

Sheltered Workshop Looks To Business

The success of a workshop for retarded youth, which will be established in a few weeks at the Plymouth State Home and Training School, depends on the participation of local businessmen.

"A workshop such as this one is not an 'abracadabra' thing," said Robert Devine, administrator of the proposed program which will provide retarded young men and women in the Wayne County Community School district and Plymouth State Home employ-

ment for the first time in their lives.

The workshop requires much more than a magic word and a snap of the fingers; it means that a lot of people will have to become involved if it is to succeed.

"We would like to be in operation by the first week of February," said Dr. Homer Weir, medical superintendent at the home.

DR. WEIR and Devine both outlined the type of commun-

ity participation they are seeking.

"We want to contract work from small industries," said Dr. Weir and explained that the program hopes to find several local firms who need salvage work done.

"Lots of firms need pieces of things salvaged from scrap, barrels of parts that have fallen on the floor sorted, or small parts assembled," said Dr. Weir.

If the home should get contracts of this nature, it will be Devine's job to determine how long it will take the workshop members to complete them and at what cost.

"We want to start small, or we'll have chaos," Devine said and outlined plans for the workshop's beginning.

"FIRST OF ALL we have to determine what a normal person can do so we'll probably have a trial run with members of the staff," he said.

He then will contrast that with what the retarded group is able to accomplish in order to come up with an equitable price for the labor.

Wage scales, union and non-union shops, and jobs that are not too sophisticated are some of the factors which will have to be considered as the program progresses.

"You have a lot of questions without answers when you begin something like this. But if you waited for all the answers, you'd never get started," Devine said.

WHEN THEY do get started it will mean that a small number of boys and a smaller number of girls presently attending the Cleveland School for retarded in Wayne will be transported to a building on the grounds of the Plymouth State Home.

They will work a short work day at first: perhaps from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. But if things go well, patients at the home will take their places in the "mini-factory" and continue working on the contracted jobs. Ultimate plans included

integration of the two groups.

While they are working, Devine will be evaluating. He'll be filling out data on each workshop participant to find the capacity of each, and if they aren't able to keep up with production, the reason for it.

"We can't expect 100% performance. But regardless of how retarded they are, they must have a feeling of belonging—that's what most of the kids who are institutionalized miss."

Even though they may never leave the institution, they will have a feeling of belonging to something," Devine said.

"I've been working with retardation for 10 years, and to most of the public it's a scary word, but people do have feelings for these children," he said.

He hopes that in the next few days they show these feelings with contracts for jobs such as stuffing envelopes, sorting scrap and/or assembling and packaging small parts.



DAN SHORR, 25326 Middle Belt, Farmington, displays the 15 lb. barracuda he entered in the Metropolitan Miami Fishing Tournament in the General Division. He fished with Capt. Henry Tooma out of the Castaways Motel Docks on North Beach.

Pettibone Lake Is 'Hot Spot' For Bluegills

Pettibone Lake in Oakland County proved the hottest fishing spot last week with "fairly good catches of bluegills" reported by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources officer.

Other areas surveyed were light to fair.

Light fishing pressure on Lake St. Clair over the weekend and medium pressure on Anchor and Congor Bays were matched by "light" catches of perch.

"A few nice pike were speared off Cotton Road behind Selfridge Field. A few bluebills and crappies were taken in Congor Bay."

"There were some fairly good pike catches on White Lake and Middle Straits Lake. Some fishermen were getting crappies on Kent Lake. Muceday Lake is just fair for trout."

There are about 15,000 air controllers directing traffic at the nation's airports.



JAMES W. ERICKSON of 19784 Maplewood, Livonia, has been promoted to the new post of second vice president for financial planning and control by Alexander Hamilton life insurance Co., Farmington, Erickson, who was previously director of internal audit, attended Ohio State University and joined Hamilton in 1965 after working for a Detroit accounting office.

Commonwealth Per Share Net Rose 52 Pct.

Bank of the Commonwealth has announced consolidated income available to common shareholders (but before securities losses) of \$12,570,432, an increase of 30.3% over 1968 profitability of \$9,645,896.

Earnings per common share were \$4.13 in 1969, as contrasted with \$3.17 in 1968.

Under the "new reporting" regulation prescribed by the Federal Reserve System, "net income" which reflects earnings available to common shareholders after the realization of net securities gains or losses, aggregated \$11.3 million for 1969, as contrasted with \$7.4 million in 1968, or an increase of 52.7%.

Earnings for 1968 have been restated in conformity with the "new reporting" method to include, in addition to securities transactions, provisions for real and potential losses on loans. Net income per common share totaled \$3.72 in 1969 vs. \$2.44 in 1968, a 52% increase.

(All per share earnings have been adjusted to reflect a 3-for-2 split of common shares effected in April 1969.)

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New Chairman For Conservation

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E. M. "Matt" Lattala of Hancock has been unanimously elected chairman of Michigan's Natural Resources Commission for 1970. He was named to succeed

August Scholle, labor leader from Royal Oak who held that post for the past year.

Lattala owns a publishing firm, the Book Concern. Printers, Inc., in Hancock.

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