

COMMUNITIES OBSERVE EMPLOYMENT WEEK HERE

Scores of Pennsylvania communities joined the Pa. WPA and followed the example of the President in setting aside the week of May 4 as Employment Week to find work for the unemployed, especially the unemployed over 40 years old.

Mayors of cities issued proclamations calling public attention to widespread unemployment among men in the upper age brackets, and committees called upon employers seeking aid in extending employment to older men.

The movement was joined by the United States Employment Service, and Labor and Veterans organizations, whose files contain the concrete evidence that even the vast defense spending program has not, as yet, been able to spread employment as far as the man 40 years and older.

What has been accomplished by Employment Week in actually finding jobs for older men is impossible to compute at this time. The President's effort, however, has succeeded in acquainting the public with a problem it probably didn't know existed, and public understanding of a problem is a certain step in the solution of it. Selected comment follows:

MAYOR BARBER, Erie---It is known from available facts that workers in and past middle life have abilities fitting them for employment---and they have a definite contribution to make at this time of incurring shortages of experienced workers.

MAYOR THOMPSON, Butler---It is to the interest of the community to help these (older) men in finding employment, and we urge employers to review their standards of physical qualifications to assimilate as many of them as possible.

COLONEL PHILIP MATHEWS: "The right of a man or woman of 40 to earn his or her living cannot be denied, but these men and women must realize that their rights to work will only be recognized if they constantly keep their lack of employment before the public.

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PITTSBURGH WPA ARTISTS PAINT MURALS IN ZOO

WPA artists have made the snakes and other reptiles at the Highland Park Zoo in Pittsburgh feel at home in captivity.

With 13 of the 20 murals in the reptile cages already completed by the Pittsburgh artists of the WPA Art Program, the 25,000 thousand visitors who crowd the zoo on a good Sunday can see the snakes as they are at home on the range, in the jungle, mountain, desert, or marsh.

The new scenery is fooling the reptiles, too. Reports straight from the zoo tell of snakes standing upright on their tails to reach a tree painted on the wall; of a Mexican toad wearing itself thin trying to climb a painted root, and of a small animal who tried to eat the bark of a painted tree only to get a mouthful of varnish.

The inmates are so pleased, it is assumed, that the monkeys, giraffe, and bird houses at the zoo will be likewise transformed to make the residents think they are back on the range. And there's some talk of doing the "Big Cat" cages--making them look like an African lion's veldt home.

The art work has attracted thousands of visitors. And as for the artists--the animals are removed to other cages before they work.

John W. Gore, Negro artist, is in charge of the work, and is assisted by William Molneer and Robert Stewart. Gore designs the sketches, which are approved by E. J. House, President of the Pittsburgh Zoological Society, the sponsor, and Ralph Griswold, Director of Pittsburgh parks. Gore then lays out the work, which is based on research of the various plant life which surrounded the various mammals in their native haunts.

Two diamond-back rattlers, for example, now live in a desert surrounded by sand and cactus. Alligators now live in a synthetic Everglades, and the water snakes slither about in marshes you'd swear were from Virginia, Kentucky, or North Carolina.

The mural decorations mark the first effort aside from the acquisition of new animals, to add interest to the zoo.