SHHH founder Rocky Stone dies

Friday, August 13, 2004
Washington, DC

It is with great sadness that I must let all of our members and friends know that Rocky Stone went home to be with the Lord early this morning. Rocky, who was 79 years old, has had a critical illness for about three weeks.

We have a profound sense of loss at SHHH and grieve with his wonderful family. I have no words to express the sorrow I feel for his wife of 52 years, Ahme, and his four children and ten grandchildren.

Barbara Kelley shared this quote with me today that so captures the legacy that Rocky has left us, “SHHH is built on confidence in the human spirit and the determination to get hearing loss into a positive perspective. It’s working because the great majority of persons with hearing loss who became members of SHHH just needed a little help; a little company; a little assurance that they are okay; a little education, information, shared experience and support.”

As I have been thinking about Rocky this afternoon, the thing that I continue to remember is that his first question to me was always to ask about my wife and children.

I knew he was not just asking—I knew he really cared about them. Rocky talked about the importance of faith and family as a foundation on which a person could build their life. His life centered around people, and doing what he could to encourage them, and make their lives better.

At this time no arrangements have been finalized. We will certainly announce those as soon as we are able to do so. Any cards, notes or letters to Ahme or the family should be sent to the SHHH offices. I will personally deliver those in the coming days.

Terry Portis
Executive Director, SHHH
Gene Pankey has found a new vocation in retirement—getting the word out about hearing loss and what can be done about it. He is spearheading a campaign to raise $10,000,000 to launch a “Hearing Regeneration Initiative” at the Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center at the University of Washington.

The severely hearing impaired retired automobile dealer related in an interview how the initiative emerged. When he learned about the research work the UW Bloedel Hearing Research Center is doing with hair cell regeneration, he moved to make it an international special project of Rotary. Rotary districts of Australia and Taiwan joined the effort to provide the three districts needed for an international Rotary project.

The world-wide information and fundraising effort has been designated the “International Fellowship of Rotarians Affected by Hearing Loss (IFRAHL).” Pankey would like to see Rotary International make hearing loss its primary focus when its current initiative to eradicate polio worldwide reaches its successful end next year. The Rotary polio initiative has concentrated on less developed countries where polio persisted despite worldwide efforts to eradicate the disease.

Pankey’s interest was aroused when he learned about the University’s hair cell regeneration work and the hope it offered to restore some forms of lost hearing. The remarkable research effort was described at a luncheon Pankey attended by Dr. George Gates, Director of the UW Bloedel Hearing Research Center and Dr. Edwin Rubel, Bloedel’s Research Director.

The tiny cilia that direct sound to the hearing nerve can be damaged by loud noises, effects of aging, genetic causes, and disease. Dr. Rubel and other researchers are optimistic that the work, if fully supported, will find ways to apply the results to humans within the next decade. Researchers report making significant strides with laboratory mice.

The Rotary Fellowship has these objectives:

- To provide information on the physical, mental and social problems that too often accompany hearing loss, including isolation and depression.
- To help prevent hearing loss stemming from many causes, including those induced by noise and disease.
- To give a boost to research into hair cell regeneration by Dr. Rubel and other researchers.

Cheered on by Gene Pankey and Dave Sclair and Dave Cotant, two supporting fellow Rotarians with normal hearing, Clover Park

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(Continued from P. 2...Getting the word out)

Rotary has prepared a 25-minute Power Point presentation about the nature of hearing loss and the Bloedel Center’s research effort for other Rotary clubs and organizations. A seven-minute video to bring hearing loss to the attention of the general public is being developed by Clover Park Rotary for possible television and cable use.

Hoping to stir a positive response in the halls of the U. S. Congress, Pankey has persuaded Rep. Adam Smith of Washington’s Ninth Congressional District to join the Congressional Hearing Caucus. Pankey is urging other Washington State members of Congress to enlist in the cause.

Pankey’s interest in hearing loss problems and solutions was motivated in part by his own increasingly severe hearing loss. As a young student, Pankey achieved good grades in spite of his hearing loss. Nevertheless, he believes that he did not learn all that he would have learned with normal hearing. He enlisted in the army and was assigned to a mortar unit, after telling the recruiting officer that his ear problem was “just a cold.” When his hearing loss became evident, he was offered an honorable discharge or an assignment to a cooking unit. He stayed and became a mess sergeant.

