

Gleanings

THE OFFICIAL NUMBER ONE NEBRASKA POST-POLIO NEWSLETTER

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STATUE OF LIBERTY NOW ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE

When the Statue of Liberty is re-opened to the public on July 5, 36 million disabled Americans will, for the first time, find features allowing them accessibility to the monument.

The Liberty Island ferry departure area now provides complete access to the ferry. In the statue, the largest hydraulic elevator in the world will take visitors, even those in wheelchairs, to the observation deck at the top of the pedestal.

Because the statue is so narrow beyond that point, it is accessible only by staircase. However, a video presentation simulating the

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NORFOLK AREA MEETING TO HEAR STATE COORDINATOR

Nancy Carter, NPSA State Coordinator, will speak at the July 13 meeting of the Norfolk area support group. Post-polio Syndrome and our state organization will be discussed. There will

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SPOTLIGHT: A TRIP TO ST. LOUIS

It seemed like Old Home Week. Polio support group leaders from throughout the USA and Canada met in St. Louis June 6 for a three-day workshop jointly sponsored by the International Polio Network and Missouri Easter Seal Society.

Many of the participants had met at previous polio conferences, and this was a chance to talk again, to catch up on the progress each had made since the last time.

The program consisted of seven panels, each stressing practical suggestions for dealing with the various aspects of operating polio organizations. Each panel

was followed by a question and answer period.

Nancy Carter and Marlene Orton represented NPSA at the conference. Nancy Carter, State Coordinator, served with leaders from Michigan, California, Maryland, and Canada on a REACHING POLIO SURVIVORS panel. She was also on the ORGANIZING STATEWIDE NETWORKS panel with leaders from Michigan, Illinois, and Canada.

Informal rap sessions provided further opportunities for delving into the HOW TO'S used by other organizations.

A workshop on the PSYCHOLOGY OF GROUP DYNAMICS was presented by Joseph
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Nancy Carter speaks at conference

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HAND CONTROLS PROVIDED
FREE WHEN RENTING CAR
by Marlene Orton

Avis is a car rental agency that cares about its disabled clients, according to Troy McGovern in customer assistance, Avis Reservation Center.

Hand controls are available in most major cities throughout the U.S. Each facility installs hand controls at the site upon request and the company suggests booking as far in advance as possible, although some locations can provide service within 48 hours.

The controls are available on all full-size cars at no additional charge. Avis' computer will quickly compare many variables and give you the best possible discounted rate.

To call: 1-800-331-1212.

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HASTINGS AREA SUPPORT
GROUP HEARS DR. CHINGREN
by Erma Ocker

The NPSA Hastings area support group met at the Knights of Columbus Hall (the use of which was donated to the group with coffee provided) to hear Dr. Gary Chingren, Hastings physician, speak on PROGRESSION OF THE DISEASE.

Kathleen Henrickson was program chairman, and Lola Yeatman greeted. New members from Elba and Archer attended.

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NEW DEVICES VIEWED AT L.A. ABILITIES EXPO '86

With the numbers of innovations in assistive devices today, handicapped persons can become totally independent, observed Mike Moore, Chief of Prosthetics at the Omaha V.A. Hospital, who attended the April Abilities Expo '86 in Los Angeles.

Among other developments are inventions such as intercom systems that will unlock doors with voice control, three-wheeled carts with exceptional mobility, and sensitized steering

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HAVE A FUN SUMMER

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STATUE--from pg.1, col.1 climb to the statue's crown shows that experience.

Ticket windows, food service areas, patio tables, water fountains and lavatories are now at a level to accommodate wheelchairs. Ramps and elevators ensure accessibility to museums and various observation decks.

Other changes, also a part of this \$3 million project to make the statue accessible, will help those with impaired hearing or sight.

So if you're planning a trip to New York this summer, take a look at Miss Liberty, and be among the first disabled Americans to visit the now-barrier-free statue.

packages that allow someone to drive with almost no arm/hand movement. Also, dogs and monkeys are being trained to assist persons with physical disabilities.

"All the major designs coming out for the disabled are coming from the West Coast. Nothing will stop here. It will just keep expanding," says Moore, who notes that most people do not realize the number of new products available.

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MERCY HIGH STUDENT GROUP
MAKES DONATION TO NPSA

NPSA thanks Amy Linenbrink and her friends in the Mercy High Campus Ministry group who held a bake sale to help fatten our treasury.

Amy is the daughter of Omaha member Lorri Linenbrink and husband Jim.

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EILEEN ROACH SPEAKER AT
JULY LINCOLN MEETING
by Millie Schwindt

The July 26 meeting of the NPSA Lincoln area support group will feature Eileen Roach, Independent Living Advisor for the League of Human Dignity. She will discuss services for the handicapped provided by the League.

Join us at 2 p.m. at the American Lutheran Church 42nd and Vine.

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GABY'S GLIMMERINGS

by Cynthia Gabrielli Haag

St. Louis--from pgl,col3

Have you ever played the "what if" game? Of course you have. We all have. What if that wouldn't have happened, then would this have happened? If I hadn't gotten polio, would I have been a star ballerina or a champion athlete? Who knows!

and on and on. People who play these games spend all their time dreaming instead of doing what could be done. On their game shelf is also the "If Only I Were Like So-and-So" game. These people love to watch TV shows about the rich and famous and buy magazines about celebrities.

and Eileen Connolly, Ph. D.'s and directors of Communication Center #1, who have conducted institutes in effective group leadership for 20 years.

When you get this far gone, pinch yourself and tease your sleeping head to remember that Roosevelt ran our country from a wheelchair and Beethoven wrote the "Fifth" when he was deaf.

For a good work-out in futility just get out all these games at once. It will bring on a severe case of muttering, drawn expressions, and wild gesticulating. My advice, however, is to leave these games on the shelf to collect dust. Or better yet, throw them out with yesterday's garbage!

The Missouri Easter Seal Society contributed to everyone's full stomachs by picking up the tab for an opening-evening chicken buffet and the Saturday night banquet.

But if you're bent on playing this darn game, try this. List all the things you missed as the result of polio. On the other side list all the good things that came out of having had polio. Now if you ply yourself with real honesty, you might be surprised at what you get. The could-have-been list ends up with some real possibilities, but mostly has far-fetched stuff. Ask yourself if any of these things have come to any of the able-bodied folks you know. Now ask yourself if any of the things on the "real" list happened to those able-bodied folks. The answers could surprise you.

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A highlight of the weekend was a tour of Gazette International Networking Institute offices and a picnic in the English garden there, hosted by the St. Louis post-polio support group.

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HOLDREGE MEETING DRAWS LARGE AREA OF SUPPORT

NORFOLK--from pg.1,col.1

Persons from 16 towns met at the Phelps County Ag. Center to hear Nancy Carter, NPSA State Coordinator, speak at a May meeting of the Holdrege area support group.

be a question and answer period, and post-polio materials will be available.

Emphasizing the need for awareness of the late effects of polio, Carter urged all present to ask their doctors to read the medical journal articles provided at the meeting.

Bring your friends and family, and invite the health professionals working with you to come --2 p.m., Lutheran Hospital, Norfolk.

Folks that play the "what if" game usually also play the "If I Only Had" game. If only I had a new car, a new house, a lot of money,

Delores Bray, Holdrege area representative, assisted by Roberta Bice, organized the special meeting.

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CARTER AND ORTON ATTEND FORUM AT KIEWIT CENTER

Nancy Carter and Marlene Orton, NPSA board members, represented the state organization at the Nebraska Rehabilitation Services Forum on May 20 at Kiewit Center, sponsored by the Omaha Rehabilitation Office.

