

IOWA POLIO STORIES ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Dedicated to Iowans who did not survive.

Prepared by Kate Scott
Manager, Iowa Polio Stories Oral History Project

"The State of Iowa at present is confronted with a very serious problem. There is no question but that this epidemic is going on and that the state is going to be afflicted -- and grievously afflicted -- with this disease before we get through."

Dr. G.E. Decker
Member, State Board of Health
Davenport, Iowa, 1910

Introduction

The Iowa Polio Stories Oral History Project, funded by the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust and the State Library of Iowa, has been a collaborative effort between the State Library of Iowa and the State Historical Society of Iowa to document and preserve the history of polio in Iowa. The collection includes oral history interviews from physicians, pediatricians, registered nurses, and licensed practical nurses who worked with polio patients. Most important, the collection includes the voices of real people who were most affected by polio. Through their own words, they reveal how they felt, how they coped, how their communities responded, and how they survived the anguish of the "dreaded" disease.

Katherine Von Wald, Coordinator for the Iowa Center for the Book, authored the grant proposal to fund the initiative after witnessing the ways in which the topic of polio in general, and the 2007 All Iowa Reads selection by Jeffrey Kluger, Splendid Solution, sparked intense conversation. Von Wald generated the participation of public libraries and volunteers across the state to encourage Iowans to share their stories and participate in this initiative.

Annette Wetteland, Communications Coordinator for the State Library of Iowa, has also been an integral part of this project. She maintained the Iowa Polio Stories website where 59 Iowans electronically submitted written narratives of their memories of how polio affected their lives, families, and communities. The written narratives are a treasure trove of primary source material. Wetteland also conducted a number of oral histories with Iowa polio survivors in this collection.

Mary Bennett and Marvin Bergman of the State Historical Society of Iowa in Iowa City supported this effort by sharing their equipment, guidance, and expertise throughout the process of acquisition and preservation. The materials will be accessible to the public, in accordance with the policies outlined by the State Historical Society of Iowa, for educational and scholarly purposes. See <http://www.iowahistory.org/index.html>.

Anne Negus, Chantelle Sharp and Susan Forsling transcribed the majority of the oral history interviews. The successful completion of the project would not have been possible without the support of several volunteer interviewers and transcribers: Linda Armitage, Claudia Frazer, Monica Gollinghorst, Jan Kaiser, Sylvia Kreamahmyer, Robin Martin, Wendy Rigggenberg, Lila Ruch, and Thomas Sullivan.

State institutions of knowledge and culture must proactively cultivate their holdings for future generations. Projects like the Iowa Polio Stories build better libraries and stronger archives. To that end, this effort would not have been possible without the broad vision and support of Mary Wegner, the State Librarian of Iowa.

Oral History Recordings

The Iowa Polio Stories Oral History Collection consists of fifty-one recorded audio interviews from Iowans scattered across more than 26 counties. Forty-nine participants submitted oral history release forms. The subjects, both men and women, ranged in age from 55 years old to 96 years old. The interviews are recorded primarily on cassette tapes; four digital interviews exist. Most interviews last approximately 45 to

60 minutes in duration. Several interviews were recorded via telephone in order to assure broad geographic scope across the state. In these cases, the "location of interview" is not cited in the individual summaries to follow. The summaries are also available online. See <http://www.iowacenterforthebook.org/air/previous-years/ohs/ohcol/>

Transcripts

To facilitate accessibility and to aid researchers, all of the oral history recordings have been transcribed. (Delores Troy's oral history is one exception; her interview was recorded after the conclusion of the grant.) The transcripts are filed along with the individual's photographs, documents, news-clippings, biographical data form, and oral history release form. Interviewees generously shared their personal collections. We also collected a significant amount of material in the form of photographs, personal letters, news-clippings, scrapbooks, medical letters and documents.

Pam Rees, State Library Medical Librarian, compiled an extensive bibliography (www.iowacenterforthebook.org/air/previous-years/air07/Polio-in-Iowa) of articles related to polio from twentieth century periodicals, medical journals, annual and biennial reports from the Iowa State Department of Health. Statistical accounts from the Iowa Department of Health and the medical profession are critical, but they do not necessarily capture the whole story.

In 1994, Ginalie Swaim organized a photographic essay titled, "An Iowa Portfolio – 1939-1959" in The Palimpsest: Iowa's Popular History Magazine.¹ In this essay, she noted the importance of providing a human dimension to the epidemics. Indeed, the Des Moines Register and Tribune photographs from 1939 to 1959 convey the complex duality of fear and hope in the expressions of a generation of Iowans with little or no medical explanation or cure for their condition. The photographs left me wondering where are they now? How did polio affect their lives, families, employment, physical health and emotional spirit?

What still remained absent in the historical record were their experiences in their own words. This collection targeted three primary audiences: 1) the medical community, 2) family and friends of those afflicted, and 3) polio survivors. By capturing these voices, this funding has made it possible to begin to document and preserve perhaps the most critical, yet overlooked element in this historical narrative. With only one interview in the collection from an African American physician and one interview with an African American polio survivor, this is not to suggest the collection is comprehensive in scope. Through personal donations, we have acquired photographs of African American women working as physical therapists at Broadlawn Medical Center and Blank Memorial Children's Hospital. Through the oral histories, we also know that a team of African American women worked in the basement of the Sister Kenny Institute in Minneapolis preparing hot packs during the early fifties. "Packers" – as they were commonly called – worked in extremely uncomfortable conditions; they tolerated nauseating heat and the unpleasant smell of the wet wool used for therapy to treat polio victims. This is only the beginning. More proactive efforts must be made to capture the voices of racial and ethnic Iowans.

Why polio afflicted Iowans in unusually high proportions remains a mystery. Beginning in 1910, polio reoccurred in Iowa every few years. Between 1948 and 1952 approximately 10,000 polio cases were reported in Iowa with nearly 3,564 cases alone reported in 1952. Dr. Julius Conner, who served as the director of Polk County Public Health from 1965-2000, explained the cyclical nature of polio in his oral history, "When children are born, they have some resistance from their mother's - through breast feeding - they gain resistance for even a longer time after birth, but they have not really experienced all of the bacteria and the viruses that are present that can cause disease. So, the polio virus is one that they just have not experienced. This is why also the epidemics occur in cycles, like five or seven year cycles, or five or eight year cycles, because this disease primarily affects children under five. So, you go about give to seven years before you have another group of children who were not through the last epidemic."

Many of the survivors believed the virus was transmitted through contaminated food, mosquitoes, water, or livestock. Betty Lou Matthews, for example, believed she contracted the virus from eating the skin of a

Ginalie Swaim, "An Iowa Portfolio, 1939-1959," The Palimpsest: Iowa's Popular History Magazine, Vol. 75, No. 1 (Spring 1994), 4-13.

Georgia peach. Similarly, Everett Jensen believed he might have caught the virus from the Texas watermelon he ate at a church picnic in Cherokee. Charles Burkett's family believes he may have caught the virus from his exposure to the chickens when he worked at Hyline Poultry in Dallas center. Another striking theme was that several of the Iowa polio survivors noted their exposure to dairy farms or contaminated milk. Bette Burroughs, who contracted polio in 1923 when it was called infantile paralysis, believes she caught it from regularly drinking goat's milk as a baby. Betty Stanfield noted that she played in a creek adjacent to their house that flowed downstream from a dairy farm. Lila Ruch, the current president of the Iowa Polio Survivors Support Group, noted that her father was a dairy farmer. In her oral history, she mentioned that their milk was pasteurized after he sold it to the milk carrier.

Events and Publicity

In addition to presentations delivered to the Northwest Iowa Polio Survivors Group (NIPS), All Iowa Reads Advisory Committee Meeting, All Iowa Reads ICN Session, and the State Library of Iowa Board of Commissioners, three other presentations on the Iowa Polio Stories warrant brief mention. First, in the effort to promote the 2007 All Iowa Reads Program selection Splendid Solutions: Jonas Salk and the Conquest of Polio and the Iowa Polio Stories Oral History Project, Susan Craig, Karen Kenninger, and Kate Scott participated in a live radio broadcast called "The Exchange." This program, hosted by Greg Shanley on Iowa Public Radio, aired on August 14, 2007. Second, Annette Wetteland and Kate Scott attended the Iowa Polio Survivors Fall Luncheon in Des Moines, Iowa on October 20, 2007. Through the support of the steering committee for this state organization, we were able to discuss the project and network with a number of Iowa polio survivors. During the program, we collected biographical data forms from those interested in participating in the oral history project. Scott offered a PowerPoint presentation and encouraged the audience members to share their story. Finally, Christine Peery of Central College invited Scott to deliver a one-hour guest lecture on the Iowa Polio Stories Oral History Project to her undergraduate public history course. Calls for participants for the Iowa Polio Stories Oral History Project was also circulated on the website and local Iowa newspapers.

Project Significance

In the 1990s, a cluster of scholars began to focus their attention on polio as a national subject of serious historical inquiry.² In her 1992 analysis Dirt and Disease: Polio Before FDR, Naomi Rogers used the concepts of dirt and disease, poverty and infection, to focus on the epidemiology of polio and the curious fact that middle and upper class Americans appeared to suffer higher rates of affliction than immigrants. Jane S. Smith argues in her 1995 study, Patenting the Sun, that the polio vaccine raised popular expectations and possibly false hopes for a high-tech breakthrough for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). More recently, David Oshinsky's Pulitzer Prize winning analysis, Polio: An American Story, emphasized the reality of polio as a relatively uncommon disease. He examined America's obsession with polio and the ways in which polio was portrayed by the media and popular culture. Like the terror of nuclear war, the terror of polio loomed over a generation of increasingly suburban baby boomers and family-oriented Americans.

The history of polio fits into a number of important conceptual frameworks for scholars, historians, and educators. Like race, class, and gender, disability continues to emerge as a burgeoning area of scholarship. One University of Iowa historian, David Baynton observed "Disability is everywhere in history – once you begin looking for it." Baynton asserts that the medical model or the medical definition of disability created millions of identities that pitted "normal" versus "disabled." Baynton suggests that this dynamic functioned as a signifier of power. Baynton and others have reminded us that American society has come a long way from turn of the twentieth century, institutionalized discrimination against people with disabilities. The 1907 Immigration Act, for example, barred entrance to anyone with a mental or physical defect. Extreme measures such as sterilization, marriage restriction, and incarceration were also implemented to stop the reproduction of "unfit" Americans. Like the Civil Rights Act, the 1990 American Disability Act (ADA) was also a landmark civil rights legislation prohibiting discrimination. The ADA Bill of Rights guarantees

²Jane S. Smith, Patenting the Sun: Polio and the Salk Vaccine, (Morrow: New York), 1990; Naomi Rogers, Dirt and Disease: Polio Before FDR, (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press), 1992; Tony Gould, A Summer Plague: Polio and Its Survivors, (New Haven: Yale University Press), 1995; David M. Oshinsky, Polio: An American Story (New York: Oxford University Press), 2005.

all Americans are entitled to the right to hold a job, the right to enjoy public accommodations, the right to use public transportation, and the right to communicate. But, the voices in this collection reveal that we still have a long way to go. Many interviewees reflected on the extent to which the law, despite good intentions, is not being enforced with vigilance. Issues of accessibility to the physical environment remain a constant and recurring theme. Disability, as a social construct, is an important lens to broader themes of accessibility, citizenship, and power. Disability may be an important analytical tool for scholars of American history, but in these narratives it rarely surfaces in the vocabulary of polio survivors. For most of the Iowa polio survivors in this collection, disability is really a minor difference that is best interpreted as a source of inspiration and determination. Most of the subjects offered commentary on the ways in which polio enhanced their compassion and empathy for others.

Conclusion

Modern day epidemics such as AIDS, SARS, and other contemporary crises in medicine encourage us to reflect on a wide historical range of public health issues. In October of 2007, international health officials (WHO) released news about an outbreak of polio in Nigeria caused by the vaccine designed to stop it. At least 69 children were left paralyzed.³ But, for the generations of Americans who did not live through the epidemics, many remain unaware of the intensity of fear that swept the country and the overwhelming sense of desperation felt by families that were afflicted by polio. A very serious problem currently exists for polio survivors who must educate new generations of physicians about the long-term effects of polio on their muscles, nerves, joints, and bones. This need to explain is further complicated by a medical profession that has yet to officially acknowledge Post-Polio-Syndrome in the nomenclature of medical diseases.

The Iowa Polio Stories is a valuable primary resource for future generations. But, it is also important to note that this project comes full circle as part of the 2007 All Iowa Reads Program. A number of polio survivors recalled how important reading was to their emotional well-being. A number of survivors mentioned in their oral histories the significance of libraries in their local communities. Some clearly remembered the way reading operated as a form of escapism. When Patricia Moreland was hospitalized as a seven year old at Blank Memorial Children's Hospital in Des Moines, reading gave her comfort and a sense of adventure. "I loved to read. I would read three or four books a week in addition to my schoolwork. Part of the appeal of reading was that I could go into a whole other world – a world where I could run and jump and do things. I think that was partly why I loved to read so much. I still love to read." Reading enhanced imaginations and allowed survivors to break free of doctors, nurses, braces, and crutches – free of polio.

³ Maria Cheng, "Officials Say Drug Caused Nigeria Polio," Associated Press, October 5, 2007.

IOWA POLIO STORIES ORAL HISTORY PROJECT COLLECTION INVENTORY (51)

Baier, Joan	12/07/07	Fontanelle Adair	Transcript	30	Sullivan
Bakalar, Bonnie	11/16/07	Woodward Dallas	Transcript/Photo	30	Scott
Bates, Sharon	10/30/07	Des Moines Polk	Transcript/Photos	60	Wetteland
Bellmann, Joan D.	11/07/07	Dubuque Dubuque	Transcript/Photos	75	Scott
Bellows, Glen	9/25/07	Bettendorf Scott	Transcript/Photos	60	Scott
Bellows, Virginia	8/30/07	Spencer Clay	Transcript/Photos	20	Scott
Benter, Sandy	9/5/07	Des Moines Polk	Transcript/Photo	60	Wetteland
Boorum, Mary Jane	11/02/07	Cedar Falls Black Hawk	Transcript	50	Scott
Burkett, Charles Ray	10/24/07	Johnston Dallas	Transcript	60	Scott
Burroughs, Bette	9/26/07	Des Moines Polk	Transcript/Photos	90	Scott
Conner, Dr. Julius S.	10/11/07	Des Moines Polk	Transcript/Photo	60	Scott
Corn, Dr. Henry H.	12/12/07	W. Des Moines Polk	Transcript/Photo	40	Scott
Cornelius, Norma Jean	11/02/07	Ames Story	Transcript	80	Sullivan
Crago, Norma Jean 11/05/07		Creston Union	Photos/Clippings Transcript	75	Scott
Dahm, Angela	8/27/07	Emmetsburg Palo Alto	Transcript / Photos	60	Scott
Dahm, John	8/27/07	Emmetsburg Palo Alto	Transcript/Photos	30	Scott
DeGraw, Lyle E.	11/08/07	Rockford Floyd	Transcript / Photos	45	Scott
Emmert, Keith W.	11/29/07	Pella Marion	Transcript		Martin
Fegan, Jerolyn K.	12/07/07	Des Moines Polk	Transcript / Audio CD	60	Riggenberg
Geary, William	8/13/07	Spencer Clay	Transcript/Photos	75	Scott

