

Preserving of Human Eye for Transplant Told

Washington—The human eye now can be preserved for transplantation indefinitely by dehydrations process. Formerly the cornea had to be transplanted within a few days of the donor's death if the operation were to prove successful.

The Ocular Research Unit at Walter Reed Army hospital developed the dehydration process to make possible a larger and more permanent eye bank for transmitting the "gift of sight" from the dead to the living.

One member of the unit, Sfc. Charles W. Furness played a key role in its work. He designed the clamp used to prevent damage to the cornea taken for dehydration prior to transplantation.

Furness, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Furness of Stafford Springs, Conn., spends his off-duty hours with the District of Columbia Lion's club eye bank and with the Research Foundation where he collects eyes from donors at Washington hospitals, preserves the corneas, and helps with its administrative work.

Furness also helped set up a unit to employ the dehydration process in a Georgetown University laboratory. He also has offered to give a series of talks before local organizations to spread the word on the eye bank.

He's Available
Furness lost an eye in an accident while stationed with the Corps of Engineers in Hawaii in 1949.

"I realized then," he said, "how wonderful vision is."

Furness is voluntarily on call at all times in case a Washington hospital reports the death of a person who has pledged his eyes to the eye bank. But he still needs written permission from the next of kin.

"It's extremely difficult to talk to a bereaved person at such a time," Furness said, "but they usually understand when I explain the great gift of sight that can be restored to some other person."

He said the public generally has accepted cornea transplants in the past few years, but that it is "most important that this educational effort continue."

"If this present eye bank system had been in operation 10 years ago as fully as it is now," Furness said, "I might not have lost my vision in one eye."

"Now, I derive great personal satisfaction from working with the eye bank so that others may not suffer loss of vision from any deficiency in this vital service."

Highways Open Residential Areas

Chicago—The American Society of Planning Officials has revealed that many areas opened up by the network of highways being built with federal and state aid are suitable for residential development.

But, the society added, the development will be desirable only if the layout of the subdivision is right.

Commercial interests frequently contend that lands bordering highways are unfit for residential use and should be zoned for business, the society said. But commercial strips along highways are often uneconomic, distracting to motorists and unsightly, the society added.

However, the ASPO said ordinances that protect new subdivisions along the major highways by requiring that they be separated from the highways are becoming more and more common. Some cities require a buffer strip or park between the highway and residence, the society said.

These strips or parks, the ASPO said, protect residents from noise, fumes and vibration of passing cars and trucks. Prohibition of access to the highway also keeps local traffic from moving directly into high-speed through traffic.

The National Palace in Mexico City occupies the spot where Montezuma field court, the National Geographic Magazine says. Cortes appropriated the site and built a fortress-like residence that was later ruined by rioters. The present palace was begun in 1692.

Trilobites — three-lobed cousins of the lobsters — reigned for some 300,000,000 years on the floors of the oceans. The little animals became extinct, but left countless fossils that bear witness to their supremacy when earth was younger.



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