# Rehabilitation • Wheelchairs • 1966 GAZ Vocational



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The TOOMEY j GAZETTE is published once a year by a staff of [horizontal] severely disabled and their [vertical] non-disabled volunteering friends. It is incorporated as a non-profit, tax-deductible organization under the name of Iron Lung Polios & Multiplegics, Inc.

FREE to respos, other quads and all severely disabled.

QUADS are quadriplegics (or tetraplegics) — - those whose four limbs are paralyzed or useless because of disease or injury. RESPOS are respiratory polios — quads who require mechanical breathing aids, such as iron lungs, etc. MULTIPLEGICS include all who have two or more paralyzed or useless limbs because of injury or cerebral palsy, rheumatoid arthritis, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, etc.

\$1 minimum donation delicately suggested to non-disabled

TJG AIM: To reach, to inform, and to dignify all respiratory polios, and all other severely disabled young adults. throughout the world.

HORIZONTAL

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FORE I GN

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2



# Toomey j GAZETTE



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#### SPECIAL FEATURE: VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SPECIAL FEATURE: WHEELCHAIRS

- 4 New Legislation...New Potential
- 5 A Word From The Commissioner Mary E. Switzer
- 6 Report on a Study of Rehabilitation of the Severely Disabled  ${\it Donna\ MoGwinn}$
- 10 Home-Based Bookkeeping Services Charles Lyser
- 12 Respo Re-Rehabilitated to Fulltime Career Elizabeth M. Morgan, R.N.
- 14 The Avakian Story James W. Hooper
- 17 Hospitalized Respos: Computer Programmers
- 20 A Physicist-Programmer Elmer C. Bartels
- 21 The 1050 Tango Ron Perry
- 24 Editor, The Menifee County Journal Don Crain
- 28 My Cockeyed Career Dave Ingerson
- 31 C5-6 Quad Re-Rehabilitated After Six Years
  Written and Illustrated by Robert E. Tanton, Jr.
- 34 Dialing Dollars Sue Smith
- 36 Telephone Answering Service... A Community Project Jackie Bost
- 37 Teaching: A Career for Quads Harold L. "Casey" Jones
- 38 Nuclear Physicist...Russian Translator and Tutor Paul Hess
- 41 CBSA...3M Company's Home Business Service for Disabled
- 48 Portrait Gundega Cenne
- 50 Association of Mouth & Foot Painting Artists  $Peter\ Nelson\ Spencer$
- 53 New Zealand Sportsman and Artist James Francis Driver
- 55 Think About What You're Doing Mickie McGraw

- 76 Respo Special Robin Cavendish
- 80 The Rugg Chair A Self-Propelling -
- Self-Reclining Wheelchair Dana Stanton
- 83 Pushups John Hessler
- 4 Wheelchair Lore 86 Convertibles
- 35 Foreign Sports Models
- 87 Climbers

- EDUCATION
- 42 Plan Wisely for Education Paul L. Essert, Ph.D.
- 44 Quad on a South African Quadrangle Peter Collis
- 46 Odyssey of a Bavarian Scholar Adolf Ratzka
- HOBBIES
- 66 Finnish Taper & Ham Erkki Riihimaa
- 67 Minnesota Taper Jerry Elfstrand
- 68 GAZETTE Tapespondents
- 69 Keys to Airwave Adventures Chas. Kram, Jr.
- HOUSING
- 62 Existing and Planned Housing in the U.S.A.
- LEGISLATION
- 94 Connecticut Legislation... A Bill to Ponder
- MEDICAL ENGINEERING
- 90 Tongue Switch Celeste Thompson
- 92 Sight Switch

#### DEPARTMENTS

- 56 Bulletin Board 60 Quad Hall of Fame
- 70 Bookshelf 88 Readers' Idea Parade
- 92 Staff Snapshots 97 Board of Trustees
- 98 Annual Report 98 Contributors

### RESPO SPECIAL

had bought in the country near Oxford.

by Robin Cavendish (respo) England got polio at the end of 1958 in Kenya.Fortunately for me I lived just outside Nairobi which has a very good hospital for acute polio cases. It was five months before the R.A.F. was able to fly me back to England. I went straight to a hospital in Oxford which is considered to be one of the best centres for polio in this country. It soom became clear that I would have to keep my tracky and remain permanently on a respirator. After a year and a half in hospital. I went to live at home in a house we

