

Disabel

A Battle For Normal Childhood . . .

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By MARGARET KOCH
Sentinel Staff Writer

What does the future hold for parents of a brain-damaged child?

Heartache—yes.

But today the future holds hope as well as heartache. There is help; it isn't easy. And it is controversial. But it is there.

Mr. and Mrs. James Folston are staking two years of their lives on it. Their goal—help for their brain-damaged child, 4½-year-old Patti.

Patti's brain was damaged during birth by lack of sufficient oxygen. As a result, her brain develops only about one-half the normal rate, according to the Folstons.

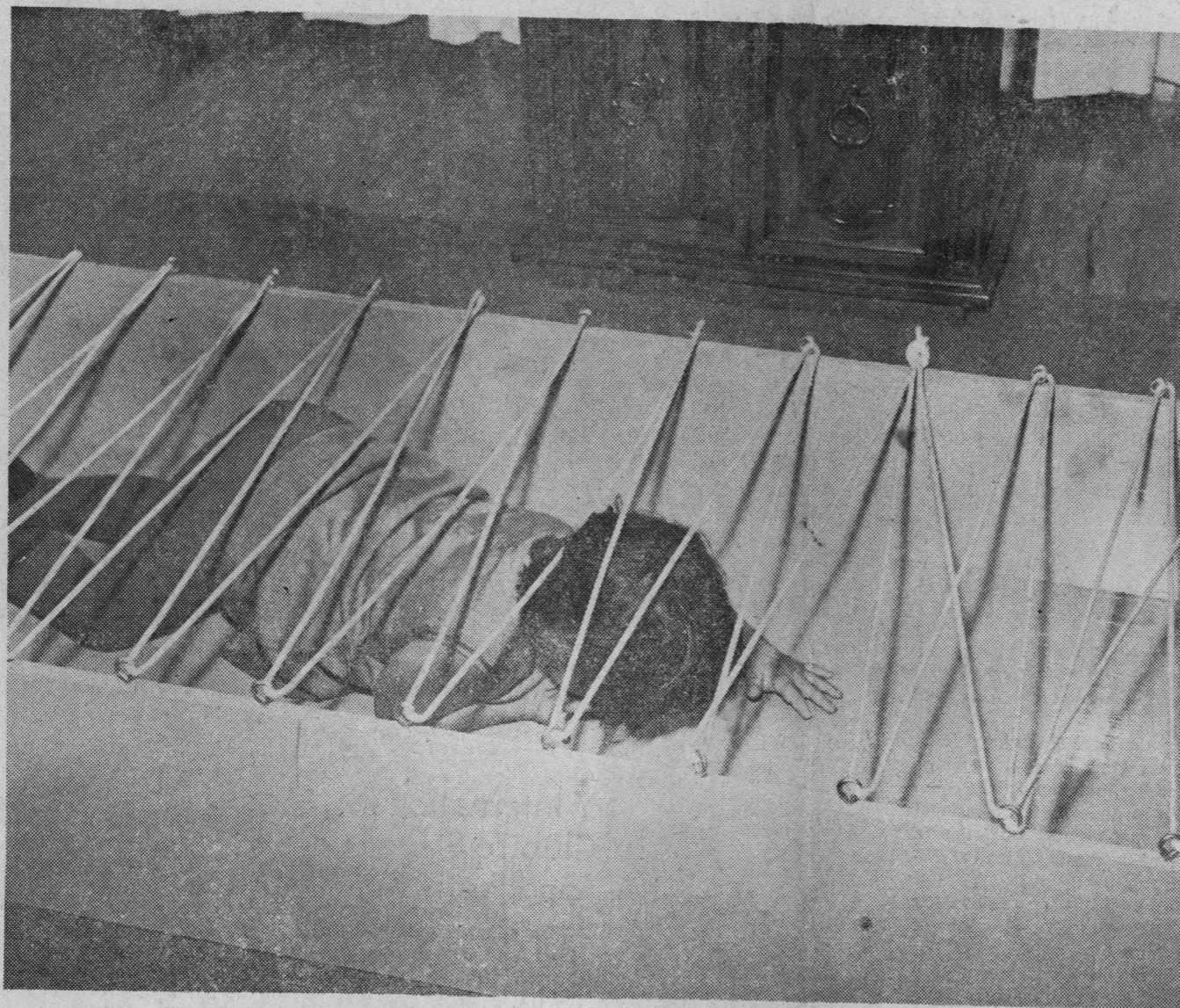
It was not too long ago that parents of brain-damaged children like Patti were told to put them into institutions or special schools. Traditional treatment included massage, whirlpool baths, crutches, braces and wheelchairs. It wasn't until 1956 that three men, two of them doctors, became dissatisfied with non-results and looked for something different.

