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# Groundbreaking Monday For Vocational School



David Pryor



Dr. John W. Cole

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the Ouachita Vocational Technical School are scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 7, at the site of the school on Moline Street and Park Drive in Malvern.

The affair is sponsored by the Malvern Chamber of Commerce and the Area Advisory Committee for the Ouachita Vocational Technical School, and will be the first event of the Labor Day activities in connection with Frontier Week.

Congressman David Pryor will make the principal address, and Floyd L. Parker, chairman of the Area Advisory Committee for the Ouachita Vocational Technical School and past president of the Chamber of Commerce, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Dr. John W. Cole, vice chairman of the Arkansas State Board for Vocational Education, will give the welcome and will introduce Congressman Pryor.

Music will be furnished by the Malvern High School Band under the direction of Bob Brooks.

Dignitaries expected to attend include Governor Winthrop Rockefeller; A.W. Ford, education commissioner for the State of Arkansas; members of the State Board for Vocational Education, representatives of the funding agencies, the Economic Development Administration and the Ozarks Regional Commission, and members of the Arkansas House of Representatives and the Senate from this area.

The groundbreaking is the result of the cooperative effort of the citizens of Hot Spring County and of the surrounding counties, the industries in the area, the Chamber of Commerce, and labor leaders, who worked together for many months to bring about the realization of plans for vocational and technical training to be offered to all of the people of this area.

The architectural firm of Cromwell, Neyland, Truemper, Millett & Gatchell, of Little Rock, will present the plans to the State Board for Vocational Education at its Sept. 14 meeting for approval. The project will then be advertised for a period of 30 days, and the State Board will consider the bids and award the contract at its October meeting. It is expected that construction will be started in November with completion scheduled for July, 1971. The school is expected to be in full operation by September of 1971.

The Starting of Vo-Tech.

Nov 19, 1969

## Congressman Pryor To Discuss Vo-Tech School At Open House

Congressman David Pryor has accepted an invitation to attend an open house at 2 p.m. Friday Nov. 21, at The Sands restaurant to discuss with all interested citizens the efforts to get the federal financing which is necessary for construction of the proposed vocational-technical school in Malvern.

Pryor invited all people of the area to meet with him at that time and to discuss anything that is on their minds.

"I gladly accept this invitation," Pryor said in a round-robin telephone conversation Tuesday between Pryor in Washington, D.C., and Bill Stilwell, general manager of the Malvern Daily Record; Earle Walker, news editor of the Daily Record, and Bill Tucker, Pryor's field representative, at the Malvern end of the line.

The three Malvernites extended the invitation, urging upon Congressman Pryor the urgency of getting federal funds released to pay 80 per cent of the cost of constructing the proposed state vocational-technical school here in what is the most highly industrialized section of Arkansas.

"I am glad to accept this invitation to meet not only with those who have spearheaded this drive for a vocational-technical school but also with all other people of the area," Congressman Pryor stated, confirming an acceptance he earlier made to Tucker. "I look forward to coming down Friday."

Particularly interested in the establishment of the vocational-technical school in Malvern are

the citizens of four counties: Hot Spring, Saline, Garland and Clark. These are the counties from which students will be accepted in the vocational-technical school. Those citizens are especially urged to meet with Congressman Pryor at 2 p.m. Friday at The Sands and to impress upon him the great need for the vocational-technical school.

During the course of Tuesday's telephone conversation, Pryor was reminded that this is the most highly industrialized area of Arkansas. The Congressman was asked whether he was aware of the great efforts being made by people of the area to get the federal funds for the school—the only hurdle yet to clear to insure the school. Pryor said he was aware of the effort and was keeping up with it. His field representative, Bill Tucker of Malvern, keeps Pryor posted on the matter, as on other subjects concerning the district served by Pryor.

The State Board of Education has already designated Malvern as the location for the proposed vocational-technical school. Financing of the project will be on the following basis: Local funds, 10 per cent; state funds, 10 per cent; federal money, 80 per cent.

The local contribution has already been made in the deed by the county to the state of the tract of land along Mollie Street just west of the old International Shoe Co. building as the site. The state has already set aside and earmarked its 10 per cent contribution toward the project.