Hall, JoAnn	10/30/07	Greenfield Adair	Transcript/Photos	50	Wetteland
Jensen, Everett	8/8/07	Spirit Lake Dickinson	Transcript/Photos	40	Scott
Larson, Jannis	11/15/07	Rudd Floyd	Transcript/Photos	35	Wetteland
LeMaster, Ann	11/16/07	Granger Dallas	Transcript/Photos	50	Scott
Leto, Rae Louise	10/30/07	Greenfield Adair	Transcript/Photos	60	Wetteland
Lieder, Betty Leggett	11/02/07	Mason City Cerro Gordo Currently of Rochester, MN	Transcript/Photos	40	Scott
Lovell, Jane A.	11/07/07	Seranton Greene	Transcript/Photo	45	Wetteland
Manock, Martha Jane	12/07/07	Altoona Polk	Transcript	57	Sullivan
Marsh, Lawrence E.	10/17/07	Solon Johnson	Transcript/Photo	45	Scott
Matthews, Betty NO RELEASE FORM	10/3/07	Terril Dickinson	Transcript	45	Scott
Moreland, Pat	10/05/07	West Des Moines Polk	Transcript	65	Sullivan
Nelleson, Ruth	10/3/07	Carroll Carroll	Transcript	30	Scott
Nichols, Nancy R.	11/14/07	Des Moines Polk	Transcript		Frazer & Lincoln
Osborn, Mary Ogren	9/25/07	Des Moines Polk	Transcript	20	Scott
Raedecker, David F.	12/03/07	Ellston Ringgold	Transcript	60	Scott
Ralles, Penny	11/30/07	Urbandale Polk	Transcript CD	100	Riggenberg
Reichert, Ronald	11/15/07	Hiawatha	Transcript/Photos	120	Armitage
Rigby, Dixie	8/10/07	Spencer Clay	Transcript/Photos	20	Scott
Ruch, Lila	10/03/07	Indianola Warren	Transcript/Photos	45	Scott
Rushing, Christie Lynn	11/29/07	Des Moines Polk	Transcript/Audio CD Original Medical Records	47	Riggenberg
Schenk, Jeanne Palmquist	12/05/07	Villisca	Transcript	60	Scott

		Montgomery Baytown, TX	Sister Kenny Original		
Schulenberg, Lawrence J.	12/10/07	Council Bluffs Pottawattamie	Transcript	60	Gottlinghorst
Spear, Tom	10/11/07	Tipton Cedar	Transcript/Photos/Clippings	50	Scott
Stanfield, Betty Jean	11/08/07	Des Moines Polk	Transcript	20	Scott
Steele, Maxine	8/29/07	Hartley O'Brien	Transcript	60	Scott
Stratton, Merlin	10/31/07	Des Moines Polk	Transcript	40	Wetteland
Thiesse, Eilcen	8/27/07	Emmetsburg Palo Alto	Transcript/Photos/Clippings	20	Scott
Troy, Delores NO RELEASE FORM	1/31/08	Jesup Buchanan Bonita Springs, FL	Cassette Only	60	Scott
Trujillo, Nancy	1/15/08	Farragut Fremont Colorado Springs	Transcript	60	Scott
Walker, Leon	7/26/07	Ruthven Palo Alto	Transcript/Photos	45	Scott
Woods, Twyla Winters	12/07/07	Des Moines Polk	Transcript	30	Scott

Polio in Iowa

We have gathered together information from various sources about polio in Iowa.

Read the Iowa polio stories added to the Web site and look at photographs from the polio epidemic in Iowa.

Web sites with information about polio in Iowa

- *Countdown to a Polio Vaccine*. An article by Mike Kilen in the Sunday, January 28, 2007, *Des Moines Register*, on polio in Iowa.
- University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics. Medical Museum.
The Polio Years at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
The Polio Years follows the article about the Red Cross. The polio article includes information about polio treatment at the University of Iowa hospitals, the story of one polio patient, statistics of polio cases in Iowa from 1945 through 1970, and information about the iron lung.

Periodical articles on polio in Iowa.

Bibliography of periodical articles on polio in Iowa.

State Library Medical Librarian, Pam Rees, compiled the following lists of citations.

Arranged by date the article was published

- McCreery, J.W. *Report of an Epidemic of Infantile Paralysis*. Iowa Medical Journal. Vol. 16, Number 10, (April 15, 1910) pages 519-522. (Nine cases of polio in Whittemore in July, August, September 1908.)
- *Infantile Paralysis: Special Bulletin of the Iowa State Board of Health*. Fifteenth Biennial Report of the State Board of Health of the State of Iowa for the Fiscal Period Ending June 30, 1910. Pages 122-134. (Pages 126-130 have information about polio in Iowa and the 1910 Mason City epidemic.)
- *Acute Poliomyelitis*. Iowa Medical Journal. Vol. 17, Issue 3, (September 15, 1910) pages 148-149. (1910 epidemic in Mason City)
- *Discussion of the Epidemic of Anterior Poliomyelitis at a meeting called by the Iowa State Board of Health, and held at the House Chamber, State Capitol, August 17, 1910*. Iowa Medical Journal. Vol. 17, Issue 5, (November 15, 1910) pages 236-255. (Includes information about the 1910 epidemic in Mason City.)
- Frost, Wade H. *The Epidemiology of Poliomyelitis*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 19, Issue 5, (May 1929) pages 223-228. (Mentions 1910 Mason City epidemic).
- Lanpher, Howard A. *Poliomyelitis in Iowa in 1930*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 21, Issue 7, (July 1931) pages 346-350. The Iowa Medical Society has given permission for full text of this article to be added to the ICB Web site.
- George, Everett M. and Harry E. Ransom. *The 1939 Poliomyelitis Epidemic in the City of Des Moines*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 30, Issue 12, (December 1940) pages 584-587. The Iowa Medical Society has given permission for full text of this article to be added to the ICB Web site.
- Hanlon, Robert C. Public Health Engineer, Polk County Health Service, Des Moines, Iowa.
"Observed Relationship of Poliomyelitis Incidence and Environmental Sanitation in Des Moines, Iowa." Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 30, Issue 12, (December 1940) pages 587-590. The Iowa Medical Society has given permission for full text of this article to be added to the ICB Web site. Click here for article.

- Dyson, James E. *The Kenny Treatment in Acute Poliomyelitis: A Report of the First Year at the Iowa Lutheran Kenny Cottages*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 33, Issue 8, (August 1943) pages 375-379. The Iowa Medical Society has given permission for full text of this article to be added to the ICB Web site.
- Blizzard, Robert M., Floyd E. Sawyer, and Allan K. Chappell. *Acute Poliomyelitis: A Study of the Patients Seen at the Raymond Bland Memorial Hospital during 1952*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 43, Issue 9, (September 1953) pages 361-369.

Citations of articles with statistics on polio in Iowa that appeared in The Journal of the Iowa Medical Society, State Department of Health Commissioner's Reports, and Annual/Biennial Reports from the Iowa State Department of Health.

Arranged by date of publication.

- *Number of poliomyelitis cases and deaths for the years 1924-1933*. Twenty-Sixth Biennial Report for the Iowa State Department of Health for the Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1934. Page 151.
- Bierring, Walter. State Department of Health. *Poliomyelitis*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 26, Issue 12, (December 1936) pages 692-693. (Incidence in past years, diagnosis, serum therapy)
- Bierring, Walter. State Department of Health. *Prevalence of Poliomyelitis in Iowa*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 27, Issue 9, (September 1937) pages 485.
- Bierring, Walter. State Department of Health. *Poliomyelitis in Iowa: Morbidity and Morbidity Rates for the 13-Year period 1930-1942*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 33, Issue 11, (November 1943) page 517. (Iowa counties map)
- *Number of poliomyelitis cases and deaths for the years 1936-1945*. Thirty-Second Biennial Report for the Iowa State Department of Health for the Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1946, Pages 18-19.
- Bierring, Walter. State Department of Health. *Poliomyelitis in Iowa by County of Residence - 1952*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 43, Issue 5, (May 1953) pages 198-199.
- Zimmerer, Edmund G. *Poliomyelitis and the Salk Vaccine*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 45, Issue 6, (June 1955) pages 308-310. (Has cases and death rates 1945-1954)
- *Number of poliomyelitis cases and deaths for the years 1945-1956*. Thirty-Seventh Biennial Report for the Iowa State Department of Health for the Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1956. Page 51.
- Zimmerer, Edmund G. State Department of Health. *Poliomyelitis Incidence in the U.S., 1952-1956*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 47, Issue 2, (February 1957) page 101.
- Zimmerer, Edmund G. State Department of Health. *The Declining Incidence of Paralytic Poliomyelitis*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 47, Issue 11, (November 1957) page 708.

General articles on polio that appeared in Iowa medical journals between 1910 and 1957

Articles are arranged by date of publication.

- Ryerson, Edwin W. *Surgical Treatment of Infantile Paralysis*. Iowa Medical Journal. Vol. 17, Issue 3, (September 15, 1910) pages 128-134.
- Throckmorton, Tom Bentley. *Infantile Palsy*. Iowa Medical Journal. Vol. 17, Issue 3, (September 15, 1910) pages 135-140.
- *Acute Poliomyelitis*. Iowa Medical Journal. Vol. 17, Issue 4, (October 15, 1910) pages 197-199.
- *Discussion on Poliomyelitis*. Iowa Medical Journal. Vol. 17, Issue 4, (October 15, 1910) page 201.
- Dakin, C.E. Mason City. *Acute Epidemic Poliomyelitis: Symptomatology, Diagnosis and Treatment*. Iowa Medical Journal. Vol. 17, Issue 5, (November 15, 1910) pages 229-235.
- Grossman, D.S. *Probable Cause of Acute Poliomyelitis*. Iowa Medical Journal. Vol. 17, Issue 10, (April 15, 1911) pages 501-503.
- Nuzum, John W. (from Chicago) *The Etiology and Serum Treatment of Epidemic Poliomyelitis*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 8, Issue 7, (July 1918) pages 237-246.

- O'Donoghue, Arch F. *Diagnosis and Treatment of Infantile Paralysis*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 12, Issue 4, (April 1922) pages 141-143.
- Bierring, Walter. State Department of Health. *Infantile Paralysis*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 24, Issue 6, (June 1934) pages 296-297. (Causes, transmission, diagnosis, medical care)
- Bierring, Walter. State Department of Health. *Poliomyelitis*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 24, Issue 8, (August 1934) page 451. (Nine symptoms of poliomyelitis and use of serum)
- Moore, Fred. *Prevention of Poliomyelitis*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 28, Issue 8, (August 1938) pages 385-389.
- Van Duzer, William R. *The Importance of Early Treatment of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 29, Issue 5, (May 1939) pages 204-206.
- Stadler, Harold. *Some Clinical Observations of Poliomyelitis*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 31, Issue 6, (June 1941) pages 242-245.
- Elkins, Earl C. and K.G. Wakim. *The Present Concept of Treatment of Poliomyelitis*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 37, Issue 8, (August 1947) pages 356-362.
- Ghormley, Ralph K. *History of Treatment of Poliomyelitis*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 37, Issue 8, (August 1947) pages 343-350.
- Knapp, M.E. *Rehabilitation in severe poliomyelitis*. Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society. Vol. 43, Issue 9, (September 1953) pages 369-373.

Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust Application Cover Sheet

Applicant Organization: State Library of Iowa, Iowa Center for the Book

Ola Babcock Miller Building, 1112 East Grand Avenue Des Moines Iowa 50319
(mailing address) (city) (state) (zip code)

Payee Organization: _____
(if different from applicant organization)

(mailing address) (city) (state) (zip code)

Phone Number: 515/281-4105 Fax Number: 515/281-6191
(area code) (area code)

Contact Person and Position Held: Katherine Von Wald, Coordinator, Iowa Center for the Book

Project Title: All Iowa Reads Oral History Project

Amount Requested: \$8,500 Total Project Cost: \$17,000

Description of Project (for biomedical and scientific research grant applications, this description should be in NON-TECHNICAL language):

The 2007 All Iowa Reads title is Splendid Solution: Jonas Salk and the Conquest of Polio by Jeffrey Kluger. As part of the 2007 program we are encouraging Iowans to share their stories of what they remember of the time when polio was prevalent. In addition to adding these stories to the Web site, the Iowa Center for the Book is asking for help in funding a formal oral history project, recording approximately 50 interviews with Iowans geographically spread across the state. The interviews would be transcribed and made available for the public at the State Historical Society of Iowa, along with the actual recordings.

THE FOLLOWING ENCLOSURES ARE REQUIRED FOR PROCESSING:

1. A copy of the I.R.S. letter granting 501(c)(3) tax exempt status for applicant organization and payee organization if different from applicant organization. (Not required for recognized public, not-for-profit organizations, e.g., public schools, county and city governments.)
2. A budget for the total project which clearly shows how funding from the Carver Trust will be spent.
3. Most recent audited financial statement.

Please Return Completed Application to:

Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust
202 Iowa Avenue
Muscatine IA 52761-3733

To: Troy K. Ross, Ph.D., Executive Administrator, Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust
From: Katherine Von Wald, Coordinator, Iowa Center for the Book
Re: Letter of Inquiry

The Iowa Center for the Book would like to apply for funds from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust for an oral history project asking Iowans what they remember of the time when polio was prevalent and the advent of the polio vaccine. I have included the information requested on your Web site but can be contacted at coordinator@iowacenterforthebook.org or at the State Library of Iowa (515/281-4105) if you have questions.

1. A brief background on your organization, including a history of its existence, the size of staff and board and the type of service provided.

The Iowa Center for the Book (ICB) is a program of the State Library of Iowa. It was approved as an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in March 2002. The ICB Advisory Council consists of 22 persons representing academic, public, school and special libraries, publishers and bookstores, and at large members. The coordinator of the ICB is a part-time position and the work of the center is supported by staff members of the State Library and volunteer committee members. The mission of the Iowa Center for the Book is to stimulate public interest in books, reading, literacy and libraries.

The Web site of the Iowa Center for the Book is a source of information about all the Center's programs. It also includes a list of organizations in Iowa that give awards to authors, programs that the staff of the University of Iowa Center for the Book will provide to groups, bibliographies of books by Iowa authors and about Iowa, links to other literary organizations and an Iowa literary calendar. The literary calendar is an online source of literary programming across the state. Programming is included from all types of libraries and other groups such as bookstores that do literary programming. The URL for the Web site is <http://www.iowacenterforthebook.org>.

One popular program sponsored by the Iowa Center for the Book is Letters About Literature, a program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Students in grades 4 through 12 write a letter to an author explaining how that author's book changed the student's way of looking at the world or self. There are winners at both the state and national level. In 2006 there were over 47,000 entries at the national level and 985 in Iowa. Iowa has participated for three years. The first year the Iowa winners at all three levels were in the top six at the national level; the second year the Iowa high school winner was also a winner at the national level; and in 2006 the winner at the grade school level wrote one of the top essays at the national level. A committee helps plan and implement Iowa's participation in this program.

One of the first, and most widely known, efforts of the Iowa Center for the Book is the All Iowa Reads program. All Iowa Reads is a "one community, one book" program with a statewide focus. A committee selects one book that Iowans are encouraged to read and discuss with friends or co-workers, in their private book discussion group or at their library during a calendar year.

In 2007, the fifth year for this program, the title is Splendid Solution: Jonas Salk and the Conquest of Polio by Jeffrey Kluger. This book, the first nonfiction title ever selected, tells the story of the polio epidemic and the development of the polio vaccine. As in past years, the Web site includes materials to help discussion leaders in their planning, such as discussion questions, reviews of the book, suggestions for further reading and publicity material that can be printed and used at the local level. In 2007 there is also background material on polio.

Each year All Iowa Reads chooses a title that raises universal issues that are of interest to Iowans. Titles chosen in the past all have had an Iowa or a Midwestern connection. The Committee will encourage

Iowans to tell their own stories about the polio epidemic and their personal experiences, creating not only points of discussion, but also an invaluable social history. A Web site, iowapoliostories.org, collects these stories. As our population ages, it seems the perfect time to provide this opportunity.

2. A succinct description of the project, what it is designed to achieve, and how this will be accomplished.

In addition to the stories added to the Web site, the Iowa Center for the Book is asking for help in funding a formal oral history project, recording approximately 50 interviews with Iowans geographically spread across the state. The interviews would be transcribed and made available for the public at the State Historical Society of Iowa, along with the actual recordings. Staff of the State Historical Society are providing technical expertise with planning this project.