In civilian life as an auto dealer, Pankey discovered that he could not keep up with the rapid-fire patter of the auctioneers, so a buyer stood in for him. As his hearing progressively worsened, he talked with his customers using techniques that are familiar to the hard of hearing community, a combination of hearing instruments and speech (lip) reading. From the way his automobile business thrived, he managed quite well.

His goal is to encourage Rotarians and others to connect with those hard of hearing individuals who need assistance the most—the ones who struggle with their loss in isolation and lack funds for testing and hearing aids. Individuals can review IFRAHL’s projects and make contributions through its website, www.ifrahl.org, or write: Rotary Club of Clover Park Hair Cell Regeneration P.O. Box 881037 Steilacoom, WA 98388

If Rotary International embraces IFRAHL’s $10,000,000 project, Pankey hopes the funding will help UW’s Bloedel researchers learn the birds’ secrets and find ways to apply them to people to make hearing loss a curable condition.

New Access Board guidelines published

The U.S. Access Board has published new guidelines (ADAAG) under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

As part of this update, the Board also revised its guidelines for Federal facilities under the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) of 1968. The ABA requires access to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with Federal funds.

Several items are of interest to hard of hearing people:

*Assistive Listening Systems: receivers must include a (3.5 mm) standard mono jack in order to be compatible with hearing aids; 25% must include neckloops to interface with hearing aid t-coils.

*Fire Alarms: All audible/visual systems must be permanently installed.

*Public phones: All public telephones (including courtesy phones) are required to have volume controls that provide at least a 20 dB volume boost.

*Public Address Systems: Where public address systems convey audible information, the same or equivalent information must be provided in visual format.

They apply to all new construction and to existing buildings only if they experience a change of occupancy, additions, or alterations. See http://www.access-board.gov for more information. While these guidelines may take some enforcing authority to implement in other states, the WA State Building Code Council has already implemented (via Chapter 51-50 WAC) virtually all of the new ADAAG requirements as of July 1, 2004. Hurray for us!
Lions Affordable Hearing Aid
By Bob Sheffels, Communications Coordinator, Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight & Hearing

The Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight & Hearing aims to duplicate its success as an international leader in eye banking with the introduction of a new product that serves a humanitarian cause — the Lions Affordable Hearing Aid.

Available now, the Lions Affordable Hearing Aid (LAHA) is for the 75 percent of the population with hearing loss who can’t afford a quality hearing aid at today’s high prices. To reach this market, estimated at 250 million people worldwide, the Foundation has established a wholly-owned subsidiary called the Lions Hearing Company.

The aid available now from the Lions Hearing Company through participating audiologists is a digitally-programmable analog behind-the-ear model manufactured with the same electromechanical components and transducers as used in high-priced U.S. and European hearing aids. Built to strict CE Mark Quality Standards, the LAHA features excellent fidelity and wide dynamic range compression.

While the aid itself incorporates new, cost-effective technology, the pricing under which it is being sold is where the real innovation comes in, according to Mike Langhout, president of the Lions Hearing Company. The purchase price for the aid depends on the customer’s ability to pay. For example, in the United States, the lowest price a customer can pay for the high-quality behind-the-ear model currently available is $100, plus audiologist fitting fees. The highest possible price is $450, plus audiologist fees. Eligibility to purchase at all in the United States is restricted to individuals with annual incomes that do not exceed 300 percent of federal poverty guidelines. The price for those in the low-middle of the eligibility range is $200. Patients in the high-middle pay $300.

Langhout says the Lions Hearing Aid Company’s target market includes millions of individuals who enjoy a mainstream standard of living, but have written off programmable hearing aids that actually work well as a luxury beyond their means. For example, an individual living in a single household would qualify to purchase a Lions Affordable Hearing Aid if his or her annual income was $26,940 or less. For someone living in a household of five, annual income for the household could reach $64,620 before that person would be excluded from eligibility.

