

Medford Youth Successfully Undergoes Rare Heart Operation at Mayo Clinic

Story of Ordeal Told By Leon McDougall; People, Dog Credited

By LEON (PUNKY) McDOUGALL
As Told to a Mail Tribune Writer

I owe my life to hundreds of people and a dog. I have known for several years that something was the matter with my heart. Two years ago I began to experience definite symptoms, and we knew it was the time to do something about it. After consultations with a heart specialist in Portland, and after many tests had been conducted and evaluated, I was told I had a hole in my heart. They were not sure of the size (later it proved to be about as big as a 50 cent piece) but they said it was inside the heart, and involved all four compartments.

Other than that, I was told, I was a healthy, 20-year-old college student. With no treatment, I could probably get along for another 10 years. But six months ago the symptoms—dizziness, blacking-out, palpitations, and so on—all became worse. It was decided that the time for surgery had come.

Three Places Listed
Where Operation Done
My physicians told me there are three places in the United States where such operations are done. I chose the famous Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

The day Dad and I arrived was just the beginning of many, many tests, of examinations, of consultations. One day alone I was examined by nine different doctors. At the end of three days I was told I could be helped. But it appeared I would have to wait for three weeks, because the special machine they wanted to use was already being used, and would not be free before that time. As the medical staff made the necessary plans and reservations, I returned home to wait.

Too Tests Again
The second time we arrived in Rochester, everything was ready. I thought I wouldn't have to go through all the tests again, but no such luck. This time I had consultations with 12 heart specialists. The most important step in such an operation, outside of the actual surgery, is what they call "catheterization."

A tube is run into the artery of your arm — either one — and along the artery into the heart itself. It is painless, I was fully conscious, and I found it most interesting.

The surgeon and his assistant talked to me all the time they were working, and said they answer any questions I would ask. I asked plenty.

Like the time I felt something tickle me inside my stomach, and asked what was going on. "That's the tube you feel," I was told. "We're testing your kidneys now. We're all through with your heart, liver, lungs and diaphragm."

Into Light Rays
All the while they were using the flexible tube they were noting their progress, and my organic reactions, through a fluoroscope directly over my chest. Electrodes placed on my body were connected to a relay outlet that transformed all my reactions into light rays. These were reproduced in another room down the hall, where they were transcribed by two specially-trained technicians.

Their reports and findings were delivered to the catheterization team over a public address system, so I too could hear what was going on.

From the examination, the doctors were able to determine the exact position of the hole, its size, shape, the amount of blood which entered and left each of the four heart chambers, the amount of oxygen I was receiving, and the amount of blood my organs were receiving.

In my case, 80 per cent of my blood was going to the lungs, with only about 20 per cent circulating in the rest of my body. This explains why my hands and feet have always felt so cold.

Finally Ready
After all this data had been accumulated and recorded, I was ready for the operation.

They had explained their plans to me, so I knew just what would take place. When I walked into the surgery, everything was ready and everyone was busy. Each person had a job, and important job as part of a team.

They had given me a capsule that made me feel happy and silly, so I was in good spirits. Everyone greeted me as though I was a member of the team. After a "shot" in the arm, I hopped up on the table, and as I did so, I bumped my head on a light.

"Don't tear the place up!" someone said jokingly. Thinking that the shot had been something to put me to sleep, I waited and waited and waited. Just as I was about ready to sit up and complain, I felt a little jab in my arm. A voice said, "OK, Leon. There you go."

Two days later I woke up and demanded a glass of water. The operation was 100 per cent successful. All of Mayo's of this type have been. They do not use the famous "deep-freeze" technique—rather they use a "by-pass" or "heart-lung" machine. This is connected directly to an artery in the left chest and another in the right side. As it was explained to me, "The blood goes in your left arm, then through the body and out the tube in the right side. It is purified in the machine and returned to the body, then out again, and so on as long as it is in use."

It works for both your heart and your lungs. Since they are both quiet, it is the only thing that keeps you alive. Although it is used for only 35 minutes, it gives the chief surgeon, who does the actual heart surgery, enough time to open the heart and close the hole, then sew up the heart again.

Used Sponge
Because the hole in my heart was irregularly shaped, it was impossible simply to sew it up. Instead, the surgeon, after determining its size, took a piece of sponge similar to that used by housewives in the kitchen, cut it to the proper size, fitted it into the heart, and sewed it into the heart wall. The heart was closed and the machine was disconnected, the most critical part of the proceeding, and the heart was massaged to get it going.

