

## March of Dimes Aids Legless Girl Learn English — Now She Walks

What does learning to speak English have to do with learning to walk?

Puerto Rico-born Juanita Pena, Cleveland, Ohio, can tell you—in excellent English—if you can coax her to sit still a minute before running off to join her playmates. As she turns to leave, you have to look closely to detect her artificial legs.

The lively first-grader scarcely resembles the shy, Spanish-speaking child whose family brought her to the March of Dimes Birth Defects Center at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital two years ago. Juanita was born with useless stubs of skin and cartilage extending backward at right angles from her knees. She learned early in life to "walk" on her knees with shoes turned backward to fit over and protect the stubs.

Pediatricians, orthopedists, physical therapists and many other medical specialists at the March of Dimes Center examined Juanita. They decided to remove the stubs surgically and fit her with artificial lower limbs which would raise her to normal height for her age and enable her to walk naturally.

### Language A Barrier

"But it became evident very soon that the language barrier between the English-speaking specialists and the child who understood only Spanish was going to prevent any progress," says Dr. John E. Allen, center medical director. "She was shy and frightened and couldn't understand that we were doing what we had to do to help her be like normal children."

Fortunately, a therapist on the center team spoke fluent Spanish. Under her direction, Juanita began to learn English through play with familiar household furnishings in a dollhouse.

"In no time," Dr. Allen says, "she was able to understand our explanations and follow instructions. After she got her artificial legs and physical therapy was started, we could literally see her walking improve as her English improved."

While Juanita was living in Puerto Rico, her parents sought help for her deformity but were advised to wait until she was old enough to decide for herself whether she wanted artificial legs.



**BORN WITHOUT LEGS**, Juanita Pena, 7, Cleveland, Ohio, learned English through play with dollhouse furnishings at March of Dimes Birth Defects Center. Facility with the language enabled her to understand instructions in how to walk with artificial limbs.

Such thinking has become out-moded.

"A child generally begins to have definite ideas of what his body looks like and how to use it at about three or four years of age," Dr. Allen says. "If he needs an artificial limb, and is going to learn to use it successfully, it should be fitted at a very early age."

"Once a child has learned to get along without a missing extremity, it becomes more difficult for him to accept an artificial one. Juanita

came in just under the wire for successful adjustment to her legs."

### Enters Public School

After she became accustomed to her "new" legs, Juanita entered a special kindergarten. She did so well that she was accepted this fall into regular public school. With her playmates she now walks the ten blocks to and from school.

"That's where she belongs," Dr. Allen says. "She is no longer a cripple and doesn't think of herself as a cripple."



**PRESIDENT JENSEN** of Oregon State University presents OSU Charter Day award to John H. Welbes, executive vice president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League. The farm organization was recently honored for its "invaluable contributions to agriculture, rural life, and citizenship leadership", as well as promoting world-wide food programs.

### Principals Attend Vocational Meet

Three Morrow county school principals attended a vocational guidance meeting for elementary and secondary administrators in Portland Monday and Tuesday.

The three are Michael Tolar, Irrigon; Jack Grossnickle, Heppner elementary principal; and Clayton Norton, Heppner High principal.

Principal Norton reported that the meeting was of significance as it dealt with changes taking place in vocational guidance. The field is opening up now in the grade school level, he said, and the conference dealt with this development, among other matters.

She was discharged last Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Slim Rhoton went to The Dalles last Tuesday for business and shopping and medical care.

### Response Needed For Christmas Aid

Christmas assistance to needy families in Morrow county, as well as year around welfare activities of the Salvation Army, will depend on the response to the mail appeal now being conducted in the county, according to a news release from the Salvation Army.

Food, clothing and toys are the principal items provided at Christmas time to brighten the holidays for the needy, and the Salvation Army requests that contributions be in the form of cash or checks since there are no facilities for collecting and handling gifts of goods. Also the money can be used to purchase the items best suited to the needs of individual families.

Those who have received mail appeals are invited to respond. Money remaining after Christmas season is used for the continuing welfare program of the Salvation Army, which covers some 23 different services.