Through this project – the stories on both the Web site and the more in-depth interviews and transcriptions—we will encourage reading and discussion about the All Iowa Reads title, Splendid Solution; give Iowans an opportunity to share their unique memories and stories about polio; and create an important historical resource to document a time in Iowa history about which little has been published up to this point.

To achieve these goals, we need to hire staff to gather and transcribe the interviews. We would hire a part-time project manager who would help develop the questions that would be used in the interviews and choose the individuals who would be interviewed, train the volunteers who would conduct the interviews, hire transcribers and oversee their work, and ensure that the project is accomplished within the time frame established. A committee of two members of the ICB All Iowa Reads committee and the ICB Coordinator will work with the project manager. Additionally, transcriber(s) would be hired to transcribe each hour-long interview.

Volunteer interviewers will be trained using the ICN video network. From the pool of persons who add their stories to the Web site and suggestions from librarians of people who have interesting stories to tell, the project manager will decide on whom to interview for the oral history project.

3. A proposed budget for the total cost of the project and the amount you intend to request from the Trust. If possible, identify the particular budget items for which you would be requesting Trust support. Specify other potential or committed sources of funding for the project.

This project will cost \$17,000 which would be used to contract with the project manager for 300 hours at \$25 per hour, the transcriber(s) for 500 hours at \$15 per hour, and travel costs for the volunteer interviewers at \$.34 per mile. The State Library will be responsible for half of this cost. We would be asking the Carver Charitable Trust for half or \$8,500.

4. A statement describing why participation of the Carver Trust is vital to the success of the project. Indicate any past history with the Trust or any contacts you have made with Trust staff or others leading to your decision to approach the Trust for funding.

We are proposing a substantial increase in effort for the 2007 All Iowa Reads project. It is not possible to sustain this effort entirely with volunteers, as the Center has done with all of its programs in the past, due to the specialized skills needed to make the project a success. Although the State Library can provide some assistance, we need additional resources to accomplish our goals. We are approaching the Carver Trust because of its past history in supporting library projects. We think this is a worthy project for your consideration—supporting a great program with a proven track record to encourage reading and discussion, and to document an important piece of history that may otherwise be lost.

State of Iowa and its Counties



JOAN BAIER COLLECTION
Adair County

Interviewee: Joan Baier
Interviewer: Thomas Sullivan
Date of Interview: 12/07/07
Run Time: Approximately 30M

Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Oral History Release
Transcript

Joan Baier, currently of Fontanelle, was pregnant with a baby when she was diagnosed with polio in 1951 in Adair County. She and her husband had only been married for a year and a half when they received the news. Joan recalls, "I had been kind of ill. I thought I had the flu until I began to feel different in my arms and legs. Then, I got so I could not talk and could not swallow. So, we went to the doctor and told me I already got it and it has settled where it is going to be. So, he sent me to bed. I was in bed for three weeks and I just kept getting worse and worse. At that time, the doctor came to the house out in the country. And, I finally began to recover. I think it was in October of 1951. It took me quite a while to walk again. I still could not eat anything. It was probably a year before I could eat normal food. My voice never did come back completely. But, I have had a good life ever since."

BONNIE BAKALAR COLLECTION

Interviewee: Bonnie Bakalar

Interviewer: Kate Scott

Location of Interview: Johnston Public Library (Johnston, Iowa)

Date of Interview: 11/16/07

Run Time: Approximately 30M



Cassette

Biographical Data Form

Oral History Release

Photographs (2)

Transcript

Bakalar, of Woodward, Iowa (Dallas Co.), served as a Licensed Practical Nurse at Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa during the polio epidemic of 1952. She also contracted the virus while working "dietary" at the hospital. In her interview, she talks of the care she gave to iron lung patients and spoke about the heartache she felt for polio patients that were abandoned by their spouses.

SHARON WILSON BATES COLLECTION
Polk County
Interviewee: Sharon Wilson Bates
Interviewer: Annette Wetteland
Date of Interview: 10/30/07
Location of Interview: Des Moines, Iowa
Run Time: Approximately 60M



Cassette
Biographical Data Form
Oral History Release
Photographs (3 original; 16 duplicates)
Transcript

Sharon Wilson Bates was born in Detroit, Michigan in the fall of 1944. Her parents returned to her father's Rippey homestead after the war. "We lived in Rippey for a couple of years," recalled Bates, "until they moved to Perry. We moved into a home that ironically enough – had been in the family prior to ours. I lived in that house in Perry until I was 18." Bates was seven when she got polio in 1952. She was treated at Blank Memorial Hospital in Des Moines for about six weeks before she was transferred to Broadlawns Hospital for rehabilitation and further care. In her oral history, she recalled the day they arrived at the hospital, "By the time we got to Des Moines, I could move nothing. From my chin on down, I was completely paralyzed. It moved just that fast. I was a big kid and I can remember my dad standing in the hot sun holding me. The line just took forever that day. Parents with kids that were sick and they were just inching their way into the hospital. I can't tell you how many people there were, but I know my mom said we stood for two or three hours. Then, I remember going into this tiny room and being put on the table. This young doctor came in and examined me and looked at my dad and my mom. He said that there was no need to do a spinal tap on her. He said, 'Without a doubt, this is polio.'"

JOAN DARLENE HAXMEIER BELLMANN COLLECTION

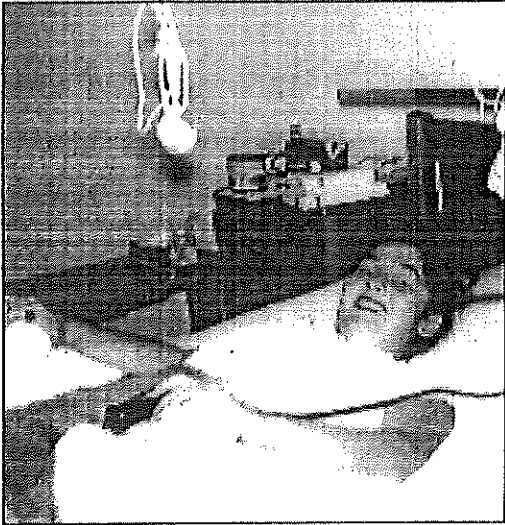
Dubuque County

Interviewee: Joan Darlene Haxmeier Bellman

Interviewer: Kate Scott

Date of Interview: November 7, 2007

Run Time: Approximately 75M



Joan D. Bellmann was diagnosed with polio on August 6, 1955 in St. Catherine's, Iowa. Joan began feeling sick while working a summer job as a young tour guide at Crystal Lake Cave attraction. According to Bellman, Dubuque only had enough vaccine for infants and children up to the age of seven. Joan was sixteen. She was in the hospital from August 6 to May 6. At one time, her paralysis took over her entire body – with the exception of one finger. "After about three years, at my very best, I could walk using one crutch and no braces," she recalled. After completing high school entirely by correspondence, Bellmann enrolled in Clarke College. She graduated in the spring of 1961 and pursued a teaching career that spanned 30 years. Today, Bellmann and her husband live in Dubuque and publish their own newspaper *The Golden View*.

Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Photographs (3)
Oral History Release
Transcript

GLEN BELLOWS COLLECTION

Interviewee: Glen Bellows

Interviewer: Kate Scott

Date of Interview: September 25, 2007

Run Time: Approximately 60M



Biographical Data Form

Cassette

Oral History Release

Photographs (2)

Transcript

In this excerpt, Bellows recalled his memories of the acute stage of polio. He said, "That morning I got up and I couldn't get up. I just couldn't even get out of bed. Within an hour we were on our way to Fort Dodge but our house had a very steep stairway and, bless his heart, my dad – I probably weighed about 125 or something, and he weighed about 200 – so he's a strong guy. He carried me down those steps and those steps are dangerous. They should have never have been built that steep. He carried me clear out to the car. He took the seat back off so I could lie down on the trip to Fort Dodge and there he was driving 100 miles one way with the seat back, if you can imagine. I kept wondering...supposed he needed that at an emergency stop and couldn't push on the pedal hard enough because there was no seat back to stabilize him? That was kind of interesting thing about the trip. Well, we got down there and they had an approach to polio. There were a couple three polio patients there. I was in an iron lung for a while. Twenty-four hours a day for a couple days... then, the hours in the machine decreased day by day so by the end of about three weeks I was clear out of it."

VIRGINIA BELLAWS COLLECTION
Clay County

Interviewee: Virginia Bellows
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Location of Interview: Spencer, Iowa
Date of Interview: 8/30/07
Run Time: Approximately 20M



Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Oral History Release
Photographs (2)
Transcript

Virginia Irene (Adams) Bellows was born on January 3, 1914 in Alta, Iowa. Her son, Glen, also recorded for the Iowa Polio Stories Oral History Collection, was diagnosed with polio in 1952 on a farm outside Spencer. In her interview, Bellows spoke of the heartache she felt over the situation, "Of course, I was very upset," she recalled. "So, I cleaned house and cleaned the kitchen thoroughly like they told us. 'Clean your house really good so that you won't pass any germs on,' [they said]. So, I got down on my hands and knees." Like most parents, Virginia, and her husband Glen Sr., gave their son the best care possible. "Our cars were not as efficient as they are today...it was a great effort," she said, thinking about the frequent trips to the Sister Kenny Institute and the Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis. The Bellows also took Glen to Warm Springs, Georgia and later discovered a higher education program at the Illinois State College. "There was a set up there where they could take wounded people, partly from the war, rather than [polio]. But, there was quite an organization there. And, it was a good place for him to go to school. He actually graduated in engineering - and, made his living that way - it is amazing."

SANDRA KAY BENTER COLLECTION

Grundy County

Interviewee: Sandra Kay Benter

Interviewer: Annette Wetteland

Date of Interview: 9/05/07

Run Time: Approximately 60M

Location of Interview: Des Moines, Iowa



Biographical Data Form

Cassette

Oral History Release

Photograph

Transcript

Sandy Benter lived on a farm in rural Dike until her senior year in high school. In 1952, at the age of seven, Sandy contracted polio. She recalled, "It was at the end of July and I had a high fever. I was burning up. It was very, very hot." Sandy worked for 38 years in library science. She reflected, "[Polio] does not have to be the determining factor of how you live your life. Sure, there are some things I cannot do that I probably would have done. But, I guess I would turn that around and say that I feel like there is probably 98 percent of things that you do too... You either have a good attitude or you don't."

MARY JANE BOOROM COLLECTION
Black Hawk County

Interviewee: Mary Jane Boorum
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Date of Interview: 11/02/07
Run Time: Approximately 50M

Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Oral History Release
Transcript
Supplemental Typescript
No Photographs Submitted

In her oral history, Mary Jane Boorum of Cedar Falls commented on the emotional effects of polio, "It does affect your personality, I think because I had it so young. It probably affected me maybe a little bit differently. I didn't really recall anything as a very young child but later in school, like I had mentioned before about just the ability not to be able to run as fast and those things and being if I got chilled, I would easily pick up something and I would be sick. I think the biggest thing I remember with my family was that it just was not going to get me out of any work. You just, ok you had it, it's over, and you've got to pull your weight here - you can't be given an exemption. I think [this attitude was due] probably a lack of understanding. I think again, at the time, they just thought exercise was the answer and you had to keep moving."

CHARLES RAY BURKETT COLLECTION
Dallas County

Interviewee: Charles R. Burkett
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Date of Interview: 10/24/07
Run Time: 56M

Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Oral History Release
Transcript
(No Photographs Available)

Charles Burkett graduated from Dallas Center High School in 1947. Burkett, an avid hunter and fisherman, caught polio on July 28, 1949. He remembers it well because he was celebrating his 20th birthday with his girlfriend (later his wife) Shirley Baulsom. He was treated in quarantine for three difficult weeks at Broadlawns Hospital in Des Moines. Burkett remembers many details from his time in quarantine. For example, he talks about being served cold liver on a paper plate with no utensils. He then went to Mercy Hospital for rehabilitation. A thick blanket of sadness covered the hospital. For example, Burkett remembers one woman in the girl's ward who got sick with polio on her wedding night. Burkett talked about the hardship of daily life, "you do what you have to do to get by," he reflected. Burkett worked hard labor in a brace for Hyline Poultry in Dallas Center. He thinks the physical labor finally caught up with him. Like many other survivors, Charles noted: "I always felt like I had to prove that I could do a day's work." To this day, Shirley believes her husband contracted the virus from chickens when he was employed in the hatchery at Hyline.

BETTE JAYNE BURROUGHS COLLECTION
Polk County

Interviewee: Bette Jayne Burroughs
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Date of Interview: September 26, 2007
Location of Interview: Des Moines, IA
Run Time: Approximately 90M



Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Misc. Typescript
Newspaper Clippings
Oral History Release
Photographs (11)
Transcript

In 1923, infantile paralysis took something away from Bette Burroughs when she was only seven months old. No one had an explanation. Because of an allergy to milk, she knows her parents ventured out into the country to get her goat's milk. Looking back, she thinks it could have been contaminated. Nevertheless, her condition only made her stronger, more compassionate and determined. According to Bette, "Polio affected my spine, my left leg, and both feet. But, I have a happy history. My parents, including my grandmother, never let me think that I was anything but normal. I've always been grateful for that because not only have I always not considered myself handicapped, I considered myself a normal person. I always felt like I had to keep that normalcy and then achieve a little more to prove that I could do almost anything."

The great depression made hard times even harder. Bette's mother drove her on muddy, unpaved roads from Des Moines to Iowa City every six months for medical treatment. Though she does not recall the specific year she began going to the University of Iowa Children's Hospital, but she does recall her mother's determination to prevent doctors from operating on her feet when she was eleven. "If we had to be there more than one day we stayed in a hotel. She would not let them operate on my feet. They did make a back brace because I had very severe curvature of the spine so I remember being fitted for that with parafin." Bette also remembers the famous Austrian physician, Dr. Arthur Steindler. "They would take me in a room and [draw] lipstick down my spine...he was rather stern and either you did what he said or you did not come back."

The sights of the hospital are still seared in her memory. "I did see a lot of victims there of different ages. I saw mis-formed children. I remember a little boy that was burned with stubs of arms and legs rolling down the hall. Some of these things were very difficult and it is hard to express it. But, you (left) thinking you were very fortunate because you saw so many children that were in much worse shape than you."

After graduating from Roosevelt High School in 1940, Bette began her secretarial career and a career of helping others. She worked for the National Youth Administration and Smouse School in Des Moines. "I got to go into physical therapy and work with children that had polio. I loved the work. I could really understand their plight."

She retired from Otis Elevator in 1988. Bette, now 84 years old, feels it is her faith that keeps her going. As founding elder of the Westkirk Presbyterian Church, her most rewarding work was on with Good Samaritan Commission and with West Des Moines Human Services. Bette was so dedicated, Otis Elevator recognized her with a \$1000 Community Service Award. "My strength did not all come from me," says Bette, "it came from the Lord and my faith - I was able to do things that I had no idea I could do."

