

Book Erases Memory Of Miss Hippie

By DICK WEST
 United Press International
 WASHINGTON (UPI) — When I was but a toddler, my parents were so poor they had to take in boarders to make ends meet. This made a lasting impression on me.

It wasn't being poor that made the impression, however. It was one of the boarders. Miss Hippie was exact.

Miss Hippie was a school teacher and a woman of considerable girth. Every night after supper she would go into the living room and roll around on the floor.

Some nights I would go in and roll around, too.

Miss Hippie rolled around because she was trying to reduce. I rolled around because I just happened to like rolling around.

Our living room floor was sort of canted and when Miss Hippie started rolling she sometimes had trouble stopping. One night, quite accidentally, she rolled over me.

Childhood effects people in different ways. Some people who come from poor homes are obsessed with making money. I grew up with a morbid fear of exercise.

Being rolled over by Miss Hippie gave my psyche a permanent scar. Not to mention what it did to my silhouette.

After that night, whenever I saw anyone taking exercises it was all I could do to suppress a scream. Only recently have I been able to conquer the phobia.

For this I give credit to a new booklet published by President Kennedy's Council on Physical Fitness.

Titled "Adult Physical Fitness," the booklet presents a program of exercises in such a way "that even the elderly, the inactive and the overweight can perform them."

A funny thing, though. In the photographic illustrations, the models who are demonstrating the exercises are young, ebullient and svelte.

Anyway, I took the booklet home and turned to the page of warm-up exercises. They consisted of 10 bend and stretches, 20 knee lifts, 20 wing stretches, 10 half knee bends, 30 arm circles and 20 body benders. That left me completely out of breath.

I figured that if I got out of breath just reading about the exercises, there wasn't much point in doing them. So I got down on the floor and rolled around for awhile.

It was like old times. Rolling was fun again. The booklet had stripped away all of my inhibitions.

How Much Did Rescue Cost? No One Knows, Or Cares

HARRISBURG, Pa. (UPI) — How much did it cost to reclaim David Fellin and Henry Throne from the dark pit 200 feet beneath the earth. Right now, nobody knows. Right now, nobody cares.

All that matters is that Fellin and Throne are safe and that man has won another of his endless struggles against the whims of nature.

Cost was never an object. Not when human lives were at stake. And no matter what the cost may be, the state of Pennsylvania is ready to pick up the tab, a spokesman for the Department of Mines said.

Who was involved?

Men and women above ground in Shepton who refused to abandon Fellin and Throne even though at times it seemed their task was hopeless.

Men in Washington who ordered

military helicopters into the area.

Scientists who sent radioactive material to bring a mine rescue attempt into the atomic age for the first time.

Texas who shipped up bits to cut through dirt, clay, rock and coal and carve Fellin and Throne's snail to safety.

The Salvation Army with its pots of hot coffee.

The equipment company with its giant drill.

How many man hours were spent during the two weeks of the rescue operation? Again nobody knows because nobody bothered to add them up. Over-time was not an issue. This was democracy in action.

This is why the spokesman for the State Department of Mines said nobody has any idea of what the figure will come to.

He pointed out that much of the work was done by volunteers and that a good deal of the equipment was donated. He said the state budget office and the governor had agreed that the cost was no object.

In Washington federal authorities were unable to place a price tag on the large-scale operation and indicated it probably couldn't be calculated for some time.

A Bureau of Mines official and two assistants are at the rescue scene. Their salaries, per diem and transportation represent a tiny item in the total cost.

The big cost will come from transportation, the use of such materiel as communication equipment and man-hours of work. Involved in the operation are Army, Navy, Interior Department and Atomic Energy Commission personnel.

The cost undoubtedly will be substantial but no one as yet has tackled the formidable task of calculating the over-all price of the rescue operation.

Much of the drilling equipment at the rescue site, the value of which has been variously estimated at from \$100,000 to quarter of a million dollars, is owned by Fagnotti Tool Co., West Pittston, Pa.

The president of the firm, Louis Fagnotti, was not immediately available for an estimate of drilling costs, or who would pick up the tab.

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System Helps Keep Potential Dropouts In School And Interested In Studies

"Getting dropouts to go back to school is one thing, but keeping them there and arousing their interest enough so that they want to do learn to become useful citizens is quite another," Dwight Follett, president of Follett Publishing Company, said in Chicago recently.

Follett said the big question facing metropolitan areas nationally that are conducting "dropout drives" to get dropouts to return to school this fall is, "Why did they drop out in the first place?"

While there are many reasons, the most common denominator of the army of school dropouts which runs in the millions nationally and more than 40,000 annually here in Chicago is failure in academic studies. Statistics show that between 85 and 90 per cent of the dropouts are slow learners and are from one to three or more years behind their classmates in achievement. All have lost interest in class.

Obviously, Follett pointed out, "We can't expect dropouts and slow learners to go back to the same classes they couldn't keep up with before and do any better. They take off if we offer them 'baby books' even though their reading ability may be at that level. Nor can teachers entertain them all day with movies and color slides. This may keep the 'kids' from tearing up the school—90 per cent of school discipline problems are found in this slow learner group—but it doesn't fit the children with skills and knowledge that will keep them employed and promote responsible citizenship.

"The only answer then is special materials for dropouts and slow learners. As publishers, we have been flooded with requests for materials for the slow learner. In our efforts to fulfill these requests, we have discovered the man who has produced the most authoritative answers: Dr. J. Abramowitz, supervisor of general education for the Farmingdale schools in Farmingdale, N.Y.