Expressions of support for the



Congressman Pryor

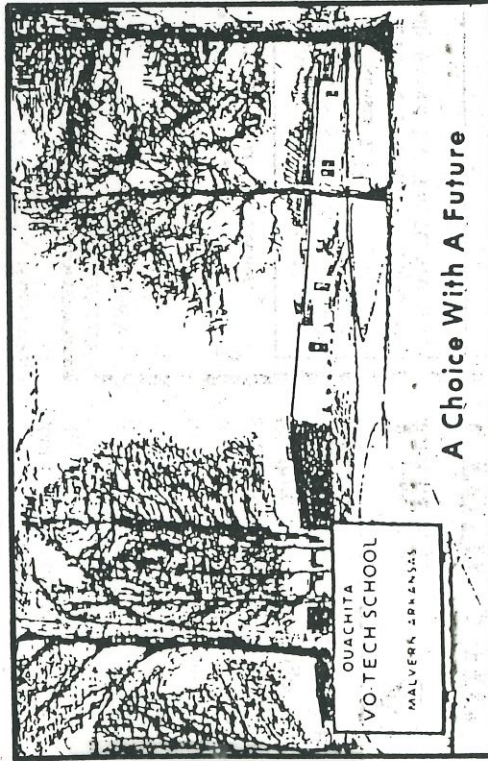
proposed school continued to come in today.

BILL TUCKER of Malvern, field representative of Congressman Pryor said—"When the citizens of this area contacted me and asked me to talk to the Con- See Number 1, on Page 18

—Malvern Daily Record, Tuesday, August 15, 1989

# Ouachita Vo-Tech School

Malvern, Ark.



A Choice With A Future

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Call For Information

Fall Classes  
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## Courses Offered At Ouachita Vo-Tech

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- Data Processing
- Diesel Truck/Tractor Machine
- Food Service
- Industrial Electronics/Electricity
- Machine Shop
- Welding
- General Education Development (G.E.D.)
- Adult Basic Education (A.B.E.)

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Daily Record Photo—Locke

## New director greeted

Earl Clevenger (center), new director of Ouachita Vocational Technical School, and his wife, Gail (right), are greeted by Larry Boyer (left), publisher of the *Malvern Daily Record*. The Vo-Tech sponsored a drop-in reception Wednesday for Clevenger in the community room of the school.

# State's new vo-tech chief looks to sky, ground below

BY CYNTHIA HOWELL  
Democrat Staff Writer

The new director of the state's vocational-technical schools says Arkansas can be a leader in trade education if it overcomes barriers of low teacher pay and obsolete equipment and curricula.

Dr. Raymond E. Morrison Jr., 47, replaced Dr. J. Barry Ballard on Sept. 1 as director of the Vocational and Technical Education Division of the state Department of Education.

He said preparing Arkansas workers for the challenge of manufacturing in space and helping them capitalize on the state's expertise in agriculture are among his long-term goals.

He began his career as an automotive mechanics and shop teacher in Rochester, N.Y., and is a former budget analyst and employee trainer at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

He came to Arkansas after directing of a consortium of 33 engineering universities based on the campus of the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. The consortium offered continuing education programs to engineers nationwide via satellite and videotape.

"It worries me about our country that we don't realize our technology is going to take us into space. People should know that the Star Trek image on TV is not unrealistic," Morrison said in an interview last week.



Dr. Raymond E. Morrison Jr.

## Profile

**NAME:** Dr. Raymond Earl Morrison Jr.

**AGE:** 47

**EDUCATION:** Bachelor of science from the State University of New York at Oswego in industrial arts education; associate degree in applied science from Huson Valley Community College in Troy, N.Y.; Master's degree in instructional communications technology from Syracuse University; and doctorate in technical education from the University of Missouri at Columbia.

**CURRENT JOB:** Director, Vocational and Technical Education Division, Arkansas Department of Education.

**SOME PREVIOUS JOBS:** Executive director of a consortium of 33 engineering universities on the campus of Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta; coordinator of high technology projects in the Georgia departments of Education; staff trainer and senior budget analyst for the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

One of the biggest modern scientific discoveries is that manufacturing can be done in outer space better than it can be done on Earth, he said. The lack of gravity and atmosphere can lead to the production of flawless metals for air- and spacecraft, and pure crystals for super conductivity - which in turn could be used to build trains that never touch their rails.

Fifteen companies on the New York Stock Exchange could be ready by 1994 to manufacture goods in space, Morrison said.

"We have the foresight. The question is, do we have the people to service the operations?"

As the nation enters the 21st century, Morrison predicted that the Baby Boomers of the 1940s and '50s are more likely to be retrained for new jobs than retire. Such training must include immigrants and naturalized citizens, blacks and other minorities, single mothers, and the handicapped.

"To use the old cliché, our people are our most important resource," Morrison said. "For some reason we don't put enough money in the pipeline to prepare people to become important contributors. We need to look at everyone."

"There are systems in place in Arkansas to do the training," Morrison said.

In Arkansas, he said he has found a vocational program that trains students in the skills, knowledge and attitudes that industry requires.

"In my estimation and one of the reasons I came to Arkansas is that it probably has one of the best systems, comparable only to Oklahoma, which has the finest vocational education system in the country," he said.

