

9

Wedge
by
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After 5 children, the eldest ready to enter nursing, I got pregnant.

Out the ^{WINDOW} ~~door~~ ^{made} ~~way~~ ^{US} went the folks, my husband, and I, ^{were} ~~made~~ ^{their own} ~~for~~ ^I ~~was~~ ^{4 1/2} ~~4 1/2~~ and my husband was 45 1/2. It felt like having your feet all over, but ^{harder}.

After the initial shock, especially the older ^{ones} ~~ones~~, ^{around} ~~around~~ ^{our} ~~our~~ ^{will} ~~will~~ ^{us} ~~us~~ and ~~my~~ the kids in school, ~~etc.~~ They would have a lot of ^{brady} to take, and as would ~~we~~

Well, we finally settled down, and ^{accepted} ~~accepted~~ the fact. Things ^{went} ~~went~~ ^{along} ~~along~~ pretty well until the fall, when a ^{storm} ~~storm~~ ^{came} ~~came~~ out ^{from} ~~from~~ the ^{sea} ~~sea~~. ^{First} ~~First~~ they began ^{arriving} ~~arriving~~ at, they would put on on the ^{stomach} ~~stomach~~ and say "Come on Richard" ^{from} ~~from~~ the day -

"Mom" call the baby Rosie, and it
might come early enough to be the New
Year baby and get all those things.

I wisht it was over and over to
have 'Rosie' again. Unfortunately I have a
"Broken in Law" named Richard, "A nice
boy."

Well, we didn't have the New Year
baby, "Thank God" that early in the morning
of January 8, I started having back pain. They
was 27 min apart. Then they would stop for
a while, then start again. We called
the doctor and he said I had better
go to the hospital, because the labor
life babies can be tricky.

When we reached the ~~hospital~~ ^{Station}
Salma Hospital, they put me in a labor
room, It being winter (1946) most of the electric
was out for repair, so the counter was "The
nurse would start her hand in the door and
ask how many pain since the last time she was
in. That's how she treated me but I was still
27 min apart.

Finally, she decided to dilute me
 and I was ^{drenched} drenched - ~~that~~ ^{water} ^{bat} ~~her~~ ^{bat} nail
 must have pricked the ^{water} ^{bat} ~~water~~ ^{bat} and
 it rushed out. I was ^{drenched} drenched. They
 rushed me to the ^{delivery} ~~delivery~~ ^{knocked} ~~knocked~~ room

A child started to be ^{knocked} ~~knocked~~ out so they
 gave me the ~~other~~ ^{other} cone for my pain,
 I could ^{hear} ~~hear~~ ^{them} ^{calling} the baby and finally the
 doctor said to the nurse "look at that"

Then I felt the doctor stroke my ^{vagina} ~~vagina~~,
 and they ^{cleaned} ~~cleaned~~ me up and put me in ^{another} ~~another~~
 room.

Later on my husband came in and told
 me the whole story. ^{NATURE'S} Nature didn't ^{completely} ~~completely~~
 her ~~part~~ ^{part} and the brain tissue ^{grew} ~~grew~~ out her
 the back. The doctor said they rarely live, but
 if one wanted to take a chance, he ~~thinks~~ ^{thinks}
^{surgeon} ~~surgeon~~ who are experts on ~~them~~ ^{them} ~~cases~~ ^{cases} ~~with~~
 with a lot of success. Would you think of an
 operation! We talked it over and decided it was
 worth it.

When ~~the~~ ~~operation~~, Dr. ~~Murray~~ was ~~partly~~
to ~~open~~ ~~Murray~~. ~~It~~ ~~was~~ ~~very~~ ~~willing~~
to ~~take~~ ~~the~~ ~~operation~~, ~~too~~.

