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 ride is scheduled.

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

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 be a panel discussion.

See page 3, column 3
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.

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 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.

HAVE A FUN SUMMER

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.

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 fatt-en our treasury.

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

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.
GABY'S GLIMMERINGS
by Cynthia Gabrielli Haag

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 baller-
ina or a champion ath-
lete? Who knows!

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

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 try yourself
with real honesty, you
might be surprised at
what you get. The could
have been list ends up
with some real possibil-
ities, 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 your-
self if any of the
things on the "real"
list happened to those
able-bodied folks. The
answers could surprise
you.

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,
and on and on. People
who play these games
spend all their time
dreaming instead of do-
ing 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 celebri-
ties.

For a good work-out in
futility just get out
all these games at once.
It will bring on a se-
vere 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 yester-
day's garbage!

HOLDREGE MEETING DRAWS
LARGE AREA OF SUPPORT

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

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

Delores Bray, Holdrege
area representative, as-
sisted by Roberta Bice,
organized the special
meeting.

NORFOLK--from pg.1,col.1

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

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

CARTER AND ORTON ATTEND
FORUM AT KIEWIT CENTER

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

St. Louis--from pg.1,col.3
THE DEEPENING OF THE SPIRIT

One of the benefits of my association with this organization is getting to meet people. Here in our state office I talk with people on the phone from all over the country. I correspond with literally hundreds of folks. But nothing beats meeting people.

In past weeks I've been on the road a lot, visiting various NPSA support groups, and, this week, attending the conference in St. Louis.

No matter where these get-togethers are—on a local, state, national, or international level—we all gain from the experience of meeting and talking together.

Such gatherings are times for renewing friendships and making new ones. We are finally able to put faces to names—people we have talked with on the phone, written to, read about. It is a way of personalizing the work we do. It links us together and makes us stronger—and ultimately more effective.

It is personal contact that provides the incentive to go the extra mile for each other. Of course we do all we can for that name on the stationery, but when

people we really know are involved, when it's our friend Judy in North Platte or our buddy Tom in Chicago, it's somehow different, isn't it. We feel closer to people we have met. It's easier to empathize with them, to understand their point of view.

And so I want to get to know you. And I want you to know me, too. Getting involved with others is our wild card, yours and mine—our little advantage that just might make the difference in whether or not we can win in our own personal post-polio struggles.

So let's all play that card, meet and greet each other with a passion, and see what a difference we can make.

CORRECTION: The June meeting of the Lincoln area support group will be Saturday June 29, American Lutheran Church, 42nd and Vine.

We thank the Midwest Chapter of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation for paying for the printing of this issue of GLEANINGS.

Nancy B. Carter
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