

'Fluke' accident initiates organ donor program

By Marie McGee
staff writer

MARK ERIC STEINWEDAL did so well in death what he was best remembered for in life — giving of himself.

Steinwedal — "steem" to his pals — died at age 18 from injuries suffered in an auto accident June 30. But that wasn't the end of things. It was really the beginning.

A June 1984 graduate of Churchill High School, the Livonia youth became the first donor in a new organ procure-

ment program at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia.

Steinwedal died July 3 from brain stem injuries resulting from the accident in which two friends were seriously injured. The accident occurred at I-275 and Six Mile Road in Livonia. Steinwedal was driving and apparently fell asleep. The car left the road, flipped over and wound up in a culvert. All three youths were thrown from the car.

THE CAR, a 1979 MERCURY Capri — Mark's pride and joy — was a total loss.

The other two youths, Richard Pickering, a lifelong friend of Steinwedal's, and Rick Facione, an acquaintance from work, received fractured vertebrae. Both are recovering.

The trio had attended the movies and had their usual comic show at Camp Dearborn where the Steinwedals have a mobile home.

Pickering and Facione said they fell asleep on the way home, so it is assumed that Steinwedal also fell asleep. The accident was described as a "fluke" in terms of how it helped initi-

ate the fledgling organ donor program at the hospital, St. Mary officials said.

"MARK WAS THE PERFECT donor," said a hospital spokesman. "He did not have any injuries to any other part of his body — a prime candidate to the organ donor program. He didn't even have any broken bones — which was amazing for that kind of accident. The whole thing was a fluke."

The Steinwedals had known since Mark received his driver's license at age 16 that he wanted to participate in the organ donor program.

"When he got his driver's license, the

forms were in there. We talked about it and he said, 'If anything happens to me, wouldn't it be great to help someone else out?'" Helen Steinwedal recalled.

Upon learning soon after Mark was admitted that there was no hope for their son's survival, George and Helen Steinwedal notified hospital officials to begin what will be recorded as the first organ donation in the new program.

A SURGICAL team from the Organ Procurement Agency of Michigan, which coordinates the donations, was summoned. They were able to retrieve his kidneys, pancreas and cornea.

The hospital had only completed arrangements a few weeks before for the program to be instituted at the hospital.

Mark was alive when he was admitted to the hospital in the early morning hours of June 30 but "We were told there wasn't any hope," Helen Steinwedal said.

"It was really hard thing to do, but I knew that's what he wanted," she said of the decision to go ahead with the organ donation.

It was especially difficult, she said, in the next few days when she watched her son seemingly appear to get better in the period before the brain waves ceased.

"When he came in, he had a black eye, and every day I could see that getting better and better."

To allow any donations, the Steinwedals, as their son's legal next-of-kin, had to give written permission. Here again, the nature of their son's accident figured in the events.

WHILE THE STEINWEDALS were aware of their son's wishes and the or-

gan donor label so stating on his driver's license, the driver's license was lost in the accident.

While a properly witnessed donor label is considered a legal document, written permission from the next-of-kin is necessary at the time of death, said Richard Pietrowski, hospital coordinator for the organ procurement agency.

The organ donor label, witnessed by spouse, sons or daughters, parents or brothers or sisters, only helps assure that they understand the would-be donor's wishes, he said.

Having to actually sign the consent papers "is where things usually fall apart," Pietrowski said. However, even if the family signs and they decide not to donate, we go along with their wishes.

"Organ donation gives hope to the suffering and comfort to the grieving."

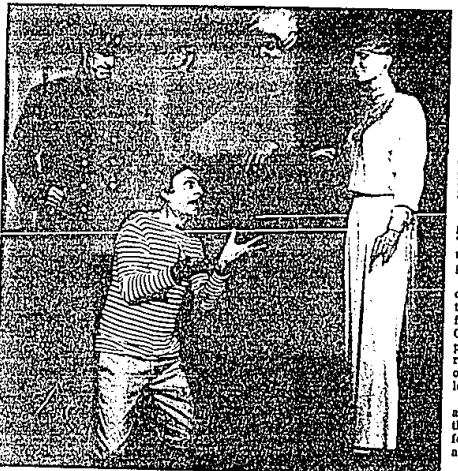
IN MARK'S CASE, it meant life improved substantially for three people. One of his kidneys went to a 31-year-old woman who was on dialysis. The second went to a 12-year-old boy.