"The very highest priority is given to all levels of education; general, vocational and higher education. All have a direct feed into the governor's office and the Legislature," he said. That is not the case in northern states such as New York, where higher education and vocational education are "very low on the totem pole," he said.

He said he was impressed by the way Arkansas agencies spend money and cooperate.

"There is very little duplication of effort. It is probably the result of the fact there is so little money that the various agencies have learned to cooperate with each other to spread the money around where no other money has been spent."

He cited as an example a state program to provide job training for welfare families.

"One of the things that does frustrate me is that the special projects don't have the kind of money that would lend to their success. Also, I'm very concerned about teachers in vocational education not getting paid comparable to what is in the field.

"If a heating and air-conditioning contractor can make \$30,000 in the trade, the instructor, who can develop four or five more heating and air-conditioning contractors, should be paid the same," he said.

*"It worries me about our country that we don't realize our technology is going to take us into space. People should know that the Star Trek image on TV is not unrealistic."*

Funds are also needed to upgrade curricula. "We always need to be looking at this state to identify what we are best at. I've been here five weeks and in my estimation this state is best in its agricultural structure.

"We need to build on it but not in the old sense of agriculture. We need to look at what is new, such as in biogenetic studies. We need to find ways to produce better food and produce it faster.

"The healthiest ground in the world is in the Mississippi Delta. We must make better use of the resource."

Another area for growth might be the medical field, Morrison said, citing the need for nurses and biomedical technicians.

Morrison said the state is striving to provide a better-educated work force through adult education. Programs for further training must be available. Otherwise, "They are up against another brick wall," he said.

"We must have the pipeline complete. We must give them the stepping stones to make them contributors," Morrison said.

# Director of Ouachita Vo-tech School dies

By the Daily Record Staff

Cancer claimed the life of Ouachita Vocational Technical School director Ron W. Moore Wednesday, July 6. He died in a Little Rock hospital.

Moore, 48, became Ouachita director Aug. 27, 1987. Since then, the school has seen the creation of the permanent high school cosmetology class and three Dislocated Worker Programs that will run through this summer.

The summer's marketing and advertising, carpentry and computer repair classes are solely for laid-off workers living in Hot Spring County.

Services will be at 1:30 p.m. Friday in the Hot Springs Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Herbert Watts and Rev. J.B. Evans officiating.

Survivors include one son, Todd Moore of Hot Springs; and his parents, Wayne and Ada Moore of Hot Springs.

Burial will be at Tranquil Cemetery under direction of Hot Springs Funeral Home.

Memorials have been designated for the Red Oak Missionary Baptist Church, Rt. 1, Box 533, Hot Springs 71913. The family will be at the Wayne Moore residence.

During his tenure Moore oversaw

remodeling of the school's front office and creation of the community room and addition of a counseling center and counselor. The counselor also handles admissions.

The Adult Basic Education class moved from a trailer on the vo-tech grounds to larger quarters on Baker Hill. Computers were added for three programs: mathematics, General Education Development and communications.

This fall the school's truck-driving class is expanding to a full program. It previously served only students who qualified for the Jobs Training Partnership Act and who lived within

the area served by West-Central Arkansas Planning and Development District.

The class will still serve JTPA students but the change will help more people take advantage of the class.

Equipment added recently includes a computerized lathe for the machine shop class that was obtained through the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission. The two automotive mechanics classes, high school and post-secondary, recently added \$38,000 worth of equipment as the programs work toward voluntary national certification.

Entertainment of students and employees wasn't ignored. Fun Day was created in 1988 near the end of the school year to allow a day of games.

Moore was overseeing the school's implementation of the semester system, which will be effective Aug. 28.

Arkansas' entire vo-tech system is converting from quarterly classes to the semester system, which will allow students to study only at night and to take more than one year to complete a degree.

A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, where he played basketball, he also earned a master of science degree from Henderson State University.

He inaugurated and coached football eight years at Lake Hamilton High School and also served there as athletic director.

He worked eight years as a liaison for industry and placement at the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center.

He came to Ouachita Vo-Tech from Quapaw Vo-Tech in Hot Springs, where he was assistant director. Moore succeeded director Billy Ray White, who took advantage of limited-time state retirement incentives.



RON W. MOORE  
Vo-tech director dies

## Ouachita Votech

WILL BE CLOSED  
FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1989  
DUE TO THE DEATH  
OF ITS DIRECTOR  
RON MOORE



Daily Record Photo—Scantlin

## 'Cookout' preliminaries

Bob Jones (at the podium) greeted participants at the Hot Spring County Cookout held Friday, Oct. 13 in the Ouachita Vocational Technical School cafeteria. Sen. Dale Bumpers was scheduled to address the audience but was unexpectedly

called back to Washington, D.C. for a critical vote. More than 450 guests were treated to a meal that featured a variety of smoked meats including, bear, turkey, ham, beef and bologna.

port community colleges and some vo-tech schools are in places where that would be difficult.