“We’re a social enterprise, not a traditional for-profit business venture,” explains Langhout. “For the Lions Hearing Company to help the most people, we need to make enough from hearing aid sales to be self-sustaining; but our main goal is to help people, not turn profits. We aren’t competing with existing hearing aid companies—we’re reaching out to a very large segment of the hearing loss population that is currently priced out of the market. The better we succeed, the more people we help.”

Note: Initial distributors of the Lions Hearing Aid include clinics at the academic hearing programs of the University of Washington and several other large universities, and a limited but growing number of private audiologists. Individuals interested in purchasing a Lions Affordable Hearing Aid can call 1-866-LIONAID (546-6243) for more information.

Hearing Aid Insurance Legislation
By Penny Allen, HAIL Chair

The House Health Care Committee held a public hearing at the end of the 2004 legislative session to hear personal testimonies on the need for hearing aid insurance coverage. Eileen Cody, committee chair, recommended a “Sunrise Review,” which is a required process implemented by the Department of Health (DOH) before any health care mandate can be introduced as legislation.

We have an intern heading up the review process and working with Kimberly Krantz, pediatric audiologist at Children’s Hospital, who is coordinating the work with more hearing health professionals. Their study will be submitted to the DOH by September 1. There will be another public hearing with the DOH before the bill is introduced into the coming 2005 session.

We still need your help. Please continue to write your legislators and ask them to support HB 2281. We will also need people to testify, especially those who have put off buying hearing aids because of the cost. If you’re interested, please e-mail me at PAllen@wasa-shhh.org.
Hearing protectors

By Steve Pettijohn, Snohomish

I repair lawn mowers for a living. I also use a chain saw to cut my own firewood, a mower to cut my grass, and a weed trimmer to maintain my yard. Although I don’t hunt, I also enjoy shooting guns at the firing range.

For many years I always wore hearing protectors and until last year had good hearing. I returned a lawn tractor to the customer and found he was very upset because I didn’t fix the noise. I didn’t know there was a noise. Sometimes I hear well, and yet there are times when my phone rings and I don’t know it. One day I was sitting on a cliff, watching eagles fly. I could hear the wind, but someone had to tell me the eagles were screeching. I don’t wear hearing aids—I have pressure in my ear sometimes and noise (tinnitus) always. I still wear hearing protectors to protect the hearing I have left. And that is what this article is about.

There are basically two types of hearing protectors—earplugs and the earmuff style. Within these two types, there are lots of makes and models, and prices range from a dollar to over several hundred.

Non-electronic earplugs
Most earplugs have a noise reduction rate of 30 decibels (dB). Short-hand is NRR 30. The higher the NRR, the more they block sound. Disposable earplugs are about a dollar or less and work great. The bad part about them is that once they get wet, they’re ruined. Non-disposables cost more but can be reused and washed in water.

Disposable earplugs can be tricky to use. You must roll them out like putty, then move your jaw forward to open the ear canal. After you insert the earplug, relax and you will feel the earplug expanding in the ear.

The earmuff style has a NRR up to 30. I have owned many pairs of this.

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WASA-SHHH Board

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- **Sidney Weldele-Wallace, Auburn; swelede-wallace@wasa-shhh.org** (Captioning Committee Chair)

*(Continued from P. 5. ..Hearing protectors)* style. A good fit should be comfortable with a good seal going around your ears, even when wearing glasses. You can get this style at most hardware or sporting goods stores. There are even earmuff style protectors designed for hats. Earmuff protectors cost $15 to $30. If you really want quiet, try wearing both the earplugs and the earmuffs together.

**Electronic earmuffs**
These were designed for the gun range, so the shooter can hear the commands of the range master and yet still be protected from the gun blast. I bought mine for work two years ago and paid $125. Good ones like mine have two volume controls, two microphones, and two speakers, one for each ear. With mine, I can listen to what’s going on and still be protected. I’ve been told only some hearing aids will work with these.

One day at the gun range, I met a police officer who showed me a new type of electronic ear muff with a third microphone on a boom that sticks out in front of the mouth. The officer can turn the volume up higher than normal for listening for the bad guy and also listen to the police radio without the bad guy hearing it and thus knowing where the cop is. And of course it protects the police officer’s hearing during gunfire. It has an AM/FM radio and costs around $300.

