

THE JOE KADLEC STORY

By Paul Leimkuehler, C.P., Cleveland, Ohio

The story of Joe Kadlec of Cleveland is important to the limb and brace profession, illustrating as it does the progress that has been made in our field over a period of twelve years. Joe, a double A/K amputee, tried twice unsuccessfully to wear two above knee prostheses. Refusing to give up, he tried a third time. The third try was successful.

Joe's bout with artificial limbs began on February 16, 1929. He was thirteen years old then. Involved in an automobile accident which pinned him against a building, the amputation of his left leg was necessary. For some time afterwards, he wore the above-knee, shoulder-strap type of prosthesis successfully, without the use of a cane. Then, on December 17, 1945, his right leg was amputated above the knee, due to poor circulation and swelling of the right leg.

Joe had an 11-inch long stump on the right side and a 9-inch long stump on the left side and was fitted with two above-knee pelvic belt type of prosthetic appliances, incorporating pelvic joints that had 4-way motion. Joe tried for about six months during late 1946 and early 1947 to wear these limbs with the aid of crutches. He finally gave up the effort.

The Ohio State Bureau of Rehabilitation came into the picture in November 1949. After an analysis, I decided that the double action pelvic joints



After three tries, Joe Kadlec successfully fitted and confident, is ready to meet the public, Joe owes success in this third attempt to three factors: Adequate training, financial aid, and the addition of new knees to his old prostheses.

were causing considerable trouble, the bands were flexible enough so that they would not stay the proper shape to fit his pelvis. Two new pelvic joints and metal bands were installed. For a period of a few months, Joe tried again to use these artificial limbs. He reported that they were only slightly better than before and wore them only on special occasions, perhaps three to six times a year. Otherwise, he walked on his hands, doing auto repair work around his home, and managing a variety of odd jobs in his home. This was the picture between 1949 and 1956.

Fortunately, Joe belongs to a Slovak Organization, which noticing that he wasn't using his prosthetic appliances, referred him once again to the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation. This time, the Bureau was able to send Joe to the Amputee Clinic at University Hospital for analysis.

The clinic decided that the Bock-type friction locking knees might prove helpful to Joe Kadlec. The clinic wrote the prescription, the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation issuing authorization to cover the costs.

The Amputee Clinic also decided that Joe should have supervised training in the use of his appliances; and this was provided by the Vocational Guidance and Rehabilitation Services, formerly known as the Cleveland Rehabilitation Center.

In November 1956, Joe received the original prostheses with the new Bock knees installed, in the unfinished condition. They were lined up properly and fastened together, but not rawhided or painted, since we expected to be dealing in corrections. During the 40-hours of training he received in the use of these appliances, he was taught how to get up from the floor, how to walk up and down stairs and ramps, how to fall properly, and how to master all types of activities in daily routines that are dependent upon legwork.

Joe reports that he learned how to master activities he thought impossible for any amputee. Three minor adjustments were carried out during 1957; and, finally, in May 1958, he brought the limbs in for finishing.

Since then, he has used the limbs almost everyday, although he does not wear them continuously each day. He finds that it is still easier to do motor work on cars without the limbs. Whenever he leaves his home—morning, afternoon, or evening—he wears his artificial limbs. He reports that he has been wearing them more and more as time passes, and considers the possibility of wearing them full time now that they are finished.

Joe feels that the Bock knees have answered his major problem. He is also enthusiastic about the special training he received in the use of these appliances. He says that he can now stand up and relax and put on a jacket, without the fear of falling he knew when wearing the standard, single-bolt knees. With the Bock knees, he reports he can put his weight on the sockets, relaxing without fear of the knees buckling. Prior to receiving the Bock knees, he would be soaked in perspiration by the time he had put on his prostheses and continued dressing. Now he manages these activities in a relaxed manner that offsets nervous strain.

Today, at 43 years of age, Joe Kadlec weighs 114 pounds. Weightwise, he doesn't have the disadvantage of many amputees. During the past years, he has attended sports events at Cleveland Stadium and the Public Auditorium. The stadium has ramps with 20 degree angles; at the auditorium, the ramps are about 15 degrees. He goes to theatres, walks on rough terrain and city streets, and has done three miles of walking about Brookside Park Zoo in

Cleveland. He has traveled to Pennsylvania; recently, he served as Best Man at a wedding.

While he can walk about his house without a cane, he prefers two canes when walking out of doors.

I would like to point out that Joe realizes that his first two failures with A/K limbs were not due to any feeling that it was impossible to use such limbs successfully; in fact, a close friend of his has been walking on two above-knee limbs with shoulder-strap control for the past 30 years.

Joe Kadlec's case required that special help that is becoming more and more the heart of our profession. In spite of the fact that Joe had been unsuccessful in wearing two above knee prostheses over a twelve year period, the combination of the Bock knees, the analysis and decisions of the Amputee Clinic at University Hospital, the financial assistance of the BVR, and the special training at Vocational Guidance and Rehabilitation Services all assisted in overcoming his problem. Beyond that, there had to be hope and faith on Joe's part, and patience and determination to try a third time. In our profession, these are the basic ingredients of success.

PENNSYLVANIA DEDICATES NEW REHABILITATION CENTER

Reported by K. B. NELSON

On April 16, 1959 the Eight Million Dollar Rehabilitation center was dedicated with speakers and tours all day. The ceremonies were attended by Pennsylvania State Officials and important guests in the field of rehabilitation both state and national. The general public was also well represented.

The center is a beautiful sprawling building located just outside of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. It is fabulous in planning and decor with a capacity of 350 beds. The rehabilitation area is constructed without steps both in and out of doors for crutch and wheelchair patients. It has bright and cheerful wards and private rooms as well as relaxation and

entertainment areas. Facilities for medical treatment and counseling, mental and physical therapy, and the training in most trades and everyday living for men and women are ample and modern.

