

Returning to life one day at a time

By Joanne Whittaker
staff writer

ON JUNE 25, 1978, Kelly Morrison was pronounced clinically dead. Now, six years later, though she is severely multiply impaired, Kelly attends school, chooses her own friends, and has such strong opinions about fashion that her mother says she wouldn't dare shop for the 12-year-old without Kelly at her side.

"When you consider all that has happened," says Kelly's mother, Sue Morrison, "six years doesn't seem a very long time."

The Morrison family lifestyle was changed forever that day six years ago when Kelly, just three days out of kindergarten, either jumped or fell into a swimming pool.

The Morrison family was visiting an Ann Arbor family, recalls Mrs. Morrison. While she was putting her younger son Craig to sleep, she said, the Ann Arbor family's 7-year-old son took Kelly to look at a neighborhood pool.

A few minutes later, when she asked about Kelly's whereabouts, the family's 4-year-old told her brother and Kelly had gone to the pool. The Morrisons rushed to the pool where they found Kelly drowning.

Sue Morrison pulled her daughter from the pool and began administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation. It's not known how long Kelly was under water, she says, but Kelly's heart had stopped beating and the oxygen to her brain had been cut off, injuring brain cells.

NO ONE, INCLUDING herself, the emergency medical personnel, and, later, the doctors at Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, was able to revive Kelly's heartbeat, says Morrison. She recalls, however, that she reacted violently when an intern suggested taking Kelly off the artificial respirator.

"Then, a few minutes later—I'm not clear what it was—they decided to move her to the intensive care unit rather than the morgue."

Four days later, Kelly didn't need the respirator, she was breathing on her own, her eyes opened and she moved her foot and hand on command.

Improvements, says Sue Morrison, have been significant in the ensuing years, though not necessarily steady. Sometimes Kelly regressed to an even worse state, as she did on the eighth day after the accident. Kelly lost her sight, hearing and all feeling. Her tiny body went rigid, her arms and legs bent at the joints, Morrison said.

Four years later, on March 10, 1982, Kelly had a seizure, a reaction to penicillin prescribed for a case of bronchitis.

"We almost lost her," says Morrison. "It was the first time I thought that she had given up."

Still, the improvement has been significant. At 9, Kelly was able to see, hear and understand. She had regained her balance as well as a sense of touch. At the time her mother said that, although Kelly couldn't grip objects, she was able to move her fingers individually, and while she was not yet walking, Kelly could move her arms and legs. In

April, 1981, Morrison said Kelly's brain, swollen since the accident, had returned to normal size.

Now, age 12, the child, who her mother said "looked like an open casket at first," is not only physically presentable, she is developing discernible physical beauty. Kelly's 5-foot-5-inch frame, at 57 pounds, is slim as a reed. "She doesn't have the muscle that the rest of us have," says Morrison, adding that Kelly's growth is otherwise virtually normal.

MORRISON ATTRIBUTES the improvement in her daughter to patterning, a routine of stretching, crawling and hanging suspended from the ceiling by the ankles, which was designed for the child by physiotherapists at the Center for Neurological Rehabilitation in Philadelphia.

The patterning, Morrison said, has been carried out all these years by a small army of volunteers made up of students, working couples, parents of Kelly's former classmates, and one 70-year-old woman "who has stuck with us all along."

The routine, says Morrison, has Kelly up and breakfasted by 8:45 a.m. By 7:30 a.m. she is doing exercises and at 8 the volunteers arrive. "Usually the patterning sessions take about 20 minutes," says Morrison. "There is a person on every limb and her head. They move her in a crawling position."

The plan was to manipulate Kelly's body, her mother explained, in the hope that it would send messages to the child's brain so that it would take over.

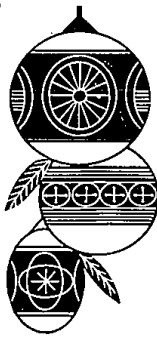
Following thousands of hours of therapy, repeated every morning and evening, six days each week, in the Morrison home, Kelly's body has responded appreciably.

Her arms are fully extended, Kelly is reading — "She chooses the books and has two or three going at once," says Morrison — and she attends school three days of the week at the Einstein Center in Oak Park. She also attends an art class each week at the FAAR Conservatory in Birmingham, and her mother, a teacher, is tutoring Kelly in math and science at home.

Morrison said that Kelly is able to understand everything that goes on around her. Though she is still not able to talk, Kelly is able to indicate positive and negative responses and is able to use a message board.

In 1981 Kelly was enrolled in the Einstein Center, a special care facility in Oak Park which draws its 93 students from adjacent communities, after several other schools the Morrisons tried failed to meet Kelly's special needs because they were inexperienced with trauma victims.

Please turn to Next Page



ORCHARD-10 IGA
24085 Orchard Lake Rd.
Mon.-Fri. 9-9
Sat. 8-9 Sun. 9-5

DOUBLE COUPON

ORCHARD - 10 gives you 100% more on all (cents off) manufacturer's coupons up to and including 50¢ face value. Other retailers and free coupons excluded. Limit 1 coupon for any one product. Coupon plus 100% bonus cannot exceed price of the item. All clear coupons of face value. Offer in effect now through Sunday, Dec. 16, 1984.

IGA TABLETTE "Fresh"

Whole Fryers

49¢ Lb.