DR. JULIUS S. CONNER, M.D. COLLECTION

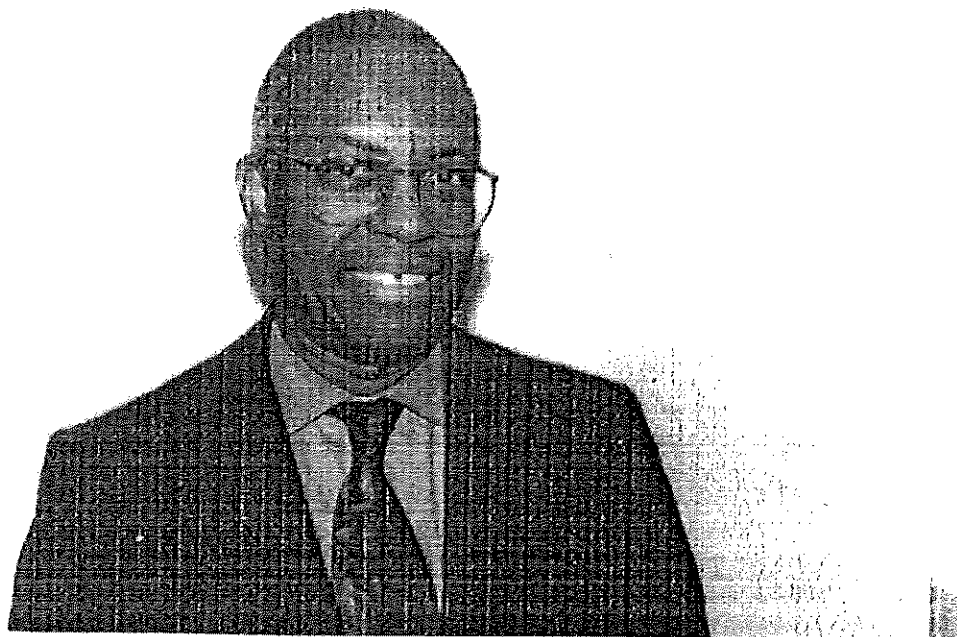
Polk County

Interviewee: Julius Conner

Interviewer: Kate Scott

Date of Interview: 10/11/07

Run Time: Approximately 60M



Biographical Data Form

Cassette

Oral History Release

Photograph (1)

Transcript

In the wake of the great depression, Eleanor and Fred Conner moved from Mississippi to Omaha in search of better employment opportunities. Fred was able to take part in the WPA government programs where he learned the cement finishing trade. During the war, he traveled throughout the Midwest working his trade in the construction of bomber plants. His son, Julius, was born in Omaha on May 27, 1934 and graduated from Central High School in 1950. He attended the University of Omaha - known today as the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Upon graduation from medical school in 1957, he accepted an internship with Mercy Hospital in Des Moines. Dr. Conner decided to take a residency in pediatrics. "I met a lot of pediatricians in Des Moines," said Dr. Conner, "and they offered a residency program at Blank Hospital, so it made it very convenient to go from Mercy to Blank." As a young resident, Dr. Conner worked at the Younkers Rehabilitation Center and in pediatrics at Blank Memorial Children's Hospital from 1958-1960. "I did not get to Des Moines until 1957," recalled Dr. Conner, "but I heard about the stories from 1952, and I was involved in the last epidemic that occurred in Iowa which was in 1959... The Younkers Memorial Rehabilitation Center was not completed but they quickly put together space on the sixth floor for the polio epidemic... I recall in the evenings, as a resident making rounds, you would hear the iron lungs making their respiratory sounds throughout the whole floor. You would see family members, concerned family members there, pretty much around the clock." Dr. Conner later went on to serve as Director of Polk County Public Health from 1965 until 2000.

DR. HENRY H. CORN, M.D. COLLECTION

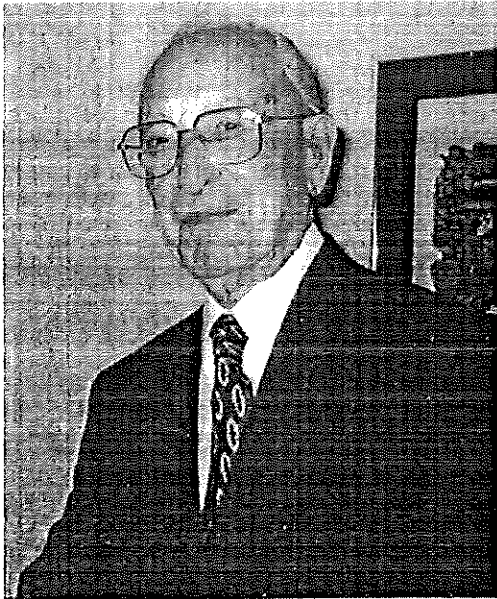
Polk County

Interviewee: Henry H. Corn

Interviewer: Kate Scott

Date of Interview: 12/12/07

RT: Approximately 40M



Biographical Data Form

Cassette

Oral History Release

Loretta Fingert, "A doctor like his grandfather: A mother's wish for her son as he practices medicine," *Des Moines Register*, Sunday, June 11, 2000, pg. 17A

Photograph (1)

Transcript

Born in Des Moines in 1911, Dr. Henry H. Corn served the local community as a pediatrician throughout several polio epidemics. Corn, a 1929 graduate of North High School, earned his B.A. from the University of Iowa in 1933 and immediately entered the University of Iowa School of Medicine. He went to the medical center in Omaha, Nebraska for his internship and practiced general medicine before joining the U.S. Army as a medical officer. "I was very fortunate," recalls Corn, "because I was Jewish...I never experienced any discrimination." Through an educational subsidy offered by the U.S. Army, Corn was able to acquire a specialty in pediatrics. Corn reflected on his experiences as a pediatrician in Des Moines during the early fifties, "The horrible epidemics were in 1951 and 1952, particularly 1952...it was horrible. It was horrible for all of the doctors and the patients at that time but it was so time-consuming [I] just practically lived at the hospital. I would have some of my patients come into the hospital into the emergency room where I'd see them because we spent so much time at the hospital treating polio patients." As a pediatrician at Blank Children's Hospital, Corn worked with a number of prominent Des Moines doctors such as Hill, Dyson, Fisk, Updegraff, Lyons, and Kelly. Corn still lives in Des Moines and was quick to note that he still has his driver's license and is able to drive at night; he joked before his interview started, "Yes, I am 96 years old...and, unfortunately, I am in perfect health."

NORMA JEAN CORNELIUS COLLECTION
Story County

Interviewee: Norma Jean Cornelius
Interviewer: Thomas Sullivan
Date of Interview: 11/02/07
Run Time: Approximately 80M

Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Oral History Release
Transcript

Norma, the youngest of twelve children, was diagnosed with polio in Greene County (Greenbrier Township) in the summer of 1948. She was just about to turn eleven years old and the circus was coming to town. She began experiencing a terrible headache the day after a large family reunion. Each day, her headache got progressively worse. Her sister warned her she better get well by the end of the week so she could go to the circus. Everyone in town went to see it – including the country doctor. Norma and her mother waited patiently for their house call. When he finally arrived, he told her she needed to go to Blank Hospital in Des Moines. Norma remembered thinking that if she fell asleep she would die so she fought hard to stay awake. Instead of seeing the big lights of the circus, she saw the street lights of the city. "I did not know what street lights were – I had never been to a big city," said Norma. After the spinal tap, she went into isolation for two weeks. Norma spent the next nine months in treatment and rehabilitation at Blank.

She was mainstreamed back into the town school in the small community of Bagley, Iowa. When it comes to attitude, it has always been Norma's philosophy that she only had two choices: you could be miserable and make everybody else miserable around you or you could survive and thrive. Polio made her stronger. Norma reflected, "I always thought I could do what everyone else could do. I've led a normal life. Polio did not affect me mentally or spiritually." Norma was active in leadership of the Iowa Polio Survivors support group from 1990 to 1995. She and her husband currently reside in Ames.

NORMA JEAN CRAGO COLLECTION

Union County

Interviewee: Norma Jean Crago

Date of Interview: 11/05/07

Interviewer: Kate Scott

Run Time: Approximately 75M



Biographical Data Form

Cassettes (2)

Oral History Release

Newsclippings: "New Hope Has Most Eighth Graders"; "Norma Jean Crago Keeps Studying Despite Illness"; "Norma Jean Crago, 12, Completes Sixth Grade in University Hospital"; "Accessible to Everyone," n.p., June 14, 1997

Photographs: 1) Norma at Age 3, 2) Photograph of Norma's House

Transcript

Norma Jean Crago of Creston, was born in a farmhouse in Union County, Iowa on January 4, 1928. In this excerpt from her oral history interview, Crago reflects on the way her parents and her grandmother handled the sad news of her diagnosis on November 22, 1939. Crago was 11 years old. She remembered, "My father – I never in my life ever saw him cry or be defeated. He was a strong man – a strong-willed man. They went through that depression and all those things. When the doctor told him what I had it just killed him almost. My mother, she walked down away from the bed with her back to me and stood there for a few minutes and she turned around and from that day on she braced herself and she more or less just took over. When they took me out of the house that day (my grandmother lived with us) and my grandmother was crying. It was like a funeral and that's why I said that everybody thought I was going to die but I knew that I wasn't. For some reason, I don't know how or why, I knew. But, I also knew what I had ahead of me and I also knew that if they felt that bad about this that I had to be the one that would always be upbeat and cheerful and I had to make sure that I shouldn't complain and be thoughtful about it."

ANGELA RITA DAHM COLLECTION
Palo Alto County



Interviewee: Angela Rita Dahm
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Location of Interview: Emmetsburg, IA
Date of Interview: August 27, 2007
Run Time: Approximately 60M

Biographical Data Form

Cassette

Majeski, Tom. 2005. "One Breath at a Time," *Pioneer Press*, February 20, 1A.

Oral History Release

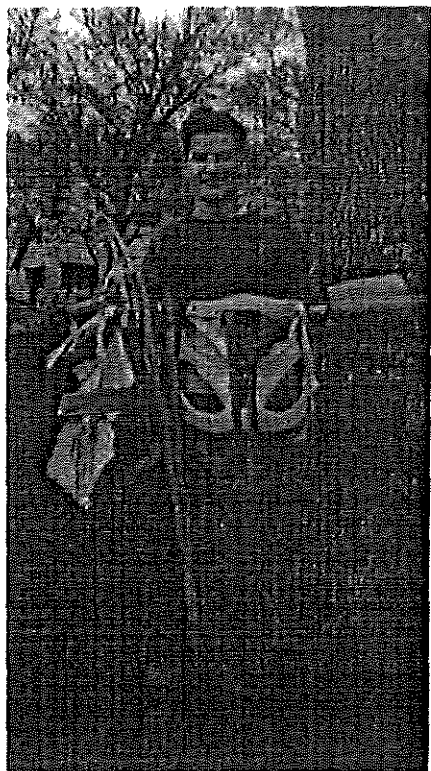
Photographs (3)

Transcript

Angela Rita Dahm worked at Sister Elizabeth Kenny Institute as a Registered Nurse from 1952 to 1955. She reflected, "While I was working at Swedish Hospital they put out a call over the radio that they desperately needed help at the Elizabeth Kenny Institute because the patient overload was just really bad. So, I volunteered. I called and said I'll come over after I'm through with work today. I went to work there at four o'clock after working at the hospital and we were just terribly busy. They put me in the emergency room or the admission room and that emergency door just kept opening all the time with new patients arriving by ambulance. A lot of them came from Iowa, I remember. I worked probably until 12 - 1 o'clock in the morning. This went on for about a week. I'd barely get home and the phone would ring and I'd go again. I finally resigned at the Swedish Hospital and went to work full-time at the Elizabeth Kenny Institute - the 3-11 shift. I remember the wards - it was a new school that was converted to this institute. I did not meet Sister Elizabeth Kenny but all her methods of treatment were being used."

JOHN DAHM COLLECTION
Palo Alto County

Interviewee: John Dahm
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Location of Interview: Emmetsburg, IA
Date of Interview: 8/27/07
Run Time: Approximately 30M



Biographical Data Form

Cassette

Oral History Release

Photographs (3) Contemporary photos taken in Emmetsburg, IA on the day of the oral history interview; (23) historical photos taken from John's hospitalization in Sioux City, IA (St. Joseph's) and photographs from Sister Kenny Institute where he worked as an x-ray technician.

Transcript

John Dahm was the healthiest kid in town before he got polio at the age of 15. He was athletic and played all sports. He earned extra money loading bales of hay for farmers. John said, "We prided ourselves on being able to go all day. We loaded those bales five tiers high. We were strong farm kids." A trip to visit family in Minnesota in 1950 changed all that.

"I woke up and I could not move. I could not move to save me. I went to turn my head; I went to raise my arm. I just could not do anything. So, then they all gathered to try to find the extent of what was going on. And, they thought certainly that I had the spinal type. So, they immediately started...they moved me down into Contagion [at St. Joseph's Hospital] where all the polio patients went. There were about 30 of us down there: men, women, and children. All sizes. And then, of course, there were the endless hot packs. You've heard about those ..."

LYLE E. DeGRAW COLLECTION
Floyd County

Interviewee: Lyle E. DeGraw

Interviewer: Kate Scott

Date of Interview: November 8, 2007

Run Time: Approximately 40M



Biographical Data Form

Cassette

Oral History Release

Photographs (2)

Lyle DeGraw Family, Rosemary (wife), Joe, Steve, and Sarah, Circa 1978, Rockford, Iowa.

Lyle DeGraw Family, "Kristina's Baptism" in Hayward, Wisconsin, Circa 2005.

Transcript

Lyle DeGraw was diagnosed with polio at Mercy Hospital in Mason City, Iowa in 1952. He was treated in isolation for spinal polio at Iowa City at the age of 16 years old. He was treated in Iowa City for the three months. Half of the time, he spent in isolation. He attributes his passion for football as an important thread of hope in his recovery and remembers a special hospital visit from his high school football coach. He wanted to get back home to resume his football season. But, he also recalls being so weak the nurses had to feed him. The "eerie" sound of the iron lung will not escape his memory. He went on to graduate from Iowa State in 1957 with a degree in farm operations. Lyle reflected, "I am fortunate from the standpoint that I have never considered myself as handicapped. I have done everything within my life that I probably would have done had I not had polio...we did have some boys out side the dormitory - they named me as 'One Arm DeGraw' but like I say, I knew my right arm was my disability. At least I know my disability. Some are not so lucky." Lyle and his wife Rosemary have three children and several grandchildren. They currently reside in Rockford, Iowa. Lyle interjected this comment at the conclusion of his interview, "I didn't mention the fact that one of the underlying thoughts that I had when I left the hospital was praise God that it was I that had the polio rather than someone who did not know God."

KEITH W. EMMERT COLLECTION
Martin County

Interviewee: Keith W. Emmert
Interviewer: Robin Martin
Date of Interview: 11/29/07
Location of Interview: Pella, IA

Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Oral History Release
Transcript

Keith Emmert was born in the back room of a farmhouse - with no plumbing or electricity - near Kilduff, Iowa in 1922. With a passion for flight, he earned his pilot's license at Central College and put his skill to use for two or three years as a B52 flight instructor in the U.S. Army. After the war, he taught in the U.S. Air Force and decided to finish his education. Keith graduated from Central College with a degree in education and got a teaching job in Pella.

When Keith was 28 years old he contracted polio. It was the fall of 1950. Keith and his wife had three young children. "I thought that I had the flu," said Keith. "Then, I found out my leg was getting very weak. I almost fell down. Then, I could not go to the bathroom." The local doctor made arrangements for him to seek treatment in Iowa City. Keith arrived in Iowa City in the dark of night and remembered sitting in a quiet room waiting for his spinal tap procedure. "It turned out that I did have polio," said Keith. "I hurt. I had a lot of pain with my polio and my muscles began to give out. They would have to come and roll me over on my side and put a pillow behind me and then roll me over the other way."

In 1952, when Keith went to Warm Springs, Georgia for two weeks of therapy and rehabilitation, he learned that he was fortunate to be able to walk a little. There were many others in worse condition. The staff at Warm Springs fitted Keith for a full leg brace. "They gave me exercises to do. They gave me two corsets to wear because my stomach muscles were worn out." Today, Keith lives in Pella and is happily retired from a teaching career spanning 35 years. He still wears the brace he got in Warm Springs in 1952.

