

October 15, 1999

Mr. David Hurley -

Sorry about my delay in writing you. — I forgot.

I was a victim of the World War polio epidemic. For two years following the onset of this illness (in 1914) the rest of me grew into a normal child while my paralyzed left leg remained bent — a dangling shriveled version of a two-year-old appendage. During these two years I experienced extensive travel — from pillar to post literally — as my parents besought specialists for a medical reprieve from my destiny as a cripple. The verdict from the U.S. Medical Clinic at Ann Arbor, as from all the other, specialists was the same: cut the cord and the leg will hang; leave it alone and the foot will never touch the ground. Their only guarantee was that I would be a cripple — and this I already was. Hence — no surgery.

It was at this point — I was now four — that my father learned



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of an old brother at Notre Dame — a cobbler who made shoes for the religious community and for cripples in the area who needed special supports. He was said to have a supernatural devotion to the Sacred Heart and there were known to have been "some cures".

My next trip, of course, was to his workshop behind the Golden Home. The room was filled with the crutches and braces of persons who had been cured after Brother had prayed for them.

His were the first positive words my parents had heard in more than two years. Brother Columba patted my head and said simply: "The little girl will be all right".... He suggested since there had been no growth in more than two years, that I be taken to a chiropractor in Lansing to have the leg stretched until it got to be the length of the other one.

As my father lifted me onto the seat of the train back to Lansing he noticed that my left leg was so

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longer bent. It was shorter, but it  
being normally like its mate. My  
visits to the chiropractor, lasted less  
than a year.

Jean Perrin (Schwartz) Donohue

p.s. I'm probably the only person you  
know who doesn't have a word processor  
or working typewriter - Sorry!

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