Cut-up Fryers 59¢ lb. Limit 4 please

Coca Cola Reg. & Diet
Caffeine Free, Tab, Sprite
8 Pk. 1/2 Liter

\$1.79

+ Deposit

IGA TABLETTE

Loin End

Pork Roast

\$1.59 Lb.

Pink Florida

Grapefruit

\$1.59

5 Lb. Bag

IGA TABLETTE

"Fresh" Large

Roasters

59¢ Lb.

Regular or Stuffed

FAME

32 Oz. BAG

Powdered

Sugar

79¢

or

Light Brown, Dark Brown

HYGRADE MEAT

Ball Park

Franks

1 Lb. Pkg.

\$1.49

BANQUET

Dinners

Beef Enchilada, Chicken, Western

Salsbury Steak, Turkey, Mexican Style

Beans & Franks or Meat Loaf

10.25 to 12 Oz.

75¢

FAME

2% Low Fat

Milk

\$1.79

IGA TABLETTE

Center Cut Rib

Pork Chops

\$1.79 Lb.

Ideal Christmas Gift

Set of 3

Stack Tables

\$69.95

16" Square, 15" High

Available In:

Maple, Oak and Pine

Limited Quantities

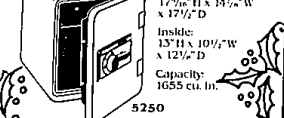
Ebenezer

2180 Grand River St. W. of Orchard Lake Rd. (Farmington Plaza)

M & H 10-8:30 T.W.F.S. 10-5:30 477-4776

The fire safe that bolts to the floor

Sentry supreme safe



We proudly introduce the Model 5250

Sentry Supreme Safe. Special system for

bolt-down installation to concrete or

wood floors. Fire and theft resistant for

protection of your important files, docu-

ments and other irreplaceable valuables.

Since any fire safe protects the contents

during only one severe exposure to fire,

Sentry Supreme Safes include a ten-year

after-fire replacement guarantee.

Features Include:

□ 3-number change-

able combination lock

□ hardened steel plate

to protect lock

mechanism

□ shrouded dial for

privacy while you dial

combination

□ four fire locking bolts

□ key lock valuables

drawer

Reg. \$152 ONLY \$89.95

Let us show you how affordable peace-of-mind

protection can be. Stop in for a demonstration.

Sentry safes

Redford Office Products, Inc.

29199 W. 6 Mile • Livonia

Just E. of Middlebelt

522-8050

Gent Carpet 532-8080
& Furniture Cleaners
All Work Guaranteed
DEEP STEAM Shampoo
Rinso and Extraction
Living Room or Family Room
& Hall Reg. price \$29.95
With this ad \$24.95
Additional Rooms each \$15.00
With this ad \$12.95
15 years
in your area
FAMILY OWNED
LICENSED & INSURED

DATA PROCESSING PROBLEMS?
Our successful data processing service
personnel can contact a small/medium
size manufacturer located in western
Michigan.
Our data processing service offered
at much lower price than rental payments.
computer rental, etc.
L. LANGFORD 937-1180

December Specials
Color Foam Perms
\$16.95 & up
all week
PERMS \$16.95
Protein Builder
for hair \$2.95
complete
TINTS
\$16.95
complete
HAIRSETS \$11.95
PRECISION HAIRCUTS \$9.95
Special Citizen Sale • Mon., Tues., 7-7
Ann's Hair Design
29249 Rayburn • Livonia
(5 Mile & Middlebelt) • around corner from 7-11
Sat. 9-5 Open Every Evening
422-9592

CHINA FAIR
RESTAURANT
京華酒家
COCKTAILS
OPEN 7 DAYS
Monday thru Thursday
11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
11:00 a.m.-Midnight
Sun., Noon-10:00 p.m.
Carryout Available
42313 W. Seven Mile
Northville
(Northville Plaza Mall)
349-0441
OPEN ON
Christmas & New Year's Day
NEW DAILY SPECIALS
Monday through Friday
11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Features: Soup of the Day
Lunch Combination Platu
Tea or Coffee
Complimentary "Crab Macau"
A new tasty Appetizer for anyone
who orders a sit-down Lunch

attic theatre Present
CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD
A PLAY BY MARK MEDOFF
DIRECTED BY LAVINIA MOYER
at the
NEW CENTER THEATRE
Third Ave. and W. Grand Blvd.
(across the Parking Lot from the Fisher Theatre)
December 14-January 13
Thurs. and Fri. 8 p.m.
Sat. 5:30 & 9 p.m.
Sun. 6:30 p.m.
Reserved Seats
963-7789
BEST PLAY 1980
Winner 3 Tony Awards
FULLY SIGNED PERFORMANCES
by Mary Wells or John Ray
TDI - (313) 855-0560
\$149
The Beauty of the Human Mind is the Power of the Imagination.

HOLIDAY SPECIAL
(expires 12-25-84)
Lose 20, 30, Up To 50 Lbs.
FOR ONE LOW PRICE!
No Hidden Costs
ALL Programs Include:
*Individual Plans for Men, Women & Adolescents
*Vitamin & Mineral Supplements
*Individual Counseling in Behavior Modification
*Stabilization and Maintenance
Doctors & Nurses on Staff to Guarantee Success
JOIN NOW AND SAVE
WEIGHT
MEDICAL
CENTER
INC.
CALL TODAY FOR YOUR
FREE CONSULTATION:
SOUTHFIELD 559-2272