

Therapy performs a miracle for 4-year-old



"It's a miracle that she's alive and can run and see," says Judith Muehl, talking about her daughter's bout with Reye's Syndrome.

Now 4-year-old Lynsey Muehl has been named Kenny Girl for 1979 by the Kenny-Michigan Rehabilitation Foundation, a Torch Drive United Way service. Lynsey lives with her mother and 10-year-old brother Grant in Westland. She was honored Tuesday at the foundation's annual dinner meeting.

Lynsey was in a coma on Jan. 16, 1976, when she was taken by ambulance to the Kenny-supported Reye's Syndrome study center at Children's Hospital in Detroit.

A team of doctors worked on her for seven hours and then told Lynsey's mother that her chances of survival were slim.

Doctors explained that Lynsey's ammonia level was five times higher

than the critical level. Six times her body was flushed with a saline solution to wash out the ammonia before it could destroy her liver and work its way to her brain.

Then Lynsey's kidneys failed, and she was placed on a dialysis machine to cleanse the blood of impurities.

For weeks Mrs. Muehl watched nurses, asked questions and learned how to care for her comatose daughter. She learned to feed Lynsey through a tube, clear the tube, do range of motion exercises and physical therapy treatments.

When she took her daughter home in late February that year, Lynsey was

blind and had an abnormal stiffness in her arms and legs. Six weeks later, on Easter Sunday, Lynsey's sight returned.

BUT BECAUSE Lynsey's arms and legs were still constricted, Mrs. Muehl took Lynsey to the Kenny Rehabilitation Center at Pontiac General Hospital. Assistant Director Young Seo M.D. recommended that Mrs. Muehl continue with the rehabilitation care and add weekly physical therapy treatments.

Those treatments now are scheduled once a month and Lynsey's motor skills are gradually returning.

Physical therapy for Lynsey includes climbing stairs, threading beads,

stretching, turning, running, riding a bicycle, and throwing and catching a ball. These activities are reinforced in a Head Start program for preschoolers.

Lynsey's doctor, Edgardo Arciniegas M.D., director of the Reye's Syndrome center at Children's Hospital, says that Reye's Syndrome actually is an infection, which strikes healthy children recovering from a viral illness or chicken pox. Generally, symptoms begin with vomiting and fatigue, progressing to confusion and delirium. A fighting or combative stage follows only to be overtaken by coma.

"It's a miracle," says her mother. But for 4-year-old Lynsey Muehl, threading beads is part of the monthly physical therapy treatments she receives after her bout with Reye's Syndrome.



Busy bees

One of the highlights of the annual old-time country fair sponsored by the Livonia Historical Society is the quilt raffle. Society members have been busy stitching away (five stitches to an inch, mind you) on this "Grandmother's Flower Garden" quilt top to be given away at the fair to be held from noon to 5 p.m., Sunday, June 3 at Greenmead, Livonia's historical site on Eight Mile, west of Newburgh Road. Other events at

the fair include a country store, antique auction, bake sale, plant sale and flea market. Old-time crafts will also be demonstrated and there tours of Hill House Museum will also be offered. Proceeds of the fair will be used in the society's restoration of the DUB waiting room located in Greenmead's historical village. Quilters are June Hillman (left), Harriet Larson, Connie Wagenschutz and Nellie Carrothers.

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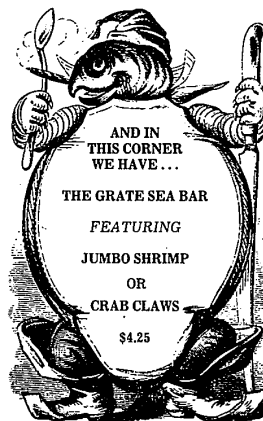
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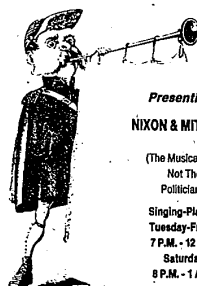
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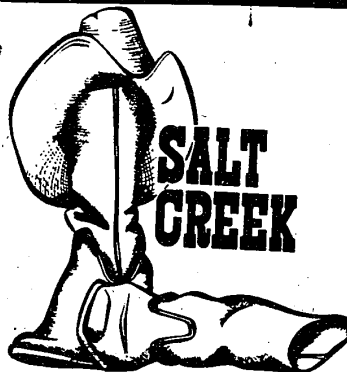
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