

Handicapped Made Self-Supporting, Happy Through Work in Industries for Blind

Sightless Can Make Many Things, Such as Sheets, Belts, Mops

By AL JEDLIKA

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On September 8, 1942, the Illinois Industries for the Blind, incorporated four months earlier as a non-profit organization, opened operations in an old four-story structure at 1310 South Newberry St., on Chicago's historic east side.

Established by Edward S. Molineaux, the institution was designed to provide regular employment for the blind, partially blind and crippled, rather than the usual devices for passing away time or meriting a dole.

By May 1, 1943—nine months after having been opened—the success of the Illinois Industries for the Blind was confirmed when the United States maritime commission awarded the plant an "M" pennant for outstanding production of sheets and pillow cases for Liberty ships, the first ever given to an institution of this nature. Six months later, the maritime commission added to the honors with the presentation of a gold star, for bettering the previous production and absentee record.

The enviable performance of the Illinois Industries for the Blind merely established Mr. Molineaux's long-time conviction on the capabilities of the blind, partially blind and crippled if properly encouraged. Partially blind himself, Mr. Molineaux's conclusions probably were inspired by his own experience of over 25 years, dating back to his education at Illinois' Jacksonville State School for the Blind, and his subsequent life work among the sightless.

Leaving Jacksonville, Mr. Molineaux took up the task of placing blind switchboard operators in Illinois, and then he went to the east, where he joined the Brooklyn Association for Improving Conditions for the Poor. Over 100 years old, this institution specializes in the assistance of the blind and crippled.

Eight Institutions in U. S.
Among those in the forefront of the work to restore the blind, partially blind and crippled to useful positions in society, Mr. Molineaux is one of the few who have taken a slow but steady step throughout the U. S. The past few years have seen new organizations under state supervision, and the one in Illinois, under Molineaux's management aided by farm and industrial contributions.

The restoration of the sightless to useful citizenry remains the greatest impetus in 1936, when the American Congress passed legislation setting up a list of products for their government to purchase from blind workers. To facilitate the program, the American Foundation for the Blind inspired the organization of the National Industries for the Blind, which act as a clearing house for blind workers to the various blind plants.

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Speed and Complexity of Modern Living Imposes Strain on Eyes Unknown to Primitive Peoples

Long working hours and difficult visual tasks are imposed upon the eyes by modern civilization, says an educational bulletin issued by the Better Vision Institute, New York.
"Man has had to pay a price for many of the advances of civilization. While he remained in the primitive state he lived according to nature's plan. He rose with the dawn and fished during the day-

cases where such institutions are partly financed by private contributions, like the Illinois Industries, they are not expected to sell their goods below the market price, although they can sell above it.

Employment for 125.

A visit to the Illinois Industries for the Blind plant in Chicago at once impresses one with the capability of the 125 blind, partially blind and crippled employees. At one time, the factory had a peak employment of 230 people, many of whom have since gone to accept positions in various war industries.

On all three of the floors, one will find the handicapped busily engaged in different forms of work suited to their capacities, with the blind chiefly employed on jobs where some form of mechanical guides are provided, the partially blind on objects large enough for their limited sight, and the crippled on tasks not requiring complete freedom of movement.

On the second floor, one sees the blind engaged in folding paper caps for permanent wave outfits, and in assembling wooden doll sets.



On the third floor about 40 women turn out sheets and pillow cases at good speed, despite their handicap. After two months of training, a woman can put seams in about 66 dozen pillow cases a day. The hemmers, who must have 10 per cent or better vision, can finish about 90 dozen cases daily.

An "electric eye," shown below, protects the operators from injury by stopping the sewing machine when fingers get too close to the needle and interrupt the beam of light that must shine constantly while the machine is running.

Those proficient in folding paper caps can turn out as many as 986 a day and average around \$5.50 for eight hours' work. There is not so much skill required in cap making, as there is a familiarity, or feel, of the paper.

Turning from the paper cap folders, one comes to a long assembly line of blind filling little cardboard boxes with parts of wooden dolls, and then packing these along with containers holding different water colors into single sets. Holes in the body of the wooden dolls into which the head, arms and legs are inserted are drilled by blind on mechanical equipment up on the fourth floor of the plant. Ten workers can assemble about 1,000 sets a day.

One of the most interesting and important of the plant's operations is on the third floor, where blind and partially blind women produce sheets and pillow cases.

Under a full-sighted supervisor, 40 impaired women keep the latest type sewing machines with necessary adjustments buzzing at top speed.