■ **Gazette:** Did anybody in the Council suggest that there are just too many vo-tech schools and maybe we ought to close some of them down?

■ **Schaffer:** There was some discussion, and I think that may be true. I don't want to single out any that ought to be closed, but there are some that have fewer than 150 students. The locations and the number have developed over the years in a pretty political way. They got put where a powerful legislator had the strength to get money appropriated to set one up, and we don't feel like that was the most efficient way to do it.

■ **Gazette:** The Council has said that basically the vo-tech schools aren't preparing people for industry. Do you still believe that and if so, what would you do to fix it?

■ **Schaffer:** What they are doing, I think they are doing a pretty decent job of. But our feeling is that they're just not doing enough. And they're not, I think, largely because of financial constraints, developing new programs, bringing in the new equipment that is needed.

■ **Morrison:** I have to agree with Archie in the sense that most of the technical and vocational schools in the United States are not doing enough for industry. But I think that I have to go back to the demographics. ... We're trying to draw from a larger number of what I would call the "neglected majority" such as women, minorities, the new immigrants. ... We're seeing an individual that has a huge hurdle to cross over. And if you take that individual and put them into any school ... the first thing they will tell you about the new type of students are the hurdles they've got to overcome.

■ **Gazette:** So the big problem as you see it is the country needs to push these people toward technical education or education in general?

■ **Morrison:** It's not quite that simple. It's pushing them as well as motivating them to realize that they are our natural resources.

### ■ **Gazette:** If the vo-tech schools

are underutilized, doesn't that mean there's a problem in the secondary schools in urging those students that are already in vocational courses to continue it after high school?

■ **Morrison:** I have to go back to the point Archie made. Unfortunately, the image of vocational education within the secondary schools has been very poor.

■ **Gazette:** If image then is the main problem, what are your ideas for doing something about that?

■ **Morrison:** I think that one of the things that we've got to do is to get the counselors more involved, and to make them more aware of the merits of vocational education.

■ **Gazette:** So the system is not as bad here in Arkansas as it is in many places?

■ **Morrison:** Not by any means. ... The responsibility on the secondary and elementary education process today in the United States is more important than any responsibility that has ever existed, but yet this country hasn't seen fit to put more money where it needs to be. Our children are our future. If we're not careful, we're going to be paying the piper the same way the people of Hamelin did years ago.

John Neisbitt did the biggest disservice to our country with his Megatrends by saying that the country was going to become a service and information society, leaving out manufacturing. What he failed to say was that manufacturing was going to be reduced because it would be automated and that the technicians who will service that equipment will have to be more knowledgeable than anybody this country has ever seen.

### ■ **Gazette:** How do you get the counselors on your side?

■ **Morrison:** We ought to have summer visitations for counselors to be able to be involved in industry so they can see what industry is and understand that there are various levels of vocations that an individual can get involved in in business. I'm not sure that counselors today really understand all the aspects of business. ... They've never been in industry.

■ **Gazette:** You'll encourage that?

■ **Morrison:** I'm not sure I'm in a position to do that. One of the things that I've asked to do is to be on the docket for many of the counselor meetings that are going to be held here in Little Rock and across the state.

■ **Gazette:** Wouldn't it help to merge some of these schools?

