



Among the hundreds of people who saw "World on Wheels" was (L-R) Kenny Cason, 8 yrs.; K.C. Cason and Jacque Oliver. The annual custom car show was held at Memorial Coliseum last weekend. Photo by Richard J. Brown

Eye Specialists Fight Glaucoma Among Older Oregon Residents

Fifty-nine elderly Oregon residents might have gone blind from undetected glaucoma if they had not called 1-800-222-EYES, a public service which offers medical eye care to the disadvantaged elderly at no out-of-pocket cost.

The National Eye Care Project—which operates nationwide through a toll-free Helpline—opened in Oregon January 27. It has received more than 2088 calls from seniors in Oregon who may be suffering from glaucoma and other sight-threatening eye diseases. More than 1388 of these callers have made appointments with volunteer physicians and have received treatment, including 59 found to have glaucoma. The project is sponsored locally by the Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology and the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

"The purpose of this outreach service is to find elderly citizens who don't have a regular eye physician and who may well have significant, often blinding eye disease," said B. Thomas Hutchinson, MD, Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School, and chairman of the Academy's National Eye Care Project.

"Glaucoma, with an increased incidence in those over age 65, is one of the leading causes of blindness in the U.S. today, Dr. Hutchinson said. In its early stages, glaucoma may present no obvious symptoms because initial damage occurs in the peripheral vision. One form of glaucoma, unless detected and treated immediately, can cause blindness in a day or two. "Mrs. Lena Grizel would have gone blind from glaucoma if it weren't for the National Eye Care Project," said Isaac H. Hsu, MD, St. Helens, Oregon,

one of the 7,000 ophthalmologists across the country participating in the program. "Fortunately we caught her disease early and were able to lower her eye pressure considerably, protecting her vision from further damage."

Glaucoma is characterized by elevations of pressure within the eye which develop when the outflow drainage system is impaired. The increased pressure damages the optic nerve which carries light from the eye to the brain.

Glaucoma is usually controlled with eye drops given two to four times a day, or pills. In patients whose eye pressure cannot be controlled with medication, laser surgery or conventional surgery can be used to improve the outflow of fluid from the eye.

The goal of glaucoma treatment is to check the advance of the disease; damage that has already occurred to eye tissues cannot be repaired. For this reason, it is important to have regular eye exams every two to three years. Early detection is key to the prevention to visual loss.

Individuals who have a family history of glaucoma, or general health problems such as diabetes, hardening of the arteries, or anemia, are at increased risk for glaucoma, Dr. Hutchinson said. It is estimated that about two million Americans have some form of glaucoma.

The National Eye Care Project is open to U.S. citizens or legal residents, age 65 or over, who are not currently under the care of an ophthalmologist, who have no access to one, or who have not seen one within the last three years.

The National Eye Care Project Helpline—1-800-222-EYES—is in operation from 8 am to 5 pm in all time zones except Hawaii (Hawaii hours are 8 am to 3 pm). Nationwide, the Helpline has received more than 90,000 calls from older Americans and has referred over 60,000 to local ophthalmologists. More than 70% of those examined have been found to be suffering from glaucoma, cataracts, diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, and other debilitating eye diseases.

Calligraphy Now

"Calligraphy Now", a group show by 15 area calligraphers, will be on display in Cabell Center on the Catlin Gabel campus now through November 26, 1986. Exhibition hours are 8:30 to 3:30 Monday through Friday and admission is free. Fifteen calligraphers are presenting their works: Elizabeth Anderson, Judith Cambers, Inga Dubay, Carol Erickson, Nancy Johnson, Lorinda Moholt, Mickey Templeton, Laurence Wheeler, Bettylou Bennett, Janet Charlton, Angela Dworkus, Mary Ann Holden, Marie Letendre, Fran Strom and Margot

Thompson. The public is encouraged to view the exhibition and enjoy the work of these talented calligraphers.


For more information, contact Pam Macy, 227-6817 or John Whitehead, 234-5735.

Toy & Joymakers Need Building

The Portland Fire Bureau Toy & Joymakers are in need of a building to run their program for this year. This 72-year-old tradition provides toys for approximately 16,000 needy children in the Portland area each year at Christmas time. Anyone with a building or information on same of approximately 10,000 Sq. Ft., heated with some parking, please contact Don Mayer at 248-0203. This building needs to be in the North or Northeast area of Portland.

FISH & FRY DINNER

The Ross Island Kiwanis Club is sponsoring a Fish & Fry Dinner for the benefit of Sacred Heart School. Place: Gregory Hall, 1133 S.E. Center (off Milwaukie Ave.; between S.E. Powell & Holgate). Date: Saturday, November 15, 1986. Time: 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. \$3.00 (drink included).

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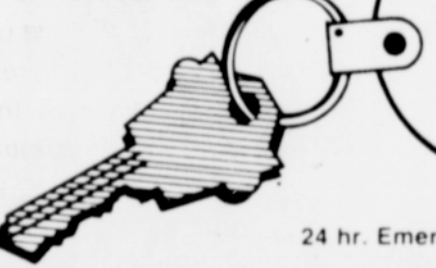
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