



Dr. Wendell Gray (left) and Dr. Sri Ram examine the thumb they reimplanted on Richard Brovage of Troy.

Thumb replant a success

Richard Brovage of Troy can't wait to give the "thumbs-up" sign again.

When he does, Brovage, 38, will be using the first, successfully reimplanted thumb in Michigan.

Brovage lost his right thumb in an industrial accident June 3. But doctors at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak were able to reattach the thumb through microsurgery.

"To my knowledge, this was the first successful thumb replantation in Michigan," explained Dr. Robert Pool of Birmingham, chief of plastic surgery at Beaumont.

THE SURGERY was performed by Dr. Sri Ram of Birmingham, plastic surgeon at Beaumont; and Dr. Wendell Gray, chief resident in plastic surgery at the Cleveland Clinic, who is at Beaumont on a joint training program.

Dr. Pool termed the operation "feminously successful" due to the

work of Ram and Gray in microsurgery. In Brovage's case, the repaired blood vessels were one millimeter in diameter, Pool said.

Microsurgery, performed under magnification with a microscope and magnifying loop, is a new field of surgery, Dr. Pool added.

"It was practically impossible ten years ago," he explained.

Brovage said he was loading long sheets of engine covers (formed tin) onto a skid atop a waist-high steel box. As Brovage pushed a stack of these weighing several hundred pounds toward the front of the skid, they fell off the skid onto his thumb at the edge of the box and severed it.

"It felt like a pinch," Brovage said. "I didn't even know it was off. A woman started screaming. My thumb was gone, and I didn't even know where it was. I don't know who got it for me."

DURING THE examination in Beaumont's Emergency Center and surgery, Brovage said, "I was aware of what they were doing, but I couldn't watch them. I was half gone and not aware of time."

Brovage said he is confident about being able to go back to work "and make a living." He wants to return to work as soon as he can.

Brovage owns two cars and enjoys tinkering with them, especially a 1969 Nova which he is converting into a race car. He attended Troy High School, where he took shop and mechanical classes.

Brovage lives with his mother, Mrs. Delores Brovage, at 2130 E. Big Beaver. She is employed at M&R Plastics in Troy. He has two sisters and three brothers: Karen, 17, Mark, 13, who attends Baker Middle School; and Christopher, 12, Maureen, 8, and William, 6, all at Big Beaver Elementary.

Awards given to students

BIRMINGHAM — Trophies in recognition of outstanding citizenship, character, leadership potential and service to others were awarded to sixth grade students in all Birmingham elementary schools recently.

The awards are given annually by the Birmingham Junior Women's Club to the outstanding sixth grade boy and girl in each school. On some occasions, joint awards are given.

Winners were: Adams School — Ann McKenzie and Charlotte Lilioi; David Buck and James Proctor; Beverly School — Paula Cotter and Mark Stuart; Bingham Farms School — Elizabeth Brown and David Gorcey.

OTHERS ARE: Evergreen School — Elizabeth Allan and Jay Tilson; Franklin School — Nancy Soan and Greg Sweda; Greenfield School — Mary Kay Swetich and Michael Evangelides; Harlan School — Janice Huang and Martin Leicht.

Winners from Meadowlake School are Mary Eberhart and John Altman; Midvale School — Christine Billington and Eric Meade; Pembroke School — Stephanie Bishop and Gary Longe; Pierce School — Sandra Gibson.

Student gets scholarship

Paul G. Wyckoff, 1259 Puritan, Birmingham, has been awarded a Macalester College Merit Scholarship. He joins more than 3,300 winners of merit scholarships named nationwide in April and early May.

A cum laude graduate of Cranbrook School, Wyckoff is the recipient of a National Presbyterian College Scholarship. His activities include singing with the school band and choir, playing intramural basketball, and bicycling.

He plans to major in social science in college. The amount of his annual stipend is determined by the sponsoring institution and is based on family financial circumstances and the costs of attending the college.

Council elects directors

OAKLAND COUNTY—The Greater Detroit Safety Council, has elected three Oakland County men to serve as officers of its board of directors for the coming year.

The new Oakland County resident officers include: • Benjamin J. Cieslik of 368 Willow Tree Lane, Rochester, has been elected secretary. He serves as safety director of General Motors Corp.;

• Neil McCallum of 24197 Twin Valley Court, Farmington, has been elected treasurer. McCallum is safety director of Chrysler Corp.;

• Hugh C. McChesney of 2602 Graythorne Trail, Farmington, will serve as vice president. McChesney is em-

played as safety director at Detroit Edison Co.

The organization's newly elected president is Emil G. McDonald Jr. of Port Huron, superintendent of personnel, warehouse and delivery, J. L. Hudson Co.

City approves school notes

The Municipal Finance Commission has approved \$7-million of tax anticipation notes for the Birmingham School District.

Proceeds from the notes will be used to operate the school district until the December tax collection.

Some of the governmental units

The Greater Detroit Safety Council is a non-profit, non-governmental chartered chapter of the National Safety Council, striving to prevent accidents to people and equipment in the five county areas of Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne.

within the school district will collect taxes in July as well as December but not enough to provide necessary funds for the first six months of the school fiscal year.

The tax anticipation notes are dated July 1, 1974, to be due March 31, 1975, and will carry a maximum interest rate of six percent per annum.

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