

# Four-hour operation gives girl normal life

By MARIE BARTLETT  
Debra Rush is fourteen years old, a freshman at Enka High School, a former cheerleader, an "all-around" gal, and a victim of scoliosis, a dangerous and disfiguring curvature of the spine. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Ray Rush of Enka Lake Road, Debra recently underwent a grueling four-hour operation at Shriners' Hospital in Greenville, S.C. to correct her spinal problem. Thankfully, the surgery went well and within a couple of months, Debra will be able to resume normal activities, wearing a light-weight body cast, and enjoying minimal restrictions. Her parents feel that her rapid recovery from the surgery is attributable to the only the excellent care received at Shriners' Hospital.

but the prayers and concerns of family and friends, and the generosity of Claude Debrul, who sponsored Debra at Shriners'.  
"You never know what kind of friends you have until something like this happens," is how Joyce Rush began describing the ordeal that started a year ago.  
Debra's curved spine was first noticed by a friend who had been swimming with her. Taken to an orthopedic specialist in Asheville, Debra was X-rayed and found to have a 62 degree spinal curve. There are several types of scoliosis, but Debra's condition was congenital, a problem beginning at birth, but not noticeable until adolescence. If the curvature is severe enough, as was Debra's case, and left untreated, doctors estimate the

patient will be an invalid by the age of 30, and very probably die prematurely from the twisting spine progressively crushing vital organs. The earlier the onset, the worse the ultimate curvature. The deformity is usually worse in the upper back, and is found much more commonly in females than in males. Because of their personal experience, and because the condition has also recently been discovered in their sixteen year old daughter, Brenda, Mr. and Mrs. Rush feel that all parents of young girls should have their children X-rayed as a precaution, in order to detect the deformity as early as possible.  
At first, at a loss for the best possible treatment, and hoping to avoid surgery, the Rush family began looking for

alternatives. Debra took therapy for six months, visited two chiropractors, then finally, when no improvement was shown, took the advice of Dr. Watts, an orthopedic surgeon, and went to Greenville, S.C. to see another specialist. The estimated cost of treatment for a patient with Debra's condition, from the time the condition is found, treated, surgery resorted to, and recovery completed, is \$70,000. The only answer seemed to be Shriners' Hospital, where Debra could be sponsored by someone, and receive the best possible care for her particular problem.  
When school began this year Debra attended two weeks, then entered Shriners' Hospital on Labor Day. She was admitted to a teenage ward with eight other girls, all with various physical

problems. Joyce Rush says her daughter is "adaptable to anything and can accept things easily," so Debra, coping admirably and displaying a maturity beyond her years, began the wait until surgery. For a month, fifteen minutes out of every day, she was placed in traction. Three days prior to surgery, and afterwards, she was put in a plaster of paris body cast to stabilize her for healing. Four times a week, every week, the family drove to Greenville to visit. A loving mother, Joyce felt the strain even more than Debra, and would have changed places with her if that were possible.  
On Thursday, October 2, Debra was wheeled into surgery. Two incisions were made, one more than a foot long, to insert a stainless steel rod on eight vertebrae. The

other incision was made in the hip, to remove bone for use in fusion of the vertebrae. During the surgery, she was placed in a stretching machine in order to keep her spine as straight as possible. Along with being subjected to the normal risks involved in any major surgery, Debra also could have been paralyzed as a result of any mishap while on the stretching machine. Though the doctors stressed this risk as a minimal one, it was a frightening accompaniment to the thoughts and fears Lonnie and Joyce experienced as they waited for their daughter's operation to end.  
As a result of Debra's successful surgery, the doctors involved say that she will be able to lead a normal life. Her recovery should be

complete within eighteen to twenty-four months, when she will be able to resume all normal activities with no restrictions.  
Debra herself says, "I didn't mind going through all this because I'll get a whole new wardrobe of clothes!" Standing straighter and taller, Debra will have certainly earned her new wardrobe.  
Anyone wish to contact Debra while she is convalescing at Shriners' Hospital for the next three weeks, may write to:  
Miss Debra Rush  
c/o Shriners' Hospital  
2100 North Pleasantburg Dr.  
Greenville, S. C. 29609  
Her hobbies and interests include sports, creative art, needlepoint, dancing, and playing the guitar.



