

Mouth-to-Mouth Resuscitation Keeps Nicki Alive

3 Men Outrace Death, Save Tiny Girl

By ANN SHAW
A jagged bolt of lightning flashed out of the sky, struck down little Nicki Smith, 5, and left her for dead.
She lay motionless, her pulse gone.
But three men—a neighbor, a State Trooper, and a fire chief—raced death and did the impossible.
They saved her life.
Nicole Smith, 5, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Smith,

of Canton Township, was knocked down by a bolt of lightning a month ago that stopped her pulse and breathing.
Three men, Stanley Gould, State Trooper Roger Simmons and Assistant Fire Chief, in Canton Township, Lawrence Longwish saved her by giving her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
Today, four weeks later, she's on her way to a full recovery.

"It was a muggy evening," Mrs. Smith recalls. "and we had been sitting on the porch. Ken was mowing the yard, and when I heard the thunder, I called the kids inside."
"Then we both heard a loud crack. I thought it was Ken. I wasn't concerned about Nicki because I thought she was inside."
"We both ran to the backyard and she was just lying

there, limp and paralyzed with her arms and legs crossed. We thought we had lost her."
Mrs. Smith's screams scared 58-year-old Gould, who was working in his garden across the street. Gould ran into Smith's yard, carried Nicki into the house, laid her on the couch and began to fight to save her.
Gould, employed by the Wayne County Road Commission, had only read a few times about artificial respiration—he had

never tried it.
"Well, there were a lot of people standing around. A lot of them thought she was dead. I just couldn't give up that easily."
The awful sight of her stiff and quiet daughter had sent Mrs. Smith into shock.
Some one was calling ambulances. Someone else, the Township Fire Department. Another call was made to the Michigan State Police Department.

Could kept trying to keep his little neighbor alive.
Longwish and five others came with the manual resuscitator. It was too big for Nicki's little face. Longwish relieved Gould, and started giving the child his own breath.
"You never know how long in a situation like that, but probably in 10 minutes or so, the State Trooper came," Gould

said.
Simmons and Longwish then alternated in their efforts to put life back into her.
The ambulance came, and Simmons and Longwish continued, as they lifted the child into the carrier, to give her artificial respiration. In the 12-mile race to Wayne County General, Longwish and Simmons continued in their fight.
When they got to the emergency door, three doctors were there to meet her.

Then her right arm seemed okay. Her left arm would be tied down for intravenous feeding another week, but her leg and arm movements seem remarkable.
She didn't recognize her mommy and daddy at first, but gradually, slowly, after two and a half weeks, she cried when they went home one day.
So, she had remembered them. "I was never so happy to hear her cry," Mrs. Smith said, almost laughing and crying at the same time.

No one recalls exactly what happened next.
Mrs. Smith regained consciousness in the ambulance. Longwish and Simmons waited a while outside, then went into the emergency room. Longwish said:

DOCTORS WERE amazed, Gould thanks the Good Lord, and the Smiths think it must be a miracle that a little five-year-old girl is making great strides toward recovery.

Brighton Tent Show Recalls Era Of Familiar 19th Century Scenes

"Today the show people have forgotten their audience. The old timers put on shows for their audience and never forgot them."
That's one man's opinion and he has taken steps to have the actors remember the audience.

Dramatic Tent Show on Old Grand River, just west of Brighton.
That's right, a tent show.
The Michigan show, is one of two left in the country.
Calling the show as "American as apple

pie," Rosier emphasizes that it is not a circus, carnival, musical tent theatre or Little Theatre, but a dramatic tent show.

His current occupation is the major domo of The Rosier Players Old Time pie. Rosier emphasizes that it is not a circus, carnival, musical tent theatre or Little Theatre, but a dramatic tent show.

ORIGINS OF THESE shows can be traced back to the 19th century America. The movement flourished until the advent

of "talking" pictures when the need for entertainment in small towns lagged.

In the old days the tent shows took to the road during the summer months and traveled throughout the country. The stay in each town lasted about a week and the repertoire included vaudeville acts and a collection of plays.

The movement had some similarity to the better known Chautauqua Shows of the time, but the tent shows were concerned only with the legitimate stage.

In Chautauqua the idea was a kind of traveling summer school. The emphasis might be on drama one night, but the next night the program was likely to be a lecture on either the arts or a current social problem. In addition, Chautauqua frequently featured a revival meeting complete with a fire 'n' brimstone preacher.

NOT SO in the tent shows. The plays presented by these companies were usually strictly entertaining and not meant to be thought-provoking or deal with controversial issues. One of the exceptions to this rule was "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

The plays were billed as "suitable for the entire family" and this was adhered to by all the traveling shows.

This is one point that Rosier stresses in the current productions. He asserts: "The plays that we present will probably never win any prizes for their literary content, they will be presented for their entertainment value and with the entire family in mind. This way you can enjoy an evening's entertainment in the same way that Americans have for the last 150 years."

Rosier appears in most of the productions as the Toby character. About 1910 many of the tent shows began using a red haired comedian in some of the plays and his name "Toby" began to catch on.

The part became so well liked by the American people, especially in the rural areas, that many managers began reviving their plays to include a Toby character whether the play called for the part or not.

It wasn't long before the public began calling them "Toby" shows. This is probably the closest thing America has to "Folk" theatre.

The Rosier Players present the plays as near as possible to the time in which they were written. They will also feature vaudeville numbers between acts in addition to the regular plays.

Schedule Of Events

Plays scheduled for this summer's season in the Rosier Players Tent Theatre include:
HIGH AND MIGHTY—July 17 through 20. A small town setting of 1898 with characters that are not too much different than you would meet today.

TAMED AND HOW—July 24-27, July 31, Aug. 1-3. First played in the early 1920's, the play has an unusual approach to a family problem.

MR. PEPPER'S PEPPER UPPER—Aug. 7-10, Aug. 14-17. A typical Toby comedy, this is a chance to see those fantastic fabricators of foolishness in action.

THE LITTLE DIPPER—Aug. 21-24, Aug. 29-31. An original musical in folk style, the story is set in a small fishing village in New England.

Curtain time for the shows is 8:30 p.m. with the box office opening at 7:30 p.m. The tent show is located in the History Town area just west of Brighton on old Grand River.



AN OLD TIME TENT SHOW—The only one of its kind in the State, the Rosier Players Tent Show is housed in this tent on Old Grand River

just west of Brighton. The scene brings back memories of the turn of the century when such shows were in their heyday.



TOBY—Harold Rosier has perfected the comic role of Toby over the years. He will be seen in most of this season's productions.



JACK OF ALL TRADES—As major domo the duties are varied. In addition to appearing on stage, Harold Rosier "sees to" many details. Here he puts up the banner in front of the tent.



A MAGICIAN—Waunetta Rosier has been appearing on the stage since she was 14. One of the few professional lady magicians in the country, she appears as leading lady in some of the shows.

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