Gleanings

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September 1985

Warm Springs Clinic Takes Regrouping Break

Betty Baxter, of the Warm Springs clinic in Georgia, says that the five-day polio clinic has been closed temporarily.

During the six to eight weeks of anticipated inactivity at the clinic, officials plan to examine operations and procedures and make modifications where needed.

"They hope to devise a way to provide the opportunity for more interaction between persons going through the clinic in the future," says Betty. Also, a new medical director will be appointed.

Betty says they expect to resume scheduling patients for the clinic the latter part of September.

In the meantime, the brace shop remains in full operation, and patients continue to be seen on a one-day basis.

Betty can be reached at P.O. Box 1000, Warm Springs, Georgia 31830, (404) 655-3321.

Spotlight: A Friend Looks Back at Polio

Jean Beran and Nancy Baldwin were friends. From the time Jean moved to Hebron from Beatrice in the third grade, they were best pals. They indulged in the same fads, swooned over the same movie stars, and had after-school sundaes at Chris' Drug together. Then Nancy, age 11, got polio. It was 1948.

How does a friend feel when something like this happens?

"Most of us didn't think too much about her problem—about how it might have changed her," says Jean, now Mrs. Tedd Slagle and living in Ogalla. "We knew there were things she could do before that she couldn't do afterwards, but it was no big deal."

Jean remembers that older people worried about polio, that her own parents dreaded summer and didn't want her to go to the pool.

She learned of Nancy's illness from her parents. "It was just before school started. My folks told me she was very sick. Later the teacher told us she wouldn't be back that year."

When she did come back, it was as if nothing had changed, says Jean. "Everything was back to normal. We never talked about it. I guess we were too young to think about it."
HOLDREDGE AREA MEETING TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 7

Holdredge area representative Delores Bray reports that their first Nebraska Polio Survivors Association meeting will be held Saturday, September 7, at 2:30 p.m. at Phelps Memorial Health Center in Holdredge.

Those attending will gather in the lobby and go by elevator to the basement meeting room. The meeting will be largely organizational and get-acquainted.

All polio survivors, families, and friends in the area are invited. If you have an interest in the late effects of polio, please attend.

USEFUL CATALOG OFFERS LARGE, UNUSUAL SELECTION

The Capability Collection is a terrific catalog of over 1,000 useful products designed to make life easier, to "maximize everyone's capability."

The catalog is divided into 15 sections corresponding to activities common in our daily lives: Food Preparation and Kitchen, for example or Housekeeping, Sewing and Laundry, or Recreation and Leisure.

Some of the items are very unusual; others are just hard to find elsewhere. All entries are indexed according to the See next column

Sometimes finding handicapped parking can be difficult. Like the day I tried to park at my hotel in St. Louis.

After several hours of driving I neared my destination anticipating a relaxing evening. Unknowingly, however, I had chosen a hotel across from Busch Stadium and had arrived in the rain at gametime.

I approached the unloading zone with confidence. It was full. Undaunted, I continued to the first available parking spot, which happened to be on a yellow line at the rear of the hotel. Well, nothing is perfect.

I managed to crutch my way through the hotel to the desk clerk. With all the concern of an IBM PC, she informed me that the nearest parking was a block away.

Approaching the bell captain, I asked for his help. He said he had to be available to answer his phone.

Once more trudging through the hotel, I cornered a parking lot attendant. After 15 minutes of excuses, arguments, swearing, and tears, he agreed to park my car after the game.

What a peaceful evening this might have been if only they had had handicapped parking!
ONE FAMILY'S VACATION
by Amy Linenbrink*

Looking for adventure? Need to get away? Why not try traveling—that is with 4 kids ranging in age from 16 to 5, two parents (one in a wheelchair) and one dog. If you're really the adventurous, courageous type you will travel 3,000 miles, not just across town. I wouldn't say my family is courageous, but we set out July 14 at 6:30 a.m. enroute to New Jersey to visit my mom's sister and her family.

We spent a week with our relatives, doing, and going many different places. We went to the Atlantic Ocean to a resort area called Seaside where we ran into a slight problem with mom: it seemed her wheels and the sand weren't made for each other, so the closest she got was on a dock over the ocean. In Atlantic City we toured the boardwalk, where we saw where the Miss America Pageant is held, and we saw many casinos, where mom and dad got their weight training pulling down those arms of the slot machines. I might add they won a grand total of $3.00.

You know how time flies when you're having fun, well...it was time to head back home to good ole Omaha. It was a good vacation (many memories): dad with his patience; mom's sense of humor; Abi, wondering when we would ever get See next column

MISSOURI CRUISE PROVIDES FUN TIMES AND FOOD
by Betty Lennemann

Have you cruised down the river lately?

Missouri Riverboat Cruises permit you to do just that during the summer. A recent ride on the Belle of Brownville Evening Dinner VACATION, from column 1 home or how much further; Ava, where the next McDonald's was; Ann, absorbed in her crossword puzzles; and I myself would have never made the trip without my boom box. We all sighed a sigh of relief to see the green grass of home, and that included Beau, our Poodle.

*Amy is a junior at Mercy High School and is the daughter of Omaha member Lori Linenbrink.

Cruise was a relaxing experience with buffet dinner and live entertainment.

The entrance to boarding is rocky and on a slope, but aside from that it is reasonably accessible for wheelchair and crutch usage. The crew was extremely helpful in providing an end table to eliminate an otherwise "tight squeeze." If having a table at the end of one of the long rows of tables would be helpful, mention this when making reservations.

The 1 1/2 hour cruise took us from the departure point at Haworth Park in Bellevue, along the banks of the Missouri as See page 4, column 2
The world is full of myths. One of them is that life begins at forty. I suspect that this ridiculous idea was promulgated by some demon of discontent who delights in making those under forty believe they really aren't having the fun they could have, and those over forty think everyone ELSE must be having a rip-roarin' good time.

As for my own experience, on the eve of my 40th birthday, I was a pleasant-looking (if not ravishing) size nine with gorgeous eyes and a very good set of legs. At least that's the way I remember it.

The September meeting of the Omaha support group will meet Sunday the 8th at 2 p.m., at Rejoice Lutheran Church, 138th & Center. The meeting time was changed to avoid the Labor Day weekend.

Harry Dinnel, local physical therapist, will present a short program and answer questions.

Those present will be asked to participate in post-polio research by completing a written questionnaire.

We also have some important organizational business to attend to, so we really need YOU at this meeting!

COME! BRING FRIENDS!

The next morning, having turned forty, I awoke two sizes larger, baggy-eyed, hard of hearing, and covered with skin the likes of which had been seen previously only on chicken feet. So much for life's beginning at forty.

There is another myth that some of us may have been contributing to. This is the image of Supercrpic. Supercrpic is that brave, dedicated soul who, against all odds, CARRIES ON. Supercrpic can always get the job done. This superhuman creature can fight the fight, win the battle, and never bat an eye or shed a tear.

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COME! BRING FRIENDS!

The trouble is that we are not superhuman. We are real people with real limitations and real feelings. Sometimes we cannot get the job done. In fact, some of us are finding lately that we are less and less able and need more and more help. Occasionally we have an off day or feel blue. We've been known to have problems. Just like regular folks.

It's time to let the world know who we are, chicken feet and all. It's time to dispel the myth.

CRUISE, from page 3
the Captain narrated the trip and the organist played and sang the great songs of yesterday.

So, if you feel inclined toward one more fun fling this summer, whether it be a champagne brunch, afternoon cruise, evening dinner cruise, or moonlight dance, it is all available right here in River City.

Page two photograph by Alison Orton

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