

Quadruplegic Doctor Has Encouragement Sympathetic Care for Hospital Patients

Memphis, Tenn. —UPI— You don't think of Dr. Harold Trueberger as handicapped when you speak to him on the telephone. He has a strong, clear voice and he talks about his 200 paraplegic patients in a friendly manner, just as you'd expect any doctor to.

You don't realize what a remarkable man Trueberger is — until you visit his office at Kennedy Veterans hospital here. Then you get an idea of what it's like to be a quadruplegic. The doctor with the direct, blue eyes explains he is paralyzed from the chest down. He has no feeling in his legs, his arms are partially crippled and his fingers are as limp as those of an empty glove.

Trueberger, at 44, is confined to a wheel chair and a bed. He has been for 13 years. Someone has to turn him over every two hours as he sleeps so his blood circulation won't be cut off. He eats with special silverware.

Not 'Flat on Back'

But that doesn't mean Trueberger is what you'd call "flat on his back." He runs the out-patient clinic for paraplegics — people less handicapped than himself. He's in his office five days a week, and like any doctor is on call at odd hours.

Trueberger's office is full of gadgets such as the desk set on blocks to let him roll his wheel chair up to it without bumping his knees. He has a writing arm — a hollow cast that holds his pen. He's learned to lift the telephone by slipping his thumb through a special hook on the back of it, and he dials numbers with a metal pencil that fits onto the palm of his hand. With two such pencils, Trueberger can punch out a three-page letter in an hour, using an electric typewriter.

But life hasn't always been even that good for Trueberger. Trueberger earned his M.D. at Vanderbilt university, went into the Army in 1943 and found himself in North Africa in 1946. One day before dawn, his neck was broken in a jeep accident, when his driver tried to pass an Arab cart being pulled by a donkey and a camel.

During a painfully slow recovery, Trueberger tried to get a position with the X-ray staff at Kennedy hospital. For three years he struggled to prepare himself, but the job didn't pan out.

To make matters worse, on one of his visits home, his wife hurt herself taking care of him and she became bedridden. Then, in 1951, his only son — Harold Jr., then six —

came down with polio. Trueberger hit rock bottom.

"I was deep in the dumps," he recalls. "I was considered one of the more difficult patients — and I knew it."

Medicine Suggested

That was when Dr. Benjamin Moeller, chief of the Spinal Cord Injury (Paraplegic) division, suggested Trueberger take up medicine again. "I was a little hesitant," he admitted. "I knew I was out of date. All I had been reading was dime novels."

But Moeller convinced him he could do it. Gradually, Trueberger said, "he let me do more and more where I now do virtually all as far as out-patient care is concerned — all that my physical capacity will allow."

Other doctors help out by performing physical examinations and surgery but Trueberger runs the clinic.

He tells with effort of his adjustment to wheel-chair living. His choice of words is deliberate and slow. His breath comes hard like a man walking up a long, hard hill, but when he reaches today, Trueberger smiles and says cheerfully, "And here I am."

The "here" is the job as doctor without pay — because Trueberger receives full disability benefits for his injury. But the job is its own reward, he said. "It has been the greatest psychological boost I have ever had."

Others have benefitted too. Encouragement Offered

Many times Trueberger has related his experiences to other patients, offering encouragement. His example has been an inspiration.

One patient explained it this way: "Here you have a man whom some consider a hopeless patient and he's carrying on a full-time job. He's up and working and helping people. That's quite encouraging."

"He understands you," said another paraplegic. "He knows what you're talking about when other doctors don't."

A third said frankly, "I'll talk to him before the others."

That feeling is widespread because the patients feel, in their words, that "Dr. Trueberger has been there, too."

One man summed up the sentiment of the paraplegics very simply, by saying, "We could use more doctors like him."

More doctors and more people, too.

Washington —UPI— Some of them laughed though they couldn't see. Others sang though they couldn't hear.

It happened at a one-of-a-kind Christmas concert here Tuesday for the fifth year in a row by Mrs. J. J. Shouse, vice president of the National Symphony Orchestra association.

As a "Christmas present to myself," Mrs. Shouse puts on the annual concert for some 2,600 deaf, blind, crippled or otherwise handicapped youngsters from the capital area.

Some in Wheelchairs

Some came into the Catholic University gymnasium in wheelchairs, some carried canes tapping the floor ahead of them, some managed to maneuver with only a friendly adult on either side for moral support. So many came had to sit on the floor.

After the music began, the youngsters acted like kids the world over. "Pop Goes The Weasel" got more handclapping than did Handel and the clash of cymbals in "Carmen" drew squeals.

When it came time for everyone to join in singing Christmas carols, one pig-tailed girl strained to read the

Handicaps Limit Participation But Youngsters Enjoy Christmas Party

words on her program. She couldn't—despite three cataract operations so far—but she sang with a shy smile anyway.

Explains Concert

Also singing was a group of teen-age boys wearing the khaki outfit of a training center for delinquents.

When National Symphony conductor Howard Mitchell introduced the orchestra's instruments, one youngster leaned over to steady a palsied friend who wanted to see the bassoon.

Mitchell began by explaining that at a concert "everyone must be absolutely quiet so everyone can hear."