Sometimes, to relieve my tinnitus (ringing in the ears), I tune my radio to an off station. I think the earmuff style with the radio could work the same way and still protect your hearing as you use power tools.

**Hearing aid style**
This style is not a true hearing aid or even advertised as one. (I must say from this point on I have no experience using any of these mentioned in this paragraph.) The hearing aid style hearing protector comes in two styles—in the ear and behind the ear. They have a NRR of about 32 and can amplify sounds by about 36 dB. What’s interesting about these is that some even come with a t-coil setting. One manufacturer offers a neckloop with a microphone attached to it. The idea is so someone can use a two-way radio with the t-coil. I see no reason why you couldn’t use this with your hearing aid to keep in touch with your friends via two-way radio.

Where can you get hearing protectors? You can buy electronic earmuff type protectors at any store that sells firearms, although you could save by buying online. I can find the hearing aid style only through mail order.

**Editor**: An enlightening website is http://www.earinc.com. Many businesses that sell hearing loss products also sell a limited variety of hearing protectors. Check with your dispenser for custom-made earmolds. You can e-mail Steve at spettijohn@msn.com.

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**Telecommunications Equipment Distribution**
If you live in Washington State and have a hearing loss, you are eligible for an amplified phone, Voice Carry-over phone, TTY, and/or telephone signaling device. A contract trainer will deliver the equipment. Cost is based upon income. Contact Kelly Robison, Program Manager: 1-800-422-7930/ V; 1-800-422-7941/TTY; Robiskd@dshs.wa.gov or write Telecommunications Equipment Distribution, PO Box 45301, Olympia, WA 98504.
Chapters in Washington

Support and education

Although some chapters meet monthly year round, most meet from September through June and host a summer picnic. Meeting times and days sometimes change, so check first with the contact person. See our website for program listings: (http://www.wasa-shhh.org). Interested in starting a chapter? Contact one of the chapter coordinators (see sidebar on page 6).

Cristwood—350 N. 190th St., Shoreline. Amplification, infrared. Time/location in retirement complex varies. Contact Rose Inouye at 206-542-5541 or e-mail inou@wasa-shhh.org.

Downtown Seattle—2nd Mon. 6:00 pm; Community Service Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CSCDHH), 1609 19th Ave., just off Madison. FM. Focus is on issues and access in the workplace. Judi Carr, facilitator: 206-935-6637 or jstarbright@wasa-shhh.org.

East Jefferson County—4th Mon. 1:00 pm; Auditorium, Jefferson General Hospital, 834 Sheridan, Port Townsend; amplification, FM. Emily Mandelbaum at mandelbaum@olympus.net or 360-379-4978 or Sandy MacNair: 360-385-1347 or smacnair@cablespeed.com.

Everett Area—2nd Sat. 11:00 am; Snohomish Co. PUD Commission Rm., 2320 California Street, Everett; amplification, FM, real-time captioning. Dave Pearson: 360-653-6746 or DCPearson@wasa-shhh.org.

Four Freedoms—1st Thurs. 1:30 pm; Four Freedoms House, Rm. 7, 747 N. 135th St., Seattle; amplification. Eleanor Kowalski: 206-364-3837 or Marianne Kelly: 206-363-4924.

Grays Harbor—2nd Tues. 6:00 pm, Timberline Public Library, 121 E. Market, Aberdeen. Wes Brosman: 360-537-0456 or wesbro@olynet.com.

Ida Culver House—2nd Thurs. 2:00 pm, 12505 Greenwood Ave N., Seattle. Michael Craig: 206-368-3713 or MCraig@ERACARE.com.

Kitsap—3rd Sat. 1:00 pm; Givens Community Center, Cascade Rm., 1026 Sidney Ave., Port Orchard; amplification, FM, real-time captioning. Penny Allen: Pallen@wasa-shhh.org or 360-871-0997.

Orcas Island—2nd Wed. 10:00 am, Orcas Senior Center, 62 Henry Rd., Eastsound; amplification, FM. Susan Kosir: 360-376-5746 or swkosir@aol.com.

Pasco—3rd Thurs. 1:00 pm, Pasco Senior Center, 1315 N. 7th Ave., Pasco. FM. Robin Traveller: toll-free 1-888-543-6598 or RTraveller@wasa-shhh.org.