"For the past 15 years he has worked almost exclusively with the less able students in both New York City's jungle and the quiet suburbs. Here he developed his own study course in world and American histories which have produced such outstanding results that his low achievers often top the average classes on tests, and dropouts have practically ceased in his classroom.

"His secret is in establishing a complete daily lesson success pattern for the slow learner or potential dropout. He has put aside the bulky history text, the slow learner's failure symbol, and provided a series of nine unit booklets that contain daily vocabulary study, reading activity and questions to be answered from the reading. Text booklets offer the same subject matter as the slow learner's grade level, but are written in simpler terms at his actual reading level.

"Daily, students grade their own answers to the lessons, and can thus feel an immediate sense of success and accomplishment when they realize they are answering most of the questions correctly. Lessons grow progressively more difficult and actually raise the reading level about two and a half years from the beginning to the end of the course.

"In Chicago, for example, St. Gregory High School used the new text materials last year. Of 31 failure-prone youngsters in the low ability grouping class, three received A's and only two failed, while the remainder of the grades followed the normal curve of B's, O's and D's.

"On the departmental final exam which all World History students take—including the slow learner and gifted groups along

with the average groups—a slow learner made the highest score. One boy succeeded in raising his IQ score 16 points during the school year. While nearly every member of the group has reached the legal dropout age of 16, all have pre-registered for school and are most enthusiastic about returning in September.

"Since last fall Dr. Abramowitz has completed his American History Study Lessons as well as the World History Study Les-

sons and we are awaiting his third text," Follett said. "An overwhelming number of schools have ordered the American History Study Lessons sight unseen."

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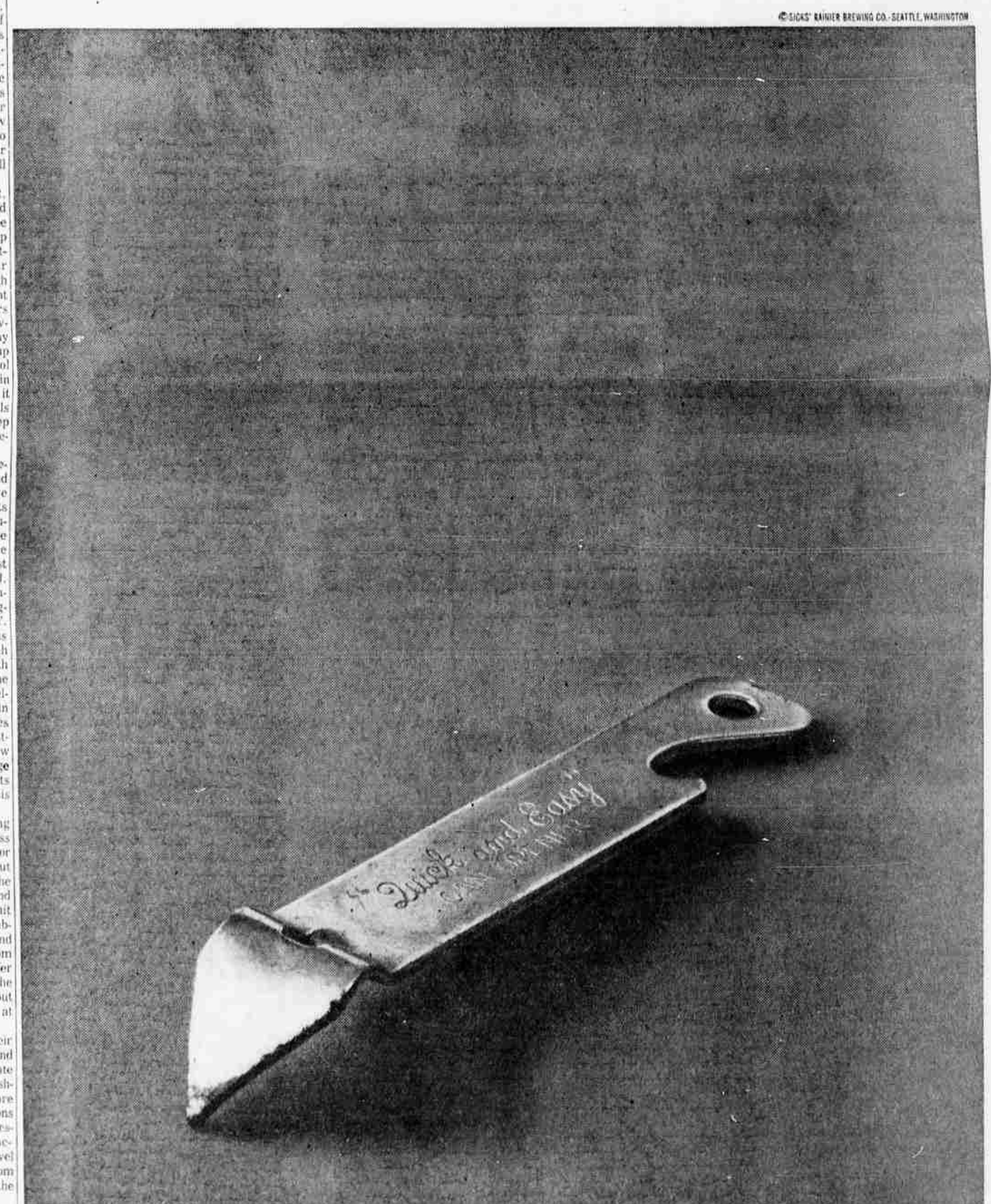
Breathing appliances for divers were used as early as the fourth century B.C.

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Breathing appliances for divers were used as early as the fourth century B.C.

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