As I understand it, the sponge serves as a basis for the growth of new tissue which eventually will cover the area, closing the hole and covering the sponge. The whole operation took 6½ hours, 17 pints of blood, and a surgical team of about 14 people, including four who operated the heart-lung machine.

The period after I woke up following the operation was the worst of all. The pain was terrific. They had told me it would be, because of the temporary dislocation of my breast bone. Nothing seemed to ease the pain, which lasted for two days. Gradually, though, it began to get less and less.

Many Machines
The room I was in was full of machines and equipment, all kinds and sizes and of every description. Some of them were still "attached" to me, assisting my body in keeping up its normal functions. At one time there were six of them running.

There were special nurses for six days. They almost had to be mechanical engineers as well as nurses to keep the machines operating. Gradually the machines were disconnected, one by one, and removed from the room. Later I was allowed to sit up.

That's when all those wonderful letters and telegrams helped so very much. Sometimes I'd wonder if I could endure the pain in my chest, and then I'd see those messages from people in Medford.

"They didn't let me down, so I can't let them down," I'd tell myself.

True Meaning
That's when the true meaning of this operation hit me. When I think of all the people who had a part in making it a success it makes me feel very humble.

The many technicians and doctors who worked on my heart, and who conducted the necessary research, the doctors and nurses who have built up their



LEON AND DOG—Leon (Punky) McDougall is shown above with his dog, "Tony," as he appears today, almost fully recovered from a heart operation performed recently at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., which plugged a hole in his heart. He tells about the experience in the accompanying story. "Tony" is a recent acquisition, a gift to young McDougall that was waiting for him on his return from Rochester after his former dog was killed by a car while he was hospitalized. (Brainerd photo.)

skills over the years and who have faith in each other, and the wonderful friends at home that had that same faith in me; they all have it. Why shouldn't I? I'd ask.

I've tried to express my thanks, but I feel so inadequate. I talked to the doctors and nurses afterwards and thanked them. I could. But they were just as happy as I was, and it was impossible to express myself properly.

I remember the look on one doctor's face when he unexpectedly walked into my room when I was almost well, and found me "booping" a student nurse a new "back" dance step.

Then, when I came home, one of the many Copco employees who donated blood got a real thrill to see me walking down the street.

Many Contacts
I had many pleasant personal contacts with other patients, some of whom have been cured of congenital defects like mine, some of whom are not so fortunate, as in the case of some cancer patients. But many of them can be cured. Given a little time, all will be cured, provided we help, and see that the research goes forward.

The goal is ahead, and the work is already started. I saw a lot of this when I was invited to visit the research laboratory—another busy place where everyone works together.

I was fascinated, and was enjoying myself, walking around on my newly-warm feet, when a white-coated man came up and said "How would you like to meet somebody very important."

I nodded eagerly. In a few moments he returned to the room followed by a frisky mongrel dog. "This little guy," he said, "had the same operation you did just two years ago. It was his operation, and others like him, that gave us the knowledge which saved your life."

"In three months you'll be jumping and running like him, too."

I thanked everyone I could back there—including a pat on the head for the little dog, one of many they care for tenderly. Soon, I hope, I'll be able to thank a lot of people who helped. I've got everyone to be grateful for, and I am grateful—to hundreds of people and a dog.

Crater High Wins In District Debate
Central Point — The Crater High school debate team yesterday won a southern Oregon district competition against Grants Pass, Medford and Ashland high school teams, and will compete in the state tournament in Eugene April 13 and 14.

The winning team, coached by Don Lacy, includes Nathan Douthitt, Don Chitwood and Beverly Burgoine.

In the Class B division, the Talent High school team, coached by Glenn Lamb, defeated the Illinois Valley High school team, and will represent the southern Oregon district in the state tournament.

Individual contestants in the state speech tournament will be selected in a district meeting later this month.

Man is affected by 80 diseases also common to animals.

Pickin' Pears

News and Notes From Camp White

By BILL HURN

Central Point American Legion post 129 met with Camp White veterans in Vets hall Thursday evening with Past Commander Dewey Gearin presiding. Gene Orr, 13th district commander who has returned from Washington, reported on the sessions of executive meeting of the National Rehabilitation committee. A forum discussion of pending legislation especially on House Bill 7886 on the National Security act was held. Coffee and doughnuts were served by the Post.

Dr. and Mrs. A. R. Schoenberg returned Wednesday night from Louisville, Ky., where they attended the wedding of their son, Richard, Feb. 24. On the return trip, Dr. Schoenberg visited West Side Veterans Hospital and Training Center at Chicago, Ill. They made a brief visit at Lincoln, Neb., and at Portland where he attended the Oregon State Dental association convention.

