

Aggie Daughter Called Miracle Child

By JUDY FRANKLIN
Battalion Special Writer

They call her the miracle child. Kimberly Badgett, daughter of A&M students, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Badgett and one of the 1966 Easter Seal Children for Brazos County, is a "miracle" after surpassing all expectations since her birth in 1960, when doctors told her parents she had only three weeks to live. Handicapped with spina bifida — a crippling condition in which one or more of the individual bones of the backbone fail to close completely, leaving the cleft or defect in the spinal canal — Kim began her "fight" to live.

Her mother, Wanda, explains that the little girl's condition was later worsened by a severe case of myelomeningocele. (The sac on her back began seeping fluid.) Doctors at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston then told the Badgetts Kim wouldn't live.

However, she did miraculously survive, and this was the first of her miracles. Physicians reported it was the most severe case they had seen to survive.

Her parents rushed Kim back to the hospital when she was six months old because the sac had greatly enlarged and ruptured. Mrs. Badgett comments that her daughter had gone into a coma, and spinal meningitis set in.

"We . . . had to 'beg' the neurosurgeons to operate on her," she adds.

Taking "the very small chance they felt she had to survive surgery," she says they operated, and — much to everyone's surprise — the operation was successful. Kim went home, but had to return again four months later.

Because too much spinal fluid had collected within the skull, her head size had increased slightly more than normal. She returned to have shunt surgery, which involves inserting a nylon tube from the head to the heart to drain excess spinal fluid.

Doctors' prognosis was that this would help for one year at the most. Instead, "the miracle child's" shunt was successful for the next four and one half years. Mrs. Badgett explains that as far as they knew at John Sealy, this shunt lasted longer than any other for a child producing as much fluid.

Almost five years old, Kim came to the hospital for a minor bladder operation. However, this time she experienced severe complications from a heart failure. For the second time since birth, she was not expected to live. And, for a fourth time, she surprised them.

Her mother says only months later, after they couldn't arouse Kim one day, she was rushed back to the hospital, where doctors discovered she had outgrown her shunt, and it had slipped out of the heart. After opening her chest, surgeons found that calcium had deposited around the shunt in the jugular vein and a new one could not be inserted. However, they finally used a new method to insert the shunt, which was the first time ever done in Texas and had only been used seven times before.

The six-year-old girl now has parts of her "story" told in several medical textbooks and magazines. Kim's father, John, reports that she is thought to be such a "miracle" because of her remarkable post-operative recoveries, which incurred no brain damage.

Since her last surgery, she has been examined by the doctor who is head of the Spina Bifida Foundation and who came to Galveston from England for a forum on this crippling condition. He told the Badgetts he felt that with proper braces and leg surgery, Kim may someday walk with crutches.

Her father says she has very good arms. Although she is paralyzed from the breast down, Kim has taught herself to crawl by pulling with her arms and shoulders, to roll and to go up and down steps. Now she can swing, do chin-ups and ride on her father's bicycle. Wanda comments:

"Kim never questions why she can't walk. She knows she can't walk and she just accepts it."

A playmate asked Kim when she was two years old why.

"The angels," she replied, "told me not to." The Badgetts are now planning to send their daughter to Bible school next year, but are especially looking forward to next fall when Kim can go to public school.

Wanda says a psychologist in Galveston told her Kim will never have to worry about her social adaptations — only her ability to balance her writing. She adds that they never want their daughter to be a handicap to the other children and especially to her teacher.

In fact, Carolyn Lewis, Kim's pre-school teacher, sees her pupil now as "very determined not to make people feel sorry for her."

The six-year-old's father describes Kim as a "normal child." He explains that she gets into as much trouble as her younger brother and sister and gets the same amount of spankings.

The youngster chiefly likes Sunday school, day school, TV's Dr. Kildare and hillbilly music, rating "Won't You Come Home, Bill Bailey?" her No. 1 song.

Wanda reports that their daughter has been in "love" with Dr. Kildare for two years and she even plans to be a nurse when she gets older. Right now she likes to play hospital and "prepare" her sister for surgery.

Registered physical therapist John Birkner of the Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center says with her intelligence and will to do things, she can probably hold a job someday.

Looking ahead herself to her own future, Kim comments:

"I'm going to marry me one of those Aggies named Dr. Kildare."

"He's not an Aggie," her mother tells her. "Yes, he is," she retorts, "because he goes around saying 'Howdy' all the time."



EASTER SEAL GIRL AND PET
... Kimberly Badgett plays with dachshund



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grab bag

By Glenn Dromgoole

Almost everyone has their favorite tale about slips of the tongue on radio and television. There have even been books printed on the subject, but most of their contents are not reprintable in public media.

One of the most widely repeated yarns, which has been attributed to and may or may not have been said by Red Grange, is of the football announcer who became rather excited during a crucial play and blurted out, "He's at the fifty, the forty, the thirty, the twenty, lookitthat . . . run."