Dr. Murray came to ~~the~~ Murray ~~and~~
Told her ~~Belton~~ ~~of~~ ~~our~~ ~~operation~~ ~~and~~
he would ~~grant~~ ~~the~~ ~~next~~ ~~day~~

The ~~men~~ ~~handed~~ ~~Murray~~ ~~up~~ ~~some~~ ~~papers~~ ^{Reminders of my}
Jan. They put her in a ^{BASKET} ~~basket~~ ~~surrounded~~
by ~~blanks~~. ~~you~~ ~~could~~ ~~read~~ ~~so~~ ~~far~~
from ~~State~~ ~~Belton~~ ~~to~~ ~~appear~~ ~~now~~ ~~just~~ ~~was~~
put a ~~trip~~ ~~for~~ ~~an~~ ~~and~~ ~~my~~ ~~old~~ ~~belly~~, ~~but~~ ~~she~~ ^{HOLBYN}
said she ~~found~~ ~~it~~ ~~beautiful~~

After the ~~operation~~. Dr. Murray ~~came~~
out ~~and~~ ~~talked~~ ~~to~~ ~~her~~. He ~~said~~ ~~the~~ ~~operation~~
went ~~well~~, she ~~may~~ ~~have~~ ~~trouble~~ ~~with~~ ~~her~~
but ~~she~~ ~~could~~ ~~live~~ ~~now~~ ~~with~~ ~~her~~ ~~new~~ ~~need~~

They ~~just~~ ~~had~~ ~~to~~ ~~excise~~ ~~a~~ ~~portion~~ ~~of~~
the ~~cerebellum~~

The doctor sent for my husband, and they talked, and then my husband came in and told me the whole story. The baby was born with a Spina Bifida, a tumor on the base of the skull. It was infected. (384)

352
After they put me in my room, my husband came in and told me the ~~whole~~ story. The births were ~~severe~~ ^{severe} and up till lately they were afraid to operate on them. Dr Becker, my doctor, told my husband that he knew a doctor who performed these operations with ~~quite~~ ^{great} a lot of success. He asked me if we would consider an operation, we talked it over and decided to take the chance, so on the 8th day my husband and a daughter took drive up to ~~the~~ Columbia ~~Protestant~~ ~~Protestant~~ Medical Hospital was up in New York city, a long drive from Staten Island. ~~It~~ ^{My} was good a good, my daughter said. 486

When we arrived, Dr. ~~Monahan~~ ~~was~~ ^{waiting} and examined Bridget (Margie Lynn Harris) she had had an ~~some~~ ^{some} operation in the other hospital

Dr Munson and his wife spent the next day. They discovered they had the use of parts of the ~~the~~ cerebellum which was coming to do with before.

She came through the operation fine, but was left with a large scar. She had a head of curly hair ^{which would} grow back again ~~it~~ would cover the scar.

When we finally brought Midge home from the hospital, the kids were so happy. She looked like a little doll.

We started teaching her things ^{as possible} as ^{good} we could in her crib. Dad was good to Midge and us, for 1 year and 16 days after Midge was born, he sent her a baby brother. He was to become a pattern for Midge to follow, and learn things that come easily to "so called" normal children.

We had a regular routine. Everyone did things the same way so she wouldn't get confused.

She tried to do what Sky (Paul) did and got many bumps. When she fell, we would say "Oh Bump!" Later when she fell, she would say "Oh Bump!" herself and get up & ~~continue~~ go on.

5

We taught her colors by naming the colors of the clothes she was putting on, and everything that had color in it we named it out loud. We bought colored glasses and had her put a ^{piece} shirt in the same colored glass. She loved that me.

Skip (~~or Paul~~) was very patient with her, Oh they had their scraps, and she'd get bare at him by pulling his hair. He handled her gently after that. She got many bumps trying to do what he did, but got up, ^{said} "Oh Benny and ~~David~~ again."

Midge, was her father's shadow. ^{When she could} ~~When she~~ ~~tried to~~ walk, he took her all over town. Everyone knew her, In the bank, the newspapers, New House, all the stores, just mention "Midge" and they know who you meant. Her friends are legion. I don't think she has on every Midge was ^{SMAX} ~~smart~~, never forgot a name or face on ~~them~~. But she was educationally retarded.

