



RUBY SAYS

by
Ruby Duncan

Operation Life, Inc., hosted a Convention of the Western Association of Neighboring Health Centers last weekend at the Marina Hotel.

The Convention was a huge success, with people being present from all over the Western part of the United States. Officials from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare were also present to discuss the latest concerns of health centers.

The Convention was greeted by Mayor Bill Briare who presented them with the key to the City, and by County Commissioner Tom Weisner.

Assemblyman Lonie Chaney and Economic Opportunity Board's James Smith provided transportation for a tour of two Las Vegas Health Centers - the Operation Life Community Health Center and Family Doctors of Nevada. Convention delegates were amazed that neither one of the Las Vegas centers used appointments for their clients and that neither had to keep clients waiting hours for service. They were really impressed.

We wish to thank everyone who participated in the Convention and helped to pull it together. It was a great happening.

Hope some people are still thinking about going to New York around July 12th. It will be a good time to pass through the country this Bicentennial season and see what is happening in other parts of the country. We will be going to the National Democratic Convention at Madison Square Garden.

Renovation at Operation Life is going well thanks to our close friends at Fitzsimmons House. They have been so great. Thanks also to Clarence McIlvane (Mac) who has been helping us to get the swimming pool ready.

The Summer Food Program for disadvantaged children is now in progress. The hours are from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Free sack lunches are available for all low-income children.

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**V*A FACTS

Q -- Does the VA offer special insurance for veterans with service-connected disabilities?

A -- Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance is available to veterans eligible for service-connected disability compensation of 10 per cent or more who do not have nonservice-connected disabilities which render them uninsurable. Application must be made within one year from the date the VA notifies the veteran that his disability has been rated as service connected.

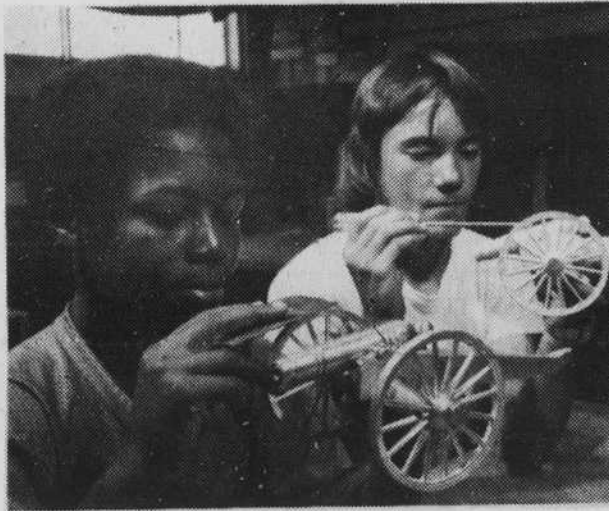
Q -- A 65-year-old veteran with a 10 per cent service-connected

disability receives Social Security as his only other source of income. Does he qualify for VA pension?

A -- He may qualify for a disability pension as the greater benefit, in lieu of his service-connected compensation. He should contact his nearest VA office.

Q -- Can veterans, in-service students, and eligible dependents receive VA educational benefits while attending schools in other countries?

A -- Yes, where the course or program at the school is approved for training by the VA. Contact the nearest VA office for complete information.



RECYCLING ALUMINUM - There's more than one way to recycle aluminum beverage cans, as Jerry Rock and his industrial arts students at Gibson Junior High prove every year with their foundry program. Here students Juan Henderson and Jeff Nicholas polish up miniature cannons, each of which require 300 melted down aluminum cans. Other projects included door knockers, decorative eagles, candy dishes, and ash trays.

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Happiness Through Health

by
Otto McClarrin



RELIEVES PAIN IN HEART ATTACKS: Nitrous oxide is effective in relieving the pain of heart attacks, according to a recent article in the Journal of the AMA based on the work of a research team at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston. Nitrous oxide was tested in a mixture with oxygen on 69 patients in one study and 42 patients in another by Doctors Peter L. Thompson and Bernard Lown.

The conclusion: A mix of 35 percent nitrous oxide with oxygen has a clear-cut role in pain relief in heart attack. It is safe and effective for mild pain, and is useful for relief of more serious pain.

The finding offers a better means of controlling pain in heart attacks. The most commonly used drug is morphine or one of its derivatives. But morphine itself sometimes causes nausea and vomiting in an already distressed patient. And administration of pure oxygen alone is not very effective in relieving pain.

INNER-CITY TB CASE RATE "INCREDIBLE": Tuberculosis today can often be prevented, seldom requires hospitalization, and is almost always curable - yet more than 30,000 new active cases and close to 3,800 deaths were reported in 1974.

These disparate facts were cited in New York City recently by Dr. Lee B. Reichman, Associate Professor of Medicine at the New Jersey Medical School, as evidence that tuberculosis is far from being a resolved problem even though "it is the only disease in the nation's top causes of death that medical science has to wherewithal to handle now."

The present U.S. case rate per 100,000 population is still around 14, he said, but rates in inner-city ghetto populations are "incredible for this day and age." As an example, he pointed out that the case rate of 130 found in N.Y. City's Central Harlem in 1971 was identical to the rate for all of the city in 1949 when neither streptomycin nor isoniazid had been discovered.

RAPE VICTIMS GET SPECIAL CARE AT LA HOSPITAL: The 30 rape victims per month who use the Women's Hospital, Los Angeles County-University of Southern California Medical Center, don't ever, don't ever hear the word "rape."

"Mere mention of rape can upset the person who has been assaulted," says Rita Andrade, director of services to rape victims at Women's Hospital. "To spare a victim this pain, the word is censored in the admitting room and the patient's injury is coded on written forms."

"One of the aims," she explained, "is to encourage our staff to be more sensitive to and considerate of the patient's feeling of shock. This is accomplished by counseling sessions for physicians and other medical personnel to increase awareness of problems faced by the rape victims."

Our second aim is to coordinate the activities of all people-medical personnel, social workers, law enforcement officers, and security officers-involved in the care of rape victims. This is handled by our Rape Committee, which also evaluates and improves existing procedures."

In addition, among other services, the rape victim is given high priority for treatment. Only a patient who is bleeding or a mother who is delivering is attended by a physician before the rape victim is served.

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