The advisory committee has been announced for Hobby Fair plans for the 1956 Arts and Crafts presentation for Sunday, March 18, 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the theatre of Camp White under the sponsorship of VAOS. Committees are Emil Kroger, general chairman; Ralph Ash, coordinator; Austin Barneburg, judge and awards; Helen Lusk, publicity; Olive Floyd, decorations; Thelma Williams, refreshments; and Lelia Birch, reception. There are 45 assistants to the various groups. Staff aides from special service and recreation on technical and reception details have been assigned and are giving finishing touches in the last week of preparation for the show.

Turkey Disease in Humans in Oregon Being Investigated
Portland — (U.P.) — The State Board of Health Saturday was investigating a possible outbreak of human psittacosis in Columbia and Multnomah counties following two deaths and reports of some 30 cases of illness.

Dr. Harold M. Erickson, state health officer, said the deaths, one Friday and the other last week, and the sick cases were being investigated to determine if they were caused by the pneumonia-like disease.

He said he had been informed by the U. S. Public Health Service that the so-called bird disease had broken out in turkey flocks near Scappoose and on Sauvie island.

Start Investigation
Dr. Erickson said his office began an investigation of the turkeys Feb. 21 when a veterinarian reported the disease among the birds. A laboratory report from the Public Health Service confirmed the disease.

Psittacosis
The state health officer said the two dead persons and the 30 ill persons all had contact with the diseased turkeys. He said laboratory reports on whether these persons had contracted psittacosis would not be available for several days.

Dr. Erickson emphasized that there was no medical record of a human getting the disease from eating cooked turkeys. He said the disease was transferred to humans by handling infected birds or by breathing the dust from oil contacting their droppings. It is possible, he said, for the disease to be transferred from one human to another through contact.

Oregon has not had a death from psittacosis for at least 12 years, Dr. Erickson said.

Boys Watches TV Show; Repeats Show Later
Shreveport, La. — (U.P.) — Johnny Owens, 3, watched a television ad Friday in which a man banged on cars with a hammer to show they could take it.

Five minutes later Johnny's mother found the headlights and tail lights of the family car smashed to bits.

High School News Notes
An eye-catching sign, "State or Bust," adorns the downstairs hallway, constantly reminding students to support the team by making the trip to Eugene over the spring vacation.

Students showed their enthusiasm for the coming games by a car rally through town after school Friday night.

The opening game will be on Wednesday, with the tournament extending through the remaining part of the week, the championship game being held Saturday evening.

The Future Teachers of America attended the Delta Kappa Gamma dinner in the cafeteria Tuesday evening.

Representatives from Oregon's independent colleges visited school Thursday morning. A movie was shown pertaining to the choice of a college, and then the students attended three different sessions of explanation and discussion, concerning the course prospectus of each college.

The Crater staff announced that it has met its final deadline and that the annuals are expected to arrive some time the middle of May.

Plans are being made for the annual student council conference, which will be held in Medford next year. Our present student council is in charge of all arrangements. Representatives from high schools all over Oregon will attend the convocation, consisting of various types of activities and entertainment for the guests, as next year's council plays host.

Sunny days inspired the tracksters to start their work-outs after school each night. The first meet will be the latter part of this month.

Juniors are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their class rings which were ordered earlier in the year. These rings are expected to arrive some time this week.

Band members have been practicing furiously at their music for the contest, to be held this spring. "Perfection" is the motto that is held over each musician's head, and every practice seems to bring memorization closer in his mind. There is deep competition between the schools, as each band is rated, according to the perfection of the played music.

Pear Blossom Event Plans Are Announced

Requirements for floats and queen contestants for the Rogue Valley Pear Blossom festival have been announced by the festival committee. Plans for the festival were completed at a committee meeting recently, according to President Gene Ferrell.

Other committee members are
Medford Mayor Earl Miller, secretary-treasurer; J. D. Pierce, vice president; and Granvil Brittsan, Elliott Becken, Howard Boyd, Robert Boyer and Robert Dames, directors.

No Size Limit
Floats will have no size limit for entering the parade, Ferrell said, but none can be pulled by "anything larger than a St. Bernard dog," nor can any be motor driven. Walking groups, bicycles and tricycles are encouraged this year.

Floats may be entered in five divisions: commercial, organizational, individual, costumed walking groups, and best decorated bicycles and tricycles. Three prizes will be given in each division, as well as three grand prizes for the best theme portrayal, originality and best comic float.