We taught her at home,

and when she was eight years old she entered The Public School's special class. She had a wonderful teacher Tom Nelson. He had patience and showed just how to manage Midge. She learned much from Mr Nelson, and was with him until she was ~~thirteen~~ ^{fourteen}, when they had to leave if they were not ready for High School. A number of children were let go ~~then~~. The parents got together to see what could be done. The result was a program called "Pilgrims Project" and started by a wonderful woman named Mrs Emma Boenemann. Mrs. Boenemann had a handicapped child of her own, but she loved all handicapped children.

She got the city of Hazel Park, Mich. to let us have their recreation hall ~~only~~ from 9:30 to 3:30. Then there was ^{PUBLICITY} publicity in the paper and help ^{was} ^{MATERIALS} materials ~~to arrive~~ ^{to arrive}.

25 The day to our day. He didn't say anything the next day

Pilgrim Project became quite popular
Help came from everywhere. They had
a full program, school work. They
started like a regular school. They
had a salute to the flag and sang
the "Star Spangled Banner". Then they had
school work, ^{occupational therapy, exercises} and played games. ^{They made some beautiful things out} Every month they
had a party - (dance), they called it. They
had music, ~~danced~~ danced and had
refreshments. The parents had as much
fun, as the young people did

Widge developed a very good vocabulary
and had a happy disposition. She made
many friends ^{her father had been an English teacher} so she speaks good English. ^{you have to}
She was fond of music, and the
"Mickey Mouse Club" was her favorite program
They sent her pictures, and once when
Annette was in town for an award, ^{she}
called the paper and told them how fond

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brother. Coming so soon after Dad's
^{9/10/150} death she is a bit, but she ~~took~~ it
like a trooper ^{again} & her many friends & kind
love of her ~~brother~~ ^{brother} and it helped ^{soften} the blow. She
is a strong soldier. She believes firmly
in God and God's will, it's a pleasure
to talk to her.

After Vernon's death, we had no more
close relatives in ^{Ohio} so we ~~were~~ ^{sold} the ^{house} and
came to Jersey where two of the girls lived, but
there was nothing here for Marge. I went
to see the Personnel Director of the school and
between us we got people interested in helping to
get a program started. We got ~~the~~ ^{the}
First Reformed Church to lend us their basement
from 9:30 A to 1:30 P. except Saturdays. We got
~~some~~ ^{some} of the men clubs ^{interested} and got more
help. While Marge was in the program, I did
volunteer work in the hospital across the
street. I put in 1,000 hours ^{and did}

working in the lot, the best
~~at I would like in the lot~~

I had a nervous breakdown,
and Midge was put in a boarding
home, in fact ~~several~~ ^{SEVERAL} of them. While
in one, she started falling, she had
to go to the hospital for a brain operation.
From the hospital she was sent to
a rehabilitation center, I was to call
to take care of her.

She liked it in the center where she
still is. She knows every patient's name
everyone there is fond of her. She has
plenty of music, her own radio, T.V. and a
huge ^{Huge} picture of Alton ~~Johns~~ ^{Johns} over her
bed. Midge is 30 years ^{old}. To talk
to her ~~anyone~~ ^{anyone} would think those ~~years~~ ^{years} mean
nothing more to her. ~~except~~ she walks with a walker
When we go there, everyone here ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~kind~~
the ~~center~~ ^{center} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~best~~ ^{best}

The ~~center~~ ^{center} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~best~~ ^{best} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~center~~ ^{center}. The workers are
good to the ~~help~~ ^{help}. Midge said to me, "Mom, I'm so glad
you ^{FOUND} ~~found~~ ^{found} ~~such~~ ^{such} ~~a~~ ^a ~~nice~~ ^{nice} ~~place~~ ^{place} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~me~~ ^{me} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~live~~ ^{live} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~it~~ ^{it}"

