

Water lens is long-wearing

New contacts developed

United Press International
NEW YORK — Contact lenses that are mostly water can be worn around the clock for two weeks. Wearers sleep in their contacts, jog or disco without jiggling or displacing them.

Authorities say the new generation contacts hold the promise of revolutionizing the contact field.

Currently the long-wearing contacts most ordered by eye-care specialists correct myopia, bringing poor distance vision within more normal limits. Another of the water-containing lenses helps astigmatism, or,

blurred vision. Williford said the lenses cost about \$100 more than regular contacts. He estimated average cost at from \$300 to \$350, including three to eight follow-up visits. But, extended wear contacts are not for everyone, due to individual eye differences.

The long-wearing lenses started moving into the optical mainstream in 1981 when the Food and Drug Administration approved two brands for general use. One, Permalens, comes from Cooper Laboratories in Palo Alto, Calif. The second, Hydrocurve, is from Revlon

Health Care Group. The extended-wear contacts from Cooper contain 71 percent water, providing the greatest amount of oxygen to the eye surface. The Hydrocurve lens contains 55 percent water.

Experts say the key element in extended wear contacts is oxygen. Permalens, for example, is designed to absorb water. This allows a high oxygen flow through the entire lens surface.

The extended-wear lenses were not newcomers to eye-care specialists when the FDA approved them for general use last year. The FDA approved

them for limited use in 1980, mainly for men and women who had their natural lenses, clouded by cataract, removed.

About five percent some of these patients cannot be fitted with the optical lens implant, a plastic device that takes the place of the malfunctioning natural lens.

For these patients the next option is to try a contact lens. If the contact doesn't work, there are special cataract glasses. John H. Williford, vice chairman of Cooper Laboratories in Palo Alto, Calif., one of two

manufacturers of the longwearing lenses, said cataract patients have found the contacts most remarkable.

They don't have to fiddle with daily removal, as in the era of old-style contacts. Some go to the eye-care specialist every two weeks to have an office aide or other health care professional remove and clean the lenses.

The Boston Consulting Group estimates the 1982 contact lens market at \$225 million and projects it will grow to \$500 million by 1986.

Wisconsin man makes life a merry-go-round

United Press International
NORTH LAKE, Wis. — Dale Sorenson keeps a menagerie of prancing horses bedecked with flowers and ribbons, a shaggy lion and a dancing rabbit in his living room.

They're all made of wood, Sorenson, 39, buys, restores and sells authentic old-time carousel animals — only one of two men in the nation, he says, who have made merry-go-rounds their full-time profession.

The former psychotherapist came upon his first carousel horses in 1975, a pair from the estate of the famed Ringling brothers.

He bought them for \$165 each and took them to the antique store he owned with his wife, Carla.

"We put them in our shop and they started growing on me," Sorenson said. "I sold them both within a month, so I went looking for an entire carousel."

He found one in Ohio with 22 horses and two dogs, but bankers were not interested in loaning him \$3,500 to buy an amusement park ride.

"I went to a finance company and borrowed on everything we had — the refrigerator, the TV, everything," Sorenson said.

"The very next day I sold four of the horses and got half of my investment back."

That was all it took to make believers out of bankers, he said.

Sorenson's most inexpensive restored carousel animals range from just under \$2,000 for horses to \$30,000-\$40,000 for a Dentez lion.

The life of a carousel connoisseur has its risks, he said.

"Boy, have I been in some seedy places — let me tell you — and you have to take cash, they won't take a check."

He recalled one time counting out 35 \$100 bills as he sat in an old auto surrounded by carnival workers.

The first carousel, from 17th century France, was a wooden device with suspended carved horses that allowed young noblemen to tilt with miniature lances at golden rings.

The first American carousels were small, Sorenson said. They contained no more than a dozen rough-hewn suspended horses or swings.

With invention of the steam engine and the electric streetcar, carousels grew in size. They were at the height of their popularity between 1880 and 1920.

Nowhere in the world were carousel animals carved as care-

fully or beautifully as in America, Sorenson said. He rarely buys any made outside the United States.

The animals were carved by fewer than a dozen American companies, each of which developed its own style. The animals were usually made of yellow poplar and brass.

"They put so much more into it than they would have had to for an amusement park ride," he said. "They're a bit of Americana."

His clients include Knott's Berry Farm, American Bandstand's Dick Clark and The House on the Rock in Spring Green, Wis.

Sorenson said he spends about 25 percent of his time traveling around the country to look at carousels, plus a lot of time on the telephone.

"I know where every carousel is in the U.S.," he said. "In so many cases they are not taken care of."

"There were many around the turn of the century in America. A lot of them were destroyed by fire. Some just wore out."

He expects his business to decline sharply in the future, but he thinks he will always have a market.

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Top: "Deb" with tassels on vamp in navy and tan. Sizes 5M-10M, 5N-10N in ladies. Childrens sizes 12 1/2 N-4N; 12 1/2 M-4M.

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