

949-484-4310

# Stu's News

## FUNNY BONE

"A cheerful heart  
 is good medicine ..."

**A funny thing happened on  
 the way to better hearing...**

Recently a patient came in for an updated hearing test. Accompanied by her husband, we had fun listening to their conversations as it became apparent Mrs. Lewis was due for a new pair of hearing aids.

In one conversation, Mr. Lewis was commenting on the efficient waitress who had served them breakfast shortly before they had come in for the appointment. Summing up his compliments, he stated to Mrs. Lewis, "She didn't miss a beat."

Confused, Carolyn asked, "How would you *possibly* know **that**?"

Looking at her quizzically, Mr. Lewis said, "Well, you were there. You saw her in action."

Meekly shaking her head, Carolyn acquiesced, "Alright; I admit, it. You couldn't have said what I thought you said."

Her husband chuckled. "Okay. Tell me. What did you hear?"

Carolyn turned pink and rolled her eyes at her own blunder. Sheepishly she answered, "She didn't mess the bed."

Mr. Lewis grinned and patted her hand. "That's why we're here, Honey. That's why we're here."

**How about YOU?**

**Should YOU be here?**

**Call us today.**



## Don't Celebrate Your Holidays with a Silent Night

Silent Night. That's a beautiful Christmas hymn, but a sad way to live. All year long, those of us with hearing loss struggle to clearly hear and understand words. We continually strive to improve discerning what we hear—sometimes even when we're wearing our hearing aids. As both a hearing-impaired person myself and your hearing care provider, I have "inside information" that many of you may not know: that even small changes in our hearing can make

a big difference in whether we can successfully communicate with family and friends.

Now—before the holidays actually arrive—is a great time to review your hearing situation and explore some simple technology add-ons that can help you hear better every day. Today's ingenious technological advances make great holiday gift ideas for yourself or a loved one.

*Cont. pg 3*

## Walt Disney Was No Dwarf



One hundred fifteen years ago this month, one of mankind's most brilliant, fertile, and uniquely creative minds said hello to this world. Fifty years ago this month that same mind said good-bye.

Born in Chicago on December 5, 1901, Walt

was the fourth of five children born to Elias and Flora Disney. His father, a strict, no-nonsense building contractor, moved the Disney clan to a family farm in Missouri soon after Walt's birth.

It was here that Walt developed his love

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# Walt Disney Was No Dwarf

Cont. From pg. 1

of animals and began using his natural artistic talent to draw animal characters—much to his overbearing and abusive father's displeasure. While Elias saw Walt's artistic abilities as a dreamer's wasteland, these rudimentary characters paved the way to the phenomenon of the Disney cartoon.

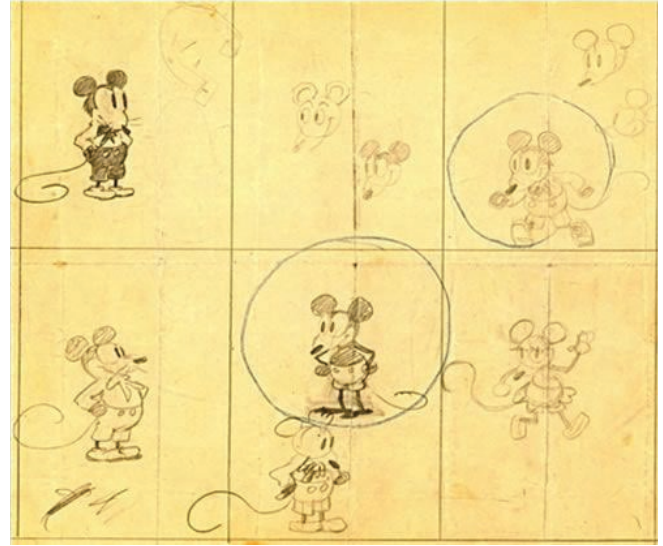
While encouraged in his art and creativity by his mother and his brother Roy, the caricature artwork Walt painted on the side of the family barn infuriated his father. In 1918, Walt left his home in Kansas City at age sixteen to join the military to serve in World War 1. Underage, he was rejected by the U.S. Army so he joined the Red Cross.