11

~~at home~~ She gets therapy twice a
day and enjoys it

Every one I know, is interested in
Midge and some go to see her. One of
the nurses here is going ~~next~~ week

I hope that all who read this
will get the the happy, glowing feeling
of Midge, who doesn't know that there
is a bad ~~thing~~ person in the world
She says that "God will make them
good"

The lady was born with a Spina Bifida,
a tumor at the base of the skull and it was
reported. He said, Dr. Benton has a friend
who performed that kind of operation, and would
we consider an operation. We talked it
over and finally said "yes"

First they started saying the song
during us crazy. Then call the baby
Richard if it is a boy. Then say
in the holiday ~~the paper~~ ^{the paper} ~~to tell~~ ^{for the two babies}
~~the paper~~ of what the machine ^{was} ~~was~~ ^{giving} they
agreed their program, and we heard
"Open the door, Richard", we certainly agreed
that we wished it was all over

Early on Jan 8th I started having labor
pains. They were 27 mins apart. Nothing
to get excited about, but as they went on,
I would get pains, they would stop, get them
again 27 mins apart. We called the doctor
told him what's what's, he said "Oh well better
go to the hospital that late in life ^{babies} ~~was~~ were
unpredictable.

When we reached ^{the hospital} ~~Staten Island~~ Hospital,
they put me in a delivery room, and being it was
war time (1946) most of the clocks were being fixed.
The routine was, the nurse would stick her head in
the door and ask how many pains since she was in before.
Nervously she decided to dilate me and break the
water bag, then the bed fell. My doctor was

in his office, and another doctor was
scrubbing up. In the middle of things
my doctor shuffled in. They said, "Come
on out, get busy" He nicely ~~shuffled~~
^{over} ordered a table to be put at the
bottom of the delivery table.

I felt relieved, You know every woman
wants her own doctor, at a time like this

I had an other cone for my pain
and I knew what was going on. All of a
sudden things stopped, and the doctor said
"Look at that." Nothing more was said. I
was dazed up and put in a empty delivery
room.

Wonderfully the nurse ^{was} ~~was~~ ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ ^{apologizing}
and took me down to my room.

I laid there a long time wondering.

After a long while, my husband came in
He told me the whole story.

The baby was born with a Spine Bifida
at the base of the skull

Dr Becker told my husband, that they didn't do much operating on something like this, but he knew a doctor who was, with quite a bit of success.

~~Had~~ Had we considered operation we talk a while, then decided on an operation.

Early the morning of Jan 8th, my husband and I, ~~myself~~ (the one who would be a nurse) took Dinky from Staten Island ~~to~~ ^{all bundled up} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~drove~~ ^{drove} to Columbia Medical Center, way up in N. Y. C. quite a ride, but Helen said, Dinky was good as gold.

When we arrived, Dr. Munson, was waiting to ~~see~~ ^{examine} Dinky (Margaret Lynn Harris) he had an emergency chesty in the other hospital.

She came through the spinal tap, they found out that they ~~had~~ had to remove a portion of the cerebellum. It certainly became

I never really know when one of the others learned to turn a door knob or put on a light switch, all of a sudden - one day, he or she, was doing it. But you encouraged it when you watched a handicapped child do it.

She tried to do what Flip did and got so many bumps when she fell, we would say "Oh bumble get up. Later when she fell, she would say "Oh bumble herself, get up, and go on what she was doing.

We taught her colors by naming the color of whatever she was putting on or handling.

We got colored glasses and would tell her to put the red paper ship into the red glass. She loved that one.

Although Fudge was educationally retarded, she never forgot a name or place where she was.

Outside of Algebra you couldn't catch her on much.

We taught her at home and when she was eight years old, she entered Public School's Special class. She had a wonderful teacher Tom Nelson. She learned much from Mr Nelson.

When she was fourteen she had to leave Special because she wasn't ready for High School.