JEROLYN K. FEGAN COLLECTION
Polk County

Interviewee: Jerolyn K. Fegan
Interviewer: Wendy Riggensberg
Date of Interview: 12/07/07
Location of Interview: Des Moines, IA



Audio CD
Biographical Data Form
Oral History Release
Photographs (7)
Transcript

Jerolyn Fegan, originally from Boone, Iowa, was only four when she contracted polio in 1952. Jeri still remembers the day with clarity, "I was feeling kind of warm and my mom thought I should lie down on the couch. It was a Sunday because my dad was sitting on a chair by me and was reading the Sunday paper. He gave me the comics. My mom came in and she said, 'You've got a fever, I'm going to get a cloth and put it over your head and if you're not better by tomorrow we're going to take you in to the doctor.' So, she put a cloth over my head and I was back to looking at the paper and all of a sudden it just fell on my face. I couldn't hold it up anymore. I said, 'Dad, I can't hold the paper' - and he just said, 'Oh my God.' He picked me up and he knew I was limp. The paralysis must have set in instantly. I didn't realize it happened that way. I remember the car - it was one of those big bulbous things that had running boards and I remember my mom sat in the back seat so that she could hold me and we drove all the way to Blank. They put me in a room with another person...then, they said, 'Yes, she has polio'."

WILLIAM F. GEARY COLLECTION
Clay County

Interviewee: William Geary
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Date of Interview: 8/13/07
Location of Interview: Spencer, Iowa
Run Time: Approximately 75M



Bill Geary (pictured on right)
Buena Vista Co., 1940.

Biographical Data Form

Cassette

Oral History Release

Photographs 1) Geary Family Snapshot, Buena Vista Co., 1940; 2) Studio Family Portrait, 1947

Transcript

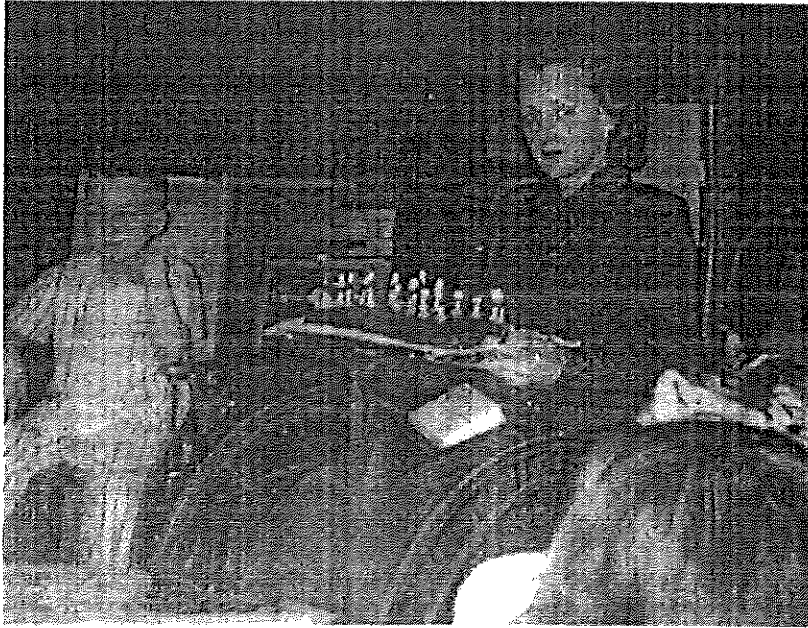
Letter from Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) regarding the American Disability Act

Bill Geary was only twelve years old when he contracted polio in 1942 but he was no stranger to illness. Bill (and his older brother Anthony) suffered from scarlet fever as young children; they were treated for their scarlet fever at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital. "We were the two sickest boys down there," Bill said. When Bill was diagnosed with polio in 1942, the University of Iowa physicians took a special interest in him, "the doctors in Iowa City kept wanting to see me...we kept getting cards from [Dr. Steindler] and everything – they always wanted to see me. The doctors told me that they wanted to operate on me. They said if I did not have this operation, why, in 15-20 years, I would not be able to walk at all. So, they had a conference. I stood in front of a whole bunch of doctors. There were probably 25-30 doctors there. Dr. Steindler was sitting on a bench right there in front of me, he said, 'You go ahead and do the surgery on the hip – leave the foot alone. It is too much on him to do both at the same time.'"

"See, the thing about it," said Bill, "I was just three years old when all this started happening. I don't know what two good legs are. Here I am. I don't know what it means to have two good legs. I never had two good legs."

JOANN HALL COLLECTION
Adair County

Interviewee: Joann Hall
Interviewer: Annette Wetteland
Date of Interview: October 30, 2007
Location of Interview: Greenfield, IA
Run Time: Approximately 50M



Biographical Data Form

Cassette

Photographs (10)

Oral History-Release

Smith, Eugene L. *They Gird the Earth for Christ*. (Chicago: The Advance for Christ and His Church, 1952), 11-12. (Essay about Joann titled, "Polio and Prayer" written by Hall's Pastor.)

Transcript

Joann was diagnosed with polio at Blank Memorial Children's Hospital in Des Moines in 1950. She was sixteen years old and looking forward to homecoming celebrations at Menlo High School. Joann started experiencing a terrible headache and stiff neck. After resting and visiting an osteopath, symptoms worsened. Finally, her parents took her to Broadlawns where they recommended she go to Blank for a spinal tap. In her oral history, Joann recalled, "They gave me a spinal tap there at Blank and diagnosed me with bulbar and paralytic polio. It just progressed there from that night. I was hurting so bad I could not walk. They put me in a wheelchair and took me right across from the nurses' station. It was all windows. With the lights in the nurses' station and the nurses' communicating with each other and laughing and such, well, I just felt like I was the most abandoned person in the world. The doctor thought that I would need the iron lung and on Saturday night they put it outside my door."

Joann never had to go into the iron lung, but she got to the point where she could not swallow or talk. Her parents, who lived an hour away, visited her in Des Moines every day for three months. Joann graduated from high school in 1951 and married her high school sweetheart a year later. She and her husband had five children. She is the proud grandmother of 18 grandchildren.

EVERETT JENSEN COLLECTION
Dickinson County

Interviewee: Everett Jensen
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Date of Interview: 8/8/07
Location of Interview: Spirit Lake, IA
Run Time Approximately: 40M



Biographical Data Form

Cassette

Photographs (3)

Newsletters: Iowa Polio Survivors (Spring 2007); Nebraska Polio Survivors (Summer 2007)

Transcript

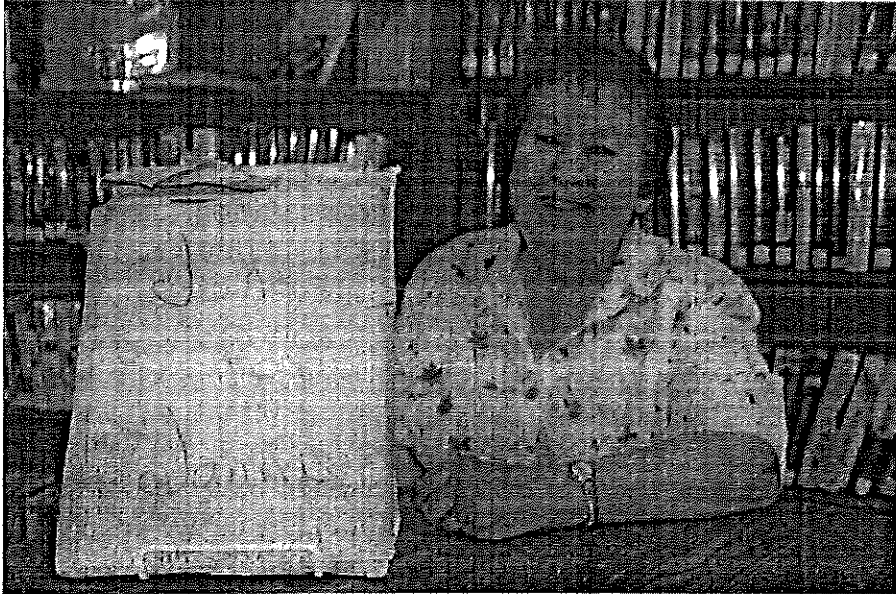
Oral History Release

Everett Jensen was born in 1933 in Sioux City, Iowa. He was the eldest of six children. In 1952, the year Everett caught polio, there was a massive flood in Woodbury County. At the time, he was working as a foreman for a construction (roofing) company blowing sheet rock and siding for homes. He recalls going to a church youth picnic in Cherokee where they ate watermelon from Texas and swam in the local gravel pit. The following day he woke up with a terrible headache. When his parents noticed he was not getting better, they took him to the doctor in Ida Grove. The spinal tap proved Everett had polio.

In his oral history, Everett recalled, "I had hardly any movement in my arms or legs...very little. And, well, my arm joints and stuff froze up on account of not moving until they got me out of the iron lung. Well, after four months, they closed down the hospitals and sent everybody to another hospital or to Iowa City. What there was left of us. We lost a lot of patients. We would go to sleep at night; they would be there. The next morning, they were gone. We'd ask what happened to them, and they would say they'd moved them to another room. Which, was correct; but it was the morgue. There was a lot of loss there." Today, Everett and his wife, Betty can say they have done more than the average couple. The proud grandparents have traveled the world and visited Hawaii, Israel, and Jamaica among other destinations. Everett also noted the ways in which polio has helped him grow in his own faith.

JANNIS KAYE LARSON COLLECTION
Floyd County

Interviewee: Jannis Kaye Larson
Interviewer: Annette Wetteland
Date of Interview: 11/15/07
Location of Interview: Rudd Public Library
Run Time: Approximately 35M



Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Oral History Release
Photographs (3)
Transcript

One night in 1950, when Jannis was 12, she began running a fever. Hallucinations set in as the fever accelerated. She was diagnosed in Charles City and sent to Iowa City for six weeks of treatment. Shortly after she was admitted to the hospital, her lung collapsed and doctors performed a tracheotomy and placed her in an iron lung for two or three weeks. "I had my neck cut open on Halloween night," Jannis remembered. "The strange story about that is they did not put me to sleep for the surgery. They deadened it – four corners – and basically did it. When they let my mom come back in, they put this 'Y' shaped tube in the opening of my neck. One end was hooked into oxygen. The other end was open and the third end went in. Mom came in and tried to talk to me. I could not speak unless the open end on the 'Y' was covered. She got upset because I could not talk. So, she got the nurse and the nurse explained to her that she had to cover that hole. Well, mom covered the hole and kept talking and she did not take her finger off so I could not breathe...that is a memory that I still have."

When she was released from the University of Iowa Hospital, her arms were paralyzed but she was able to walk. She exercised daily and her family hired a carpenter to build her a "frame with ropes hanging down and slings for each arm" so she could exercise her weak muscles. Doctors warned her she would never be able to use her arms again. But, like many of the survivors in this collection, she was determined to prove them wrong. In 1957, she was even named Rudd High School homecoming queen. Jannis noted, "I've always been spunky enough that if you tell me I can't do something, I am going to try it or prove you wrong. I've been able to get along with a normal life. I've been married, I had children, I live on the farm, I drive the tractor, I do everything – perhaps in a different fashion. I showed them."

ANN BROWN LeMASTER COLLECTION
Dallas County

Interviewee: Ann Brown LeMaster

Interviewer: Kate Scott

Date of Interview: November 16, 2007

Location of Interview: Johnston Public Library (Johnston, IA)

Run Time: Approximately 50M

• NOV • 56



Biographical Data Form

Cassette

Oral History Release

Photographs (9)

Newspaper Clippings: *Des Moines Register and Tribune*, (n.p.), 1955. Obituary, "Memorial Service for Beth Brown", *The Northeast Dallas County Record*, Jul 15, 1971, pg. 7. Unidentified Newspaper Clipping, "Mother, a Polio Patient, Comes Home," circa 1957. "Power Off, She Uses Portable Respirator", *Unidentified Newspaper*, [n.p., n.d.]

Transcript

This interview captures the heartache of a child who, as the eldest of three, acquired new family responsibilities because her mother caught polio in the fall of 1954. For the rest of her life, Beth lived at home with the care of her own mother, her children, and hired help, in a paralyzed state from the neck down. She survived for 17 years with severe kidney and respiratory problems. Beth Cooper Brown earned a degree in Math and Art Education from Grinnell College. It was there she met her husband Evan Brown. Not long after their marriage and the birth of their third child, Beth contracted polio in the fall of 1954. She was treated at Methodist and Lutheran Hospitals in Des Moines and later went to Omaha's Creighton Memorial-St. Joseph's Hospital for rehabilitation. Beth's parents, Raymond and Helen Cooper, sold their stately Andover, Massachusetts home and moved to Iowa when they learned of their daughter's desperate condition. Beth was their only child.

Despite the presence of three maternal figures, a mother, grandmother, and caregiver, Ann experienced complex feelings of abandonment. She once saw her mother cry in quiet conversation with a clergyman but, never heard her mother complain. Beth Cooper Brown died in 1971, not long after her youngest child earned his high school diploma.

RAE LOUISE LETO COLLECTION
Adair County

Interviewee: Rae Louise Leto
Interviewer: Annette Wetteland
Date of Interview: 10/30/07
Location of Interview: Greenfield, IA
Run Time: Approximately 60M



Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Oral History Release
Photograph (1)

Original News-clippings: 1) "Her Mission is Completed," re: Sister Elizabeth Kenny; 2) Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Blank at a children's holiday party; "Edward Bickford," Thursday, December 11, 1947.

Nelson, Roxanne. "On Borrowed Time: The Last Iron Lung Users Face a Future Without Repair Service," AARP Bulletin, September 2004.

Transcript

Rae Louise Leto's parents worked hard. Her mother was employed at Rollins Hosiery Mill and her father was a carpenter. They were poor, but Rae did not know it. Some of her happiest childhood memories came from picking apples and black raspberries in long-sleeved flannel shirts and sombrero hats in her grandparent's orchard. "We got ten cents a quart and we thought we were really rich," she remembered.

Rae was 13 years old when she caught polio. "When I first got sick," said Rae, "of course, they just thought that I had the flu. But, when our family doctor saw me he immediately put me in an ambulance and sent me to Dr. James Dyson at Blank. There was a Ralph Dyson and a James Dyson. James is the one I saw. They immediately put me in isolation. I don't really remember going to Blank - I was in enough of a coma at the time that I don't remember

RAE LOUISE LETO COLLECTION
Adair County

Interviewee: Rae Louise Leto
Interviewer: Annette Wetteland
Date of Interview: 10/30/07
Location of Interview: Greenfield, IA
Run Time: Approximately 60M



Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Oral History Release
Photograph (1)

Original News-clippings: 1) "Her Mission is Completed," re: Sister Elizabeth Kenny; 2) Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Blank at a children's holiday party; "Edward Bickford," Thursday, December 11, 1947.

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Rae did not have to go into an iron lung, but they did put an oxygen tent over her bed. She remembers hearing her mom and dad whispering at the foot of the bed with Dr. Dyson. She was in a coma, but she heard him say, "if she lives through the night, it will be a miracle."

She graduated from East High in Des Moines in January of 1956. Upon graduation, she attended Mercy's Nurse Training Program where she graduated in 1959. After working at Mercy for about 8 months, Rae found a job in a private doctor's office. Throughout her nursing career, she was always careful not to talk around comatose patients. "You think they don't hear you, but they do. I remember."

BETTY L. LIEDER COLLECTION
Formerly of Cerro Gordo County

Interviewee: Betty L. Lieder
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Date of Interview: 11/08/07
Run Time: Approximately 45M



Oral History Release
Biographical Data Form
Cassette

Photographs (10)

Betty Lieder, "Polio: A Memoir" (Typescript, 11pgs.) Deborah Lieder Kiese, "My Friends and I," May 22, 1967. (This is an essay written by Deborah about her intimate relationship with her crutches/braces; the essay was an assignment for a high school class in Mason City, Iowa.)

Deborah Lieder Poetry, "Memo: From God to a Concerned Mother," "Always Rooted," [n.d.]