Jerry Cooper, Aggie senior who co-emceeds the Aggie Hour on KORA radio every Tuesday and Thursday night, tells a good one on his sidekick, Tom Morgan. The pair was discussing the Viet Nam situation during a record, not realizing the microphone was alive. Morgan could be heard saying, as the record ended, "but I don't wanna die in a rice paddy."

But my favorite tale of woe was spun by CBS news correspondent Dan Rather when he was a student deejay at a small Huntsville radio station during his days at Sam Houston.

Rather said he would work all day on Saturdays from before dawn till after dark, without a break for coffee, lunch or rest.

"I hated to complain," Rather recalls, "but I did get rather hungry during the day. So I asked the former Baptist preacher who owned the station if I could have 30 minutes for a short nighttime snack."

He told the young deejay to put on a 30-minute sermon by some old preacher friend, and grab some chow.

The next Saturday rolled around, Rather placed the sermon on the turntable and lit out for the nearest hamburger joint. Meanwhile, he ran into a female acquaintance and had struck up a lively conversation when the hamburger proprietor called him to the telephone. It was the station owner.

"Have you been listening to the radio?" he asked Rather in a demanding voice.

"No sir, I've been eating," Rather replied.

"Well, I suggest you turn on the radio, get back to the station, take off that sermon and you're fired."

Rather chuckled over to his truck, clicked on the radio and heard a repetitious "go to hell . . . go to hell . . . go to hell . . . go to hell . . ."

YMCA MARRIAGE FORUM

Wassenich Says Mixed Marriages Highly Dangerous

By ROBERT SOLOVEY

Dr. Paul G. Wassenich told students Tuesday to beware of mixed marriages and warned that even brilliant people sometimes can't realize the problems of crossing over from one following to another.

Ending the 1966 series of YMCA Marriage Forums, Wassenich, religious educator, minister and marriage counselor from Texas Christian University, advanced arguments against the idea of "Marrying Outside Your Faith."

"Some people feel marriage and religion don't mix, so they give up religion," he said.

"Man must live with faith too, not just faith in himself or God, but an outgoing, brotherly faith in others," he added.

He said many people today are looking for a faith but are against institutions with the church structure.

"SEX REVEALS we are incomplete by ourselves. The basis of life is a successful relation with one another."

"I don't think the individual alone can do anything. Faith in one's church and religion are most important to marriage," he said.

Young people today tend toward the theory of existentialism; the idea that stresses the individual's responsibility for making himself what he is, ultimately deciding who he is, what he is and where he is going.

But Wassenich pointed out man is born from the time he is born by the people, institutions and groups which form relations to him and which always help shape, determine and guide the individual in his decisions.

"In mixed marriages, instead of religion helping to nurture the relationship, it only creates greater problems," he said.

WASSENICH SAID because faith is so essential in life, if two people with different religious backgrounds marry, the result is indecision, uneasiness and many times divorce.

"People come to their minister or priest after they have decided to marry anyway. It would be better to think about these things beforehand," he remarked.

Catholics have made new provisions but still basically oppose intermarriage, and they feel it's their duty to protect the faith of their people when mixed marriages do occur," he noted.

"The Jews, the Baptists and almost every religion also seek to discourage interfaith marriage, because they know the problems that can stem from it."

HE NOTED planned parenthood is out if one of the individuals in a mixed marriage is a Catholic. Using artificial methods of contraception leaves a feeling of guilt since the doctrine of the Catholic Church is against such practices, he said.

"A mixed marriage lacks the basis of ideas, purposes and motivation," Wassenich said.

Where a couple is of the same faith, if they have quarreled, they can go to their church and reestablish the essential and important ideas of life, he said.

"Parents who are of different faiths lack a common relationship with their children at the deepest level. The child is forced to make a decision whether to follow the mother or the father."

"Parents who say they are letting their children decide for themselves what religion they want to follow are really saying they don't place too much importance in religion," he added.

HE SAID children don't have a basis from which to choose the faith they want to follow, and it is either the guiding hand of the mother's or the father's religion that in the end determines the child's religion.

Wassenich admitted it is very difficult for young people in love to realize the problems they face in an interfaith marriage, but said some couples have, and can make it.

Wassenich offered these possible solutions to potential interfaith couples:

1. Both could drop all church relationships.
 2. Both could leave their original faiths and go to a mutually acceptable third.
 3. One of the individuals could voluntarily cross over to the religion of his partner.
- A COUPLE may be able to succeed if there is profound understanding of educated people, who have a thorough understanding of the various religions and their differences and then choose the best for themselves, he felt.



PROF DISCUSSES MIXED MARRIAGES
... Dr. Paul Wassenich speaks at Marriage Forum.

Singing Cadets To Begin Tour

A six-city, 1,400-mile spring concert tour by the Singing Cadets begins Friday in San Marcos.

