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"QUALITY FIRST"

Mission director leaves for writing, relaxation

By CATHY RANDALL
Battalion Staff Writer

The Reverend Hugh Eiland is leaving Bryan and the Twin City Mission after seven years of service as of Oct. 31.

The executive director of the Mission and his family are moving to Vero Beach, Florida where he said he wants to relax and do some writing.

"I'm starting on my second 50 (years)," Eiland said, "and I hear it is harder than the first 50. I'm sure that I'll soon get tired of relaxing and perhaps look into the need of a mission in that area."

When Eiland came to the Mission in July 1968, it had been closed for four years because of financial problems. Eiland took over and initiated several programs.

"I accepted it as a challenge," he said. "The first thing the directors and I did was borrow \$1,500 to turn on lights and water."

The Mission's goal is to rehabili-

tate destitute persons by aiming them toward productive work. The Helping Hand stores were opened in 1968 on Main Street in Bryan, across from the Mission. They provided work for the men who repaired donated furniture and appliances.

Another revenue-producing program was converted from a \$2,000 a year deficit to a \$6,500 gain. The Mission collected junked refrigerators in the vacant lot behind the mission and carried them to the dump. Eiland began to suspect that the same items were reappearing in the lot every six weeks or so.

He proved this by marking the bottoms of the refrigerators with a red pen.

"What was happening was people would pick up the refrigerators at the dump and when they found out how much it costs to repair it, they would call the Mission to pick it up," Eiland said.

Eiland was perplexed about the problem.

"You don't ask a middle class family when they call to donate something if they got it at the city dump," he said.

"I got the idea to dismantle the refrigerators which would bring in income and give the men an opportunity to work," he said.

"Although the program has never shown an overall profit it accomplishes our goal," he continued.

"The motivating factor behind all the work of Twin City Mission is to share the fact of God's love for all humanity through our concern and actions," a Mission newsletter says.

Fifty per cent of the Mission's labor is involved with the paper recycling center on San Jacinto Street. The center, which opened in November 1973, provides therapeutic work in a semi-structured atmosphere, Eiland said.

"Ninety-five percent of our



Hugh Eiland

people have a serious or acute alcohol problem, and all have a jail record as long as your arm," he said.

"The skid row alcoholic is not a dummy-type of fellow," Eiland said. The average education of the men being treated at the Mission in 1974 was 9.9 years. More than 10 per cent had some college education.

Their work backgrounds revealed that 38 per cent were non-skilled, while 29 per cent were skilled and

1.8 per cent were professionally skilled. Many came to the Mission with repair skills.

In 1973 the Mission started a detoxification facility.

"This is for the person who has an alcohol flow in his bloodstream and needs to be under close supervision," Eiland explained.

Eiland's wife, Georgia, a nurse, is often called at night to diagnose a patient at the Mission who has gone into delirium tremors.

"I am so tired of hearing that you can build up a tolerance to alcohol. It just isn't so," Eiland said.

The Reverend was in a hurry to deliver a load of furniture Tuesday afternoon. Whenever one of the men goes "off the wagon", either Eiland or Colonel Leron Schoenemann, a member of the Mission's board of directors, must take over their duties. This ranges from driving to cooking.

In May the Mission became the sponsors of an Emergency Child Care Shelter. The facility, located at 506 W. 27th St., houses children who have been abused neglected or abandoned. The center, which has a 10-bed capacity, serves seven counties.

"There is a lot of community interest in this program," Eiland said. "I think this is because everyone has been a child, but not everyone has been an alcoholic."

Schoenemann will assume Eiland's job until the board hires a replacement.

"We are looking for an ordained minister with experience in this type of work," Schoenemann said.

He said the salary was flexible, but the least amount was about \$10,000.

Research funds upped

Allocations for research during September, first month of the 1975-76 fiscal year, pushed Texas A&M to a \$2.4 million head start over last year's figures.

State appropriations, state agencies, institutional funds, private organizations and the federal government combined to give the university about \$24,460,000 in research dollar value for the beginning of the fiscal year, up from the September total of \$22,080,000 last fiscal year.

The College of Agriculture and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station received the majority of funds, almost \$17.2 million.

Receiving a \$5 million total were the College of Engineering, Texas Engineering Experiment Station and Texas Transportation Institute.

Other totals awarded were \$780,987 to the College of Veterinary Medicine; \$530,922, College of Science; \$183,300, College of Marine Sciences; \$137,500, College of Liberal Arts; \$121,151, College of Geosciences; \$54,000 each to the Colleges of Business Administration and Education; \$42,500, College of Architecture and Environmental Design, and \$350,215 to various other programs.

State appropriations accounted for \$17,739,773 of the September total.

THE PANTRY

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