Transcript

Betty (Leggett) Lieder was born on April 23, 1924 in Northfield, Minnesota. Between 1966 and 1980, Betty lived in Mason City, Iowa, where her husband Lyle served as a minister. Her oral history interview offers a mother's perspective and coping with a child (Deborah Lieder Kiese) who suffered polio in the epidemic of 1952. Deborah was diagnosed with polio in Sioux City, Iowa that year. Deborah Lieder is now a Bishop. Deborah Lieder married D. Bradley Kiese, an attorney, and is the mother of two grown boys. An ordained United Methodist minister, she presently serves the Dakotas Area of the United Methodist Church, the first female bishop for the Dakota Conference. According to her mother, Deborah has often said that she considers her polio a gift she brings to her ministry. "I have learned the importance of caring for myself...I've learned that I can't do it alone - I accept my limits and allow others to step forward in places that I cannot...My disability has also given me a deep compassion for those our society overlooks - those without a voice. Polio has certainly impacted who I am - although it does not define who I am."

JANE ANN LOVELL COLLECTION
Greene County

Interviewee: Jane Ann Lovell
Interviewer: Annette Wetteland
Date of Interview: 11/07/07
Location of Interview: Perry Public Library, Perry Iowa
Run Time: Approximately 45M



Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Oral History Release
Photograph (1)
Transcript

Jane Lovell did not know anything about polio until she contracted it in September of 1950. She was just seven years old and starting the second grade. She remembered, "I know I went to the doctor at least once. Then, another time we went to the doctor in Jefferson. They sent us to Des Moines to Blank Children's Hospital. I remember being in isolation and being really ill. I also had the chicken pox and the mumps while I was there."

Lovell received treatment at Blank from September of 1950 until May of 1951. She remembers having physical therapy five times a week. She had a brace on each leg - fastened together by a band in the middle. In her oral history, she mentioned that physical therapists at Blank taught the children how to fall. "It really made an impression and I did not mind it too much unless I had been home for a few days. Making yourself fall when you knew how much work it was going to be to pick yourself back up was not much fun. I have thought over the years that those lessons probably saved my neck a lot of times because I have rarely hurt myself. Other people have claimed to look around to see if anybody is watching - I just assess whether or not I have been hurt and figure out how to get myself picked back up. I am so glad somebody [taught us how to fall] because it is one of those lasting things that I definitely remember."

MARTHA MANOCK COLLECTION
Polk County

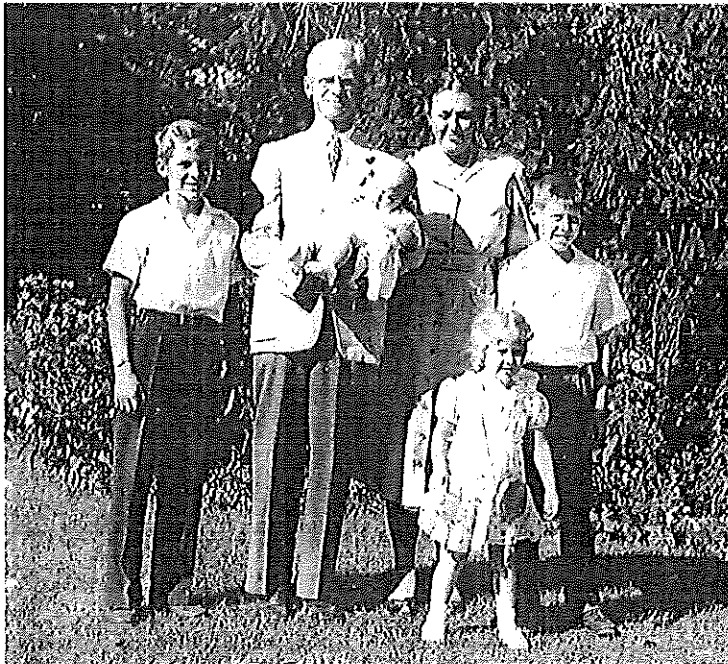
Interviewee: Martha Manock
Interviewer: Thomas Sullivan
Date of Interview: December 7, 2007
Run Time: Approximately 60M

Biographical Data Form
Cassette
No Photographs Submitted
Oral History Release
Transcript

Fifty-one years later, Martha Manock still recalls the smell of the hot wool sheets wrapped around her arms and legs. On September 16, 1956, Martha woke up in sudden pain. Her parents rushed to her family doctor the next morning in Boone. After receiving a spinal tap, she anxiously waited for the doctor's response, unable to move due to procedure. The family physician confirmed her worst fears: she had polio. Manock was taken to Blank Memorial Hospital in Des Moines and quarantined with several other children. What bothered her the most as a child, she remarks, was the thought of her parents burning her clothes, stuffed animals, and even her toothbrush to prevent the spread of polio. Martha had experienced a similar panic a week or two earlier when a local 13-year-old girl had been diagnosed with polio. Swimming pools and drinking water was tested, but no answer emerged as to why the two girls contracted this condition. During her stay, she found comfort in the words and care of Blank's Dr. Hill. "He was really positive," says Martha. "He must have been kind of way ahead of his time and his day. He said, 'I don't want you to ever let this polio stop you from doing anything you want to do.'" Hill's advice remained with her throughout her childhood, pushing her to participate in a number of activities such as Student Council, Campfire Girls, and playing hardball with the neighborhood boys. Today, Martha lives with the pain of post-polio but refuses to let post-polio determine her lifestyle. Refusing to dwell on her pain, Manock devotes her energy and time to her family in Des Moines, Iowa.

LAWRENCE E. MARSH COLLECTION
Johnson County

Interviewee: Lawrence E. Marsh
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Date of Interview: 10/17/07
Run Time: Approximately 45M



Biographical Data Form

Cassette

Oral History Release

Photograph (1) Left to Right – The Marsh: Lawrence, Robert, Marilyn (baby), Martha, Lucy, and Dan Marsh
Transcript

For Lawrence E. Marsh (pictured on left) of Solon, Iowa, polio levied an exceptionally heavy toll. Larry was born in 1935 to Martha and Robert Marsh. He was a vivacious 13 years old Minnesota boy until he caught polio in the summer of 1949. He was the third immediate family member to be diagnosed within one week. All three were treated in different hospitals. He reflected, "My sister had gone in and been diagnosed with polio on Saturday. On Wednesday, my father had been diagnosed with polio. Then, on Friday I woke up with a fever and I was stiff. I couldn't touch my chin to my chest. That was the chief tool they seemed to depend on for doing some further probing. They actually put me on a table and did a spinal tap and with the fluid they took out of my spine were able to tell that I, too, had polio."

It was August of 1949 and the University Hospital in Minneapolis was hot, noisy, and loud with intense summer heat and the heavy construction going on outside. "I remember the painful crying in the corridor of the parents of other children who died in my ward and the chuff and wheeze of the iron lungs. I recall my mother coming to visit and the terrible sense of worry and loss she carried while trying to give me support," said Larry. Larry recalls being in an oxygen tent, being fed intervenously, and receiving penicillin shots. He felt the iron lungs made it difficult to bond with other children. He recalls being isolated on a bed with his legs tied upside down. For three or four days, Larry was in a coma. During this time, his father died. In his oral history, Larry talked about a vision, or a hallucination, or a dream, that his father came to him. He was walking on a road and beckoning with his arm for Larry to join him. "When I tried to go though, I was unable. So, he gave me a warm smile and waved goodbye. Later, when I regained consciousness, I interpreted his message as his death and told the doctor who was to give me the bad news that I already knew my father had died."

PATRICIA BARRETT MORELAND COLLECTION
Polk County

Interviewee: Patricia Barrett Moreland
Interviewer: Thomas Sullivan
Date of Interview: 11/14/07
Run Time: Approximately 65M

Biographical Data Form

Cassette

Miscellaneous Typescript: "Our Polio Years" and "Christmas on the Ward"

Oral History Release

Transcript

Patricia Moreland contracted polio two days after she celebrated her seventh birthday. Her family lived on a farm six miles from the small town of Dedham in west-central Iowa. One night in August, she started running a high fever. When they realized her inability to move her chin to her chest, her parents sought out the help of the local Dedham physician. After examining her, he sent Patricia directly to Carroll where she received her spinal tap and confirmed their worst fears. On August 17, she was admitted to Blank Memorial Children's Hospital for two weeks of isolation in the Blank basement. "We were not allowed to be with our parents," Pat recalled. "We could talk to them through the window – and, they would let us stand on things so we could talk to them – but, we could not touch them or hold them. That is awfully hard for a seven year old. I was only a child. Not to have hugs or kisses, particularly when you are ill, feels so bad."

Patricia overheard the doctors tell her parents that she would never walk again and, like many other survivors, she set out to prove the experts wrong. "I guess I am a real stubborn person because I heard them and I thought, 'I'll show you,' and I did! I walked again and they took me to Minneapolis twice to the national convention of the Sister Kenny Institute and had me walk across the stage and do what I could do to show them how well the regimen worked." She also found comfort and adventure through reading. "I loved to read. I would read three or four books a week in addition to my schoolwork. Part of the appeal of reading was that I could go into a whole other world – a world where I could run and jump and do things. I think that was partly why I loved to read so much. I still love to read. It is my favorite activity."

RUTH A. NELLESON COLLECTION
Carroll County

Interviewee: Ruth Nelleson
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Date of Interview: 10/03/07
Run Time: Approximately 30M

Biographical Data Form
Cassette
No Photographs Available
Oral History Release
Transcript

Ruth Nelleson, born in Dunlap, Iowa in 1951, was diagnosed with polio when she was only 18 months old. Her father recalls it being a spring day in 1952 when her parents took her to the local physician in Dunlap because of a weak left leg. The doctor sent her to Denison for a spinal tap and from there she went directly to Mercy Hospital in Omaha where she remained in the hospital for seven weeks. She had her first surgery at the age of four to correct her "dropped foot." She had a second surgery at the age of 12. After a severe horse-riding accident in May of 2002, Ruth had a hip replacement and, in the process, the surgeon lengthened her leg an inch. She calls that experience the "exciting" news about her polio. Ruth said, "My polio really did not inhibit me. It caused me to be self-conscious...I was always terribly self-conscious. I did not want to be in front of a group ever. I didn't. And, all those things I found out did not matter – and, they don't. In high school, I was on homecoming court. My biggest fear was walking up on that stage in front of everybody because I knew I was different. But, I lived through that too and that is probably my best high school memory." Ruth is an avid horseback rider and currently lives in Carroll, Iowa.

NANCY R. NICHOLS COLLECTION
Polk County

Interviewee: Nancy Nichols
Interviewer: Claudia Frazer and Kathy Lincoln
Date of Interview: 11/14/07
Location of Interview: Cowles Library, Des Moines, IA

Biographical Data Form
Cassette and Audio CD
Oral History Release
Transcript

Nancy Nichols was about seven years old when she was contracted polio in Brooklyn, Iowa. In 1941, the year she was diagnosed, polio was known as infantile paralysis. At the time, Nichols said the theory in their community was that the disease spread through mosquitoes. She lay in bed, under house quarantine with her mother and her younger sister, for six weeks. The doctor put her arm in a splint because the Sister Kenny methods (including physical therapy and hot packs) were not yet known or recognized as an acceptable treatment. Her father and her brother had to move out so they could go to work. Nancy mentioned that the local doctor gave her mother and her sister small doses of gamma globulin, "This was not very common," Nancy noted, "I found out through the polio survivors group that many of their siblings caught slight cases of polio and did not even know it." In her oral history, Nancy recalled, "After six weeks in bed, I could not walk. I had to learn to walk all over again. And, the exercises that the old country doctor had me do were similar to some of the things that I learned later that Sister Kenny did – I can remember one in particular – I had to stand on a big dictionary and curl my toes down over it."

MARY OGREN OSBORN COLLECTION
Polk County

Interviewee: Mary Ogren Osborn
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Date of Interview: 9/25/07
Run Time: Approximately 25M



Biographical Data Form

Cassette

Get Well Cards, 1952 (Copies)

Oral History Release

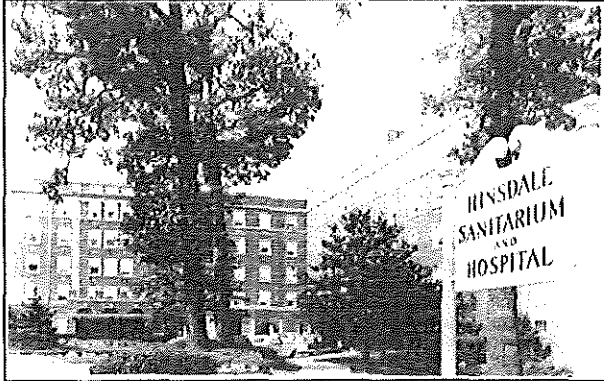
Photographs 1) Mike Boeckman in his iron lung, Wall Lake, Iowa, 1952; 2) Mary Ogren Osborn, "before polio", 1952; 3) Dennis, Mary, Delbert, and Roger Ogren, Sac County, Iowa, "Two Years Before Polio," 1950 (Mary, Delbert, and Roger all came down with polio); 4) Delbert Ogren and Mrs. Ralph. "Mrs. Ralph was Delbert's private Braille teacher. Polio left Delbert's shoulder and arm paralyzed and he no longer had the feeling in his finger tips to read. The School for the Blind at Vinton would not let him return to class because he had a physical handicap in one hand."

Transcript

In the summer of 1952, the Ogren family attended a potluck picnic birthday celebration for their grandfather at the Lake View Community Building in Sac County. Grandpa Yohnke had four married daughters and one son. It was extremely hot, but all five Yohnke kids came to the picnic with their spouses and children. According to Mary, "within seven days after our celebration, twelve members of the five families had come down with the dreaded disease...our farm was quarantined and people were afraid to even drive past our house. My brother and I had no after effects except for some weak muscles in our back, shoulders, and abdomen. Each had one leg a little shorter than the other. The other brother was left with a paralyzed shoulder and arm. He was blind and read Braille at the time. This was a big set back because he no longer had the feelings in his finger tips to read. Out of the other four families, I had two uncles and one cousin who were crippled, and one cousin who was in the iron lung for a long time and lived for ten years in a body cast before passing away." Beatrice Ogren, Mary's mother, always blamed the flies for carrying the germ to their picnic. In her oral history, Mary noted, "I think it was unusual for that many people from one family to get polio."

Caption for Photo: Mike Boeckman (Mary's cousin) photographed in his iron lung in 1952 in Wall Lake, Iowa. He was one of several family members to contract polio. Mike survived in his iron lung for ten years. He died at the age of 17 from complications with pneumonia.

DAVID F. RAEDEKER COLLECTION
Ringgold County
Interviewee: David F. Raedeker
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Date of Interview: December 3, 2007
Run Time: Approximately 60M



Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Oral History Release
Photograph (1 - David Raedeker seated with grandchild, n.d.)
Transcript

David Raedeker was born in Warrensville, Illinois on February 2, 1943. Because polio afflicted David at such a young age, he does not remember much about the acute stages of the virus. According to his mother, he awoke in August of 1945 with a fever and had trouble moving. There was talk among members of the local community that the polio virus was in the Warrensville air and water. David's mother feared the worst -- her fears were confirmed after the local physician made a house call. He was first treated at home with physical therapy and hot packs. At the age of five, David started to limp. So, his parents took him to see the Canadian Compieaur brothers who worked as physicians Hinsdale Sanitarium in Hinsdale, Illinois. He was later treated by the famous surgeon, Dr. W. H. Schwingel, at the Copley Hospital in Aurora, Illinois where he recalls spending hours at a time being "poked, prodded, and x-rayed". Since the age of seven years old, David has undergone approximately 13 surgeries. "I don't know what pain is," says David, "it is all relative. My tolerance -- or what my body can tolerate - may be greater than the average person. I have pain all the time. The body adjusts." "I made the most with what I got. I had a good life here...I also know that in heaven there will be no snow, no ice, and I know heaven will be pain free." David and his wife Darlene currently reside in Ellston, Iowa.

