

# VEGAS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY CHAPTER FORMED

A new chapter has been formed in Southern Nevada of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, to educate the public about this dread disease and to raise funds for research in seeking a cure.

From Betty Maier, publicity Chairman, we are informed of a Governor's Barbeque for Multiple Sclerosis, to be held in the Rancho Circle home of Mrs. Joe Wells on August 18. Mrs. Harry Clairburne, is chairman for the event.

The following data will inform our readers of the inception and background of the fight against Multiple Sclerosis:

The founding of the Society is a story in itself, and I think a unique one. It all began when two sisters placed a public notice in the New York Times which read: - and I quote - Multiple Sclerosis. Will anyone recovered from it please communicate with patient. End of quote. The ad was placed on behalf of their brother, who suffered from multiple sclerosis, with the hope that they would discover a treatment.

These young women knew from reading medical literature that some MS patients have remissions -- periods when the symptoms of the disease lessen or disappear for a time -- and they reasoned that there might be some way of bringing about a remission.

Although responses poured in, from only one reply did a lead develop. It reported that an MS patient had recovered from severe incapacity and remained well for many years. The trail led to a certain doctor, and then abruptly ended in his office. For the treatment the doctor had used on one patient who thereafter

had a remission, was used on about one hundred other patients with no significant benefit.

It became tragically clear that little was understood about MS. It was known to be a disease which was usually crippling and progressive. Because there is an overlapping of symptoms with those of several other diseases, MS was difficult to diagnose. There was and is no handy diagnostic tool or technique. Many misconceptions had accumulated about MS and it was little wonder that MS patients were often overwhelmed by feelings of utter helplessness and hopelessness. This was in 1946.

The public notice inserted in the New York Times created widespread interest in multiple sclerosis. Letters were exchanged, information shared, and the need to do something was apparent, and this was followed by the formation of an organizing committee to establish the Association for Advancement of Research on Multiple Sclerosis.

The purposes of this new Association were to stimulate research on multiple sclerosis in this country and abroad; to gather statistics on the prevalence and geographic distribution of MS; to act as a clearing house for information about the disease; to educate the public on the problem; and to collect funds to stimulate and support research on the family of diseases to which MS belongs.

Many of you here today are intimately knowledgeable about multiple sclerosis. But for those who aren't, let me tell you a little about the disease.

Multiple sclerosis is a neurological disease

-- a disease of the central nervous system -- the brain and spinal cord. In MS the substance called myelin, which protectively covers the nerve fibers disintegrates. This substance may be likened to the insulation around electrical wires. When it disintegrates it is replaced by scar tissue, thus distorting and often blocking the nerve impulses which control such functions as walking, talking, seeing, hearing and eating. Sometimes, unfortunately, MS patients are presumed to be intoxicated because of their unsteady gait or staggering. A peculiar aspect of MS is that the symptoms may often disappear for periods of several years and occasionally, may never return.

But MS is usually progressive, proceeding in a series of unpredictable attacks, each attack causing further disability. However, as I said, this is not always the case. Some patients suffer relatively mild symptoms and, in a few cases, symptoms may completely disappear. These patients are the lucky ones. They can live comparatively normal lives. But their number is limited.


There is no known cure. The cause has yet to be found. The tragedy of MS is it usually attacks people in the prime years -- between 20 and 40.

Since 1946, the Society has spent almost 16 million dollars in research. Although the cause remains obscure, new clues and fresh insights about the disease are continually being uncovered. In 1965 scientists announced that a factor in the blood serum of some patients in the active stage of the disease can halt the transmission of an electrical impulse along the nerve fiber in a nerve tissue. When the serum is removed from the culture, nerve signal transmissions promptly resume.

Other studies are being conducted to find out the cause of the disease. Just this past year the National Society made a grant to the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness to determine whether MS is caused by a virus.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Mayor Saleiman el Azeiza of Der El Balah an Arab has asked that Hebrew lessons be introduced in the local schools and asked that local teachers be trained in the subject.

HOUSTON, TEXAS (LNS) -- Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch, the educational arm of the Lubavitcher movement, has announced the opening of a new regional office which will serve the Southwest region of the United States. This new office will be based in Houston, Texas.



## OUT OF SUMMER COOLING!


Consider the common filter: upon it depends a great deal of your air conditioner's cooling capacity, the amount of electricity it uses and its operating cost.

Clogged filters obstruct air flow so Reddy has to work overtime to keep your air conditioner as cool as you want it. Over a period of time, compressors may be damaged and need repairs. It literally pays to clean or replace filters *before* they get this dirty!

Different filters require different cleaning methods. Help Reddy out in one of the following ways:

- Glass fiber in retainer-type filters should be disposed of and replaced by clean filter pads.
- Metal filters can be washed or vacuumed. However, many are coated with water-soluble oil to trap dirt. Cleaning may remove this substance, so it's a good idea to buy an aerosol can of water-soluble oil and spray filters after each cleaning.
- Electrostatic air filters, installed in the duct system, also require periodic cleaning. Consult the manufacturer's instruction booklet for cleaning details -- those may differ from model to model.

Check your filters once or twice a month, and Reddy will repay your care with higher efficiency and lower electric bills. Remember -- Reddy supplies the energy, but *you* help him keep your appliance running smoothly!



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