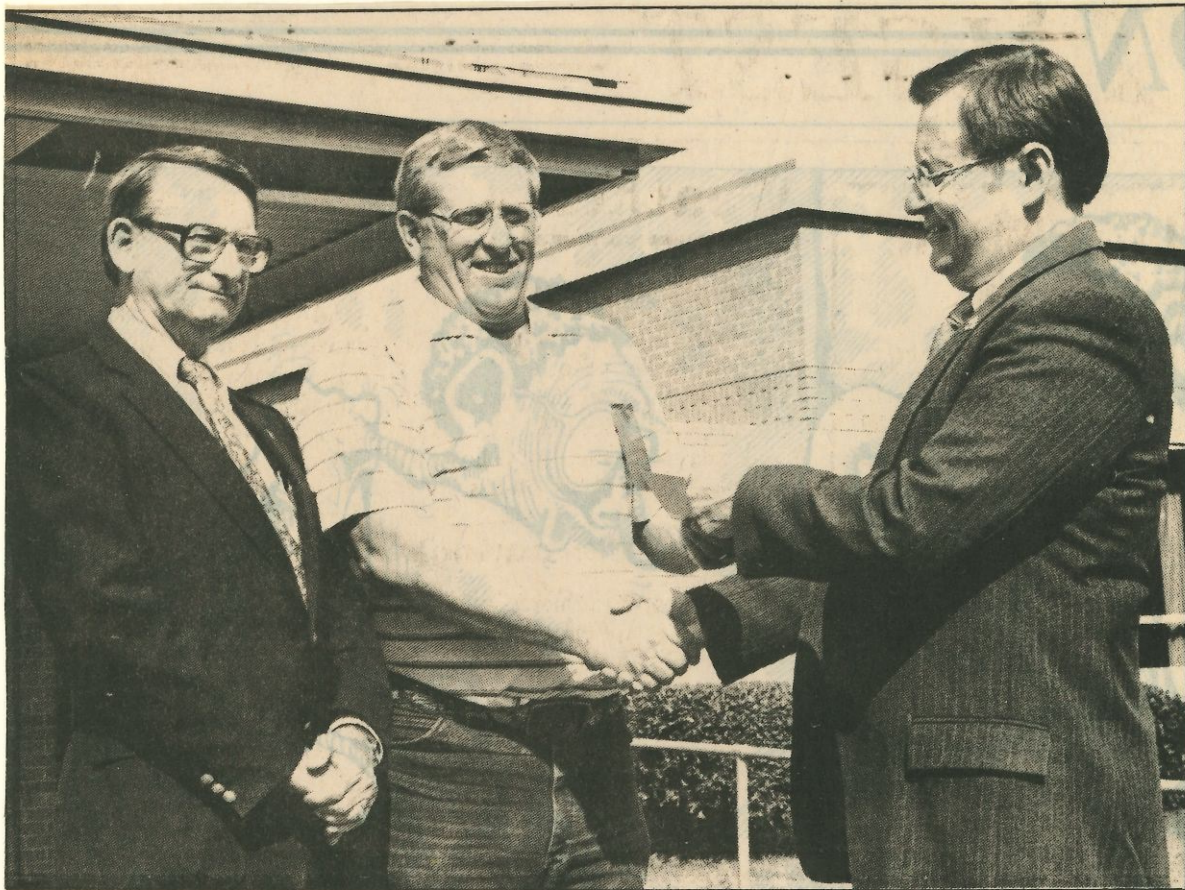
■ **Morrison:** I just visited Forrest City yesterday ... working between East Arkansas Community College and Crowley's Ridge vo-tech school. I'm extremely impressed by the working relationship of those two directors. I wouldn't be surprised if I found a path that led between the president's office and the director's office. My feeling was that they work very closely. They don't have any duplication.

■ **Gazette:** Is that not an argument for merging the two? Then we would have only one director, one admission office, one physical plant.

■ **Morrison:** I think one of the things that you would see would be a loss of emphasis that you might get on the vocational and technical programs.

■ **Schaffer:** I think you're right that that helps make the case for merging them. There's a section in our report on the Westark Community College model. We think Westark is the model for the way vocational education and community colleges ought to operate. At Westark, they have vocational programs and academic programs operating side-by-side. ... And at Westark, the vocational programs receive just as much emphasis as the academic programs.

■ **Morrison:** I think that if you take a look at the accomplishments of those programs and schools where they're working very closely together... the community college is able to concentrate on its academic role and vocational and technical programs are able to concentrate on their vocational roles.



Daily Record Photo—Locke

## Vo-tech receives scholarship

Al Rogge (center), manager of Amoco Foam Products, presents Earl Clevenger (right), director of the Ouachita Vocational Technical School, with a \$500 scholarship. The school's scholarship com-

mittee will be responsible for selecting a deserving student to receive the scholarship. Also pictured is Bob Jones, business manager for the school.



**HALLOWEEN  
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**SATURDAY NIGHT  
OCTOBER 28, 1989  
OUACHITA VO-TECH  
6:00 TO 9:00 P.M.**

**GAMES!  
PRIZES!  
FUN!!**

## Criticism of Steele offends reader

Dear Mr. Starr:

My remarks are made in reference to your columns of Sept. 21 and 22 in which you criticized Dr. Ruth Steele for allegedly making poor administrative decisions.

I am certain you do not have the intestinal fortitude to print this letter; however, I have the same right as you to express my opinion. Your negative position was taken only as a reaction to John Brummett's column on Wednesday, Sept. 19. Your agenda is controlled by the *Arkansas Gazette*. If Mr. Brummett had opposed Dr. Steele's decision to cancel those school assemblies, you would have applauded her.

It is deplorable that this "war between the papers" has to hurt and destroy the efforts



of those who are dedicated toward providing a fair and quality education for our children.

You accused Dr. Steele of making decisions based on emotion. I appreciate the emotion she shows in caring for the children of Arkansas.

Your opinions are made on misinformation, twisted information or no information. They are illogical, irresponsible, uneducated and clearly much more *emotional* than rational. At least Dr. Steele has

the education, experience and professionalism to back her actions. That is more than I can say for you. I do not recall you ever having been a superintendent or director of a state education department.

