

Training Newsbeat...

1,900 Mentally Retarded To Be Trained On the Job

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Nearly 1,900 mentally retarded persons in 32 states will be placed in on-the-job training with \$700,000 in Federal funds, Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan announced.

Under a one-year contract, the National Association for Retarded Citizens (NARC) will promote and develop subcontracts to train retarded persons on the job in a variety of occupations such as nurse aide, child care attendant, park attendant, kitchen helper and nursery worker.

Successful completers will be guaranteed employment and will receive the minimum wage or prevailing wage rate, whichever is higher. They will also be entitled to full employee benefits.

Prospective trainees will be referred to local State Employment Service offices by State and local Divisions of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The NARC is a national non-profit organization which operates primarily on the local level to help retarded persons become productive citizens. Under five previous contracts with the Labor Department, NARC helped place more than 5,300 such individuals in full-time jobs.

Conference Center Expands

SOUTHBURY, Conn. — A major expansion that will almost double meeting room space is currently underway at Harrison Inn, an executive conference center in Heritage Village, Southbury, Conn. Five new meeting rooms will be added, creating a total of

21 meeting rooms in a range of sizes that can accommodate groups of two to 200 conferees, according to Richard R. Joaquim, senior vice president and director of design, for Conference Service Corp., parent company for the Harrison Executive Conference Centers.

Rustic Harrison Inn, reminiscent of the country inns of early New England, assumes a dual role in the Heritage Village planned community. The Inn is both a full-time conference center for the serious business, professional or association meeting, and also a weekend resort lodge for the community.

A new one-story wing will add 5,520 square feet to the conference facility and will include two meeting rooms, size 27' x 40', with a total capacity for 90 participants, and three smaller meeting rooms, size 14' x 26'.

The new construction also will double the size of the Lincoln Room which will be able to accommodate up to 200 conferees and will be equipped for multimedia presentations. All rooms will have the same up-to-date audio visual capabilities, standard in Harrison Executive Conference Centers, including closed circuit TV and video tape replay.

Hospitals Install In-House Video Instruction Systems

DES MOINES, Iowa — Mercy and Iowa Lutheran hospitals, Des Moines, Iowa, have installed video cassette equipment to be used with inhouse TV for the convenience of physicians and other medical personnel wishing to further their medical education.

Video cassettes inserted in players (similar in concept to audio cassette players) will connect with standard color TV sets to utilize a variety of programs of current interest. Included will be such subjects as surgery, internal medicine, dermatology, electrocardiology, obstetrics, gynecology, allergy, psychiatry and other specialties.

According to Dr. Donald Young, director of medical education at Iowa Lutheran and Dr. Noble W. Irving, head of radiology and chairman of the committee on Continuing Medical Education at Mercy Hospital, both institutions have long felt the need for individualized, advanced medical education for staffs and attending physicians. In the past, both have had to obtain film themselves, secure projectors and projecting rooms, then notify physicians that showings would be available.

Under the new service provided, those wishing to view operations, hear lectures and otherwise instruct themselves will merely select cassettes from more than 150 subjects available, insert them in players and watch television. Inasmuch as this can be done in the physician's own time and at his or her convenience, no scheduling will be required.

