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.

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!

HAVE AN EXTRA SPECIAL THANKSGIVING THIS YEAR!

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
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.

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."

KELLERMAN HAPPENINGS
FUN 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

STREIB--From pg 1, col 3

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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-POLOI EVALUATION.

A TEAM APPROACH TO REACHING A DIAGNOSIS SEEMED IMPORTANT TO DR.
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.

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.

- 3 -

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.

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.

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 McCleen, Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital, 1919 Ogden Street, Denver, CO 80218—(303) 861-0504.
ON PERCEPTION AND DIFFERENCE

Recently I heard someone on television say that "people see difference as inferiority."

There may be something to this. I had always thought it was a matter of misplaced identification—people could tell something was different, but somehow weren’t able to identify exactly what it was. Thus all the shouting at blind people as if they were deaf, talking "through" those in wheelchairs as if they were invisible.

My favorite story along this line occurred when I was working on a masters degree in theater. We were doing a Saroyan play, and I had just finished painting a terrific backdrop of the Salinas Valley. I had really outdone myself, and was happily going about the business of cleaning things up when in came a freshman also interested in theater. An astute individual, she quickly sized up the situation and came over to help.

"Look here," she said, grabbing a broom. "You just take hold of this and push all of these scraps together into a pile. See? Just sweep everything into a nice pile. And this is a dustpan," she demonstrated. "You push all of this into the dustpan with the broom and empty it into this box. You see? Sweep, sweep, sweep, and then into the dustpan, into the box."

Well, the poor thing had obviously miscalculated. She could see that I looked different, and had decided that this meant I was an imbecile, incapable of knowing how to sweep the floor.

We've all had similar experiences. The question is, what can we do about it?

It appears to me that the more people see us, work with us, get to know us, the less unusual we will seem. Understanding who we are inside will render our outer differences insignificant.

The media can help a lot. Michael Landon’s shows frequently feature handicapped people as a part of the real world, and a CAGNEY AND LACEY last year did a great job on disability in life. This is not enough, however.

Ultimately it comes down to us. We need to get people accustomed to seeing us, being with us. We must insist upon accessibility, and then USE it. We should become more vocal.

Maybe this organization needs to sponsor some awareness training sessions throughout the state.

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Nancy B. Carter
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NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

The November 2 meeting of the NPSA Omaha support group will feature Scott Wood from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, who will discuss the new health insurance for the handicapped.

Come to Rejoice Lutheran Church, 138th and Center at 2 p.m.

Polio clinic progress will also be discussed.
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.