I also do not recall Dr. Steele ever telling you how to write your column - at least not publicly.

I would rather be called a "rockhead" than a "fathead." The word rock denotes stability, security and strength. The latter term describes an uneducated, emotional wind-bag who craves attention and just cannot seem to get enough without attacking others.

Thank goodness my trial subscription to the *Democrat* runs out soon.

**SALLY CARDER  
Malvern**

# BUSINESS

## Computer complications



### Correcting errors

Daily Record Photo—Locke

Billy Davis (left), instructor at the Russellville Vocational Center and Ron Shertzer (seated), Program Manager of Technical Education at the state Department of Education, are participating in an in-service workshop for microcomputer and VCR repair at the Ouachita Vocational Technical School. Eighteen vo-tech instructors from throughout the state are participating in the two-day workshop sponsored by Sivad of Little Rock.

L.J. Technical Systems Inc. provided some of the equipment for the workshop. New computers recently received through the Dislocated Workers Program at the vo-tech are also being used in the workshop. Students can use the computers for classes, but a switch allows errors to be inserted into the computer which the workshop participants must repair.

# FINDING A FUTURE FOR VO-TECHS

GAZETTE ROUNDTABLE

Sunday, October 8, 1989

**■ Gazette:** Dr. Morrison, let us get a little bit of background about you. You worked in Georgia for a private organization concerned with the advanced education of engineers, is that correct?

**■ Morrison:** That's correct. It was a consortia of 33 engineering institutions in the United States that were housed and headquartered on Georgia Tech's campus. The full responsibility of that job was to coordinate the engineering training and education programs that could be offered via satellite or via videotape from those member institutions. I was in that job for two years.

**■ Gazette:** And you are an engineer by training?

**■ Morrison:** I am actually an engineering technician by training. ... If you have an engineering technology or technologist type of degree, you often end up doing jobs specifically titled in industry [as] engineering. I am not an engineer per se but recognized by many engineering organizations.

**■ Gazette:** What did you do at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory?

**■ Morrison:** I was specifically hired as their training person. Having had an engineering technology and engineering background and a good deal of science, my responsibility was to identify the continuing education needs of the engineers and scientists at that laboratory and to coordinate the continuing education programs at that location for a budget between \$2 million and \$3 million a year.

**■ Gazette:** How long were you there?

**■ Morrison:** I was there for eight years.

**■ Gazette:** You've only been here a month, but we'd like to know what your first impressions are of the 24 state vo-tech institutions.

**■ Morrison:** Well to be honest with you, I've only seen three [vocational-technical schools] in the four weeks that I've been here. At this point of those three that I've seen, they are pretty well-equipped, but I think ... as with many vocational and technical programs, we are dealing with a great deal of antiquated equipment based on the new technologies that are in existence. I believe that the schools I have seen have been trying to keep up as best they possibly can, but I also know that it's very difficult with the limited budgets that they have to deal with.

**■ Gazette:** What kind of equipment would the vo-tech schools need to have these days?

**■ Morrison:** There's a great deal of concern right now about automation. And we need to be concerned about the automation factors to be able to provide technicians and skilled employees who are going to be going into our factories and service industries to understand what automation is all about. I'm not sure that we've done a very good job at this point in any school in the United States in vocational-technical education to provide the adequate automation knowledge and background and exposure to the equipment.

**■ Gazette:** Where does the money come from for equipment in these vo-tech schools? Do we get any federal money for that?

**■ Morrison:** You get federal money and you also have state money that's coming in.

**■ Gazette:** Do you have a feeling that there may be some federal money out there that Arkansas might get that it's not getting now?

**■ Morrison:** One of the things that has impressed me in my previous interviews that I've had with the state people ... is that I've never been in a state ... and I've operated in three different states ... where the coordination of all the possible funding resources has been better done than it is in Arkansas.

**■ Gazette:** Have you been startled at the low enrollment in these vo-tech schools?

**■ Morrison:** Unfortunately, it's hap-

## THE ISSUE

The state's vocational-technical education system has been called inefficient and out-dated by its critics. Should some of the vo-tech schools be upgraded to community colleges, as the Arkansas Business Council has suggested?

## COMMENTATORS

**■ Dr. Raymond Morrison is the state's new director of vocational-technical education.**



**■ Archle Schaffer III is the Arkansas Business Council's executive director.**

Interviewers were Chairman William T. Malone, Senior Editor Robert McCord, Associate Editor Doug Smith and reporter Scott Morris.

pening all around the country. One of the things that many of us in education are well aware of is that the demographics are pointing to the fact that [there are fewer] individuals that are coming out of high school. There are less and less of those individuals. ... We've reached the tip of the baby boom and we're on an extremely steep ramp that will probably bottom out around 1994 or 1996. ... We are going to see millions and millions of fewer individuals available for employment, for college and for tech school enrollment.