PENNY RALLES COLLECTION
Polk County

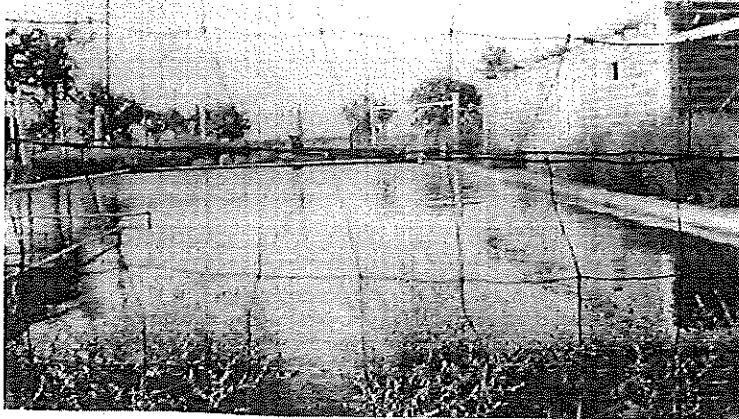
Interviewee: Penny Ralles
Interviewer: Wendy Riggerberg
Date of Interview: 11/30/07
Run Time: Approximately 100M

Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Oral History Release
Transcript

Penny Ralles caught polio in September of 1950. No one can say for sure, but she may have caught it from the contaminated creek water that flowed from a neighbor's dairy farm behind the house. She was only six years old but she remembers the crowded corridors of Blank. "There were so many kids in this room where I was – the beds were just crammed in there. The nurses barely had room to get in between the beds to take care of us." Penny was in isolation for approximately twelve weeks with total paralysis from the neck down. She remained at Blank for the next year and a half. She has many memories of the sights and smells of Blank Children's Hospital, but it is the memory of her unique departure that stands out. Penny recalled, "My mother got into a big fight. I mean an absolute fight. She shoved the nurse – who went flying across the room – because my mother wanted to take me home for the weekend whether this nurse liked it or not. She got me dressed and my dad was waiting downstairs with the car so it was heated and they could just take me from the hospital. I went home and never came back." Penny believes she remained in the hospital for so long because her parent's had insurance coverage specifically for polio.

RONALD REICHERT COLLECTION
Linn County

Interviewee: Ronald Reichert
Interviewer: Linda Armitage
Date of Interview: 11/15/07
Location of Interview: Hiawatha, IA



Biographical Data Form

Cassette

Oral History Release

Photographs: 1) Ron in the sand playing with his little brother after polio hospitalization; 2) Ron at Jamestown School; 3) Two classmates at school; 4) City pool closed after polio outbreak, Ashton, SD; 5) Ron in wheelchair; 6) two photographs of Ron (2007)

Transcript

Ron Reichart was just a toddler when his father suffered a post-surgery pulmonary embolism and died at the age of 26. After the funeral, Ron and his mother went to South Dakota to visit family. "My mother liked the country and needed to have the support of her family. This was something new and a place to forget our recent family tragedy," said Ron. Eventually, his mother remarried and they relocated from Milwaukee, Wisconsin to a farm in Ashton, South Dakota. In August of 1946, when Ron was about eight years old, his mother called the doctor and asked him to visit the farmhouse because Ron was running a fever of 103 degrees. He was also complaining of headaches and a sore neck. The doctor told his mother, 'I'm afraid Ron has polio, but we won't know for sure until we get him to Aberdeen.' They trekked the thirty miles to Aberdeen where Ron was admitted to a polio ward. "After we got there," Ron reflected, "we later found out that there were about thirty of us in isolation at one time." The next day, he could not move his head from side to side. He could not move up or down. He could not move his arms. He could not move anything other than his tongue. "I was totally paralyzed. I remember thinking, my God, I am going to die," said Ron. Ron remained at the hospital in Aberdeen for about one year. He was discharged the third week of May in 1948.

DIXIE JEAN RIGBY COLLECTION
Clay County

Interviewee: Dixie Rigby
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Date of Interview: 8/10/07
Location of Interview: Spencer, Iowa
Run Time: Approximately 20M



Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Oral History Release
Scrapbook (Copy)
Photographs (3)
Transcript
Newsclipping, "Polio Victim Showing Steady Improvement"
Northwest Iowa Polio Survivors Mailing List
Northwest Iowa Polio Survivors Newsletter

Dixie Rigby, the youngest of seven children, was born in Worthington, Minnesota in 1945. As a youngster, Dixie caught tuberculosis, "it settled in my glands on the right side of my neck. I was in surgery for nine and a half hours. I can remember having my neck all wrapped up. We think TB lowered my immune system and that may be why I got polio so easily." Dixie was diagnosed with polio at the age of nine. She remembers having a terrific headache and stiff neck. She was quarantined in a private room at the University Hospital in Minneapolis. After receiving treatment at the University Hospital, Dixie was transferred to the Sister Kenny Institute. She was placed in an iron lung for two or three weeks, but what she remembers most about the Sister Kenny Institute were the hot packs and the intravenous feeding, "They would come around with a big washtub full of hot water. The heating system was underneath and they would put these hot packs all over my body – even on my face. I showed them. I knew I would live through it – and, I knew I would walk again." Today, Dixie serves as the President of the Northwest Iowa Polio Survivors (NIPS). "It is really helpful," said Dixie, "we support each other and have about 23 members all together."

Run Time: Approximately 50M



Transcript

Ruch was diagnosed with polio at Harkin Hospital in Osceola, Iowa in 1950. She was only ten years old. Ruch recalled, "I just remember being in the basement and my parents having to get down on their knees to look in the window at me. I was in isolation for quite some time. But, I actually only have good memories of [Blank] hospital. I felt comfortable there and well cared for...Lee Forest Hill was the main doctor. We had fun times, too, as we got better. We got into big wooden wheelchairs with high backs and it would take two of us to operate it." Ruch's experiences with polio have made her a more compassionate and empathic person. "It has made me aware of people," said Ruch. "I have no prejudices toward people because of their differences, no matter what that difference is. All of us are different in one way or the other and so I take people just as they are."

CHRISTIE L. RUSHING COLLECTION
Polk County

Interviewee: Christie Rushing

Interviewer: Wendy Rigggenberg

Date of Interview: 11/29/07

Location of Interview: Des Moines, IA

Audio CD

Biographical Data Form

Medical Documents: 1) Original Iowa Methodist Hospital, Raymond Blank Memorial Hospital for Children Medical Records "Face Sheet"; 2) Original Correspondence and Records from Dr. Marvin Dubansky to Dr. Mary Louise Lyons, M.D. 3) Copy of Records from Iowa Methodist Hospital one day before first surgery to correct what the physician called a "deformity" on her left foot.

Oral History Release

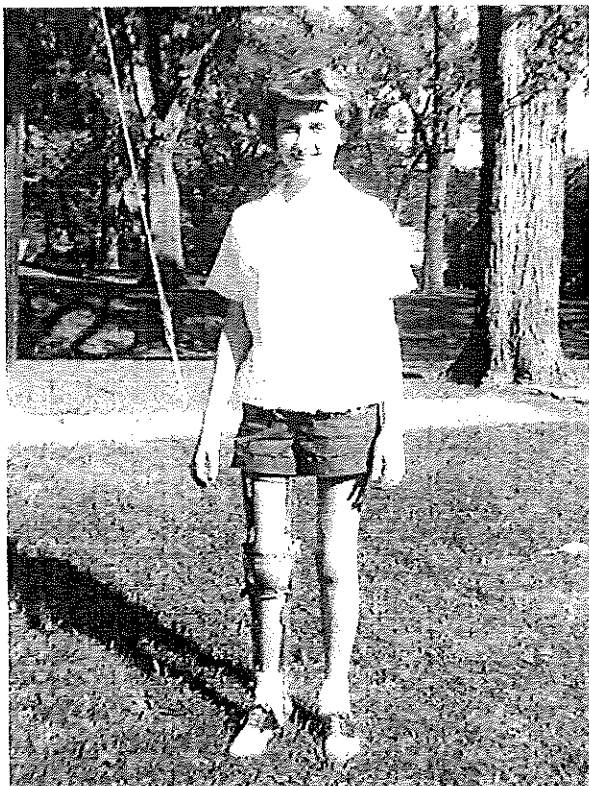
Transcript

Christie Rushing, one of the youngest participants in the collection, lived most of her life not knowing that she had polio. She caught the virus in 1954 when she was only 18 months old but she was misdiagnosed with acute laryngotracheitis. She was treated with oxygen and antibiotics and hospitalized overnight. When she was two years old, her records indicate she was treated for a limp. Doctors thought she had cavus feet. At the age of six, Christie had an experimental surgery to correct her feet, but it was not successful. Between the ages of six and eleven, she wore metal braces. After another corrective surgery (triple arthrodesis) at the age of eleven, Christie started at Smouse School in Des Moines.

Christie remembered, "Dr. Dubansky did try to tell me when I was eleven, that I must have had polio. But, all along, my mother did not believe it." In 1989, she launched her own search for answers to her fatigue, weakness, back and neck pain. She sought the advice of an orthopedic surgeon. That day, when she turned to leave his office, he handed her medical records from the 1950s. "It brings tears to my eyes still. If it was not for him I would have been lost. Those records show that I had polio – and, that took a lot of recycling for me to understand myself as a person who had polio. I don't know how somebody can be glad to have a diagnosis of polio, but it has helped me a lot. That was at the bottom of all my problems physically."

MARGARET JEAN PALMQUIST SCHENK COLLECTION
Formerly of Montgomery County

Interviewee: Jeanne Schenk
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Date of Interview: 12/05/07
Run Time: Approximately 60M



Biographical Data Form

Cassette

Oral History Release

Photographs (6) Jeanne Palmquist seated by swimming pool -- "Summer before polio," September 1952; 2) Laura Caffrey and Jeanne Palmquist, Spring 1953 -- "one month before Laura died"; 3) Laura Caffrey, Age 5, Spring 1953; 4) Harold Richardson (Modale), Terry Hughes (Council Bluffs), Jeanne Palmquist (Villisca), December 17, 1952; 5) "Carnival King and Queen," March 25, 1954; 6) Jeanne Palmquist, 1955, "After surgery and one month in full body cast in new brace.

Letter (original) from Sister Elizabeth Kenny to Mrs. Grace Palmquist, November 20, 1942

Newsclippings: Osterholm, Richard. "Villisca Girl Combines Her Talent With Courage to Win," *Omaha World-Herald*, May 9; "Report Two New Cases of Polio", *Omaha World Herald*; "Tap Dancer Attends Classes - Unseen After Polio Attack", *Omaha World Herald*, n.d.

"Villisca Speech Contestants - Wins Top Rating"

"Winners In Industrial Committee Contest"

"Scene from the Magic Flute"

"Villisca's All State Musicians"

"Villiscans Rank High in National Merit Scores"

"Announce Eight Scholarship Winners"

"Most Polio Patients Are Going Home for Christmas," Council Bluffs, Iowa, December 21, 1952.

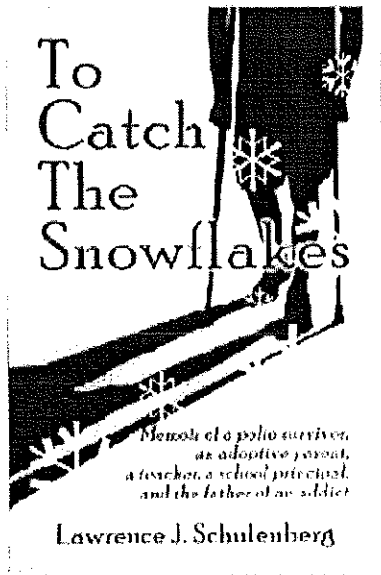
"Bay Area Rehab Center Offering New Programs"

Transcript

For as long as she could remember, Schenk always wanted to be an entertainer. Born in Villisca, Iowa in 1941, she contracted polio in 1952 when she was in the fifth grade. She was an active child. Her favorite hobbies were tap dancing, acrobatics, and swimming. "I was in the swimming pool at the municipal pool every single day, rain or shine." According to Jeanne, "The first week of school, I developed a virus and it did not get better. It got worse. My doctor, who was an elderly man, made house calls for a couple of weeks. By the time I was diagnosed on September 22, I was pretty much paralyzed. I did not go to the hospital until September 29 and by the time I got there I was pretty much paralyzed from the neck down and having great difficulty breathing and swallowing. For two weeks, I remember crying, hearing crying and screaming. It was a nightmare. I was running a high temperature, but I was still aware." After the first six weeks at Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs, Jeanne started making a marvelous recovery. She enjoyed playing on the mat and when she got a wheelchair, she began having fun and mobility allowed her to have a great social life in the hospital. "One of the boys on my floor taught me how to pop wheelies on the wheelchair. We started having fun. I got tons of cards and gifts but not many visitors because I was 75 miles from my home." Today Jeanne is the proud grandmother of four and lives in Baytown, Texas where she is active with the local post-polio survivors group. Jeanne was not able to pursue her love of acting and dancing as a career field but she would not trade her experiences for anything. According to Jeanne, "I have had a very, very interesting life. I have traveled around the world and have had wonderful friends. I have just lived life to the fullest and I would not trade my life with anyone that I know."

LAWRENCE SCHULENBERG COLLECTION
Pottawattamie County

Interviewee: Lawrence John Schulenberg
Interviewer: Monica Gohlinghorst
Date of Interview: 12/10/07
Location of Interview: Council Bluffs Public Library



Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Oral History Release
Transcript

Larry Schulenberg made a decision during the Christmas of 1946 to follow his mother's advice and live life to the fullest. The odds were against him. He was outfitted with heavy metal crutches and work shoes after several months of therapy and rehabilitation at the hospital in Topeka, Kansas. That day, his childhood friends gathered at his home to eat cookies, drink hot chocolate, and decorate the Christmas tree when one of the boys looked out the front window and saw that it was snowing. Larry remembered, "So, all the guys ran and put on their coats and their mittens and went outside to play in the snow. The living room got quiet. My mother was in the kitchen and she heard the silence so she came in and said, 'Where are all the little boys?' I told her about the snow falling and she said, 'Well, don't you want to go out there with them?'"

Larry told her how he struggled to walk with those crutches and feared he would fall down. Then, his mother knelt down beside him and took placed his hands in hers – and she told him, "Someday, in your future, you are going to have to decide – are you going to sit in this big chair and look out the window for the rest of your life and watch the snowflakes fall – or, are you going to get up and go outside and catch the snowflakes? Each person in their life has to decide what they are going to do with their life. If you decide to go out there and catch snowflakes, you'll probably fall. But, everybody falls some times during their lives. You pick yourself back up and you keep on catching those snowflakes." It was this lesson that inspired the title of his memoir and motivated him to do everything that he has done in his life. "That's why I became a teacher," said Larry, "because I wanted to live life as much as I could."

For further reference, see Larry Schulenberg, To Catch Snowflakes: Memoir of a Polio Survivor, Adoptive Parent, High School Principal, and Father of an Addict. (Frederick, MD) Publish America, 2004.

THOMAS SPEAR COLLECTION
Cedar County

Interviewee: Thomas Spear
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Date of Interview: October 11, 2007
Run Time: Approximately 50M



Photographs (3) Original
Biographical Data Form
Cassette

Oral History Release

Sunday Times Democrat, 1963, "They Said He'd Never Leave Bed: Though Still Handicapped, Tipton's Jack Spear Flies His Own Plane, Farms 1,000 Acres And Is A Nationally Known Dog Show Judge," May 20, 7D.
DeGroot, John, Unidentified Newspaper, [n.d.] "Polio Victim Flies Plane to Kent to Judge Dog Show," [n.p.]
Murphy, Ed. Unidentified Newspaper, [n.d.] "Tipton Man Overcomes Rough Obstacles," [n.p.]

Jack Spear was diagnosed with polio in September of 1952 and admitted to the University of Iowa Hospital. Tom, his son, was seven years old when his father contracted polio. Jack Spear was internationally known in the world of dog breeding. He raised champion Irish Setters and piloted his own plane. "He lived more than half his life as a polio victim," Tom reflected. "He had a lot of aches and pains as he got older but I don't think he was a guy to complain. He took it as it came and made the best of it and did not let it stop him from doing most anything he wanted."

