

Dear Jim,

3/7/81

Thanks for the good information about wheelchairs. After I wrote you and thought about it more I made local inquiries and learned about the local Lions, who do as yours do. They had only one on hand when I phoned and in good conscience I could not borrow that one. There ~~was~~ always the chance that someone who can't get around as much as I can would need it.

Yesterday I phoned the local Blue Cross/Blue Shield to ask if I qualify under Medicare. Their opinion is that I do, if I provide a doctor's prescription. I have a pharmacist friend who rents and sells the chairs and I'm ~~sure~~ ^{sure} I can make a deal with him to buy one with the proviso that if Medicare does not approve it becomes a rental I'd already learned from him where a new one is for sale, the one for whom it was bought having ~~been~~ died.

One of the uses I have in mind is supervising a couple of high school boys I've engaged to do some of the work I used to enjoy, in the woods and on the land. (We have five acres.) I would not run the risk of damaging a borrowed chair. Besides, the rental for a year equals the cost of buying a new one. And I haven't increased my walking capabilities significantly in six months. So ownership is, I think, indicated, and I'll have that taken care of soon.

The sister-in-law I'm hoping will drive us up fell last week and chipped a bone. She is in a cast for the coming month. Because it is her right foot she won't be able to drive to work and unless she can arrange a ride she won't be able to get to work. I don't know if this sick leave will effect her annual leave opportunities. She won't know until she is back at work.

My mother's phone is PO4-2645. After my father died she remarried. Harry Kety, who used to be Judge Hurley's probation office, died several years ago. You may remember his three sons or daughter. There were Siebert, Jack, Sam and Betty. After WW II Siebert and Jack went to med school in New Orleans and practised in that area. Both have died. Betty married Sam Dottesman, who is a dentist in Poughkeepsie. Sam is a retired Army warrant officer, living in Florida.

When the weather breaks I'm hoping that by more walking I'll enlarge some of the smaller blood vessels and will be doing better. I'm not supposed to be out in the cold for more than 10 minutes at a time now and walking in circles in the house is boring as hell, as is exercycling. When I had the venous thrombosis in 1975 I walked diligently and did succeed in enlarging some of the smaller veins. Part of my present limitation comes from a friction sore on a little toe. With the little circulation, healing is slow. In two months it hasn't healed. But I'm giving the exercycle hell, up to eight non-stop ~~mi~~ miles at 15 mph, simulated, or up to 30 a dya, depending on what there is on TV to keep me from being bored to death.

If I were able to do as I could in the past I'd be improving this much. This time of the year I'd be working in the woods. I heat us with wood, almost entirely. But this season, with a year's supply cut, split and stacked in the woods, I had to buy it because I was not able to bring my own supply in. That'll be next year's. Last week a friend came and took down some trees that were past their prime. (This lets the younger ones do better.) Year after Next's heat and I'll get enough from the logs that can be made into lumber to more than pay the cost of the help I have to hire.

I've always enjoyed the work and it helps ease the energy crisis by that tiny fraction.

When I can be more active things will improve and I hope this begins before May.

Many thanks,

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3/05/81

Dear Harold,

Your mother's residence is less than a mile and a half from where we live. However, you didn't give us her telephone number so we can get in touch with you about the time of pick up. Our number is 764-7753.

You'll have the whole back seat.

What is your sister's name? Perhaps she could go out to Merkel's (see enclosed coupon) and find a collapsible wheel chair there that would suit you. As I remember, you were on the heavy side so you'd need a sturdy chair.

As a comparison for prices in your area I called Merkel's and collapsible chairs start at \$290. They rent for \$25 a month for a plain chair and \$55 a month with elevated leg rest. These prices are all 10% less with the enclosed coupon.

I believe this expense would be a tax deductible health care item on your income tax and if you check with Blue Cross and Medicare it might be a re-imbursable expense by one of these two, with doctor's prescription.

On another tack I suggest you contact the Frederick Lions Club or Volunteer Fire Dept. for a loan of this equipment. When I was president of the Claymont Lions Club, shortly after I returned from WWII, we started a 'bank' of crutches, wheel chairs, hospital beds, etc. for the use of residents of the Claymont

area. I understand that is now pretty standard procedure in many other areas and with other service clubs.

I don't know of any individual with a chair for ~~sale~~ resale, but I think there is a very real possibility that there is a service club or fire company in your area that can meet your needs.

Perhaps a Want ad in your local paper would bring results as to a wheelchair to rent or buy.

Best regards,
Jim