

Gleanings

THE OFFICIAL NUMBER ONE NEBRASKA POST-POLIO NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER

1986

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POLIO CLINIC NEWS

If having a polio clinic in Nebraska is important to you, complete the enclosed questionnaire and send it back to us pronto.

Responding does not mean you have made a commitment--it is merely an indication of your interest.

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POLIO CONFERENCE ON THE AGENDA FOR SUMMER 1987

Great suggestion for next year's vacation: plan to attend the International Polio Conference in St. Louis-- June 4-7, 1987, Sheraton St. Louis Hotel!

Ted Kennedy, Jr. and James Roosevelt will be special guests, as well as hundreds of polio survivors from all over the world.

Being there is a wonderful experience--won't you join our Nebraska contingent?

More later!

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HAVE AN EXTRA SPECIAL THANKSGIVING THIS YEAR!

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DR. STREIB TALKS TO GROUP ABOUT POLIO CLINIC

"We want to develop a game plan that everyone will understand going into it," explains Erich Streib, M.D., discussing the polio clinic which could be established at the Nebraska Medical Center. "We don't want people to expect miracles; we don't want them to be disappointed."

The first step, however, is to come up with an approximate number of people interested in such a clinic. An expression of support is needed in order to convince the powers that be that a polio clinic is warranted here. It is also necessary to have an idea of what kind of facilities would be appropriate. To this end, we have included a questionnaire in this newsletter. Please complete it and send it back as an indication of your interest in this project.

Once it is determined that a polio clinic is feasible, then costs can be estimated and other details can be decided upon. First, though, you must send back the questionnaire if you

feel we need this polio clinic.

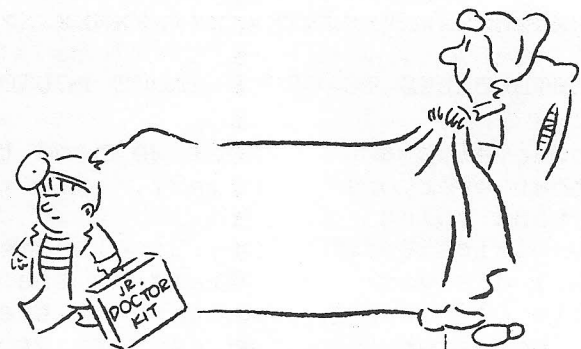
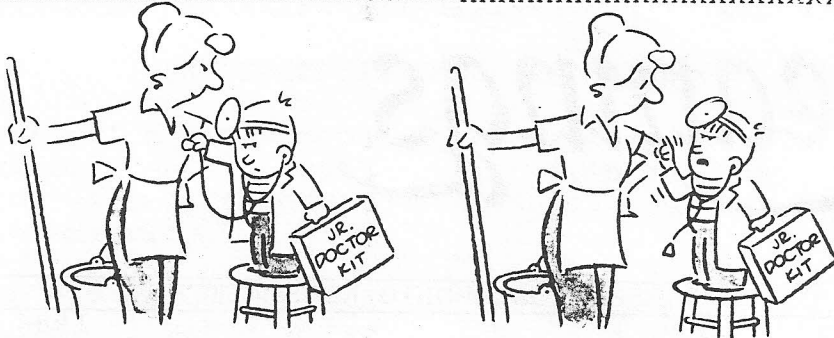
Dr. Streib discussed the clinic at the October meeting of the Omaha area support group. He has long been interested in polio. "My interest in the disease goes back to 1971, at which time I was a Fellow at the Mayo Clinic and was involved in a study which had to do with the electrical aspects of the diagnosis of polio, particularly with the idea of being able to tell the difference between patients who had polio and those who had Lou Gehrig's disease," he said.

Dr. Streib has been the director of the muscular dystrophy clinic at the University of Nebraska Medical Center for eight years. "About 25% of my time I deal with patients who do have nerve disease, muscle disease," he says, "and I spend about 40% of my time doing electro-diagnostic testing, so I'm really familiar with a lot of aspects of this."

The doctor showed slides reviewing the acute polio stage, and demonstrated
See pg. 2, col. 2

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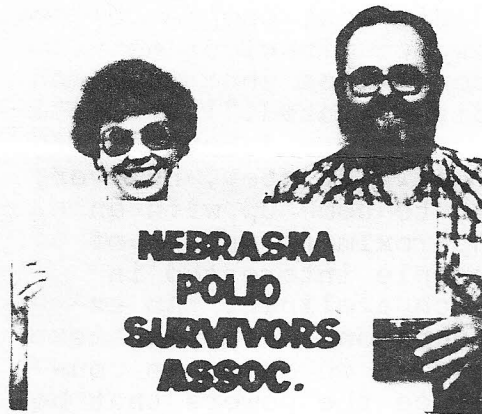
**KELLERMAN HAPPENINGS
FUND-RAISER SALES CHAMP**

Although the total count is not yet in, it looks as if Judy Kellerman is our top salesperson in the HAPPENINGS coupon book fund-raiser. With 44 books sold, Judy breezed past runners-up Chip and Nina Mackenzie (25), Lorri Linenbrink (21), Karen Dulaney (21), Rosie Hoover (20), Madeline Menard (15), and Mary Herzberg (15), who did a pretty fabulous job themselves!

Hats off to these Super Sellers and to everyone else who helped us with this project!

We also thank Alice Hauck, who was the chairman of this fund-raiser.

There are still a few books left, so if you see someone who needs a bargain, give us a call!



JUDY AND CARL KELLERMAN

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STREIB--From pg 1, col 3

ted muscle testing with an EMG machine brought to the meeting. He emphasized that it is possible to tell whether muscle deterioration happened recently or years ago, an important distinction in a post-polio evaluation.