DEBRA RUSH, a 14-year-old Enka High freshman, underwent a 4-hour operation for a condition which would have eventually made her an invalid.

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## Square D plant personnel promoted

Effective October 1, Square D Company announced the promotion of Dave L. Robinson to Director of Industrial Relations, Control Group. The Control Group consists of manufacturing plants in Asheville, Raleigh, Columbia, S.C., Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Huntington, Indiana. Robinson was formerly Personnel Manager of the Asheville plant.  
In this newly established position, Robinson is responsible for the coordination of all industrial relations activities for the five locations of the Control Group. He has been employed with Square D for five years and was previously associated with Northrop Carolina and American Enka. He is a graduate of Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla., a member of the Candler Lions Club, a member of the Board of Trustees of Asheville - Buncombe Technical Institute and has been active in various



RICHARD B. HURLEY  
community and professional organizations.  
Robinson and his wife, Jo Ann, have two children, a son, Derrick, a freshman at Lees McRae College, and a daughter, Donna, a junior at Enka High School. They reside on Dogwood Drive in the Candler area. Robinson is headquartered



DAVE L. ROBINSON  
in Asheville and will report to John N. Daniel, Vice-President, Control Group Manager.  
Richard B. Hurley, who joined Square D Company as Personnel Supervisor in 1971, succeeds Robinson as Personnel Manager of the

Asheville Plant. He will be responsible for all personnel activities of the plant and will report to Harold L. Brooks, Asheville Plant Manager.  
Hurley is currently an officer in the Western North Carolina Industrial Personnel Club and is active in the Asheville Community Theatre. He is a 1968 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Navy veteran.

## NEWS OF ECOLOGY

**PROTECTING OUR DRINKING WATER**  
The quality of tap water is crucial to good health. The public demands that its milk, soda, beer, and other beverages not be contaminated. Why not water, too, which is also imbibed?  
That question, posed in a recent issue of the highly respected professional journal, CIVIL ENGINEERING, is one that greatly concerns community officials. They must not only solve this problem, but also meet recently established goals formulated by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency for the quality of water leaving water treatment plants. Because both EPA and state agencies want reservoirs covered to preserve water quality, such cities as Philadelphia, Charleston, S.C. and Salt Lake City have turned to comparatively low cost floating covers to protect local water supplies.  
According to the magazine, the floating covers, made of "Hypalon" synthetic rubber, are being used to protect water from airborne contaminants, and are expected to provide savings in maintenance and chemical treatment. These Rooffloat covers are designed and installed by Globe Linings of Long Beach, Ca., using material supplied by Burke Industries of San Jose, Ca.  
For example, John R. Betts, Water Department manager and engineer, in Charleston, is quoted as saying the cover allows the city to deliver better quality water because of more uniform distribution of chlorine treatment. Savings are effected because evaporation of chlorine-treated water is eliminated. In addition, the cover provides savings on maintenance. Since the new cover keeps out leaves, twigs and other contaminants, cleaning is no longer necessary.  
In Philadelphia, where an old reservoir basin has been covered, city Water Commissioner Carmen Guarino expects the cover of "Hypalon" to last 25 to 40 years, with no maintenance problems. The savings in chemicals over the life of the cover should pay for most of it, according to Commissioner Guarino who also anticipates better water quality, maintenance savings, and no drowning accidents.  
At Salt Lake City, a floating cover of "Hypalon" was installed at much lower cost than other covering methods and allowed the reservoir to be returned to

service in only 30 days. "Unlike some covers, this one blends beautifully into the scenic surroundings," according to the magazine.  
"Hypalon" has been used to line industrial waste ponds and pits for many years, thus protecting the underground water table. The importance of protecting groundwater from seepage from a variety of sources, agricultural as well as industrial, led the Du Pont Company, which makes the raw "Hypalon" from which the reinforced membranes are made, to

develop an entirely new material for uses where "Hypalon" synthetic rubber is not necessarily suitable, or may be too expensive. An unsupported membrane, the new "3110" sheet has excellent resistance to a wide range of chemicals.  
Ponds lined with this material serve various functions, ranging from a sewage and drainage lagoon adjacent to the New York State Thruway to an irrigating canal which contains liquid fertilizer used to irrigate orchards in Texas.