They are Dr. Robert J. Doman, Dr. Carl H. Delacato and Glenn Doman, all of the Institutes for the Achievement of Human Potential in Philadelphia.

They reviewed all that has even been done for brain-damaged children. They reviewed all that science has been able to discover about the brain and its development in the normal child. As a result they came to certain conclusions and worked out a chart on which can be recorded a brain-damaged child's level of development. It is called the development profile. It indicates the portion of the brain in which the injury is centered.

In most damaged brains, all the cells in the affected area are not destroyed. These doctors believed it might be possible to get the surviving cells to take over the functions of the dead ones.

The researchers also observed the growth and de-



"Crawl box" through which Patti must go for 15 minutes, four times each day. Her father built it. Mrs. Folston refers to it jokingly as their "living room conversation piece." Patti's "patterning" program is expected to take two years. Not a day should be missed. Patti, who already runs about in agile fashion, is kept creeping on her hands and knees as much as possible, in conjunction with the controversial new theory of the Institutes for the Achievement of Human Potential.

velopment of the normal child. And perhaps the most startling and controversial theory the doctors have set forth is that of "crawling and creeping." (Crawling is forward motion with the abdomen touching the floor. Creeping is forward motion on hands and knees.)

They contend that the normal child develops not only his muscles and curiosity by crawling and creeping, but also his entire neurological system.

The doctors worked out a

"patterning" procedure to take the brain-injured child through the normal patterns of movement and development.

Dr. Edwin LeWinn of the

Institutes claims that a normal child, kept fed and clean but confined to a crib constantly for as short a period as three months, will be retarded to a degree. And

brain-injured children are less likely to receive stimulation than normal children.

The Institutes' "patterning" procedure is based on six areas of development in



the normal human being: tactile, auditory, visual, manual, language and mobility. These areas are developed and controlled as the child develops, by the stimulation of the pons, midbrain and cortex, during the first 18 months of the child's life.

Institutes researchers claim that creeping helps the two separate sides of a child's brain to work smoothly with both sides of his body. Failure of a child to creep long and well enough can be reflected years later in "problem reading," or cross-eyes, according to Dr. Delacato. This is because the midbrain controls eye movements.

Patti Folston's patterning takes five women four times daily. Santa Cruz Mari-Eds, Junior Woman's club, has taken Patti's patterning as their special project. Four times each day, cars pull up at Folstons' front door, 208 Segri place, and the women driving them go in to help a little girl gain normality. They attended a training session last week at First Methodist church. However, substitute helpers are still needed for Patti's patterning. Interested persons may call 423-3940.

The Institutes program is family-oriented because, as Dr. Delacato has said, the brain-injured child's own parents are his best helpers.

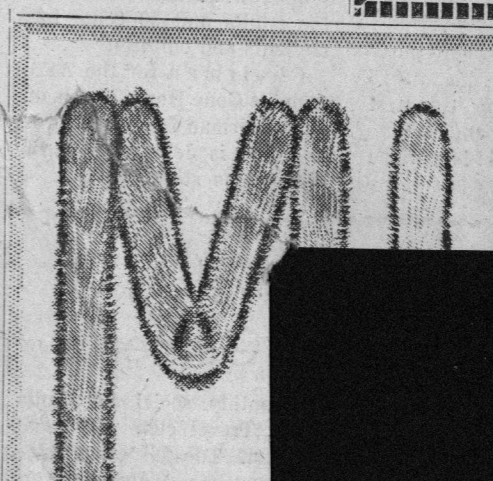
Patti, fortunately, did not have to go to Philadelphia for her patterning tests. There is now an Institute center at San Bernardino.



Mrs. James Folston, Patti's mother, puts the little girl through a visual aid program which is part of the over-all "patterning." Patti's brain damage was evaluated at the San Bernardino clinic of the Institutes, she was programmed, and now will be taken back for clinic checks once every two months.

Barbecues?

BUSY
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"Homolateral crawl" pattern is performed on Patti four times each day for five minutes each time. Working with the child above are, from left, Mrs. Don Kirby Jr., Mary Lou Douglass, Mrs. Richard Harlan, Mrs. Folston and Mrs. Gerald Perron. Theory behind the patterning is that remaining uninjured brain cells can be stimulated to take over work of injured portions. More volunteers are needed for these daily sessions. The high padded table was made by Wes Myers of Watsonville, whose granddaughter Shawn also is being "patterned."