**■ Gazette:** Mr. Schaffer, the Business Council said that there was probably another reason that the vo-tech schools were under utilized in Arkansas, didn't it?

**■ Schaffer:** One of the things that we think causes them to be underutilized is the image that they have. And that was one of the things that we were trying to suggest needed to be improved. We think that technical education is extremely important and is going to be increasingly important in the coming years. Right now, people look at it as the place you go when you can't go to college.

**■ Gazette:** And your recommendation was to do what?

**■ Schaffer:** One of the chief recommendations we made was to move toward the creation of what we called a community technical college system. Our recommendation would not have required merger of all the vo-tech schools and community colleges but it would have encouraged merger, particularly in the places where there are vo-tech schools and community colleges in the same community.

But what it would have done initially was to have merged the 24 schools into a community technical college system, created a board for that system, encouraged the merger in those instances I mentioned, and in the other instances, where there is local support ... encourage them to upgrade their programs and move toward becoming a community college.

**■ Gazette:** Dr. Morrison, does vo-tech's image hurt the movement?

**■ Morrison:** That's a mouthful to say, does it hurt the movement? I think that one of the things that need to be stressed is

that too often in the past, based on counselor's recommendations and the image that many students get through the secondary system, vocational education does not have a very high and strong image. Counselors are impressed by the fact of how many students they put through college, and so therefore the accolades they are rewarded by are the number of students who go on to college rather than go to vo-tech schools.

**■ Gazette:** Would it improve the image if the vo-tech schools became community colleges?

**■ Morrison:** Well, I appreciate what they're trying to say. However, vocational and technical education over the years has tried to improve its image by name changes and it's never succeeded. I don't think a name change or an alliance with a community college is really going to improve the image of vocational education. I think the image of vocational education has to come from industry pointing out the importance of what vocational education has done. ...

I'm also concerned about the potential of establishing another entity within the state of Arkansas for the governance of education. While the intent is positive ... what it does is fragment the money distribution, fragment the importance being placed on two-year education programs. ...

**■ Schaffer:** In our way of looking at it, we became convinced that a third board — one that dealt strictly with vocational education — would be a way to improve the way it functions and go a long way toward enhancing the image. ... We just think that the way it's working right now, vocational education is pretty much being treated as a stepchild. In Arkansas, only 17 percent of the people who go on to some form of post-secondary education, go to two-year schools. The national average is about 43 percent, so our two-year schools are not getting the number of students that they should.

**■ Is your organization suggesting that all 24 vo tech schools become community colleges?**

**■ Schaffer:** No. In the first place, it wouldn't work because under state law the local community has to pay taxes to sup-



# NEWS DIGEST



Daily Record Photo—Delavan

## Club elects officers

New officers of the local Food Service Chapter of the Vocational-Industrial Clubs of America include, front row from left, president Lynn Faulkner, vice president Ruthie Evans and secretary Peggy King. Back row, instructor Tressie McJunk-

in, parliamentarian Johnny Johnson, treasurer Victoria James and reporter Richard Toney. The officers will serve through the 1989-90 school year.

# New vo-tech director assumes position

By CHRISTIE LOCKE

Photo Editor

Meeting the vocational needs of the community and area industries is one of the goals Earl Clevenger hopes to accomplish as the new director of Ouachita Vocational Technical School.

Clevenger, 48, began his new post as director Monday, Sept. 18, and says he is looking forward to working at the school.

"I've been real impressed by the school," said Clevenger. "I have worked with people from Ouachita Vo-tech in the past, but I had never seen the school."

When he applied for the position, Clevenger said he and his wife, Gail, came to Malvern to tour the school and see the community. "We liked what we saw," said Clevenger. "We especially liked the campus. It was very pretty."

## POSITIVE COMMENTS

Clevenger said that as people realized he was an applicant for the job, he was told about the school's staff and faculty. "We were told that the staff and faculty were great to work for. I heard some real positive comments about the school, the community and the staff," said Clevenger.

Clevenger was previously the stu-



**EARL CLEVENGER**  
New director

dent services coordinator at Foothills Vocational Technical School in Searcy where he was employed for 13 years. He said he became aware of the vacancy at the Ouachita school, and applied for the position.

The position as director will be a change from his previous position at Searcy. As student services coordinator, Clevenger served as an assistant to the director. At Ouachita he will be in charge of the overall operation of the school.

**"We heard some real positive comments about the school, the community and the staff,"**

**—Earl Clevenger**

## GREATER CHALLENGE

"It will be a greater challenge, and a greater responsibility," said Clevenger. "It is kind of an awesome responsibility having to make decisions that before someone else always had to decide. But, it will be a real challenge."