This building is proclaimed to be the best of its kind in this country and after a tour of it, one certainly can believe it. The center is operated by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation under Federal and State laws and is a part of the Commonwealth's Department of Labor and Industry. The Bureau is governed by a ten-member board headed by William L. Blatt, Jr., Secretary of Labor and Industry. Charles L. Eby is Director of the Bureau.

OALMA AND CERTIFICATION DISPLAY AT CONGRESS OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE



At the OALMA Booth—Dr. Philip A. Klieger, Medical Consultant to OVR, Dr. Frederick J. Kottke, who is President of the Congress of Physical Medicine and A. P. Gruman, Past President of OALMA.

Mr. Gruman is showing the doctors the OALMA Survey of Prosthetic Clinics.

OALMA and the Certification Board were prominently represented at the American Congress of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation during its 1959 session at the Hotel Leamington in Minneapolis August 30 to September 4.

Dr. Frederick J. Kottke was elected President of the Congress, and will preside at its 1960 session in Washington, D. C. Dr. Kottke is Head of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Minnesota.

Other officers named by the Congress are: Doctors Donald J. Erickson, Rochester, Minn.; Jerome S. Tobis, New York; Louis B. Newman, Chicago; Charles D. Shields, Washington, D. C.; and William Erdmann, Philadelphia, Pa., vice presidents; Frances Baker, San Mateo, Calif., secretary, and Frank H. Krusen, Rochester, Minn., treasurer.

The American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, which meets in conjunction with the Congress, has picked Dr. Clarence W. Dail of Los Angeles as President, and Dr. Fay Piaskoski as President-elect. The Secretary is Dr. Harriet Gillette of the University of Florida, Gainesville. (Dr. Gillette will be remembered as a program participant in the 1958 OALMA Assembly).



The educational displays were a feature of the 1959 session of the Congress of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Here we see C. E. Medcalf, C.O., Dr. Harold W. Glattly, Richard Bidwell, C.O. and P., and Dr. Walter J. Zeiter, Executive Director of the Congress of Physical Medicine.

The technical papers presented included one by Dr. Vernon L. Nickel on the "Artificial Muscle." (Dr. Nickel of Rancho Los Amigos Hospital is also a member of the American Board for Certification.) Describing this external device attached to the arm, wrist and fingers, Dr. Nickel said, "We can substitute in this way for the human pinch muscles. The ability to pinch or grasp is a very important ability. And we can substitute for the muscles that bend the elbow. There are other possible uses, but we have much work ahead.

"I want to emphasize when I say we can substitute for the normal muscle, I do not mean we can replace it. No one can. We can give a person the very simplest, elementary pinch motion, and that's all.

"But we can sometimes give him something where he had nothing."

Exhibits

Among the technical exhibits of interest were those of Pope Brace Division, where Clyde Peach reported special interest in the Newington Brace and in the Milwaukee Brace; the Otto Bock Orthopedic Industry where Lorrin Madsen was kept busy describing the Otto Bock Alignment Devices and the S. H. Camp Company where Bob Miller was in charge.

Scientific Exhibits

Among the scientific exhibits of interest to orthotists and prosthetists were:

"Clinical Prosthetics," a display arranged by William M. Bernstock and Dr. Harold W. Glattly, and based on the work of the Committee on Prosthetics Education and Information and the Veterans Administration Research Program. OALMA Members who assisted in this display included Past President A. P. Gruman, Past President Lucius Trautman and Robert Gruman of the Winkley organization.

"Prosthetics-Orthopedic Clinic Teams in the United States," an exhibit of OALMA and the American Board for Certification, arranged by Lester A. Smith, Assistant Director of the two organizations. Richard Bidwell of Milwaukee and Mr. C. E. Medcalf of Minneapolis, John De Bender of Chicago and Oscar Chelberg were on duty at the display booth.

Film On A Bilateral Upper Extremity Amputee

Dr. Bror S. Troedsson presented an interesting color film, "Total Rehabilitation of a Bilateral Upper Extremity Amputee." This is the case of a farmer injured in a tractor accident, leaving him with a right shoulder disarticulation and a high upper left extremity amputation. Scenes of the film include the arrival at the hospital; rehabilitation planning; prosthesis, examination and prescribing; pre-prostheses, physical therapy and occupational therapy; visit to prosthetist; pre-prosthetic self-help devices; delivery and operation of prostheses; prostheses training; automobile driving devices, and successful completion of rehabilitation. Chester Nelson of Ray Trautman and Son, is the prosthetist in the film. It is dignified presentation which should help arouse support for rehabilitation programs.

REVIEWS

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

by: Louise M. Neuschutz—Published by Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1959. 136 pages, illustrated. Price: \$5.75.

Reviewed by Robert R. Plattner, C.O., Peoria, Ill.

A new approach to an old problem is brought out in this book on the physically handicapped. Formerly a field that was limited because of lack of knowledge on the part of the public at large, and employers, with regard to types of handicaps and possibilities of placement, the tremendous possibilities of the handicapped and older persons are forcefully brought to the attention of the reader.

As is pointed out in the foreword by Dr. Phelps, the importance of this book cannot be over-emphasized, because of the many new and expanded agencies in the field of vocational rehabilitation, from the medical viewpoint, the employer, and vocational guidance agencies.

Of particular interest to the Orthotist and Prosthetist will be the section of the book pertaining to the orthopedically handicapped and the cerebral palsied. The author gives an interesting factual account of specific problems as well as solutions in both fields. She shows a very sensible approach to the problems by pointing out the frustration that might arise by trying to accomplish the impossible. Yet she gives an encouraging and interesting outlook on the overall field of rehabilitation.