Mark's pancreas went to a 41-year-old woman who was an insulin-dependent diabetic for 15 years. His cornea were donated to the Michigan Eye Bank.

While Mark's heart was retrievable, there was no patient recipient on record, but an attempt was made to find one, Pietrowski said.

One of the factors in time, he said. The surgical team has a 35-45-hour layaway for kidney recipients, 12-24 for pancreas, but only three-four hours for heart transplants. Size is an important criteria also. In Mark's case, "He was a big boy — he was 5-feet-9 and weighed about 160 pounds. There was no one on the list that he matched," Pietrowski said.

Actors stage jail and bail-out fund-raiser



Brought before magistrate Ralph Varatko by Keystone cop Al Hubbs, vagrant Billy Field begs Carrio Hall to bail him out of the Great American Lockup slammer.

All the world is indeed a stage for a dedicated group of Metro Detroit actors and actresses.

Tuesday, Aug. 14, during the press and VIP preview for American Cancer Society's Great American Lockup, that stage will include the Tally Hall food emporium in Farmington Hills.

The group, according to entertainment chairwoman Barbara McIntosh of Affiliated Models, includes Actors Guild members Al Hubbs, Mark Belzman, Billy Field, Carrie Hall, Linda Hurd, Emily Schreiber and Linda Varatko.

The preview is an evening extravaganza that will kick off four days of "jail" and "bail" fund raising with live music, fashion shows, auctions and gourmet eating experiences.

"While prominent Oakland County citizens are 'bailing' themselves out of the Tally Hall slammer by phoning friends for donations to the American Cancer Society," McIntosh said, "the professionals will play 'jail' and 'bail' roles as magistrate, Keystone cop, prisoner and assorted TV and Hollywood look-alikes."

Great American Lockup chairwoman, Dolly Chasler Schiciano reports that a limited number of reservations for the VIP and press preview are still available.

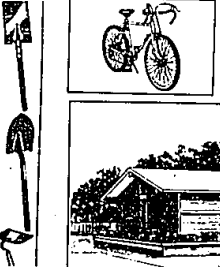
"We invite friends of the American Cancer Society who want to join the media personalities and local celebrities who will be there," she says, "to call 557-5553 for reservations."

Schiciano explains that the \$25 donation will include complimentary food and refreshments at Tally Hall's 30-odd restaurants.

"And of course," she emphasizes, "guests will also have the opportunity to 'jail' each other to benefit the American Cancer Society."

Proceeds from the preview and the public "jailing" events Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday will support the society's programs in research, education, and patient services.

Wednesday's lockup schedule is 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday's and Saturday's is 12 noon to 8 p.m. Friday's is 12 noon to 12 midnight.



OUTDOOR REPLACEMENT CUSHIONS
From **\$7.95**

JIMMIES RUSTICS
LIVONIA 522-9300 BIRMINGHAM 644-1919
29100 W. Six Mile 221 Hamilton

Gem Carpet 532-8080
& Furniture Cleaners
All Work Guaranteed

DEEP STEAM SHAMPOO
RINSE & EXTRACTION
Living Room or Family Room & Hall.....
Additional Rooms.....
Furniture Cleaning

One Room Anti-Soil FREE
\$24.95
\$12.00 EACH
FAMILY OWNED
LICENSED & INSURED

7-Up • Like Barrelhead
Crush • Ice Tea
Hawallan Punch
Canada Dry

6 12 oz. Cans **\$1.69** DOW
2 Litre Bottle **\$1.79** DOW
Good Aug. 9-Aug. 15

DISCOUNT POP
32434 Grand River
477-6479
15348 Middlebelt
N. of 5 Mile
421-5870

The spine and nervous system are closely associated with the total health pattern of the individual.

