

FATHER TELLS STORY

Spastic Child Improves After Long Trip for Cure

(Editor's Note: The following was written for the United Press by R. W. Reid, an Australian journalist who took a job on the Wichita Eagle so he could bring his son to this country for treatment at the Institute of Logopedics in Wichita.)

By R. W. REID  
Written for the United Press

Wichita, Kan. (U.P.)—My son, John, had his first birthday party on Aug. 3, because of the work of the Institute of Logopedics here in Wichita.

He'd not had a birthday before, because it wouldn't have meant anything to him. But 10 months at the institute have taught him how to enjoy himself to some extent like normal children.

You see, John is not a normal child. He is a spastic, better known as cerebral palsied. Spastic children usually do not get much of a chance to enjoy themselves, for there are few places like the institute here.

We had to make a 10,000-mile trip so John would have his chance to learn to talk.

He was two years old when he was hit by encephalitis. That left him with cerebral palsy.

He seemed doomed to the life of the spastic until we were able to bring him here through the generosity of Hollywood millionaire Charles P. Skouras and the interest of Paramount producer Cecil B. deMille.

When we arrived 10 months ago John was a bundle of misdirected energy, nerves and unco-ordinated actions. Dr. Martin F. Palmer admitted him to the institute and the long slow work of rehabilitation was started.

John has made steady, but slow, progress. He can say a few words and he knows what they mean. At his birthday party he talked about "pop." He didn't mean me. He meant soda pop. He has to ask for it before he gets it. He drinks through a straw. Ten months ago he would have chewed the straw to bits.

We take John to the Institute every morning for a half hour lesson. He is eager to go. Once there, he has only one interest—to get into his little classroom with his teacher, Mrs. John J. Snodgrass.

We watch the lesson through a one-way mirror and try to duplicate as much of it as possible at home. In the 10 months he has learned to form his mouth for a number of words and how to say them. He also has learned to sit still, instead of jumping and rushing about aimlessly.

On the day before his birthday, I was asked to bring him to the Eagle office, where my colleagues had arranged a little birthday party for him. He sat on a table, fascinated by the birthday cake and the city room staff singing "Happy Birthday."

Ten months ago he probably would have put his foot in the cake. Certainly it would not have interested him.

Then we had our own birthday party. His brother, Robert, 5; sister, Margo, 9, and seven-month-old Christine, born here last December, were there. So were neighborhood children, for John likes now to play with them, even if he cannot yet understand or take part in many of their games.



State Assistant — George W. Perkins of New York City, new assistant secretary of state, sits at his state department desk in Washington after taking oath of office.

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FED UP WITH CLAIMS

English, Russ Inventors? Scots Get on Bandwagon

London (U.P.)—The Scots are getting somewhat fed up with Russians, Americans and Englishmen claiming to have invented everything under the sun.

Not that a doughty Scot would brag. But a complaint by one Colonel Kirke that Englishmen were not getting their fair share of credit for their achievements, brought the following deluge of letters to the Sunday Express:

Morningside, Edinburgh  
This list of Scotsmen may enable Colonel Kirke to turn a less jaundiced eye on the part Scotland and her people have played:—

James Bowman Lindsay (wireless telegraphy); Alexander Graham Bell (telephone); Sir John Pender (submarine telegraph cables); Sir Robert Watson Watt (radar); Baron Napier (logarithms); James Watt (steam engine); James Nasmyth (steam hammer); George Stephenson (railway engine); Henry Bell and William Symington (steamships); Anderson (quick-firing gun); Black (latent heat); Andrew Meikle (threshing machine); James Small (swing plough); Sir David Brewster (lighthouse lenses); Sir William Arrol (bridges); Thomas Telford (engineer) MacMillan (bicycle); Murdock (gas lamp); Sir James Dewar (vacuum flasks); Rear-Admiral G. W. Bain (dis-

tiller of sea-fresh water); Charles MacIntosh (raincoat); Dunlop (pneumatic tire); McAdam (roads); Alexander Bain (electric clock); Admiral Sir William Greig (founder of the Russian Navy).

William S. Smith

The Woodlands  
In an instruction book I read this outrageous example of the poaching qualities of the English: "John Logie Baird, an Englishman, invented television."

Mary J. Williamson  
(Baird was born as Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire.)

Dumfermline, Fife  
Scotland would have no dollar crisis were it not for the drag of her southern partner. Her whisky exports alone more than represents the value of her wheat imports.

William T. Brown.

Aberdeen  
The English founded colonies and had to rely on Scots to run them,

F. G. Dow

'WONDERFUL' YEAR OF CRUISING

Dreams Come True for Family on Schooner

By JAMES W. HART

Pittsburgh, Pa. (U.P.)—Most people spend their whole lives dreaming of something that always remains just a little out of reach. Not so with the seafaring Potters of Beaver, Pa. They made their dreams come true.

For 12 years, Frank Potter and his wife, Josephine, talked about the day they would buy a ship and sail the seas for a full year. They studied navigation together and spent week-ends and vacations hunting for their "dream boat."

A year ago, Potter left his job as district sales manager for two firms in Beaver and searched the Atlantic coast from Maine to Long Island for the ship he had in mind. Finally, he found her, a trim, 35-ton two-master named Seven Seas.

The Potters sold their home, bought the ship and set sail from Boston last September 15 with a crew of six.

The crew included Mr. and Mrs. Potter and their four children, Nancy, 11; Jane, 10; Frank III, 7, and Ross, then one year old.

Hard luck, in the form of two nasty storms, hit them almost at once, but the sea lore and navigation so seriously studied during the many years of "dreaming" paid off. Potter handled his ship like any veteran sea captain.

By Dec. 1, the Seven Seas was in St. Augustine, Fla. A little later, the Potters had to lash themselves to the mast to weather a storm in the Gulf of Mexico. After that, there was clear sailing all the way through the gulf and up the network of rivers which led to Pittsburgh and home.

The main worry of the family was that someone would be washed overboard. "In a storm," said Mrs. Potter, executive officer of the ship, "it would be al-

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Six Killed in Collision Ogallala, Neb., Aug. 17 (U.P.)—Six persons were killed last night in a collision of their car and the Union Pacific's Overland Limited at a railroad crossing here. Trainmen identified the dead as Ascension Jimenez, well to do Ogallala farmre, his wife, two daughters and two grandsons. The government of Chile has reduced railway rates for shipping farm products from areas recently devastated by forest fires.

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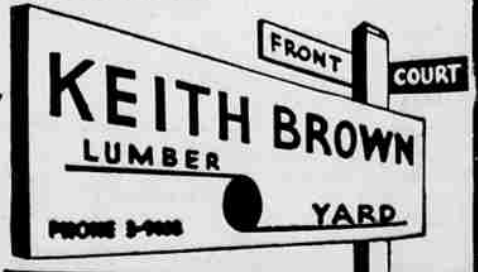
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