Sequim—2nd Tues. 10:00 am, St. Luke’s of Sequim, 525 N. 5th Ave., Sequim; amplification, FM. Gladys and Ernie Snyder: 360-683-9887 or gladysjs@macaid.com.

SHHH Kids—Just for hard of hearing children and their families. South King County area. Time and location change due to scheduled activities. Sidney Weldele-Wallace: (wk) 253-833-9111, ext. 4705 or 253-833-6478 (h) or sweldele@greenriver.edu.

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Skagit—2nd Tues. 1:00 pm; Fidalgo Ctr., 1701-22nd St., Anacortes; amplification, FM, captioning. Danny Beatty: 360-293-2793 or dflyb@telcomplus.net.

South King County—2nd Fri. 6:45 pm; Auburn Regional Med. Center. Rm. 327, 202 N. Division, Auburn; amplification, FM, real-time captioning. Rick Faunt: 253-833-9147 or RFaunt@wasa-shhh.org.

Spokane—2nd Sat. 9:30 am at Rock Pointe-East, 1313 N. Atlantic, Spokane, in the DVR conference room; amplification, FM, computer captioning. Please be sure to arrive at 9:30 am. If you arrive late, there will be no one to let you in since the doors are locked and everyone will be in the meeting. Bob Roberts: 2bob@comcast.net or Mary Jo Harvey:harvemj@netzero.net; or Denise Jones: 509-328-2740.

Tacoma—2nd Sat. 10:00 am at TACID, 6315 S. 19th St., Tacoma. Amplification, infra-red, real-time captioning. Jerry Hansen: 253-531-6532 or jerryhansen@earthlink.net.

The Hearthstone—2nd Tues. 10:30 am; 6720 E. Greenlake Way N., Seattle; amplification, infra-red; Denise Long at 206-517-2224 or dlong@hearthstone.org.

Tri-Cities—3rd Tues. 7:00 pm; Kennewick Library, 1620 Union St. Kennewick; amplification, FM, and captioning. Robin Traveller toll-free: 1-888-543-6598 or RTraveller@wasa-shhh.org.

West Seattle—3rd Wed. 1:30 pm; Fauntleroy Church, UCC Lounge, 9260 California Ave. SW, Seattle; amplification, induction loop. Elaine Maros: elainemaros1@juno.com or Doug Gray at 206-932-6427.

Whatcom-Bellingham—3rd Sat. 10:00 am beginning Sept. 18; Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, 1600 Lakeway Dr., Bellingham; amplification, FM; Charlene MacKenzie at 360-738-3756 or CharMacKenzie@cs.com; Bert Lederer 360-319-4540 or bert@lederers.net.
Realistic expectations a key to CI success, audiologist says

By Robbi Bishop, cochlear implant audiologist, Listen for Life Center at Virginia Mason, Seattle

How do you help potential candidates deal with expectations?

One of the most challenging and rewarding aspects of being a cochlear implant audiologist is helping patients understand what is a realistic expectation for his or her cochlear implant.

We live in a world of rapidly improving technology and medical miracles, supplying us with the perception of near perfect results. Thoughts of, “I’ll be able to hear again; understanding people will be easy” may enter the mind of a person who has spent years or even decades struggling with a severe-to-profound hearing loss.

For most with sight problems, once glasses, contacts or cataract surgery happens, sight improves dramatically and very quickly. There rarely is an adjustment period in which the recipient has to learn to “see again.” With a cochlear implant, things are not as black and white; it is rarely all or nothing.

At this time, the field of cochlear implantation is unable to look at a potential recipient’s profile and predict his or her performance with an implant. Phrases like, “Bob will improve his speech understanding to 50%; Susan will improve hers to 80%” are not yet possible. An excellent article in Contact magazine, (Fourth Quarter 2002), summarizes it nicely by saying, “Hearing is the easy part...an implant makes this part possible. Understanding is the hard part. One understands with one’s brain. The two must learn to work together if speech is to be recognizable. This could take time.”

Each recipient’s memory of sound, auditory pathway, and ability to integrate sound into daily life is different and unpredictable. It is the responsibility of the audiologist to help those interested in implantation to understand what is a realistic expectation and what is a hopeful expectation.