The parade is limited to children 12 years old and under. It will form at Ivy St. in library park at 1 p.m. and proceed east on Main St. to Hawthorne park. **County Representation**

Ferrell said the committee will attempt to have as fair a representation as possible from throughout the county for the queen contest by selecting three candidates from the Medford area and three from outside Medford.

Candidates must be six years old or younger and all valley organizations must return their applications for candidates to the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, 5 South Riverside ave., not later than March 15, indicating whether they will enter a candidate.

All merchants in the county have been asked to participate in the community enterprise, according to Ferrell, who said the committee hopes that each merchant will enter a float and as many organizations as possible will sponsor a queen.

All mayors of county cities will be invited to take part in the day's activities.

BUTTE FALLS Burned-Out Family Grateful

By JUNE TAUNTON

Butte Falls — Mr. and Mrs. Dave Smith and family have expressed their appreciation to the many kind people of the Butte Falls area who contributed many things for their use, following a fire which destroyed their home and most of their personal belongings recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hoffman and family, Ashland, visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hoffman of Butte Falls, last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Bob) Ellis became the parents of a son, Marc Leroy, Feb. 16. They have another son, Terry.

Charles (Red) Capello has been ill several days with the flu. He was unable to work for a few days, but has now gone back.

Mary Shubert, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Moore and Mrs. Tiney Murray, were to motor to San Diego, Calif., on Saturday.

Miss Shubert, Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Murray are teachers at Butte Falls grade school. They plan to visit friends and relatives, and expect to be gone for a week.

Johnny Capello, nine-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Capello, was guest of honor at a birthday party last Sunday at home.

Among those present were Danny Edmondson, Bobby Hargraves, Mildred Sutton, George Sutton, Nancy Smith, Jessie Smith, Floyd Smith, Sharon Smith, Vickie Armstrong, Bonnie Irwin, Dan Irwin, Joey Fuiten, Jimmy Driskell, Billy Dalton, Donnie Walker and Johnny Capello.

Refreshments were served by Jeanette Capello, and games were played by the children.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Price became parents of a son on March 3. He has been named Kenneth Roy. They have other sons, Gary and Ritchie.

Fred Rambo, son of Tom Rambo, left this week for Portland to take his physical examination for entering the armed service. Fred has been employed on the Rancheria, near Butte Falls, for over a year.

Eleanor Sheppard, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Sheppard of Butte Falls, recently enlisted in the United States Women Marine corps. She is taking her basic training in S.C., and expects to be home some time in April.

Mrs. Carolina (Cal) Poole Thomas was hospitalized recently, but is now at home with her daughter, Mrs. Les Ellis.

Members of the Butte Falls Diet club met Thursday afternoon, at the home of Mrs. Fred Kincaid. Those who "weighed in" were Mrs. Burrell Facey, Mrs. Charles Ferguson, Mrs. Cecil Taunton, Mrs. Fred Kincaid, Mrs. Alva Webster and a visitor, Mrs. Clara Conley.

Plans to include group exercises were discussed. Black coffee was served.

The next meeting will be next Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Alva Webster.

Mrs. Bill Harris was called to Rogue River, due to the ill-

TIRED?

Tired of drab, Winter-dulled rooms?

RENEW

Their Beauty With

GLIDDEN PAINT!



So quick and easy! And no more old fashioned, stifling odors, so use SATIN SPRED (Glidden's 100% Latex Paint) can be applied with windows closed! For the prettiest rooms you've ever had... try GLIDDEN'S.

We Give S&H Green Stamps

FRAKE & SMITH

315 E. Main • Phone 2-4564

SONOTONE

All-Transistor HEARING AID

WHAT IS IT?

In simple terms the Sonotone transistor Hearing Aid is a very small, perfectly engineered instrument. It is most economical to operate and easy to wear.

The only thing that your friends could possibly notice about it is the marvelous change in your hearing and your entire personality.

18 Years with Sonotone



Medford's Oldest Hearing Aid Institution

C. R. ADAMSON
DISTRICT MANAGER

839 East Jackson Phone 2-5904

"I'M BACK ON SCHEDULE!"



If your constipation is due to lack of bulk—read how All-Bran helped Mr. R. Res, N. Y., N. Y. "For years I suffered from constipation. At 70, with the help of Kellogg's All-Bran, I'm back on schedule." Good-tasting All-Bran corrects a common cause of constipation (lack of bulk). All-Bran, made of whole wheat grain, supplies the natural laxative bulk you need daily for gentle, natural regularity. Kellogg's—the original, ready-to-eat bran. Try All-Bran for 10 days. If not fully satisfied, return empty carton and get double your money back.



Best liked by millions