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Josh Brooks' parents turn time, money into aid



June and Rick Brooks

LAURINBURG (AP) — With what remains of \$112,000 in donations, the parents of Josh Brooks are trying to provide others with the same kind of financial assistance they received when their 9-month-old son needed a liver transplant.

Since its beginning in January, the Josh Brooks Living Memorial Transplant Association has spent more than \$30,000. The association is based in the bedroom that belonged to the 9-month-old child who died in November, 15 days after receiving a liver transplant in a Minnesota hospital.

Josh's mother, June, the association's only full-time employee, spends about 14 hours a day counseling families, providing financial support and encouraging people to donate organs and blood. The association's board of directors has authorized her to send up to \$2,000 to any family with a transplant patient. One check for \$290 went to a

family strapped by doctor bills so the mortgage payment could be made. Mrs. Brooks said she often sent money to help families buy medicine and make car payments.

She also sent money to a couple whose daughter had just died after a transplant.

"We sent them \$500 and just said on the note to spend it where it's needed most," Mrs. Brooks said. "We knew they didn't have any money, even for a dress to bury her in. We didn't question where the money went."

Mrs. Brooks said she found out about most transplant patients through The Children's Transplant Association in Dallas, a national organization for which Mrs. Brooks is a public relations director, and her husband, Rick, is a vice president.

Mrs. Brooks said about \$30,000 was left from the donations sent during Josh's illness. The family used about \$30,000 for his medical

expenses, and the rest has been used to pay Mrs. Brooks' salary, office expenses and travel expenses. Donations have averaged about \$20 a week since the association was started, she said.

In October or November, the association plans to sponsor a celebrity auction and benefit dinner, Mrs. Brooks said. About 180 items that were donated from celebrities will be auctioned to help raise money, including a trumpet from jazz musician Dizzy Gillespie and a pair of pants from singer Tom Jones.

The local association also is in the beginning stages of planning a home in Durham for transplant patients' families at Duke University, where liver transplants may begin this year, Mrs. Brooks said. She also will work to establish a support group for families at Duke, where she spends much of her time counseling families dealing with a transplant patient.

Mrs. Brooks even works with

families to solve insurance problems because many insurance companies are slow to process claims. Many hospitals require 80 percent of the cost of a transplant operation before a patient can be admitted.

"Especially with these liver transplants, you don't have much time (to wait for insurance processing)," she said.

Mrs. Brooks also speaks to groups encouraging people to donate their organs and blood, telling Josh's story of struggle before and after the liver transplant.

"Hearing testimony takes the fear of donating away," Mrs. Brooks said. "They understand better, and they see that it really is the gift of life."

Mrs. Brooks said there had been an increase in the number of people signing donor cards since Josh's death.

"We feel it's definitely coming a long way from where it had been," Mrs. Brooks said. "We've made people aware of how important it is to give."

EXTENSION SCENE

North Carolina



AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE



by
John G. Richardson
Robeson County
Extension Chairman

I was quoted recently as saying that Robeson County looked very much like a "Garden of Eden." Actually, the part of my statement that the reporter left out was a preceding comment that I made. "When compared to previous years, Robeson County looked like a 'Garden of Eden.'" Regardless of the play on words, the excellent growing conditions that existed during the entire month of July have surely created an atmosphere of hope and restrained excitement among many of our farmers in hopes that this just might be the best production year in a long, long time. Yet, as positive as the situation appears, and even though the corn crop is essentially made and tobacco harvest is progressing well, the

thousands of acres of soybeans that are being grown are a prime target for an insect invasion.

Several farmers have recently noticed corn earworm moths flying in prolific numbers and have expressed some concern as to whether they should begin spraying their soybeans immediately. When we hear this type of question, we almost shudder when we think of the possibility that continuously exists for wholesale spraying to be done even though threshold levels of corn earworms or other soybean insects may not be present. We believe that it is critical for every soybean grower to know and understand that beneficial insects are in the fields working every day and contribute greatly to the overall well being of a crop. Yet, when the sprayer comes out and the insecticide is applied, the beneficial insects are killed right along with the destructive insects that the spray is initially targeted for.