The curriculum of Ouachita Vo-tech is similar to Foothills Vo-tech, Clevenger said. Ouachita offers some classes that Foothills doesn't, but the reverse is also true. Clevenger said that the classes each vocational school offers depends upon what is in demand in the community.

"As we learn the vocational needs of the community, hopefully we can add the classes that are needed to meet the needs of the community and the industries in the area," said Clevenger.

Ouachita offers classes in food service, welding and carpentry, but Foothills offers classes in tool and dye and autobody repair.

Clevenger lived in Oklahoma and Texas, before marrying his wife,

Gail, who is from Searcy. After moving away for a while, the Clevengers returned to Searcy, where they are still living. The couple plans to move to Malvern at the beginning of October when their new home becomes available.

A graduate of Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas, Clevenger received a masters degree from Harding University, and an educational specialist degree from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.

Mrs. Clevenger has been employed as a secretary at Harding University in Searcy, but plans to seek employment in the Malvern area. The Clevengers are the parents of three married children.

Clevenger fills the post left vacant by the death of Ron Moore in July. Moore, who was appointed director of the school Aug. 27, 1987, oversaw the development of a permanent high school cosmetology class and three dislocated worker programs implemented this summer.

Thursday Evening, September 21, 1989, Malvern, Arkansas

# Vocational education builds in importance

By LEWIS DELAVAN  
News Editor

Vocational education is growing in importance, the Malvern Lions Club heard Tuesday.

Twenty years ago vocational training was "almost non-existent" in Arkansas, said Earl Clevenger, director of Ouachita Vocational Technical School.

Today, employers are increasingly needing people trained in highly-

technical fields.

It costs about \$3,000 annually to train a vo-tech student, but about \$25,000 to incarcerate a person in prison, Clevenger said.

Training a person not helps build self-esteem and provides greater opportunity for employment, but may help keep him from prison. "An individual with skills feels better about himself," he said.

On the average, a trained person will earn two or three times as much as one without skills, he said.

Ouachita Vo-Tech boosts the local economy in several ways. Not only does a trained labor force help attract and maintain industry, but the \$650,000 annual budget goes into the local economy.

Last year, students received \$315,000 in financial aid, with much of that spent locally for apartments, food and other necessities, he added.

Re-training programs help laid-off employees avoid moving to find a job or going on welfare. "We don't want either of those to happen," he said.

Instructors strive to instill a work ethic and good attitude in students, Clevenger said.

The vo-tech will expand. "We want to become even more so, for adults, the educational center in this area.

Ouachita offers college-level courses through cooperation of Garland County Community College,

7-11-89

# Georgian offered job as Vo-tech director

By David Davies  
GAZETTE STAFF

The state Board of Vocational Technical Education Monday named Dr. Raymond Morrison of Marietta, Ga., as its choice for director of the state Education Department's vocational-technical education division.

In a telephone interview, Morrison said he was about to leave on vacation and would decide within two weeks whether to take the job.

"I'm leaning very positively toward taking the job," Morrison said. "I need time to clear my head

and think-things over."

Earle Love of Morrilton, president of the board, said he was confident that Morrison would take the position. Morrison would be paid \$70,879.

The other finalist, Dr. Moody Oswald of Gilbert, S.C., withdrew last week.

Love said he met with Gov. Bill Clinton Monday and the governor approved offering the job to Morrison, whom the governor interviewed before traveling to Europe.

The board offered Morrison the job after a one-hour closed session. State law allows closed meetings to discuss hiring. Board members said afterward that the session was closed in consideration for the privacy of the applicants for the vacant director's job.

"If someone had said something that might not be positive, I would not want something to be a part of the public record with an adverse effect on the job an incoming director might do," Love said. He added that all discussion about Morrison was positive.

Lonnie McNatt has been acting vocational-technical director since Dr. Barry Ballard resigned as vocational-technical director last year. The board voted to pay McNatt the full director's salary until a new director takes over.

The state Board of Education, which has the same members as the vo-tech board, also met and took no action on replacing Dr. Ruth Steele, who has resigned effective Saturday as director of the general education division. Love said the board might meet again

this week.

Steele will become superintendent of the Little Rock School District. Dr. Herb Cleek, is leaving as deputy director of the department to become Steele's deputy superintendent.

Love said he had talked with the governor about replacing Steele. Love wouldn't say who was being considered. He said the department needed someone to "aid the continuity to actions of the department."

Morrison, 47, has been executive director of the Association for Media-Based Continuing Education for Engineers, a non-profit partnership of 33 engineering universities that provided professional education for engineers and scientists. Morrison said he was leaving because of loss of financing for the association, which is part of the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Morrison was previously the high technology coordinator for the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education and for the George Education Department, and a senior budget analyst and training manager for Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, N.M.

