

Cream for your morning coffee

By Ray Dennis

THE TEENAGE years of a girl should be among the happiest of her life but one Hancock County teenager, who just turned 17 last month, is not finding that true. Her life is filled with excruciating pain, deep anxiety and hospital and doctor bills which have already reached five figures and are still mounting.

The only comfort Kathy Smith finds as she fights for her very life at University Hospital, Cleveland, is the love of her family and the concern and affection of her schoolmates and the students of her home community.

The concern and affection of her friends are being shown in a very practical and much needed way.

Through door-to-door sales of magazine subscriptions by her schoolmates, a carnival staged by these students, with the help of the residents of the Cory-Rawson School district and the donation of the entire proceeds of the FFA Club of which Kathy is a member, a Kathy Smith fund totaling \$3,500 was established.

One of the most recent contributions was a sizeable portion of the Easter service offering of Pleasant View United Methodist Church near Mt. Cory and several other groups have indicated their desire to contribute to the fund.

Last night the Friendly Circle Bridge Club of Rawson held a benefit bridge party at Circle P which will raise that figure somewhat.

Some people might consider \$3,500 only a token payment on Kathy's medical bills which are rapidly nearing \$40,000 and are expected to reach at least \$50,000.

BUT TO KATHY every dollar is precious. Each one seems to be inscribed "To Kathy With Love." The \$3,500 fund, although not as much as the donors had wished it to be, represents a sacrifice of free time by her schoolmates. It means they are thinking of her. It means they want, very much, to help her through this very critical period and help her family through this financial crisis.

Why is it a crisis? Kathy has had major surgery, the first one complicated by pneumonia and followed by convulsions and internal hemorrhaging. A massive gangrene infection was complicated by blood clots and a series of skin grafts to close open sores caused by the gangrene. Besides the agony she has suffered physically, the financial worry has also been painful.

Her hospital room is now \$168 a day. This does not include the expense of yards and yards of bandages, the different drugs needed and heavy sedatives she requires, or the operating room for the grafting.

FOR TWO YEARS Kathy had been under the treatment of a doctor, but it was not until Dec. 29 that her condition worsened and she was admitted to Bluffton Community Hospital. A week later she was transferred to the intensive care ward at Memorial Hospital, Lima, where, on Jan. 20, she developed blood clots and was taken by ambulance to Cleveland's University Hospital. There, for a time she hovered near death. Had it not been for her

weakened condition amputation of one of her legs would have been necessary because the gangrenous condition had spread alarmingly.

Other treatment was tried which, though lengthy and very painful, has finally given hope for her recovery. Although her family offered to supply the skin for the graftings they were told her body would reject any except her own. So Kathy, except for her neck and face, has open sores or healing skin grafts all over her body and lies in a sling type bed.

That is why her suffering is so acute and that is why, too, the treatment is so long and expensive. But there now seems a ray of hope for this brave, 17-year-old girl. If the latest graft holds her doctors feel, after a week of therapy, she may return to Lima Memorial Hospital for a period of convalescence. Perhaps then the bills, which now total close to \$45,000, will taper off a little.

But even if the bills would stop today they have already totaled more than an average person could take care of in a lifetime.

KATHY IS ONE of three daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith of Rawson and the only one living at home. But it is a close-knit family — a family that shares its grief, its worries and its happiness.

Kathy's father, who is employed in the hardware department at the J. C. Penney Store in the Fort Findlay Village Shopping Center, has had some personal doctor bills. Since Kathy's illness he fractured his foot and, for several weeks, was unable to work.

Her mother for many years, has been a part time employe at Ohio Power Co., but has taken leave of absence to be with her daughter. At night she puts two straight chairs together to form a bed for herself in her daughter's room.

Kathy, before she became critically ill had learned to play the pipe organ and had played it several times at the Rawson United Methodist Church where she has been an active member.

More than 600 cards from church members, friends and schoolmates fill three walls of her hospital room.

Although Kathy shares the financial worries with her family, she feels that the cards and prayers of so many are just as precious to her as the dollars which have been received.

The past months have indeed been bleak ones for the Robert Smith family. But the future appears a bit brighter because of the skill of the doctors and the sympathetic understanding and support which so many friends, and even strangers, are giving.

To make this future even brighter Mrs. Bob Clymer, who now is in charge of the Kathy Smith Fund, is hoping many more contributions will be made to it. Contributions may be sent to Citizens Bank, Bluffton, earmarked Kathy Smith Fund.

THE CITIZENS SAVINGS and Loan Association, 1000 Tiffin Ave., didn't realize the widespread publicity it would receive when it gave out balloons at the Home Show sponsored yearly by the Home Builders

Association.

Two of the balloons, filled with helium were sent aloft by 11-year-old Dan Kester, 707 Hull Ave., on March 20 and were found on March 25 by Nancy Van Holten, 15, of Knoxville, Md., on a game preserve in Pennsylvania just a few miles from Gettysburg.

Dan who, of course, had attached his name and address to the balloon, received a letter from Nancy telling of her "find".