Taking this extra time helps recipients proceed along the cochlear implant journey with a genuine appreciation of the gains and improvements, while keeping their desire and drive for what is still possible alive and well.

I received an email from a patient, who described a recent listening situation she faced with her cochlear implant in which she had difficulty and struggled. She ended the e-mail with a summary of all the amazing things she hears on a daily basis: the clomping of her horse’s feet on the forest floor, the sounds of the birds as they sing their morning song, and the occasional understanding of the TV when not looking. After reading this, I realized that her expectations were beyond realistic—they were inspiring.

Does this mean that cochlear implantation is a “roll of the dice”? Research showing benefits of cochlear implantation is extensive and reveals it is one of the highest quality-of-life improvements, compared to other medical procedures. There are expected benefits, such as improved ability to hear environmental sounds (car horns, birds singing, the blinker in the car), along with improved understanding by combining what is heard with the implant with what is seen through speech reading.

When it comes to speech understanding, each person should be counseled. That is essential to the building of the foundation for the successful use of a cochlear implant.
Personal story: Bill’s face “lit up like a Christmas tree,” as his life-long struggle to hear ends with a cochlear implant.

William Rinehart, after years struggling with a worsening hearing loss that did not respond to hearing aids, received a cochlear implant at age 79. Rinehart, a Nebraska native, has lived in Sequim since 1989. Here is his story:

Before getting the implant, I had not been hearing well for so long. Nothing I tried worked, leaving me quite frustrated.

I gradually accepted the fact that I couldn’t hear well, but I was angry with myself about it. Repeatedly I had to ask people to repeat what they said, or say I’m sorry, I don’t understand what you said.

I first noticed my hearing loss when I was in high school, but I didn’t do anything about it. When I went into the service in 1943, I enrolled in a radio course, but dropped it because I just couldn’t understand what the instructor was saying.

When I got out of the service, I worked in a steel mill under very noisy conditions for two years. They didn’t require earplugs then and my hearing worsened.

A doctor in Oakland, California, tried using water and air to clear my ear canals. That didn’t work. Then I started to wear hearing aids in both ears, but my hearing got steadily worse. I’ve used every kind of hearing aid ever invented, to little avail.

I couldn’t use the telephone—I couldn’t even hear it ring. Then I got a relay phone, but it didn’t work for me much of the time.

My family worked with me to try and understand the frustration that I experienced. When my son talked to me, he’d ask me at the end of the conversation, “Did you hear what I said?” Then he would say, “Tell me what I said.” I would really get frustrated. It got to the point where I talked to him only when I had to.

I had to stay in touch with my two daughters, either with the relay phone that Penny Allen helped me get or with e-mail. Both of my daughters were very concerned about my hearing loss and they realized that it was getting to me. My daughter Noreen was always looking for things with her computer to help me with my hearing.

Penny talked to me about cochlear implants. She thought I probably would be eligible for an implant. Actually, that was a second time around about an implant. About ten years before, at a Virginia Mason seminar in Bellingham, I decided to get an implant. But when I found out that Medicare then would not pay for implant surgery, I cancelled the appointment.

Then my wife came down with Parkinson’s Disease, and I had to forget about implants and take care of her. I had a hard time hearing what she was saying. That was frustrating for both of us. None of the audiologists I went to mentioned a cochlear implant as a possibility for me.

I hesitated about getting an implant, until I was connected to an implant wearer in Bremerton who was well-satisfied with the implant he received six months earlier through the Veterans Administration. After hearing him explain what he went through before he got the implant, I decided to have it done.

The surgery was performed more than nine months ago at Virginia Mason, and my Nucleus Esprit 3-G was “turned on” a few weeks later. This time, Medicare covered the surgery.

The first sounds I heard through the implant were from Stacey, the audiologist. She said my face lit up like a Christmas tree.

After I left Virginia Mason to come home, I asked my son if it was always this noisy. He said, “Yes.” I said, “Take me back—I want my old hearing back.” I didn’t feel that way very long.

I hear things I could never hear before. I can talk on a regular (non-relay) telephone again. That was something I was unable to do for almost fifty years.