First, there are the women who put seams into the pillow cases, being able to turn out about 66 dozen daily, after two months of training. Machines are equipped with a "seeing eye," which stops their operation when the workers' fingers stray too close to the needle.

Then there are the hemmers, with partially blind with at least 10 per cent vision being preferred for this more exacting work of turning the material over, smoothing and then securing it. After six months' training, a good hemmer averages 90 dozen a day, but a blind person could produce only half of this.

At the time the plant was visited, a young woman was being broken into the overlocking process of over-stitching on the outside to give better strength and appearance. Time and again, she practiced guiding the material to the needle, patiently

training her partial sight on the work.

Because the blind could not inspect the finished goods and the bright glare of the white material could not be withstood by the partially blind, full-sighted people are employed for this work.

Since undertaking government work, the Illinois Industries for the Blind has delivered over 2,000,000 sheets and pillow cases to the services.

Make Wooden Mats.

Up on the fourth floor of the plant, one sees a cripple and the blind combine to produce colored wooden mats under the supervision of a partially blind foreman, Gerard Harold, Canadian born and English educated, who once ran a coffee importing business in Africa.

Cut to size by a cripple, the wood-



en rods forming the skeleton of the mat through which the different colored pieces are strung, are drilled by a blind person, who possesses a remarkable mechanical touch, according to Mr. Harold. Because of this touch, Harold said, the blind man can sense any imperfection in the operation of the machine, and then go about correcting it.

The mats themselves are strung by the blind, who figure how many pieces go into each one, and thereby are able to judge just where the colored beads are to be placed. Trained in three or four weeks, a blind person can average about 40 mats daily.

Also on the fourth floor is the leather department, worked by crippled and blind. Using discarded leather scraps from shoe factories, the crippled punch out fancy strips, while the blind make holes, as for the insertion of elastic bands for suspenders.

Also on the fourth floor, the plant had received old looms, which it was contemplating setting up for the future production of yarn for mops, using handles produced by the Illinois Industries, Mattoon, Ill., broom factory.

In the office of the plant, one met Ethel Heeren, blind executive secretary, and Earl Barrett, partially blind general manager. One also met partially blind Wells Mori, active little public relations officer of the plant.

Earn \$25 a Week.
From Mori, one learned that ambitious employees of the plant average about \$25 weekly, which with their useful work, gives them position in society.

"Younger handicapped people coming to us who are broken in early into useful social occupations, develop a healthier point of view than the older people who have always more or less been felt to be a burden," Mori said.

"Sometimes, the most difficult problem is inculcating the work habit into some of the older people," Mori continued. "Laziness in coming down on time, or sometimes not at all, and of not producing at their capacity are shortcomings of many handicapped people which can only be ironed out by careful handling, since you cannot push them."

"We do not take all of the handicapped, of course," Mori continued, "but most of those that we do take develop the work habit and become proficient workers."

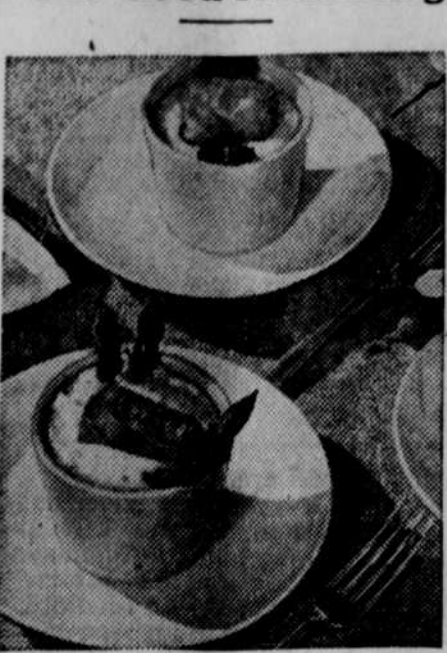
"Because of differences in aptitudes and the need for stimulating their efforts, workers are paid on a piece-work basis," Mori said. "But even though their production rates are high, they still usually fall below the sighted standards. In those cases, our products must sell at higher levels on the market."

As an indication of the skill and earning power of many of the Illinois Industries for the Blind employees, some have been hired by the nation's busy war plants to assist in the battle of production, while a goodly number were only too proud to take their place in line and pay Uncle Sam an income tax for the first time out of their wages.

eye! The almost miraculous progress that has been made in recent years in artificial illumination has driven men more and more indoors. Sunset no longer marks the end of the day. The quest for recreation, and comfort continues with little thought to the needs of the eyes.
"Of all human possessions sight is among the most precious. As with most of nature's gifts we take sight for granted. Only when it is injured do the majority of us suddenly make frantic efforts to regain it."



