surgery or hospitalization for a short period where it will substantially reduce or remove a static disability.

Congress passed the first Vocational Rehabilitation Act in 1920 but it was not until 1943 when Public Law 13 was passed that the scope of the program was greatly expanded. All men and women in this area over 16 years of age who have a permanent static disability which is an employment handicap are eligible for services offered by Abercrombie's office if they can be made employable by the services.

Abercrombie feels that there are many people in this area who are eligible for the service he renders but who do not know about it. Employment or vocational handicaps that might make a person eligible

for the service are arrested pulmonary tuberculosis, diabetes, hernia, infantile paralysis, amputated or disabled hand or foot, loss of vision in one eye, severe burns with disfigurement or disfiguration, extreme deafness, severe speech impediment, osteomyelitis, curvature of the spine, organic heart disease, tuberculosis of the bone, and other disabilities resulting from disease, accidents or congenital conditions.

Among A&M graduates that have received rehabilitation services is an engineering graduate who was employed by an engineering firm in Oklahoma as a salesman. Abercrombie reports many other cases of disabled men who were trained at A&M and went into jobs at a good salary upon graduation. Another of the A&M graduates went into journalism upon completion of work here.

After rehabilitation and placement, Abercrombie's job is officially finished, but he gains much satisfaction from seeing men he has counseled go into successful occupations.

Abercrombie received a graduate certificate of social work from Louisiana State University after graduation from A&M. Later he came back to A&M for graduate work in rural sociology. He has been employed in public welfare work in Shreveport, Louisiana and as a probation officer in Houston's Pelchin Faith Home and Childrens Bureau.

Prior to establishment of the College Station Office, Abercrombie served the College Station area out of Waco on an itinerant basis. The office was first located in Bizzell Hall on the campus but was moved to a permanent location in the PMA Building in November.

Included in the office equipment is a telephone rack that enables Abercrombie to take notes on telephone conversations. Andy Anderson, outdoor sports editor for the Houston Press, helped design the instrument.

Abercrombie, his wife and four months old daughter have made their home in this area since the office was moved here from Waco.

## WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (AP)—Senator-elect Lyndon Johnson (D-Tex) was a White House caller yesterday.

After conferring with President Truman, Johnson told newsmen he had discussed proposed dams for the Colorado and Guadalupe rivers. Johnson said he had talked with Mr. Truman on the subject when the chief executive was in Texas, and that he wanted to "bring him up to date." He would not elaborate.

Johnson said the president "was very proud of the results" of soil and water conservation developments along the lower Colorado River in Texas, which he saw on his Texas tour.

"I also told him the people were very grateful for his interest in developing the Brazos River Valley. We also discussed plans for the Canadian River, Trinity, and other watersheds in Texas where flood control and soil conservation programs are in the offing."



H. J. MACK, left, from Gatesville and J. T. MOORE, from Dallas inspect the vegetable display at the Horticulture Show. The two students are members of the Horticulture Society.

# 184 A&M Students Named For Scholarship Honor Society

The list of men recently elected to the Scholarship Honor Society has been released by Dr. W. A. Varvel, professor of Psychology. The men of this list were elected on the basis of their records through the first six weeks of the summer session.

Membership in the Honor Society is determined by the following requirements: Seniors must have completed at least six semesters with a grade point ratio of 2 or above. Juniors must have completed five semesters with a grade point ratio of 2.25 or above. Any student who satisfies these requirements and is not included in the list should contact Dr. Varvel in the office of the Department of Education and Psychology, Room 102, Academic Building.

Dues of the society are one dollar, and members receive a membership certificate and automatic eligibility to purchase a key. A meeting of the society has been scheduled for shortly after the holidays at which the new officers will be elected, Varvel added.

Members of the Society from the School of Agriculture include Robert E. Anderson, Joseph T. Asher, John T. Atkinson, Albert Y. Blankenship, Lytle H. Blankenship, Therin D. Carroll, Lemuel R. Case, Carl M. Cater, Harold E. Clark, Jack D. Crout, James F. Davis Jr., George K. Desha, Jack W. Donaldson, Wm. Leopold Fivel, Alonzo W. Gates, Charles Wayland Green, Patrick B. Hall, Webster M. Hutto, Raymond G. Kay, Henry J. Keller, and James P. Kelley Jr.

Others in the School of Agriculture are Carl R. Kemplin, Terrell T. McGee, Travis McD. McKenzie, Truman G. Martin, Rayburn E. Morgan, John D. Nixon, Charles H. Noland, Johnnie C. Oswald, Daniel C. Pannstiel, Grady E. Russell, Horace D. Stearman, William E. Steele Jr., James R. Stroope, Billy G. Survant, James F. Whaley, and Alfred L. Wheeler Jr.

Members from the School of Arts and Sciences include Richmond O. Bennett, Jim M. Bevans Jr., Clifton J. Bolner, Paul H. Bowdin Jr., Roger R. Bradford, John F. Couch, John Ed. Dieb, James H. Edgar Jr., Antonio Haddad, Burton W. Hink Jr., Edward A. Hinkle, R. B. Krause, Herbert W. McDonald, Noel F. Miller, Harry G. Morgan, Donald L. Peters, Benjamin G. Sanders, John B. Singletary, James Neil Smith, Clifford A. Taylor, Carroll C. Trail, and Lavelle Wolf.