The story of the balloons' trip was carried in a Maryland newspaper and Dan received another letter. This one was from a man whose last name is the same as Dan's — Art Kester. But would you believe? He has a son named Dan. So there is a six-year-old Dan Kester living in Frederick, Md. and an 11-year-old Dan Kester living in Findlay and, so far as they can determine, they are not kinfok.

THREE IMPORTANT events in the Frank Claybaugh family of North Baltimore within a three-week period, which were climaxed by a family dinner for 22 on Easter Sunday at the Applesed Restaurant, Arlington, has made a happier-than-usual month for members of the family — particularly Mr. and Mrs. Frank Claybaugh.

It all began with the family celebrating Mr. Claybaugh's 81st birthday on March 17. Then, on March 27, the couple celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary and on April 6 Mrs. Claybaugh marked her 79th birthday.

There are two sets of four generations in the Claybaugh family. Mr. and Mrs. Claybaugh have three children, Mrs. Kenneth (Alice) Carles and Gail Claybaugh, North Baltimore, and Mrs. David (Thelma) Davis, Findlay, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The occasions were celebrated by all of the family in the Claybaugh home on the date of each event.

AT THEIR WEDDING anniversary celebration Mr. and Mrs. Claybaugh again humorously recalled that, if it had not been for water, and lots of it, they would have been celebrating their wedding anniversary on March 26.

For Mr. and Mrs. Claybaugh were married in 1913 — the year of Findlay's big flood. Before their marriage they lived within a few miles of each other in northwest Hancock County.

They had planned to be married in Findlay on March 26 and started out that day in Mr. Claybaugh's horse drawn buggy to Findlay. But, because of flooded roads, they were unable to get into Findlay, so they turned "Dobbin" around and Mr. Claybaugh took his bride-to-be back to the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Archer, and he went to the home where they were to reside after their marriage.

But to the chagrin of the bride-to-be, friends of the couple, following the custom of the era, came to her home and gave her a "belling." She had difficulty making them believe her "husband" was not there and that they had been unable to get married.

But they were married the next day and, like the story book ending, have been living "happily ever after."

Panama Director To Speak At Lions' District Fete

Clarence J. Marquez of Panama City, Republic of Panama, and a director of Lions International will be the banquet speaker Sunday night at the convention of Ohio District 13-A, Lions International which opens this afternoon at the Imperial House Motel.



Clarence Marquez

The banquet, which starts at 5 p.m. will be held in Findlay Senior High School cafeteria, for Lions and their Ladies.

Marquez has been a member of the Panama City Lions Club since 1944 and has served as its president, deputy district governor and district governor. He is the recipient of the Key Member Award, the 100 per cent District Governor Award, the International President's Appreciation Award and 15 club and district awards.

He is a graduate of the University of Southern California. He is a pharmacist in Panama City and past president of the Panama College of Pharmacy. He also is president of the board of directors of Dimer, S.A. and a trustee of the University, Santa Maria in Antigua.

He and his wife, Maria, have three children.

Past District Governor A. V. Pacey of Bryan will be master of ceremonies. The national anthem of Panama will be sung in honor of the speaker.

The convention will start with registration at 4 p.m. today at the Imperial House Motel followed by a social hour, entertainment and closing with a buffet lunch.

Tom Miles, district governor, will be host at a brunch for members of his cabinet and their wives at 9:30 a.m. Sunday at the Imperial House Motel. Registration will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the high school.

A short program for Lions and Ladies will open at 1 p.m. in the high school auditorium, followed by a business session for the Lions during which awards will be made and officers will be elected.

At the same time entertainment has been planned for Ladies of the Lions Club. There will be a tea followed by a program with Inez Woods O'Brien and Allen P. Dudley presenting a capsule version of "Sound of Music".

Seating is expected here for the convention.

State Report Conditions Good For Fishermen

COLUMBUS (AP)—Good fishing conditions for the weekend have been predicted by the Ohio Division of Wildlife, with good catches reported in many areas during the past week.

The outlook by areas:
LAKE ERIE — Water normal, 39 degrees west basin, 37 degrees central area. Perch and crappies biting off piers and near shore at Catawba, Sandusky Bay Bridge, and Huron Pier. Coho hitting at Sandusky Bay, Cedar Point, and shoreline from Catawba to Toledo.

CENTRAL — Minnow, worms and artificial baits all seem successful in catches of bluegills, bass, catfish, and crappies at Indian Lake. Best fishing in Buckeye Lake is in the bays and marshy areas. At Hoover Reservoir, walleyes — which test nets show in excellent population —

should be hitting well in a week or two. Walleyes and bass are being caught at Deer Creek Reservoir on artificial bait as well as on worms and minnows.

NORTHWEST (Maumee River) — Pike are being caught on minnows, and walleyes at Fort Meigs, Side Cut Park, and Buttonwood on white and yellow doll flies. Channel cats and bullheads are biting on worms in Sandusky River where walleye fishing is good from Ballville down to Fremont. Muskies are being caught at Clearfork Reservoir on minnow plugs and bombers, several in the 20-25 pound range.

