

Aeronautics acting head resigns post

United Press International
AUSTIN — Texas Aeronautics Commission acting director Joan Whitworth resigned Thursday because commissioners refused to name her as the agency's permanent director.

Former Director Charles Murphy resigned unexpectedly last month, and Whitworth had agreed to serve as the agency's interim director until Thursday's commission meeting.

At the session Thursday, she read commission members a prepared statement saying she would serve as permanent director of the agency only if given a full vote of confidence by the commission and a guarantee

that the commission would continue development of its airport program.

"Either I am your director with a full vote of confidence from all of you or I am not," she said in her statement. "That choice is clearly yours."

Commissioners had suggested that Whitworth remain an additional 30 to 60 days as interim director.

"I have (considered the proposal) and I respectfully decline," she said Thursday.

"As your director, I can offer you my very best efforts to preserve and protect our legacy and laws. As an interim chairwarmer, I cannot," she said in her statement.

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science

Cancers:

Lung disease is on rise in world

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Although stomach cancer accounts for only 3 percent of the cancer deaths in the United States, a leading Chinese researcher reports it is the No. 1 killer in China.

Yet breast cancer, which causes the most cancer deaths among American women, is relatively uncommon in China.

Lung cancer, on the other hand, is a leading cancer killer in both nations and, in fact, is rising nearly everywhere in the world.

Dr. Calum S. Muir, head of epidemiology for the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, France, says stomach cancer either is decreasing rapidly or is at least showing signs of reaching a plateau in virtually all parts of the world.

He told a recent American Cancer Society meeting that Japan, which along with China has had high rates of stomach cancer, is experiencing a decline in the disease of 1 to 2 percent a year. This decrease may be as high as 5 percent in Iceland and Finland.

At the turn of the century, Muir said stomach cancer in the United States was as common as in Japan today. However, it has declined by more than 50 percent during the past 25 years.

The reason for the decline in stomach cancer is unknown, but many researchers believe it may be associated with the increasing use of re-

frigeration to preserve food.

Muir said it also may be the earlier stomach cancer figures were inaccurate. He said cancers of the pancreas, colon and perhaps the ovary previously may have been mistakenly diagnosed as stomach cancer.

Dr. Li Ping, deputy director of the Cancer Research Institute in Peking, noted that stomach cancer in China is most common in rural western areas and along the coastal provinces.

He said cancer of the stomach

accounts for 23 percent of all cancer deaths in China and various kinds of digestive tract cancers account for 60 percent of cancer's toll in the country.

Li said lung cancer, on the other hand, is mainly seen in three big cities in China — Peking, Tianjing and Shanghai and in coastal and northeastern provinces which are old industrial areas. Li noted that the northeast is cold and inhabitants use coal stoves for long periods to keep warm.

He said smoking, a known lung cancer, is common in China.

Muir said further increases in cancer rates can be expected in those parts of the world where cigarette smoking has been or is becoming established.

He also said that breast cancer is increasing at the rate of 1 to 2 percent a year in North America. Still relatively rare in Asia, the disease appears to be on the increase there too.

Transplant allows woman to see again

United Press International
ST. LOUIS — Anne Snyder remembers the day she saw a strange woman in her hospital room.

"I got out of bed and went to the sink," she recalled. "A woman was standing there. I waited for her to say something, but she didn't, so I raised my hand to wave and said, 'Hi.'"

"The woman raised her hand, too — that's when I realized it was my reflection in the mirror."

Snyder hadn't seen her reflection — or anything else — for 25 years before her operation at the University of Florida in October. A rare disease had dried up the membranes in her body, causing burn-like lesions on her skin and taking away her sight.

Now, with the help of a camera-like lens implanted in her eye, the 70-year-old widow delights in the sight of many things — from her 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild to branches stripped of their leaves in the winter. But she

admits surprise at seeing that strange reflection in the mirror.

"I said, 'Oh, dear God, what happened to me,'" she laughed, recalling the shock of seeing 25 years of aging all at once. "I was all gray and wrinkled. That was my first surprise. I didn't have any gray hair when I got sick."

Anne Snyder and her husband were living in Hammond, Ind., in 1954 when they went to Columbus, Ohio, on vacation. A pounding headache cut short her enjoyment of the trip, and they sped home as quickly as they could. Her real troubles began with a reaction to the medicine she took for the pain.

"I got a skin rash that led to blisters on my eyelid," she said. "I couldn't open my eye unless I threw my head back real fast. When the doctor saw me, he said, 'What's she doing here? She's more dead than alive.' Then I went to the hospital for 10 weeks."

"I came home looking like a dried-up prune. I lost so much weight because I couldn't eat at all. They had nothing but ointment on me. I had blisters over my whole body. I'd try to turn over and my blisters would stick to the sheet. The screaming I did because of the pain shook the whole hospital floor."

Snyder had no tear ducts and a constantly dry mouth. She lost her hair and nails. The condition, later diagnosed as Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, which dries up the body's

membranes, began to affect Snyder's sight.

"Did you ever swim underwater?" she asked. "That's the way I'd see at first, a wavy kind of sight, whose a while I lost everything but his count perception. I could see nothing. The shadows for 25 years."

In the 1960s a doctor in Indiana said he tried a cornea transplant. Snyder asked the sight in Snyder's right eye. The transplant was rejected, and her eye had to be removed. With artificial eye and another eye, Snyder saw only shadows, Snyder was about to try another experiment.

Then she heard about Dr. J. Polack at the University of Florida Gainesville, who had implanted mechanical lens in the eye of a tucky woman and restored her after 42 years.

She flew to Florida for an operation. Even though the operation work on very few blind people, Snyder was given a good chance at 74 being able to see again.

"As long as you have a good attitude," she said, "the implant will work."

"The doctors held a card in front of me. They asked if I could see. I told them all I could see was a card. When I said that, the doctors jumped out and let me know by their exclamation, 'Oh!'"

"But I was calm and collected. I'm not going to say it was exciting to see. But I was calm



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