



ALL PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE—Jarvis Belch, third from left, received his operator's license making him the fourth person in the state to drive without use of the hands. Others playing an important part to help Jarvis are from left, Larry Skinner, constructing the special car; Jake Belch, father of Jarvis; Jarvis, W. W. Wrenn, who gave driving test; John Guard, coordinator of Driver's Education in Eastern North Carolina; and Don Boothe, Jarvis' driver education teacher.

Boy Drives With No Hands; 4th In State

By Patricia M. Arnold

Jarvis Belch, 18-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis Belch of Edenton, is the fourth person in the state with no use of their arms and hands to receive an operator's license.

Jarvis was born with a birth defect and has no use of his upper extremities. This fact has not stopped him from accomplishing challenging tasks.

He began last school year the classroom portion of the driver's education more than any one student he has ever worked with.

When Jarvis was not on the driving range at the school his father would instruct him at home.

John Guard, driving coordinator for Eastern North Carolina, remarked that the accomplishments of Jarvis has proved that a person can do just about anything that is possible. He stated that he hopes other people will realize that handicaps are not always physical and will try harder to do things they really want to do.

He commented that Jarvis is a fine example of a person with determination and that by learning to drive he has removed another stumbling block from his path.

R. R. Wrenn of Elizabeth City, sergeant at the Department of Motor Vehicles, gave Jarvis his road test for his license. He stated that he was amazed at the control he kept over the car and how much of a conscientious driver he appeared to be. Wrenn stated that Jarvis passed the road test with flying colors and he thought he would be an excellent driver.

Larry Skinner, uncle of Jarvis and Mr. Belch constructed the driving devices so they could be completely controlled by feet. Jarvis can blow the car horn and give turn signals with movement from his legs.

The steering device is made from a bicycle sprocket and is connected to the drive shaft. Jarvis puts a special shoe on the sprocket and is able to control the car.



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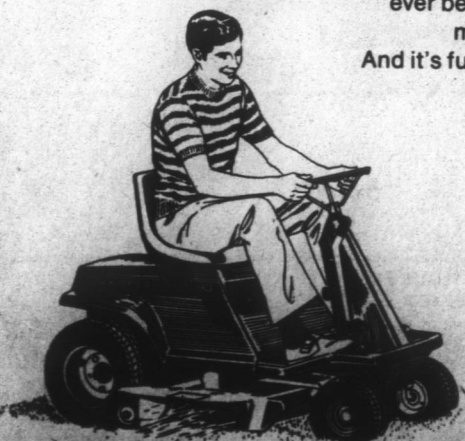
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SPECIAL CONTROLS—This is the inside of the special-made car for Jarvis Belch to drive with no hands. Steering is possible with the use of a bicycle sprocket with a special slip-on-and-off shoe. Jarvis is also able to blow the car horn and give turn signals with the use of his legs.

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