

Big award awaits Loomis; chosen from field of 180



Loomis, winner of Jefferson Award, will be featured in a KETV special April 14 at 6 p.m. He will compete for the \$1000 award in Washington, D.C.

It used to be said that people who are mentally retarded could not exist outside the walls of a state institution.

But Ray Loomis is an example of a man who has done just that, and more.

The American Institute for Public Service in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with local television station KMTV, have awarded Loomis the Jefferson Award for outstanding public service and contribution to his local community.

Loomis was chosen from a field of 180 nominations and according to Bettie Shapiro, KETV public service director, was an obvious choice for this award.

Loomis' work as co-founder of Project II, a group made up of mentally retarded men and women, was

cited as one factor in the decision. His commitment to volunteer work and the success of the Project II organization was also considered.

Shapiro said that because there are no specific parameters to the selection process, the type of winner varies greatly from year to year.

This spring, local winners from around the United States will compete for the \$1,000 award money in a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

In Omaha, KETV is planning a luncheon and award ceremony in honor of Loomis. At that time they will present him with a bronze coin in recognition of the Jefferson Award.

Shapiro also said that a half-hour program is being planned for Saturday, April 14 at 6 p.m., on KETV, highlighting some of the contributions Loomis has made to his community.