A team approach to reaching a diagnosis seemed important to Dr.

NEW INSURANCE POOL TO PROVIDE FOR REJECTED

There may be an answer for those of us who have had problems getting health insurance. The new Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool, created by LB391, is intended to provide adequate insurance for uninsurable or underinsured persons due to a pre-existing medical condition.

Chosen by competitive bidding, Blue Cross/Blue Shield will administer the Pool. Eligibility for coverage depends upon several requirements such as having been a Nebraska resident for six months and having received one of various rejections or limiting riders for health reasons. Medicare or Medicaid recipients are ineligible.

There is a six month pre-existing condition limitation, and coverage will cost approximately 30% more than the average for individual insurance.

For more information, call 390-1820 in Omaha or 1-800-642-8980 out-state.

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Streib, as well as the need to involve research. "Just seeing patients is not as good as when you do research," he said. "You will always come up with more answers and will become much more knowledgeable in dealing with diseases if research is involved."

SPOTLIGHT: BOB BOWEN, COMPETITOR

Bob Bowen doesn't let the fact that he's a quadriplegic stop him when it comes to hunting.

"I used to go out with my dad in Missouri when I was a kid," he says. He got me a BB gun and a 22 when I was about 10 or 12 and we shot a lot of rabbits and squirrels."

Then in 1963 he was thrown from a horse when he was breaking colts on the family ranch in Missouri and his neck was broken. After spending some time in Texas, he moved to Nebraska in 1966, and now lives with a young couple, Bob and Joyce Hardy, in Chadron.

"I had all these guns and hadn't been able to shoot them," he says. "A friend, Jerry Olson from Sidney, came over to build a gun closet for me and we were talking about it. Then Jerry went home and over the winter designed this shooting equipment for me."

The shooting equipment Jerry designed mounts on a wheelchair. A rifle is set into the mount. The rifle is moved by a joystick powered by the wheelchair battery. Bob operates the joystick with his chin, and fires the gun by sipping on a vacuum tube attached to the trigger.

"It really floored me when he came up with the

design," Bob says. "I was sitting down, but it still could have knocked me over."

A partner in a used car dealership in Chadron, Bob is also working on marketing the WCSR 77 (wheelchair shooting rest).

"The shooting rest gives me a way I can be competitive again," he says. "I can compete on the same level as someone else. I'm a fairly competitive person anyway, and the only other thing I compete in is chess. It gives me a good feeling to be able to do this."

Bob is also active in Handicap Reach-out, a six-year-old organization covering 11 counties in western Nebraska that deals with a variety of issues of the handicapped.

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NEXT MEETING IN ST. PAUL AREA SUNDAY OCTOBER 26 by Bill Coxbill

The St. Paul area support group will meet October 26 at 2 p.m. at Howard County Hospital. Marlon Meyer and Elaine Wilson will serve as greeters, and Lois Stevens will handle name tags.

Working on the program are committee members Colleen Brouillette, Carolyn Synowski, and Shirley Wohlers. Connie Coxbill is in charge of refreshments.

HOLDREGE GROUP TO HEAR THERAPIST SAM HOAGLAND

Sam Hoagland, Physical Therapist, will be the November 1 speaker for the Holdrege area support group meeting-- 2:30 p.m., Phelps Memorial Health Center.

Delores Bray is the NPSA area representative.

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HASTINGS GROUP IN THE SWIM AT NOVEMBER MEETING

The November 3 meeting of the Hastings area support group will feature a representative of the YMCA swimming program. Call Erma Ocker, 462-9609 for details.

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SPALDING POLIO PROGRAM SCHEDULED FOR OCT.-NOV.

Sessions of the Polio Program at Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital will be held October 23-25 and November 20-22.

Spalding's polio program includes a thorough medical evaluation by Dr. Y. S. Franotovic, individualized assessments by physical therapy, occupational therapy, and dietary staff, educational sessions, and a family conference to discuss specific recommendations made for the patient.

For more information, contact Pat McClearn, Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital, 1919 Ogden Street, Denver, CO 80218--(303) 861-0504.

This questionnaire will help Dr. Streib determine whether or not a polio clinic at the University Medical Center is feasible. IF YOU THINK YOU MIGHT USE THESE FACILITIES, complete this questionnaire and return it to us as soon as possible--getting it in the mail right away will help.

The mailing address is on the back. Just fold this on the dotted lines, tape it shut, put a 22¢ stamp on the front, and put it in your mailbox today!

I am interested in utilizing the facilities at the University Medical Center polio clinic if such a clinic is established.

I have the following difficulties:

Unaccustomed fatigue

New muscle weakness

Joint and/or muscle pain

Respiratory problems

Other _____

Since facilities to be used for the clinic should accommodate patients' physical limitations, we need to know if you use

a wheelchair

Other (specify) _____

You do not need to sign this questionnaire.

This questionnaire is to be filled out by the person who is most familiar with the patient's history. It should be filled out by the patient's family member or caregiver. If you are the patient, you should fill out this questionnaire and return it to us as soon as possible. It is not necessary to fill out this questionnaire if you are not the patient's family member or caregiver.

The patient's address is on the back. Please print the patient's name, address, telephone number, and date of birth on the back of the questionnaire. Please do not write on the back of the questionnaire.

I am interested in learning more about the following conditions:

NPSA
P.O. Box 37139
Omaha, NE 68137

Place
22¢
postage
here

Nebraska Polio Survivors Association
P.O. Box 37139
Omaha, NE 68137

Since this questionnaire is on the back of the envelope, it should be placed in the envelope with the questionnaire.

To know if you are eligible to receive this questionnaire, please check the appropriate box:
 Yes
 No
 Other (specify) _____

You do not need to fill out this questionnaire if you are not the patient's family member or caregiver.