

### Spokane Man First To Have Mitral Valve

Portland - (UPI) - Physicians disclosed Wednesday that a Spokane man is the first person to have an artificial mitral valve placed in his heart and that he is recovering satisfactorily.

Philip Amundson, 52, was reported convalescing without complications at the University of Oregon Medical School Hospital after open-heart surgery Sept. 21.

Doctors said a ball-type mitral valve, developed in the medical school's department of surgery during the past 2 1/2 years, was inserted into Amundson's heart in the delicate operation.

The report on the valve and its successful application was presented today to the American College of Surgeons in San Francisco by Dr. Albert Starr, assistant professor of surgery.

**Valve Described**  
Dr. Starr and M. Lowell Edwards of the Edwards Development Laboratory here developed the artificial valve. It consists of a ball of silicon rubber, about 3/4 of an inch in diameter, enclosed in a cage of plastic material, about 1 1/2 inches high. The outer margin of the cage is of a cloth material used in other heart surgery.

Doctors said mitral valve disease was so common that it has been estimated the number of persons in Oregon alone who would require complete removal of the mitral valve would fall into the thousands.

**Placed on Machine**  
Amundson was placed on the heart-lung machine during surgery in which doctors found his mitral valve could no longer function and there was no possibility of repair by any known method. Testing is still going on to predict the wearing ability of the artificial valves.

Amundson and his wife have two married daughters and five grandchildren, all of Spokane.

### Loss of Enzyme Reason Man Can't Create Vitamin C

New York (Science Service) - Somewhere along the path of evolution between rabbits and man, a particular liver enzyme disappeared. Loss of this enzyme is the reason man is unable to manufacture vitamin C within his own body, a team of researchers from India reported here today.

Drs. I. B. Chatterjee, N. C. Kar, N. C. Ghosh and B. C. Guha of the University College of Science and Technology, Calcutta, reported here at a New York Academy of Sciences conference that the chemical conversion of sugar to vitamin C (L-ascorbic acid) in animals is completed only when the enzyme L-gulonoxidase is present.

**Imbedded in Kidney Cells**  
In amphibians, reptiles and a number of birds, this enzyme is found within the minute particles (microsomes) embedded in kidney cells. But in other birds and in those mammals capable of manufacturing vitamin C, the enzyme has moved to the liver cells. Finally, in the higher mammals, and in at least one bird, the enzyme disappears completely.

All this indicates, the researchers state, that "in the evolutionary ascent," the enzyme originally residing in the kidney gradually passes into the liver and finally by genetic defect, disappears from the liver also.

In mice, rats, rabbits, pigeons and chickens, but not in goats, a natural substance cuts down on the amount of vitamin C produced. This substance can be overcome by vitamin K, and by the chlorides of lithium, sodium, potassium and cesium.

### Dad's Club Supports Ballot Measure 6

Ashland - SOC fathers, through the Dad's club at Southern Oregon college, have given Measure No. 6 their support by contributing \$100 to help with campaign expenses.

President of the organization, E. A. S. Humphrey of Medford, said that "dormitories could be provided at the institutions of higher education in Oregon if this measure were passed. Certainly, one can see the need for housing facilities at SOC where the new dormitory is already filled and temporary housing arrangements had to be provided."

Other officers of this club are Jack Sutton, vice president, Grants Pass; and Dr. Loren Messenger, secretary-treasurer, Talent.

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Sweet Milk or Buttermilk  
**2 FOR 15<sup>c</sup>**