

# DENTAL HINTS

Brought To  
The Community By  
Spurgeon W. Webber, D.D.S.



## Oral Surgeon

The past three columns have discussed the oral surgeon and his function in the professional dental health care field. Today's column will wind down the subject with mention of a few remaining conditions that create questions.

For example, a condition parents don't always notice soon enough - but it will be discovered by your dentist immediately - is speech impairment in their children caused by a too restrictive frenum; that's the membranous structure under the tongue that controls its movement. An indication that this situation exists is when you notice the child cannot put his tongue out straight; it will curve down when extended. And, this usually results in slurred speech or the general inability to pronounce certain words. A minor surgical procedure called a frenectomy will lengthen the frenum, and usually this will improve speech and other tongue functions.

A cleft palate is another oral condition that causes parents great concern. This is caused by a congenital fissure in the roof of the mouth and may be accompanied by a harelip - a fissure in the upper lip. Surgical treatment can involve a team of specialists including the oral surgeon, an orthodontist, a

plastic surgeon and even a speech therapist. The plastic surgeon can repair a harelip when the child is only a few days old. The palate can be temporarily sealed at a few weeks of age and closed permanently at about two years. Bone grafts, if needed, and other surgery found necessary, can be done when the child is in its teens. The orthodontist aligns the teeth thereby permitting upper jaw development, and all procedures can add up eventually to no external evidence that the cleft palate or harelip ever existed.

Today's level of successful oral surgery comes at a surprise to many accident and malformation victims. It is now possible to reconstruct the face from within the mouth with the outside remaining untouched; motor nerves controlling facial expressions and therefore not damaged, and remaining scars are inside the mouth unnoticeable and soon forgotten.

These and other procedural developments go to prove that today's dental patient is very fortunate in having a "professional team" at his command, with his comfort, welfare and good appearance the prime interest.

## WBTV News Looks At School Discipline

Child restraints and school discipline are the major subjects of "WBTV News Special Edition," to be seen Sunday, May 11th at 6:30 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.

WBTV News Reporter Barry Ahrendt reports that traffic safety officials say auto accidents are the leading cause of death in children ages 1 to 14, and that many of those deaths could be prevented if parents used proper restraints, such as infant and toddler seats, in their cars. He talked with highway safety experts at UNC-Chapel Hill who've been active in promoting child restraints, and found out about efforts in North Carolina to pass a law requiring motorists to use restraints. He also looked at such a law in Tennessee, the only state in the nation that has one.

In another segment, WBTV News Reporter Beatrice Thompson looks at school discipline from the teacher's point of view, and finds the answers to such questions as: Are teachers properly trained to handle discipline problems? How big is the discipline problem in North Carolina and Charlotte-Mecklenburg compared to the problem nationwide? How do teachers, school administrators and students feel about it? And, how are teachers coping with discipline problems and what can be done

about them.

Barry Ahrendt is Producer-Editor of "WBTV News Special Edition."

### "Alice"

Carrie Sharples, played by returning special guest-star Martha Raye, pays a visit to her son Mel and Mel pays her back by getting a psychosomatic backache when she tries to steal his chef's hat and take over the diner's kitchen, on "Alice," to be rebroadcast Sunday, May 11 at 9 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.

The ever astute Alice explains to Carrie the real reason for Mel's

back problem. The two then come up with a solution which puts Mel on his feet again and the chef's hat back on his head.

### "Dallas"

Bobby finds himself getting attached to Luke Middens, the young son of one of the hired hands, and his attachment only makes Pam's effort to tell Bobby the truth about their unborn child even more difficult. But eventually she is forced to confess, on "Dallas," to be rebroadcast Friday, May 9 at 10 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.

## Simmons To Co-Host Good Morning Carolina

Floyd "Chunk" Simmons, photographer, world traveler, former movie actor and Olympic Decathlon Bronze winner joins Brad Lacey as co-host of "Good Morning Carolina", the week of May 12 at 9 a.m., on Channel Nine.

Monday, Courtney W. Roberts, Manager of the Carolina Branch of the Associated General Contractors of America, Inc., tells how his office promotes open shop construction.

Tuesday's guest, Dick Pierce, Vice President of Corporate Com-

### Sunday In Carolina

### To Look At Spirit Square Sunday

"Sunday in Carolina" takes a look at Spirit Square, Charlotte's uptown cultural center, Sunday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m. on Channel Nine. Brad Lacey and Nerissa Williams co-host.

In another segment, Jack Margraves reports on a man who was compensated for health problems stemming from breathing tobacco smoke on the job. He also examines the rights of smokers and non-smokers while they are working.

munications for Duke Power Co., discusses his involvement in a wide range of civic activities.

Wednesday, Parker Whedon and Oscar Penegar elaborate on their interest in wild life and the environment.

Thursday's guest, Barry Ward of

New Horizons Travel, Ltd., professional golfer and golf consultant, discusses travel and sports.

Friday, Leonard Clemmer, owner of a ballet and gymnastics school in Charlotte, discusses child development, physical therapy and gymnastics.

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