## **EQUIPMENT**



## WHEELCHAIRS

From the moment I got home it became apparent that the breathing machines and other equipment that had seemed so ideal in hospital were quite unsuitable at home. The large respirators and suckers (aspirators) cluttered up the limited space and made any movement from room to room a tremendous performance. I was fortunate in having living nearby, a gifted Doctor of Physics with his own workshops in his garden, where he employs half a dozen engineers to manufacture his own successful inventions. It took a year to persuade him that he could really be of help to me, but once he had made up his mind we never



looked back in developing equipment for ordinary life outside hospital.

One thing was needed more than anything else. A really comfortable chair which was both strong and manoeuvrable, as small as possible and yet containing inside it all the equipment required for breathing and sucking. The first chair that we used was an aircraft chair mounted on wheels with the breathing apparatus in a metal container hooked on the back. We found after a year's use that this had many disadvantages as the chair was not sufficiently adjustable, it was not very easy to push as the balance was bad, and there was no built-in sucker. After searching in vain for a more suitable ready-made chair it was decided that the workshop would build a chair to our own specification with all the machinery needed concealed within it.

The chair consisted of a tubular steel frame mounted on two large pneumatic wheels at the back, and two swivelling castors at the front, and the back of the chair was adjustable easily through 40 degrees. The seat, detachable arms and back were fully upholstered with polyether foam mounted on Pirelli webbing and covered with fitted removable covers of special hard wearing material. The machinery was fitted onto two metal trays (which could be pulled out for ease of maintenance) fixed under the chair. The breathing machine could be run off battery, mains (electric power system) or manually. The battery would drive the machine for 12 hours and there was a battery charger that would automatically switch on when the machine was plugged into the electricity and switch itself off when the battery was fully charged. There was an automatic switchover from mains to battery and vice versa to ensure that the machine would never stop unless it was switched off. There was a sucker that would work whether the machine was running off mains or the battery and a built-in alarm system. A voltage regulator was fitted to enable the machine to work off different voltages. Small lights on a control panel indicated that all the machinery was in proper working order.

The chair was specifically designed so that it could be loaded through the rear doors of a standard van, and the machinery in the chair was designed to run and charge off the van.

The first chair that we made was the design you see pictured here. This chair was made with a grant received

from the Polio Research Fund, but we found the chair still had a few minor shortcomings. We then obtained a larger grant from a Charitable Trust to manufacture a dozen chairs incorporating further modifications to the original chair. These chairs are on a permanent loan to anybody in this country who felt they would benefit from having one.

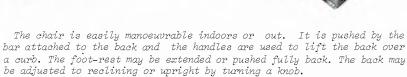
From my own point of view, my chair has revolutionised my life, Not only does it make it much easier to look after me at home, but I am now very mobile and we have been able with the greatest of ease to travel extensively in England and on the continent of Europe, Thanks to this chair, it is now no problem to stay with friends or in a hotel, visit restaurants, shops, cinemas and theatres, without attracting many stares from curious passers-by.

The price of making the chairs here worked out at about £500 each. Anyone requiring further details could write to me and I would be delighted to tell them anything they want to know. My address is: Furlongs, Drayton St., Leonard. Oxford. My phone: Stadhamton 386. @

An observant T.jG reader. Gertrude Steiman, of Dorchester, Mass., found this in the

NEW YORK TIMES, April 8, 1966. "The non-profit foundation. TECHNICAL AIDS FOR THE HANDICAPPED, which produces and places, free of charge, electric, curb climbing, indoor-outdoor wheelchairs at seriously handicapped persons' disposal. wants contact with American citizens, who want to build up a sister organization.....For information, write to Dr. Per "PUBLIC NOTICES:" Udden, Medical Officer, Kalarne Hospital, Kalarne, Sweden,"





Pump, electronics box, humidifier, bellows and volt meter, sucker pump motor and bottles. Complete unit is mounted on a removable tray and se-

cured by 3 screws.

The sucker in use. The polythene positive pressure tube is held in place by two webbing bands around the chest and middle. Shown also is the magnetic valve.

Sucking unit is mounted on right side of chair to be accessible to the driver. When not in use the flap conceals it.