BETTY JEAN STANFIELD COLLECTION
Polk County

Interviewee: Betty Jean Stanfield
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Date of Interview: 11/08/07
Run Time: Approximately 20M



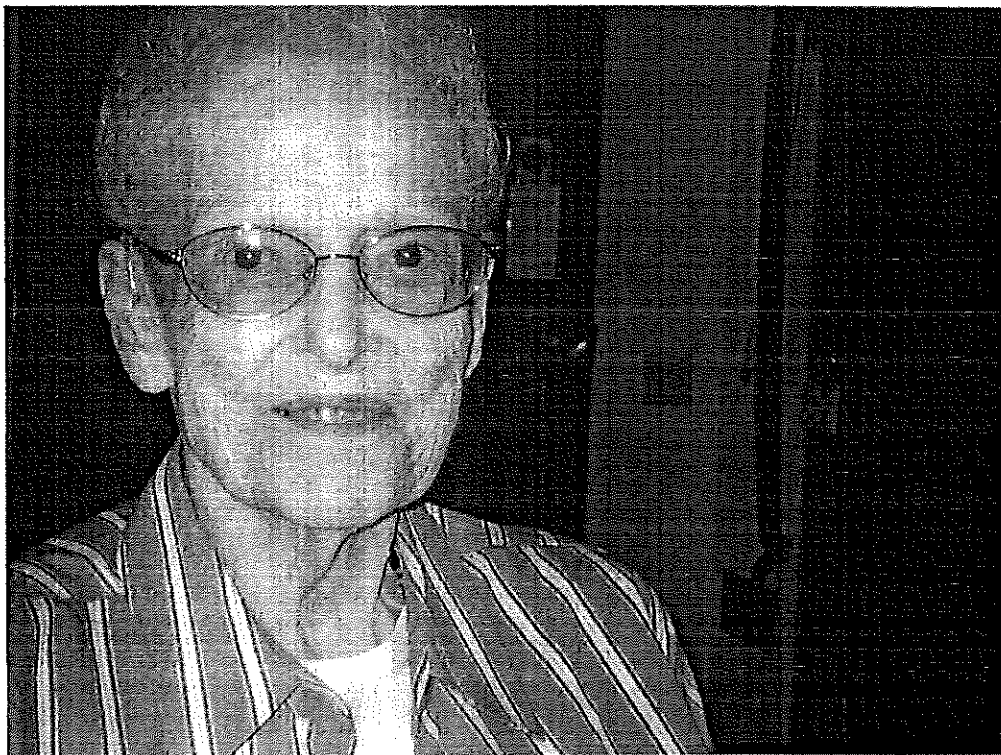
10-11-1940 - September 12-7

Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Oral History Release
Photograph (1)
Transcript

It was the fall of 1940 and Betty was about to become a teenager. Sadly, her 13th birthday did not unfold as a day of celebration. That day, she remembers experiencing "terrific pain" in her lower back and noticed she could not turn over in bed. Her fever escalated to 105 degrees. Polio primarily affected her muscles in her left foot and her right leg. Betty called it a "lighter case," but people still noticed her walking pattern. Betty, who was raised on a dairy farm in rural Prescott, says she had a good life. She feels blessed she was able to have a family. Her two children were born in the midst of the polio scares in 1950 and 1953. Betty is currently 80 years old and an active member of the Iowa Polio Survivors. She resides in Des Moines. On the eve of her 13th birthday, Betty waded in the river with water above her knees to herd cattle. She still wonders if that river was contaminated.

MAXINE A. STEELE COLLECTION
O'Brien County

Interviewee: Maxine Steele
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Date of Interview: 08/29/07
Location of Interview: Hartley, IA
Run Time: Approximately 60M

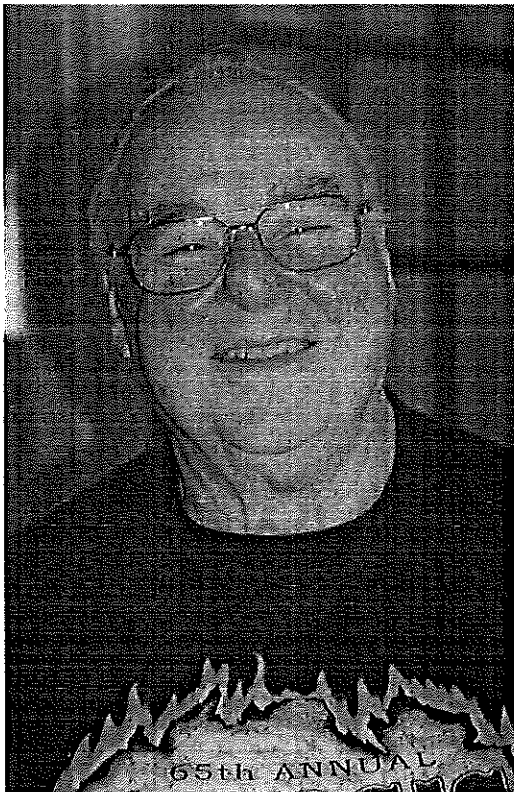


Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Photographs (3)
Oral History Release
Transcript

Maxine Steele, the youngest of three children, contracted polio as a baby in rural Sutherland, Iowa in 1923. At that time, polio was known as infantile paralysis. According to Maxine, no one told her about it until she began to notice there was something different about her. "Somehow, I sensed it. I don't know why." She recalled the first discussion she had with her mother, "My mother finally did tell me in 1940 because there was a lot of polio around. And, something was wrong. The doctor wanted me to go to Sioux City for a spinal tap. They didn't do it in rural hospitals then. And mother said, well, you don't need to because you had polio. But she never wanted to talk about it. And I should, of course, just asked her and had her tell me more about what she knew." Maxine and her husband Robert reside together in the Hartley Community Care Center in Hartley, Iowa.

MERLIN T. STRATTON COLLECTION
Polk County

Interviewee: Merlin Stratton
Interviewer: Annette Wetteland
Date of Interview: 10/31/07
Run Time: Approximately 30M



Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Oral History Release
Photograph (1)
Transcript

Merlin Stratton was born in 1937 in Quimby, Iowa. He spent much of his childhood helping out on the farm. It just so happened that Merlin's father went into town one day and crossed paths with an insurance man. The man beckoned for him to come over and hear about taking out an insurance policy for polio. He purchased the policy for \$10.00. That policy ended up being a good investment. Unfortunately, Merlin caught polio during the epidemic of 1952. Merlin recalled, "There were a couple of nights after we got home from school that I just did not feel good. I just didn't feel good. Then, I woke up one morning and I couldn't walk. My left leg would not hold me up." Like most polio survivors, Merlin was bound and determined to carry on. He even played a little baseball in high school despite the challenge of running. "I can remember our coach," said Merlin, "I had the brace and when I stood up that way it would lock. I broke that several times and they would stop the ball game and take it over to the shop and weld it up. Then, they would resume the game."

Merlin was slated for the draft as Cold War hostilities continued to heat up. But, polio disqualified him from Army life. He recalled, "I was up for the draft at that time but they did not take me in the service because I wore a brace at the time. I was classified as 4F." Overall, Merlin says he does pretty much everything he wants to do. "I don't feel that I was ever crippled. I have lived to be 70 so far and I can't see where polio has really done anything bad to me. I believed that when I was younger, but not anymore."

EILEEN THIESSE COLLECTION
Palo Alto County

Interviewee: Eileen Thiesse
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Date of Interview: 08/27/07
Run Time: Approximately 20M



Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Newsclippings
Photograph (1)
Oral History Release
Transcript

In October of 1944, when Eileen was fifteen years old, she was diagnosed with polio. Her family lived on a grain and livestock farm with no indoor plumbing in Fairmont, Minnesota. She remembers going to bed with a headache and waking up the next morning unable to walk. The local doctor thought he could treat her from home, but after a couple of days they decided to seek help in Minneapolis. Her family was quarantined on the farm for six weeks. She recalls going by ambulance to Minneapolis with her mother. They stopped at the Minneapolis General Hospital for her spinal tap. The Sister Kenny Institute was full so she was admitted to The Sheltering Arms: A Hospital for Poliomyelitis for three months of treatment. The Sheltering Arms shared the same staff and technicians as the Sister Kenny Institute. Sheltering Arms was originally an orphanage founded in 1883 by Sister Annette Relf, the first Episcopal deaconess in Minnesota.

Before Eileen contracted polio, she happened to read an article in *Look Magazine* about the epidemics sweeping the South – particularly in Texas and Georgia. Eileen remembers the presence of southern patients who sought treatment at the Sister Kenny Institute. In her oral history, she recalled, "I remember at the time they asked a lot of questions of me - different interns and people doing research on polio. They were trying to find a source or a reason for it. There was a big thing about washing fruits and vegetables. The thinking was that it was carried possibly through food handling. They were searching for reasons."

DELORES LANE TROY COLLECTION

Formerly of Jesup, Iowa (Buchanan County)

Currently of Bonita Springs, Florida

Interviewee: Delores Lane Troy

Interviewer: Kate Scott

Date of Interview: 1/31/08

Run Time: Approximately 60M

Biographical Data Form

Cassette

Oral History Release **Forthcoming**

Photographs **Forthcoming**

No Transcript

Delores Troy had her hands full in 1944 with a new baby and a husband fighting overseas in the U.S. Marine Corps. She was 25 years old, living with a friend, and teaching school in Jesup. After a trip to Minnesota, Delores started developing a bad case of the hiccups. Three days later, she started experiencing terrific headaches so she called upon Dr. Knipfer, the local physician. After examining her, Dr. Knipfer studied her case and suggested she report to the University of Iowa Hospital for a spinal tap. Her roommate drove her to Iowa City and by the time she arrived, the left side of her body was completely paralyzed. While she was being treated, her friend and roommate cared for her baby. Delores was placed in a room with two other bulbar polio patients – they did not survive. She has always considered herself lucky. She was treated in Iowa City for three weeks. When her husband returned on leave from the war, he worked with her to regain her strength through physical therapy. He also helped with primitive Sister Kenny methods using an old fashioned washing machine full of boiling hot water to saturate and ring the rags. Her husband secured the rags on her body with safety pins. On his next deployment overseas, Delores was proud to report to him in a letter that she could lift a pail full of water. Delores went on to lead a full and productive life as a military wife, teacher, and mother of five. Today, Delores lives in Bonita Springs, Florida. She recently lost her devoted husband but is the proud grandmother of eleven and proud great-grandmother of four. She still feels grateful for Dr. Knipfer.

NANCY TRUJILLO COLLECTION
Fremont County

Formerly of Farragut, Iowa
Currently of Colorado Springs, Iowa

Interviewee: Nancy Trujillo
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Date of Interview: 1/15/08
Run Time: Approximately 60M

Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Oral History Release
Photographs (3 Copies)
Personal Letters (Copies)
Transcript

Nancy Trujillo was born in the Shenandoah Hospital in 1939. Her parents were farmers; they raised hogs, cattle, chickens, soybeans, and corn. Nancy was admitted to the hospital for a serious head infection and treated with radiation and antibiotics when she was very young. Then, at the age of six, she had her tonsils removed. "It was one of those routine things," said Nancy, "but, I had a hard time getting well again. I believe the doctor later on told my mother that he always felt that my resistance was down from just having had tonsils taken out." In 1946, Nancy came down with polio. After the diagnosis, she was rushed to Douglas County Hospital in Omaha. "It was just that nobody knew what to do. Everyone was very frantic. There were lots of kids and the hospital staff just took everything away from you and covered you up. When I got to the hospital they put a sheet over me and covered me up because they thought I was contagious." Like many other survivors, Nancy noted that it was during her time in Douglas County Hospital that she developed her love for books. "We had school there in the hospital and I became an avid reader. I loved to read and enjoyed school. That is a pleasant memory for me." A less pleasant memory for Nancy was her rehabilitation experience at the Hattie B. Munroe Home for children with disabilities in Omaha. "There was an older lady who ran the home -- she seemed very stern and rigid. There certainly were no hugs and kisses."

She graduated from Farragut High School in 1957 and went on to earn her Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri. Today, Nancy is retired from teaching. She and her husband live in Colorado Springs, Colorado. There are times when Nancy would love to know what it feels like to run and ski. But, she is grateful to her three boys who have encouraged her to experience the adventures of the outdoors. "I have wonderful family and friends who have been with me through it all," Nancy reflected, "I feel very fortunate."

LEON WALKER COLLECTION
Palo Alto County

Interviewee: Leon Walker
Interviewer: Kate Scott
Date of Interview: July 26, 2007
Location of Interview: Ruthven, IA
Run Time: Approximately 45M



Biographical Data Form
Cassette
Photographs (3)
Transcript
Oral History Release

Leon Walker, originally from Rossie, Iowa, recalled, "My friend was dating a girl in Royal. I imagine, I was on braces and crutches. But, I had dear friends who took me everywhere they went. They went to dances and shows, moving picture shows – and, I met this girl. Bless her heart. She accepted me the way I was. She was a senior in high school. Then, I left and went to Drake University, and I was so afraid she wouldn't wait for me, but she did. We went together about a year, and then we got married. I still didn't have a job. Imagine that."

TWYLA WINTERS WOODS COLLECTION

Polk County

Interviewee: Twyla Gay Winters Woods

Interviewer: Kate Scott

Date of Interview: 12/07/07

Run Time: Approximately 30M

Biographical Data Form

Cassette

Oral History Release

Transcript

(No Photographs Available)

Twyla Winters Woods believes her mother may be correct - she may have contracted polio in 1958 or 1959 from the vaccine. "I was sick when they were giving out the polio vaccines...I was not able to take it. Then, finally when I was able to take the vaccine, it is my mother's belief that they actually gave me a vaccine that was not ready to be given out to anybody. I understand that there was a time that they did give out the virus to people by mistake." Reflecting on her treatment at Blank Memorial Children's Hospital in Des Moines, "I was in a room with a couple of white kids and a couple of us were black and we were just family because we were all in the same room. We lived together for a year or more. We fought and we hated each other and then we loved each other and we were just of bunch of kids. Race was not even a thought. One [child] was in an iron lung. Most of us were in our own beds and we would talk across the beds. I made my bed into my own little apartment [with] pretty blankets. The beds were kind of like large baby beds with rails on the side. We were little...I was maybe six or seven. My mom came every single day. My aunt, who worked at the hospital as a maid, would come across on her breaks and see me. And, when I was officially released, I was released to my aunt who quit her job so that she could take care of me. So, I lived with my aunt through the week."

Annette Wetteland

From: Mary Anne [maryanne@PrimarySourcepromotion.com]
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2008 11:22 AM
To: Annette Wetteland
Subject: Bookmark Magnifier

Annette,

Below is the quote for the bookmarks. Please let me know if you have any questions.



Enlarges details



Magnifies small print

Flexible Bookmark Magnifiers – (Picture Above)

DESCRIPTION: Flexible bookmark, magnifier and ruler. Enlarges details and magnifies small print.

SIZE: 7.5" x 2.5"

COLORS: Blue; White

2500 @ \$0.90 each

5000 @ \$0.86 each; regular price \$0.89 each

Price includes 1 standard color imprint

2nd color run charge add \$0.29 per bookmark

Set up charge \$48.80 per imprint color

PMS color match charge \$28.80 (for the teal PMS#3272)

Paper proof charge – waived

Imprint area – 2" L x 2" H

Artwork charge – waived if you can provide a high resolution vector .eps file of the artwork. A pdf will not work. If we need to have the artwork created for you the estimate would be \$35.00 an hour.

Shipping costs are additional. Please allow 3-4 weeks for production. 5% +/- quantity is to be considered acceptable as filling the order.

Mary Anne Kennedy, President

Have a great 2008! Make your event a success with promotional gifts!

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