Keep to Simplicity In Foods, Serving For Good Hostessing



Create this spring tonic by using salmon and asparagus in a custard when eggs are plentiful. Bake in ramekins set in a pan of water, using a moderate oven so that the texture of the custard will be perfect.

Hospitality is unrationed even in wartime. Food restrictions curb the serving of elaborate meals, but homemakers still want their friends over for a pleasant chat over luncheon or to "try out something new" in the way of a recipe.

Simplicity is the keynote of good entertaining. It doesn't do to try out complicated recipes or menu patterns just to make an impression. If something goes wrong then everything is thrown off schedule and as a result the guests may be made uncomfortable, thus defeating the whole purpose of getting together.

With time at a premium, simple combinations are the order of the day. This will keep fuster at a minimum and the food budget within its bounds.

HOSTESS LUNCHEON MENU
Meat Ball Pancakes
Creamed Peas
Celery Rolls
Lemon Tarts
Endive Salad
Jelly
Coffee

Simple is as simple does! Bake tartlets ahead of time, fill with a prepared filling if you're rushed for time. Set dough for rolls and shape before luncheon, and in the meantime make cream sauce for fresh, shelled peas or canned, and pop the

celery in ice water for curling purposes. Pancakes wait for the last. Mix batter—go powder your nose—and pop them on the griddle just before the guests come in. Easy does it!

Meat Ball Pancakes. (Serves 6)
3 eggs
½ pound ground beef
¼ teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
Dash of pepper
1 teaspoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon minced parsley
1 tablespoon grated onion
Beat egg yolks until light, blend in remainder of ingredients and last stiffly beaten egg whites. Drop spoonfuls on hot griddle. When browned and puffed, turn and brown other side. Serve with mushroom sauce, if desired.

HOSTESS LUNCHEON MENU
Salmon Asparagus Custard
Jellied Grapefruit—Lime Salad
Whole Wheat Muffin
Rhubarb Crisp

A delicate custard with perfect texture is the base of this menu—orange-pink in color with green asparagus tips. Rhubarb Crisp is a

Lynn Says:
"Dress-Up! Domestic herbs will dress many a stew and pot-pie into a dish fit for kings. Try a dash of thyme, marjoram and sage, but remember, just a dash!"

Meat loaves become party-ish if topped with catsup. Meat pies take on color if topped with green pepper rings before serving.

Muffins and rolls made in small-size muffin tins give distinction to dinners and luncheons. Pieces of leftover fruit atop muffins and breads are colorful.

Vegetables are gay if served in buttercups. Trim crusts off bread slices, press them in muffin cups and toast to a golden brown. Very pretty!

Give these beauty-aids to salads and garnishes: carrot curls are made by slicing carrots thinly lengthwise with a carrot cutter and winding the slice around finger. Let crisp in cold water. Peel cucumber thinly, and run prongs of fork down the length of the cucumber. Slice thinly.

Be a Hostess!

Not just in name but in deed! As a hostess, see that your guests are comfortable, not just in food you feed them but in the conversation channels into which you guide them; in the introductions by which you open up new worlds and friends to them; in the games which they play; in everything, be gracious, smiling and untruffled. Yours then will be the invitations they prize.

delightful dessert very much in season.

Liquor from the canned salmon contains precious vitamins and minerals; it should be used in the custard as part of the liquid and for purposes of flavor.

Salmon Asparagus Custard. (Serves 4)

1 pound canned salmon
¼ cup salmon liquor
¼ cup chicken broth (or 1 chicken cube dissolved in ¼ cup hot water)
1 cup light cream
3 eggs, slightly beaten
Salt, pepper
1 cup asparagus tips (cooked in boiling water for 10 minutes)

Flake salmon into large pieces. Scald salmon liquor, chicken broth and cream. Add to slightly beaten eggs. Season to taste with salt and pepper, then add flaked salmon.

Arrange asparagus tips around edges of ramekins so that the tips show just above the edge of the ramekin. Four custard mixture into ramekins. Bake in a pan of hot water in a moderate (350-degree) oven for about 45 minutes until custard is set.

Rhubarb Crisp. (Serves 5 to 6)

¼ cup butter or substitute
¼ cup sugar
1 egg
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
¼ teaspoon vanilla
1 cup toast cubes
2 cups cereal flakes
2 cups diced fresh rhubarb

Blend ¼ cup sugar with butter. Add egg and beat well. Stir in nutmeg, flavoring, toast cubes and cereal flakes. Spread half of the mixture in buttered baking pans and arrange rhubarb evenly over top; sprinkle with remaining sugar and cover with remainder of mixture. Bake in a moderate oven (375 degrees) about 40 minutes until rhubarb is tender. Serve warm with cream, if desired.