### THOUGHTLESS ROAD RATS



A Road Rat is a thoughtless character. He drives a car like he used to drive his toy cars—in complete disregard of the rights and privileges of others. (Oregon Traffic Safety Commission and Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association)

### Leaves Heppner

Mrs. R. A. Thompson, a resident of the Heppner area all of her life, moved recently to Walla Walla, according to her grandson, Terry Thompson. She is residing at Whitman Manor, 225 Woodland Ave., Walla Walla, and would enjoy hearing from friends at that address.

### NO KIDDING ON SKIDS

There's no kidding about skidding. The Traffic Safety & Education Division of the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles says: Here's how to get out of a dangerous skid. If the rear end of your car skids left, steer left. If it skids right, steer right.

### Relative of Local People Dies in East

Relatives here have received word of the death in Tulsa, Oklahoma, of Mrs. Ernest Stewart, sister of Mrs. Walter Edger, and an aunt of Paul Brown, both of Heppner. Services were held this week for Mrs. Stewart who died Saturday, December 4, in Tulsa.

Survivors include her husband, one daughter and six grandchildren. Also, a brother, Milton Spurlock of Pendleton; two sisters, Mrs. Roy Johnson of Pendleton, and Mrs. Edger of Heppner and several nieces and nephews.

## Parties Begin Holiday Season

By VIRGINIA KELSO

**KINZUA**—The regular meeting of the Camp 5 Womens club and Christmas party was held last Monday at the Camp 5 Community hall. Hostesses for this party were Betty Murdock and Joannie Howell.

Helen Troxell presided over the business meeting in the absence of the president, Barbara Mortimore. Twelve were present and they voted to donate \$5.00 to the Tri-community Christmas party.

Marie Rhoton resigned as 1966 vice-president and Betty Murdock was elected to fill the office. Jean Medlock and Linda Warner are to audit the books. Nancy Hawk won the door prize.

1965 Secret Pals were revealed with the gift exchange and new ones were drawn.

The Annual Christmas community card party was held Saturday night at the Camp 5 community hall. Hostesses were Betty Murdock, Etta Ferrel and Linda Warner. High was won by Virginia Kelso and Ellis McRoberts, low by Bob Troxell and Bonnie Campbell, and floating

by Ellis McRoberts and Marie Rhoton. Assorted pies and coffee were served by the hostess after which a gift exchange was held.

Mrs. Kenneth Norris and Mrs. Don Culver of Service Creek were business visitors to John Day Friday.

Richard Mortimore went to Portland Sunday to bring home Mrs. Mortimore who had been hospitalized at Emanuel Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Allen and son Bob spent the weekend at Moses Lake, Wash., visiting Mr. Allen's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Allen.

Mrs. Louis Lorengel and family went to The Dalles Saturday to visit with Mr. Lorengel who is a patient at The Dalles General hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Freeman and family went to Heppner Sunday where they visited with George Elder at the Pioneer Memorial hospital.

Mrs. Robert Kelso and Mrs. Verne Edwards of Fossil were business visitors to The Dalles Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayland Hyatt

and daughter Theresa spent the week-end in Portland visiting with relatives.

Mrs. Ray Rector and son Jeff were in Condon Tuesday for medical care for Jeff. Also there that day were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kelso.

Mr. and Mrs. John Meadows and daughter Bellinda were business visitors to Portland last Tuesday. They were accompanied as far as The Dalles by Louis Lorengel.

The Doubledeck card club was entertained last Wednesday evening at the home of Margaret McConnell with Virginia Sitton as hostess. High was won by Vi Slinkard, low by May Bell, and traveling by Rita Bowman and Elna Weems. Others present were Kathryn Flack, Virginia Kelso, Rita Conlee, Marge Asher, Helen Wright, and Marj Boring.

Business visitors to The Dalles Saturday were Mr. and Mrs. Lee Bailey and Jack Sitton. Also there that day were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Rector and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Slinkard.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank DeMerritt went to Heppner Monday of last week where Mrs. DeMerritt en-



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