From the School of Engineering, 112 men are members. These include William C. Abbey, James W. Alexander, Robert G. Alexander, Maury A. Babin, Henry C. Ball, Elbert R. Baugh, Kenneth L. Berglund, Jack R. Blann, C. M. Boatwright Jr., Kenneth B. Hobkoff, Everett A. Boyd,

Harry G. Boyton, Richard D. Branum, Jack E. Brown, Quenton S. Bullock, Truman M. Byrd, Richard J. Carlton, Raymond M. Champion, Billy L. Couch, John Hall De Garbo, and Billie L. Dickenson.

Also from the School of Engineering are James H. Dismukes Jr., N. E. Eberspacher, Richard M. Edmiston, Glenn Ellis, Harold B. Emery, Robert E. Evans III, Wm. L. Evans, Kenneth E. Foster, Robert D. Foster, Gillig L. Fromme, Leonard M. Gabert, Houston L. Gaddy Jr., Oscar M. Garcia, Edwin G. Gibson, Vernon H. Goodwin Jr., George G. Greenwell, Erasmo T. Guerrero, Ripley B. Harwood, William H. Hawes, Norman C. Heffron Davis Ed. Honbler, Charles P. Howard, David R. Howell, Richard D. Hull, James A. Hunter, Benja-

min F. Huss, Jules J. Jacquin Jr., Jerome C. Kearby, William A. Keeler, Robert L. Klein and James W. Knox.

Other members of the Society from the School of Engineering are Billy Langford, Lindsay I. Lipscomb, George A. Lowes, Byron L. Lyday, Hugh W. McCleskey, William C. McCord, Edwin McGhee, Charles I. McGinnis, William J. Mannas, Harold D. Mayberry, Richard D. Melear, John H. Miller, Lucian L. Morgan, Answell R. Morse, Jon Thomas Moss, Charles G. Munden, George C. Murtishaw, Edward J. Opersteny, Homer C. Osborne, August J. Otte, A. G. Pisono, James V. Proffitt, Alton B. Purdy, Edwin F. Redondo, Bob Harold Reed, Richard C. Richardson, John J. Riha, Cloyd M. Roberts,

# Poison, Embezzlers Crooks Make News

By DAVE COSLETT

Crazy from the heat? Something besides a drunk earthquake in California must have been afoot this week because things haven't been so peaceable outside the Brazos bottoms.

A glance at bulletins from the AP wire will substantiate this statement. It seems that the weather isn't the only unusual thing this week. Take the following collection of items gathered from Tuesday's Associated Press news for example:

Ft. Worth leads the parade with two juicy news items. First, a 61-year-old mother was indicted by a Tarrant County grand jury on charges that she murdered her husband, daughter and son-in-law by "mingling" strychnine in medicine taken by the three. The indictment, by the way, came about by an offer through the newspaper to appear before the grand jury so that

she might be indicted, tried and have her name finally cleared.

In addition to this, Ft. Worth offers another item concerning two men arrested by the police on charges of disturbing the peace and violating the liquor curfew law. This in itself is not spectacular except for the fact that the entire happened to be an assistant district attorney and member of the liquor control board.

San Antonio also has contributed its bit to Tuesday's rather flashy passing parade. A bulletin from that fair city revealed that the First State Bank of Franklin, Tex., had lost \$82,000 through an apparent embezzlement. Left with that much in worthless checks or their hands, officials had as the only suspect a business man from the area who has been missing since the latter part of November. The bank deposits are being taken over by the First National Bank of Franklin. The First State Bank is closing its doors.

From south of the border came another news oddity. A bulletin from Buenos Aires disclosed that the chief of President Juan D. Peron's police bodyguard received \$92,000 bribe for backing an Italian-Argentine Aluminum factor deal which fell through. Four other persons have been charged with fraud against the public. Across the Atlantic, news bulletins from Marburg, Germany disclosed that a 23-year-old Ne England housewife went on trial for her life in what one observer remarked would probably become known as "The Detective Story Murder." She is charged with shooting her husband during a quarrel on September 20. Her husband was an American soldier from Goliad, Texas.

The most sensational bulletin of the day, however, came from the section of the world bearing Houston date-line. This item announced a brutal killing that ended a two year inmate "grudge war" at the Reidsville Prison Farm.

While a large group of prisoners attracted prison guards attention by "hollering," another group decapitated a fellow inmate. The head of the victim was a reputed trouble-maker, was found on a table three feet from his body.

Which all goes to show that the weather was not the only unusual thing this week. Incidentally, the losses predominated in Tuesday stock market.



JAMES M. ABERCROMBIE, state rehabilitation counselor, and MRS. DOROTHY R. SHIPPER, secretary, check the files of one of their clients who is attending A&M under the state rehabilitation program for the training of disabled persons.



Here is a big International Truck doing a big job—taking huge logs out of the woods to a sawmill where they will be cut into lumber for much-needed homes.

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