HOSTESS BUFFET DINNER

Ham Ring with Creamed Potatoes
Garnish: Spiced Peaches
Buttered Green Beans
Cucumber Pear Aspic
Hot Rolls
Devil's Food Cake
Beverage

A few large, attractive platters will hold the menu placed on a large dining room table or buffet for easy self-service. As soon as the ham ring is unmolded, spoon creamed potatoes into center, and garnish outside of ring with parsley and spiced fruit. Set green beans in vegetable dish, salad on another large platter.



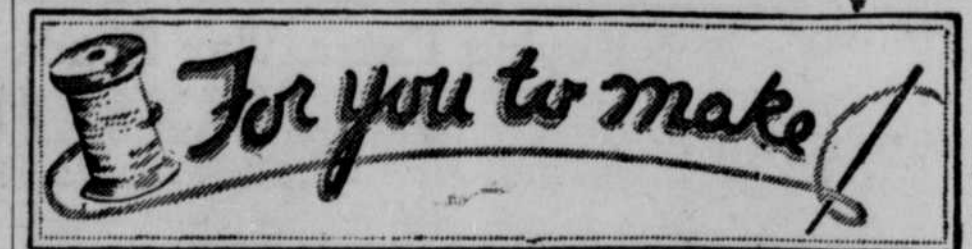
Cucumber in this jellied aspic salad is just the thing to give tartness to a bland meal. Make the salad in a large mold and serve from buffet for real effectiveness.

Cucumber Pear Aspic. (Serves 6)

1 package lime-flavored gelatin
1½ cups hot water
2 tablespoons vinegar
¼ teaspoon salt
1 cup drained diced cucumber
1 cup diced pears

Dissolve gelatin in hot water. Add vinegar and ¼ teaspoon salt. Chill until slightly thickened. Season cucumber with ¼ teaspoon salt; add pears. Fold into slightly thickened gelatin. Turn into mold and chill until firm. Garnish cucumber slices and crisp lettuce.

Get the most from your meat! Get your meat roasting chart from Miss Lynn Chambers by writing to her in care of Western Newspaper Union, 110 South Desplaines Street, Chicago 6, Ill. Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your reply.
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7002



MAKE this freckle-faced tyke for your mascot . . . let her mischievous eyes and tousled yarn hair chase your gremlins, too. She's made simply . . . just of rags. You can choose her clothes from your scrap bag.

Time to Band Trees

THIS is the time of the year when Victory gardeners, shade tree owners and commercial growers should be reminded to protect their trees and vines against the ravages of tree-climbing insects whose larvae will manifest themselves later on as the worms and caterpillars which often completely defoliate trees, destroy fruit, cause serious tree damage. Banding of trees which have not been infested with a sticky substance that will retain its consistency under all weather conditions is good protection and very much worthwhile. This should be done as early as possible.

Heavy-Tailed Sheep

Do you know that in the Near East there are sheep whose tails are so large and ponderous that the animals are provided with small four-wheeled carriages in order to relieve the weight of the tail and prevent it from coming into contact with the ground?

The oriental passion for greasy foods has led to the development of this type of sheep in which the fattest portion of the animal, the tail, combines excessive adiposity with enormous length.



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'Independent' Miners

About 2,600 "independent" miners in Pennsylvania still dig and sell more than 2,000,000 tons of anthracite coal a year from property owned by large collieries, despite the war that has been waged against them for almost a decade, says Collier's.

Recently, they organized and even sent an appeal to Washington for help in stopping further action against them.

DIAPER RASH
Soothe, cool, relieve diaper rash—often prevent it with Mezzana, the astringent medicated powder. Get Mezzana.

One Eye on Men
Women of Timor-Laut, East Indies, are compelled to keep one eye closed in the presence of men.

SNAPPY FACTS ABOUT RUBBER

Navigation is impossible even for a canoe on some of the tiny branches in the Amazon headwaters in the remote Bolivia rubber country. Air transport is now serving in the rubber development in these areas. Tappers cut their way through the jungle, with from 100 to 150 wild rubber trees serving as each tapper's route.

Tire experts hold that greater mileages are returned from truck tires if, when they are new, they are "broken in" for several thousand miles under normal or sub-normal conditions. Using new tires on front wheels before shifting them to the rear is one way of "seasoning" tires.

Joseph Shaw
In war or peace
B.F. Goodrich
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