## OBITUARIES

**MAJOR DAVIS**  
Services for Major (Bud) Davis, 71, of Marshall, who died Wednesday Oct. 8, 1975 were held at 2 p.m. Friday in the chapel of Bowman Funeral Home.  
The Rev. Jack Davis officiated. Burial was in City Cemetery. Nephews were pallbearers.  
He was a native of Madison County and a son of the late Tom and Dora Davis.  
Surviving are three sisters, Mrs. Evie Church, Mrs. Inez Haney and Mrs. Kittle Hensley of Marshall; and a brother, Robert J. Davis of Marshall.

**MRS. CLEMENT BALL**  
Mrs. Lillie Freeman Ball, 87, of Rt. 5 Marshall, died Tuesday Oct. 7, 1975 at her home after an extended illness.  
A lifelong resident of Madison County, she was a member of Bear Creek Baptist Church and the widow of Clement Ball, who died in 1973.  
Surviving are seven daughters, Mrs. Charles Williams, Mrs. H. W. Patchett, Mrs. J. T. Sams and Mrs. William Felmet of Asheville, Mrs. Clarence Roberts of Marshall, Mrs. Frank Riddle of South Gate, Mich., and Mrs. Clyde Greene of Annapolis, Md. four sons, William and Newton Ball of Asheville, Joe D. Ball of Bethesda, Md., and Willard Ball of Marshall; a sister, Mrs. Bonnie Henderson of Asheville; a brother, Baxter Wilson of Marshall; 15 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Thursday in the chapel of Bowman Funeral Home. The Rev. Jack Davis officiated. Burial was in Dry Pond Cemetery. Grandsons were pallbearers.

**MRS. L. FULLER**  
Mrs. Elvia Melton Fuller, 81, of Hot Springs, died Friday, October 10, 1975 in a Waynesville rest home after an extended illness.  
A native of Madison County, she was the daughter of late D.S. and Iowa Fowler Melton and widow of Lawrence F. Fuller, who died in 1968.  
Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. E.B. Sumerel and Mrs. Bertha Rose of Hot Springs; and a brother, George Melton of Hurst, Tex.  
Services were held at 2:30 p.m. Monday at Hot Springs United Methodist Church. The Rev. Lester Murphy officiated. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery. Nephews, and friends were pallbearers.  
Bowman Funeral Home was in charge.

**J. JESSE ROBERTS**  
J. Jesse Roberts, 58, of Rt. 2 Brown Cove Road, Clyde, was dead on arrival Sunday, October 12, 1975 at a Waynesville hospital.  
He was a native of Madison County, a son of the late Garfield and Zora Roberts and a retired employee of the Allied Chemical Co. in River Rouge, Mich. He was an Army veteran of World War II. He lived in Michigan until 1972 and returned to Haywood County.  
Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Lucy Ford Roberts; three sisters, Mrs. Carl Fee of Ecorse, Mich., Mrs. George Chandler of Swannanoa and Mrs. Albert Shelton of Weaverville; and seven brothers, Samuel Roberts of Nashville, Tenn., Carter Roberts of Columbus, Calif., Roberts of River Rouge, Ky., Roberts of Flat Rock, Mich., and Bob, Eugene and Levi Roberts of Marshall.  
Funeral services were held Wednesday in the chapel of Wells Funeral Home in Canton.

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MEMBERS OF THE BULL CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH dedicated their new sanctuary on Sunday Oct. 5, 1975. After the morning service, lunch was served at 12:30 p.m. followed by the dedication service at 2:30 with their pastor Rev. Stanley Peek presiding. The dedicatory message was delivered by Rev. E.J. Jenkins, moderator of the French Broad Association. Following the message, the congregation went outside for the laying of the corner stone by the builders of the church, Glenn, George and Alvin Slagle, Marcus Cody, and Carol Edwards. More than 150 people were present to help celebrate the historical occasion. The total cost of the new sanctuary and furnishings was \$70,000.

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