The 55-voice delegation is headed by director Robert L. (Bob) Boone and Pianist-Accompanist Mrs. June Biering.

Boone announced the Aggie glee club will, except for the first stop, give two-hour performances of inspirational, spiritual songs and show tunes.

Initial performance is set for 9 a.m. at Camp Gary Job Corps Training Center at San Marcos. Three 45-minute shows are planned for the center's 3,000 students.

Other appearances include: San Antonio — 8 p.m. Friday, MacFarland Auditorium. Sponsored by the San Antonio A&M Mothers Club.

San Angelo — 8 p.m. Saturday, Sarah Bernhardt Memorial Theater. Sponsored by the San Angelo Chapter of the Association of Former Students.

Midland — 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Lee High School Auditorium. Sponsored by the Midland Association of Former Students in cooperation with the Midland A&M Mothers Club.

El Paso — 8 p.m. Monday, Ysleta Auditorium. Sponsored by the El Paso Chapter of the Association of Former Students.

Abilene — 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Radford Memorial Aud-

itorium, McMurry College. Sponsored by Abilene Chapter of Association of Former Students; 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Central Catholic High School Auditorium; 12 Noon, civic clubs luncheon.

During the El Paso visit, the Cadets will be hosted for a guided tour of Juarez by the Rev. John B. Rupley, father of Jim Rupley, president of the Singing Cadets.

The singers will be guests of honor Tuesday night at a party at the El Paso Rodeway Motel.

Class Runoffs

22 Officers To Be Chosen

Twenty-two class offices, remaining undecided from the Spring Student Elections, will be decided in Thursday's runoff elections from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. in the basement of the Memorial Student Center.

"There is always a decrease in interest in the runoffs," said Harris Pappas, chairman of the Election Commission, "because of the fewer number of candidates. But the offices at stake are important, so only a good turnout can guarantee a popular choice."

Five Senior Class offices will be decided. Contending for president are Louis K. Obdyke and Terrel S. Mullins.

The vice president race is between Gene Neal Patton and Michael A. Calloway. William Carl Haseloff and Robert A. Beene seek the position of MSC representative. Secretary - Treasurer candidates are Melvin Wayne Cockrell and Dennis N. Hohman, while Thomas M. DeFrank and John P. Tyson are running for historian.

In the running for junior class president are Albert N. Allen and Gerald W. Campbell. Maurice V. Main and Clarence T. Daugherty are running for vice president. There are four sophomore class offices to be filled Thursday.

Seeking the sophomore class presidency are Larry Elwin Henry and Leroy Edwards.

In the vice presidential race are Harvey Lee Cooper and Bill Edward Carter. Secretary-treasurer hopefuls are Robert James Foley and Allan G. Eliff while social secretary candidates are Richard Kurt Newman and James Arnold Mobley.

Winners in primary balloting included Joseph O. McNabb, senior social secretary; Thomas Carl Stone, Joseph Don Rehmet and William Carl Haseloff, senior yell leaders; Jack E. Myers, Richard L. Kardys, Jerry Don Stevens, James Halpin and Robert Preston, senior Election Commission members.

Kerry Williams, junior secre-

Lily Day, Shindig Highlight County Easter Seal Drive

An Easter Seal Shindig and Lily Day highlight this week's activities in the Brazos County Easter Seal campaign.

The shindig, scheduled Friday night in Lamar Junior High School gym, will feature competition between high school rock'n'roll groups. Tickets are on sale at local junior high and high schools.

College Station Mayor Ernest Langford has joined Bryan Mayor J. D. Conlee in proclaiming Saturday as Lily Day in the two cities.

Grad Recruiting Talk Opens Transport Meet Thursday

The type of college graduate sought by transportation industries will be outlined at a luncheon Thursday of the eighth annual Transportation Conference. W. B. Johnson, chairman of the board of REA Express, will describe recruiting requirements at the Memorial Student Center. The luncheon is a feature of the conference conducted by the Texas Transportation Institute in cooperation with its advisory committee. The three-day conference opens Wednesday morning.

Johnson is also president and chief executive officer of Illinois Central Industries, parent company of Illinois Central Railway. His address is prompted by a new logistics concept which has forced management to broaden its educational requirements policy.

A&M President Earl Rudder will preside at the luncheon with Dr. M. T. Harrington, coordinator of international programs, offering the invocation.

Six key industrial figures will lecture during the conference. They include B. F. Biaggi, pres-

ident of Southern Pacific Company; William L. Robinson, general traffic manager of Sears, Roebuck; G. S. Sines, specialized operations department of Southern Pacific; Charles W. L. Foreman, vice president of the United Parcel Service; T. R. Cheney, merchandise traffic manager of Atlantic Coastline Railroad; and M. T. Richmond, president of Mercury Motor Express.

Tickets for the Thursday luncheon may be obtained through the Texas Transportation Institute.