Therefore, as farmers understand this principle, many have gained a much greater appreciation for the need for continuous scouting and an understanding of threshold levels of insects prior to making a decision to spray, even though the corn earworm moths may be flying like mad. Since the weather conditions have been so favorable for excellent soybean foliage growth, a nice canopy has already been formed in a majority of fields. The beauty of this nice canopy existing is that the earworm moths, as they make their flight over the fields, see no place to deposit their eggs and continue to fly.

As a result of this phenomenon, while there may be a pretty significant egg lay on border rows, scouting in many places throughout the field may indicate very clearly that threshold levels do not exist in a given field.

On standard width rows, the commonly used threshold level for corn earworms is two per foot of row. On narrow row beans this threshold level should be reduced in order to account for the greater number of plants and feet of row that are available for the corn earworms to attack.

In addition to the canopy phenomenon, it has also been learned that corn earworms and stink bugs both show preferences for certain varieties and even for planting dates. Thus, the only solution for excellent and appropriate soybean insect control this year is for the fields to be scouted about every two days and insecticide applications made based solely on the level of infestation of known crop-injuring insects rather than simply making a decision to spray based on the level of insect infestation that may exist on neighboring farms or in other communities.

Anyone who would like to obtain additional information on crop insects and threshold levels is encouraged to call or stop by the County Extension Office in Lumberton.



Lions like to stretch out in the branches of a tree for a quiet nap.

A billiard player may walk from one to three miles during a close match.



Captain Harold Harris was awarded a Master of Business Administration degree from Chapman College during commencement exercises held on July 20, 1984. Captain Harris, the son of Mr. J.D. Harris and the late Lala M. Harris of the Prospect Community, is a member of the U.S. Air Force currently stationed with the 616th Military Airlift Group at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Anchorage, Alaska, where he is the Chief, Logistics Plans division. He and his wife Bridgett and children reside at Elmendorf AFB.

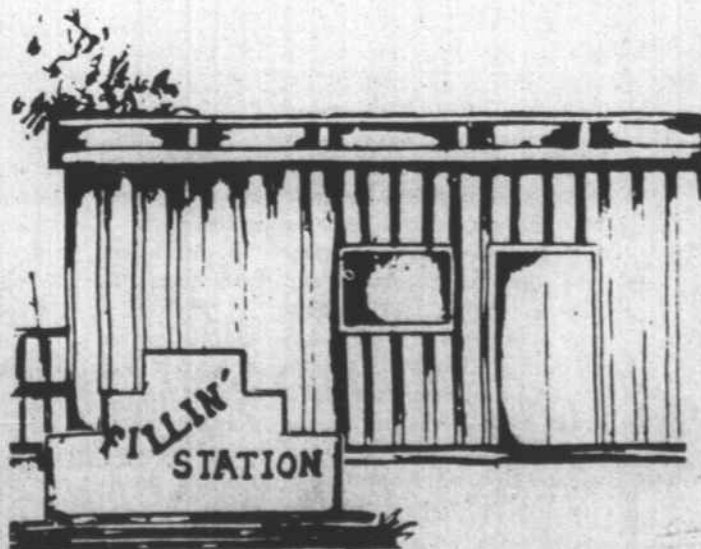
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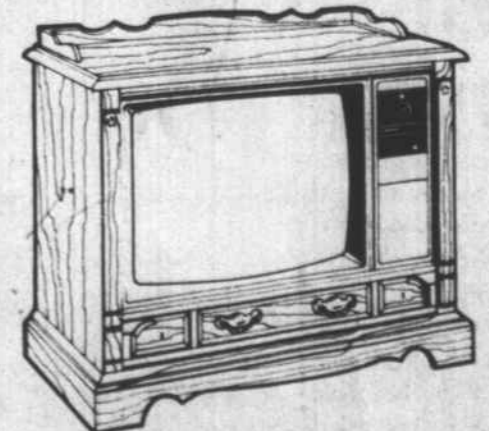
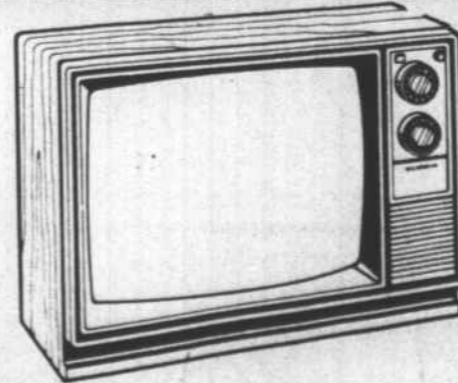
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