NORTHEAST — Walleyes are hitting below the dam in Mahoning River at Berlin Reservoir, and at Nimisila Reservoir fine crappies are being taken in bays on jigs. At Leesville Reservoir bass and bluegills are being caught on worms and spinners, and muskies are hitting, the largest catch reported at 22 pounds and 43 inches in length.

SOUTHEAST — Bass are hitting spinners and jigs in the early morning at Burr Oak Lake and a few bass are being taken on artificial bait in mid-lake at Piedmont Lake.

SOUTHWEST — Backwater pools of the Ohio River are providing excellent fishing for crappies, bass, catfish, white bass, and rock bass. Best areas are in Brown and Adams counties. In the Little Miami River and tributaries smallmouth bass, channel cats, and suckers are hitting well, also at Acton Lake and Grand Lake St. Marys.

New Superintendent

LANCASTER (AP) — The Lancaster Board of Education Thursday night named Asst. Superintendent, Robert L. Sutton, a Marietta native as superintendent of city schools. Sutton succeeds Richard Sheely who resigned in February and will take over the \$20,170 job Aug. 1.

A mahout is an elephant driver.

Former Police Officer Charged In Connection With Theft Ring

AKRON (AP) — James Walters Jr., of Akron, who resigned from the city's police force Thursday, has been charged, along with three other Akron men, in connection with a truck theft and stripping ring.

Walters, 35, who owns his own trucking firm, and the three others were freed on bond after they were arranged on charges connected with the theft Feb. 14 from a Fort Wayne, Ind., truck stop of two 1970 tractor trailer rigs valued at \$55,000.

Walters, who had been on the police force since 1966, was charged with concealing a stolen vehicle. The others were charged with receiving stolen property.

Two of the men, Thomas Ellis, 32, and Don Orville Lewis, 44, are employed by Walters. Ellis is a truck driver and Lewis a mechanic. The third man, Clyde Helms, 35, is a former driver for Walters.

Police said they are accused of taking the trucks, driving them to Akron, stripping the tractors of parts and selling

Queen's Nephew Wears Wrong Clothes

FOREST ROW, England (AP) — Viscount Linley, Queen Elizabeth's 9-year-old nephew, was barred from his school's latest project because he was wearing the wrong clothes. The students were clearing rubbish from a pond and Linley, the son of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, didn't have any old clothes.

Another First

ADEN, Southern Yemen (AP) — The Consultative Council of Aden has been formed through semidirect elections for the first time in the former British port colony's history.

Profitable Grab

LONDON (AP) — John Prosser, 61, a bystander in a bank holdup, is to get a \$2,400 reward for grabbing a gun from a would-be robber, who was later convicted.

Mentor Police Identify Body As Plane Victim

PAINESVILLE (AP) — Mentor police have identified the body of a woman found washed up on the shores of Lake Erie as Mrs. Florence A. Rohl, 59, of Sioux Falls, S. D., one of four persons aboard a private plane that crashed into Lake Erie April 8.

Police said the body was found Thursday and she was identified through a wedding band and a diamond ring she wore.

The other passengers in the plane, all presumed dead, have been identified as Mrs. Rohl's husband, Leo, 60, the pilot of the plane; their daughter, Sue A. Kratcher, 30, and her husband William, 31, both of La Mesa, Calif.

Patrol Graduation

COLUMBUS (AP) — The Highway Patrol added 51 new officers to its uniformed force Friday with graduation ceremonies at the patrol academy here. It was the patrol's 90th graduating class.

Killed In Vietnam

WASHINGTON (AP) — Army Sgt. Joseph R. Pietrzak of Zanesville, previously listed as missing, was listed Friday by the Defense Department as killed in action in Southeast Asia.

Pentecostal Faith Chapel
338 N. Main
BIBLE SCHOOL 2:00 P.M.
WORSHIP 3 P.M. & 7:30
PRAYER Thurs. Eve. 7:30
Pastor, Naomi Healey

Visit the New
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
N. Ridge and W. Bigelow
The Rev. O. S. Goergy, Pastor
Sunday Church School—9:15 a.m.
Worship Service—10:30 a.m.

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

OF HANCOCK COUNTY
Welcome You

FIRST
2230 S. Main
9:00 A.M.; 11:00 A.M.

NORCREST
3120 Norcrest
10:30 A.M.

ENON VALLEY
East on Rt. No. 224
9:30 A.M.

McCOMB
10:30 A.M.

VAN BUREN
10:30 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Tiffin Road at Landerberry Drive
JOHN W. GROHNE, S.T.M., Pastor
Services: 8:30 and 10:45
Church School: 9:30

At The Center of *Life*

Deep Within Each Person Grows
A Plant Called Worship. It needs
to Be Watered Every Week.

WORSHIP WITH US THIS SUNDAY

Sunday School 9:30; Morning
Worship 10:45; Youth
Service 6:30; Evang. 7:30

First Assembly of God
124 Ash Ave.
Pastor Howard Spriggs

Listen to "REVIVALTIME" Tune In
WFIN — SUNDAY — 8:00 a.m.

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