The tiny little boy in the back couldn't be blamed for

violating the rule and crying all the way through the concert.

He could hear all right but he couldn't see what was causing all the noise.

4-H NEWS

Griffin Creek Dairy Club

The first meeting of the Griffin Creek Dairy club was held Dec. 11 at the home of our leader, Ed Goodwin.

We received our material and officers were elected. They are Marthanne Goodwin, president; Russell Fields, vice president; Bonnie Brantley, secretary; Margaret Goodwin, reporter; and Steve Clark, song leader.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Russell Fields, 2592 Jacksonville highway, Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Margaret Goodwin, Reporter

Howard Bake-N-Stitchers

The third year cooking club of the Howard Bake-N-Stitchers 4-H club met at the home of their leader, Mrs. Jerome Meakren Saturday.

The morning was spent making Christmas table centerpieces for our mothers. We also made other Christmas decorations.

Upon finishing our decorations, we had a Christmas party and refreshments were served by our leader.

Diane Meakren, Reporter.

G. E. Stitches

Saturday, Dec. 19, will be the Christmas potluck dinner for the G. E. Stitches 4-H club members and their families. It will be held at Edgeoaks Dairy, the home of our leaders, at 6:30 p.m.

The dinner was planned at a meeting recently. Three new members were enrolled in the club at that time. They are Carol and Cynthia McKee and Jayne Scott, all of Eagle Point. They are beginners in 4-H work under the junior leader, Bonnie Lee Goehring.

Club members will meet Saturday for work, followed by the Christmas party and exchange of gifts.

Jillenda Arthur, Reporter

Willing Workers Sewing club

The Willing Workers Sewing 4-H club met at the home of Mrs. John Anhorn. The meeting was called to order by President Judy Franek. We had a Christmas party, and played games.

The next meeting will be held Jan. 12. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Anhorn.

Nancy Frick, Reporter

Largest Balloon Believed Sighted

Rapid City, S. D. —UPI— The world's largest balloon was believed down today northeast of San Antonio, Texas.

The balloon, tall as a 31-story building, got lost Tuesday in a snow storm.

But word came today from the San Antonio Air Force Base. The base reported to Winzen Research in Minneapolis, builder and launcher of the balloon, that a balloon had been sighted last night floating to earth northwest of New Braunfels, Texas, 40 miles northeast of San Antonio.

It "conceivably is ours," a spokesman for Winzen Research said.

American Awaits Verdict in Cuba

Havana —UPI— The fate of a New York-Miami manufacturer accused of plotting to smuggle refugees out of Cuba rested today in the hands of a revolutionary tribunal considering government demands that he be sent to prison for 20 years.

The five-hour trial of John Martino ended at 2 a.m. It was not certain how soon the verdict would be announced.

Martino denied his guilt repeatedly and emotionally, sometimes coming close to tears.

Journal Janitor Critically Injured

Portland —UPI— Bruno C. Struve, 58, a janitor in the Journal building, was in critical condition at Emanuel hospital today with injuries suffered Tuesday in an accidental two-story fall down an elevator shaft.

Struve suffered head and chest injuries.

SCENTED ORNAMENTS

Miami —UPI— Mrs. William B. Whitaker went shopping Tuesday for new Christmas tree ornaments, even though last year's ornaments were stored safe and sound in a swimming pool pump-house. When she started to unpack the old ornaments she discovered a skunk nestled among them. She stopped unpacking.



ALTITUDE RECORD HOLDER—Capt. Joe B. Jordan, Edwards Air Force Base Flight Test Center pilot, is shown in the cockpit of his Lockheed F-104C Starfighter, in which he set a new world altitude record of 103,395.5 feet. The Starfighter topped the 98,560 foot altitude mark claimed last week by the U. S. Navy with an F4H. The record breaking flight of the F104C also surpassed the existing balloon mark of 101,516 feet. (UPI Telephoto)

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Department Heads Talk To Hatfield

Salem —UPI— Government reorganization, suggested economies and improved methods of administration were discussed Tuesday afternoon by all heads of state government departments.

The session was called by Gov. Mark Hatfield and lasted about two hours.

This was the second all-department head meeting the governor has conducted since taking office. The department heads meet in smaller conference groups each week with the governor.

Mother, Grandmother Role Gained Same Day

Hialeah, Fla. —UPI— Mrs. Raymond Lites, 34, became both a mother and grandmother within less than three hours Tuesday.

Mrs. Lites gave birth to a boy at 11:46 a.m. and her daughter, Mrs. Robert H. Hall, 18, had a girl at 9:22 a.m. Both babies were reported in good condition.

VISUAL AID MAN DIES

Columbus, Ohio —UPI— B. A. Aughinbaugh, 74, developer of the first visual aid teaching program for U.S. schools, died here Monday.

Labor-Management Committee To Meet

Salem —UPI— The Legislative Interim Committee on Labor-Management will meet in Salem Saturday at 9:30 a.m. in the Capitol building.

The Portland newspaper strike may be among the topics up for discussion, according to Rep. Ed Whelan (D-Portland). Whelan also is secretary of the Multnomah County Central Labor council.

Well-cured, mature onions are dry enough for the skin to crackle.

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