

Study of cornea advances science

Some of the most interesting accomplishments in eye research have resulted from study of the cornea—the transparent membrane at the front of the eye which acts as a protective window and helps to bend and focus light rays.

Approximately 10 per cent of the blindness in the United States is due to corneal disease. The causes of such blindness range from bacteria, fungus and virus infections to allergic reaction, nerve impairment, improper moistening and covering by the eyelids and degenerative disorders.

When corneal diseases or injuries are not treated promptly, the cornea may become scarred or opaque, blocking the passage of light and resulting in impaired vision or blindness.

In many cases, however, sight loss through corneal disease can be restored by replacing the diseased tissue with a healthy cornea. The whole eye is not replaced, only the cornea, and this procedure is useful only for visual impairment due to corneal damage. Corneal transplantation is the most successful of all transplant operations.

DONOR CORNEAS are taken post-

humously from people who arrange before death for the donation of their eyes for this purpose.

A few years ago a scientist working under a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) developed a process for dehydrating and preserving corneas. However, this preserved tissue could only be used for lamellar or partial-thickness transplants.

Approximately half of all corneal transplant operations require full thickness transplants for which, until recently, fresh tissue was essential.

Now, in a procedure developed with support from the National Eye Institute (NEI), a component of the National Institutes of Health, corneas can be frozen by reducing the temperature at a precisely controlled rate to minus 190 degrees Fahrenheit.

This preserves the corneal tissue for an indefinite period of time and enables it to be used for full thickness transplants, greatly extending the potential for corneal transplantation.

DESPITE THE HIGH rate of success with corneal transplants, some grafts are rejected by the body. An NEI study is attempting to learn whether the success rate of corneal

transplantation can be improved by matching donors and recipients, just as blood donors and recipients are matched.

With many kinds of corneal disease where transplants are used, tissue matching is not critical. The normal cornea does not have a blood supply and this situation is also true in certain disease conditions.

However, in diseases where blood vessels infiltrate the cornea and circulating antibodies are introduced,

the transplanted tissue is usually rejected. The NEI investigation may make it possible to extend the benefits of corneal transplantation to many victims of corneal disease who were previously poor candidates for this procedure.

Another current NEI study is an evaluation of the use of hydrophilic or soft contact lenses in treating corneal disease. This is aimed at investigating whether the soft lenses can help alleviate the pain associated with corneal disease and can improve vision which has been impaired by such conditions.

Young JCC dancers in 14th Spring Concert

The 14th annual Young Dancer's Guild "Spring Concert" will open at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, May 11 at the Aaron De Roy Theatre of the Jewish Community Center in Detroit.

Many of the young dancers live in Oakland County.

Jan Donaldson, Donna Katzman, Cynthia Lapp and Susan Rexford live in Birmingham.

From Southfield are dancers: Susan Blum, Susan Cohen, Miriam Foner, Karen Freedland, Carolyn Rosenberg and Francis Sebenick.

Debra Cortright, Karen Epstein, Jody Levine, Debbie Silverman and Irene Swerdlow are from Oak Park.

Detroit dancers are Allison Cockburn and Carolyn Keith.

General admission tickets for the concert are just \$1.50 and students and JCC members will pay just \$1.

Fashion Calendar

LUNCHEON SHOWS
Thursdays
By Montgomery Wards at Ted's, Pontiac Mall
By Brayton's at Bloomfield Canopy

Fridays
By Alvin's at BeBell's, Bloomfield Hills
By Clair Kelly at the Roman Terrace

Tuesdays
By Alvin's at the Cooper's Arms, Rochester.
By Brayton's at Duffy's, Union Lake.
By Clair Kelly at the Roman Terrace.

Monday-Friday
By individual stores at Benno's on the Mall and Schraft's Restaurant.

Author talks alcoholism

Jack B. Weiner, author of the book, "The Morning After" which was recently dramatized on ABC television starring Dick Van Dyke, will be guest speaker at the annual meeting of the National Council on Alcoholism—Greater Detroit Area on Tuesday.

A recovered alcoholic with a background as a professional speech writer, Weiner is committed to removing the social stigma which deters many alcoholics from recognizing and seeking help for their illness.

The luncheon meeting will take place at 6:00 p.m. in the Sentinel Center, 2211 E. Jefferson at the corner of Chene in Detroit.

A non-fiction book, tentatively titled "Alcoholism in America: A Personal Inquiry" is currently being researched and written by Weiner. Non-technical in treatment, it will deal with the human

Area doctor gets award

An area physician is slated to receive one of three meritorious awards of the Michigan Diabetes Association at its annual dinner meeting Wednesday at Oakland Community College in Farmington.

Named to receive the association's highest award is Dr. Kathryn L. O'Connor of Birmingham, a founder of Camp Midolca, Michigan's only camp for children with diabetes.

Guest speakers at the meeting will be Dr. Richard Guthrie, renowned pediatrician in diabetes research at the University of Kansas.

Dinner reservations may be obtained by writing to the Michigan Diabetes Association, 6131 West Outer Drive, Detroit 48235 or by calling 342-9333.

'Oldest' man weds in 48th District

Morris Lesser, 75, of Southfield became the oldest person ever married in 48th District Court in Bloomfield Hills when he married Mary Robbins, also of Southfield, Thursday (May 2).

The couple was married in the chambers of Judge Gus Cifelli, who performed the ceremony. The bride, an interior decorator, had decorated the judge's chambers when they were remodeled.

The couple will live in Southfield.

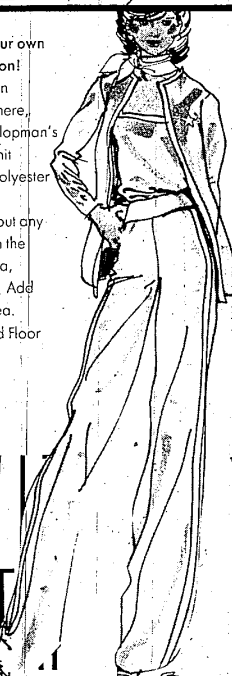
STORE HOURS: Monday through Saturday 10:00 to 6:00 Thursday and Friday 10:00 to 9:00
CALL (313) 643-8700

Bonwit's toasts spring with bubbles of white and brown! Ah, the shirtdress, done smashing by Donlé, in wonderfully carefree, light-as-can-be polyester and in the colors of a bubbly champagne toast with bright white! This has contrasting toast with white dotted collar; cuffs and kabuki sash. For 8 to 16 sizes, 78.00 Add 1.35 outside delivery area. Sportswear, First Floor Bonwit Teller 2701 Somerset Mall Call 643-8700



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Bonwit's says: Make your own energy, put our brights on! Clovis Ruffin's pajamas in sky-lighting-up colors—here, a yummy yellow—and Klopman's Alluressa™, a textured knit of 100% Dacron® Vili polyester... absolutely the most energizing way to step out on where this summer! With the little star, Ruffin's insignia, for 5 to 13 sizes, 68.00 Add 1.35 outside delivery area. Miss Bonwit Jr.'s Second Floor Bonwit Teller 2701 Somerset Mall Call 643-8700



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Bonwit's is pulling out those fabulous spots! Separates have always been the most nonstop way to go, travel or play! Here, in freewheelin' dots: the reversible skirt in navy, white-dotted cotton and rayon that flips to red, 26.00 with white polyester T-shirt, 16.00 By Evan-Picone, for 6 to 14 sizes. Add 1.35 outside delivery area. Sportswear, First Floor Bonwit Teller 2701 Somerset Mall Call 643-8700



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