Now, I’m more confident that I will hear people when they talk to me. I no longer have to avoid people because of my poor hearing.

I would not hesitate to recommend it to others who could benefit from it, particularly those with limited hearing who work in noisy environments. I’m very glad that I got the implant.

William R. Rinehart Sr.

Your story is special

Your personal story about your adventures in getting and using your cochlear implant is special. Please let us know so that we can help you share it with our readers. You can write me at WASA-SHHH, PO Box 4025, Kent, WA 98089 or e-mail me at bengilbert@wasa-shhh.org.
We appreciate you!
Your donations help us fund projects that benefit people with hearing loss. These contributions are for May through July:

- Maxine Atlas, Seattle
- Dale Becker, West Richland
- Lyla Brown, Gig Harbor
- Friends of Fairwood Library, Renton
- Martha Harney, Seattle
- Kate Johnston, Bellevue
- Bert Lederer, Bellingham
- Robert Monahan, Kent

United Way
You can make regular United Way contributions and help hard of hearing people in our state. These readers have supported this newsletter throughout the year through United Way:

- Erlene Little—Seattle
- Dave Pearson—Marysville
- John C. Robbins—Renton
- Della Ramsden—Seattle
- George Ross—Seattle
- Lilia Smith—Camano Island
- Mark and Susan Svancarek—Redmond
- Timmie Mauck—Poulsbo
- United Way Kitsap Co.—donor

Double your donation!
Many employers will match their employees’ donations to non-profit organizations. If you are planning to make a donation to WASA-SHHH, please ask your employer if it has a matching gifts program. We are a 501(c)3 organization.

WASA-SHHH Board meetings for 2004
WASA-SHHH Board meetings are open to SHHH members and the public. A general meeting is scheduled in the morning, followed by a potluck (sometimes catered lunch) with the board meeting in the afternoon. Visitors may observe the afternoon board meetings. Meetings are captioned and have ALDs.

Plan to take part in our raffle! Quality raffle items will be raffled at each meeting.

- Saturday, August 28, 10:00 am, St. Luke’s Rehab Institute, 711 So. Cowley, Spokane; Large Conference Room adjacent to the reception area. General meeting will include a hands-on demonstration of assistive listening devices.
- Saturday, November 20, 10:00 am (annual meeting and elections); installation of new board by Susan Matt, Past President of the National Board of Trustees. TACID, 6315 S. 19th St., Tacoma

Please see our website or contact Judi Carr, Meeting Planner (jstarbright@wasa-shhh.org), for more information about luncheon arrangements, directions to meetings, hotels, or ride sharing.

Hear with your eyes
If you have ever experienced captioning at meetings, you understand how important it is. Captions provide visual cues for hearing impaired people.

A captioner types everything being said into a computer or steno machine, and a projector picks up the words and projects them onto a screen for everyone to see.

While we are fortunate to have volunteer captioners, they often don’t have the needed projectors. WASA-SHHH wants to make projectors available to all Washington State chapters.

We are starting conservatively, hoping to purchase four projectors, accessories, and hard carrying cases at a cost of $10,000 to be placed in four sections of our state and shared by the volunteer captioners.

I encourage you to help us fund this project with a generous 501(c)3 donation. Chapters – rise to the challenge! These projectors will be for your use; consider having special fundraising events.

As an incentive, the Auburn/South King County Chapter has contributed $500 in memory of Erla Musser. Wouldn’t it be nice to have these by January, 2005? Please earmark any donations to the projector fund.

Thank you!
Sue Campbell,
WASA-SHHH Treasurer
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WASA-SHHH, Washington State Association of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, is affiliated with the national organization of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc., headquartered in Bethesda, MD. SHHH is an educational organization devoted to the welfare and interests of hard of hearing people.

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Subscription renewal is January of each year and runs through December. We will gladly provide back issues if subscription is made during the year. WASA-SHHH is a 501(c)3 organization and relies on your support to fund outreach projects that help people with hearing loss. Please Make checks payable to WASA-SHHH and mail this completed form to WASA-SHHH, PO Box 4025, Kent, WA 98089. Note: names and addresses are strictly confidential. We do not sell or distribute this information.