When the spinal vertebrae are in proper alignment they form a flexible tubular column allowing the free flow of energy to every part of the body.

TOOMA CHIROPRACTIC clinic

Dr. E.S. Tooma
Dr. Greg Wolgat

28455 Southfield Rd., Lathrup Village
559-2959

THE FARMINGTON INDUSTRIAL CLINIC IS
Pleased to Announce the expansion of its medical services...
Now Available with our:

WALK-IN URGENT CARE CENTER

THE FULL SERVICE MEDICAL CENTER...
AND IT'S RIGHT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

COMMON TYPES OF URGENT CARE INJURIES:

- ☐ COLD, FLU
- ☐ LACERATIONS
- ☐ FRACTURES
- ☐ RASHES, BURNS
- ☐ STRAINS, SPRAINS

SPECIALTY APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE IN:

- ☐ OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY
- ☐ ORTHOPEDICS
- ☐ NEUROLOGY
- ☐ INTERNAL MEDICINE
- ☐ FAMILY PRACTICE
- ☐ PHYSICAL THERAPY

BRING IN THIS ADVERTISEMENT
FOR 1/2 OFF YOUR OFFICE VISIT

38215 W. 10 Mile Road
Farmington Hills • 478-1616

HOURS: Mon. Thru Fri. 7 am - 10 pm Sat. 9 - 5 pm
Located in the Freeway Medical Plaza

BERGSTROM'S The Energy Experts
Established Since 1927
Sale Expires August 20, 1984

Service
where service is coupled with unsurpassed technical expertise

The Successor Round One
The High Efficiency choice for Central Air Conditioning - New and replacement
From **\$973.00**
2 Ton on replacement for existing systems.
From **\$1777.00**
2 Ton on new installations.
9+ B.E.E.R.

The "Golden Round"
Michigan Heat Pump
Top-Quality, Super High-Efficiency Heat Pump
From **\$2195.00**
2 Ton Deluxe Heat Pump installed and Operating "After Rebate"

The WEATHERMASTER® III
Carrier's finest heat pump line. S.E.E.R. ratings as high as 11.85.
For People Who Want The Best

CARRIER WINDOW AIR CONDITIONER
33 Models Available
5,000 to 35,000 BTUs
For People Who Demand The Best
From **\$219.95**
#51KPA

FREE ESTIMATES Call 427-6092 Financing Available

HONEYWELL 24 Volt Thermostat \$109.95 Reg. \$119.95 T-2222	25% Off All Duct Pipe and Fitting	Honeywell Chronotherm \$79.95 Reg. \$99.95 T-2222 Heating Only	40 GALLON Gas Water Heater \$144.95 Reg. \$172.95 Some day Installation Available	A.O. SMITH WATER HEATER \$289.95 Reg. \$349.95 Free day Installation
24 Volt Thermostat \$99.95 Reg. \$119.95 T-2222	CARRIER Heat Pump \$89.95 Reg. \$144.95 24 Volt	HONEYWELL T-2222 CHRONOTHERM \$59.95 Reg. \$79.95 HEATING ONLY	ELECTRIC AIR CLEANER \$259.95 Reg. \$479.95 22" x 24" x 14"	amortherm \$199.95 Reg. \$249.95 24" x 24" x 14"
Do-It-Yourself CARRIER HIGH EFFICIENCY Air Conditioning \$349.95 Reg. \$694.95 2 Ton on replacement	Now HEAT MAKER Boiler 87% AND REPLACES YOUR HOT WATER HEATER	Now Taking Orders on CARRIER'S NEW 90% EFFICIENCY FURNACE	CARRIER Deluxe Furnace \$359.95 Reg. \$633.00 75000 BTU Electronic Spark ignition Clean burner controls in 10 minutes savings	Do-It-Yourself CARRIER Furnace \$359.95 Reg. \$633.00 75000 BTU Electronic Spark ignition Clean burner controls in 10 minutes savings