Sent overseas to drive an ambulance and chauffeur Red Cross officials, Walt often found himself in hot water for covering anything in his path with

his cartoon caricatures — including his ambulance from hood to bumper.

Walt formed his own business, Laugh-O-Gram Films, in 1922, inviting friend and cartoonist Ub Iwerks to join him. This partnership proved to be just one of many intelligent and fortuitous collaborations that would propel Walt Disney into the center of animation, where he remains the central historical figure of the medium.

The first complete Mickey Mouse cartoon was released in 1928, *Plane Crazy*, inspired by Charles Lindbergh's solo trans-Atlantic flight. Disney himself voiced the dialogue.



Concept sketch of Mickey from 1928.

Master animator, creative wizard, and visionary extraordinaire, Walt Disney died of lung cancer on December 15, 1966 but "Fantasia" remains with us.

## Buddy's Bio—Where's Buddy This Time?



No one reading this will be surprised that we had another occasion where we couldn't find Buddy. He is always on the move—whether by himself, with neighbors or with one of us.

Luke up for hockey. When we leave the house we always make sure to put Buddy in his crate. (No explanation needed here.) He really likes his crate.

This was a typical day of busy-ness around the Spencer house. Hockey and soccer games, errands and honey-do's. We all move at a pretty good speed during our weekends. Mariela was getting ready to take Daniel to his game; I was packing

Daniel called for Buddy and he didn't come. Daniel went to the backyard and looked around. Still no Buddy. Daniel asked all of us if we'd seen him. No. Now Mariela is getting a little twisted because we all have to leave and we don't know where Buddy is. Surely we are not going to leave him in the house alone for a couple hours.

We all start looking. This time we know (or at least believe) that he's not outside because the door has been closed all morning, but we make another search... backyard; front; side yards

and up and down the street. Doggone that dog!

Finally, Daniel looks in the entry closet at the bottom of the stairs in our living room. There was Buddy, sitting in with a group of stuffed animals that we had bought for the grandchildren. Mixed all together, he looked just like one of them! Frustration aside, we all had to laugh. Buddy looked like he was posing for a picture page out of "Where's Waldo?" Lucky for Buddy, even Mariela thought it was cute!

# Don't Celebrate Your Holidays with a Silent Night

Cont. From pg. 1

## — LOONEY LAW —

In 1659, a law in Puritan Massachusetts made it illegal to celebrate Christ-mas as (the observance date of) December 25th is not the true date of the Savior's birth.

## — POTPOURRI —

### Are You Flexible About Hearing Better?

If you need hearing aids, this is a reminder that you may have an FSA (**Flexible Spending Account**) through your employer. This is a special healthcare account to cover certain out-of-pocket health care costs that are not covered by your health insurance plan.

If you have a medical FSA and your spending deadline is December 31st, consider using your FSA savings to purchase your "new ears" now—before it's too late. It's important to note that **any unused FSA funds will be lost once your coverage period expires**. Now is a perfect time to check its balance—and to confirm your deadline—with your company's benefits department. Start hearing better now and make sure you don't end up losing your hard-earned money!

## — FUN FACTS —

2016 marks the 39th year that Washington D.C. will light the menorah to celebrate Hanukkah. This televised event features the largest menorah in the world.

Today, **listening devices can transmit sound directly from your TV straight into your hearing aids** so you can hear words clearly—at a volume that's comfortable for you. And, when you have a viewing partner, you can turn the TV's volume to a level suitable for their comfort while still enjoying the volume where it works best for you. Your companion can even completely mute the volume so only you hear the TV!

Many patients have difficulty hearing conversations on the telephone. **You can get an amplified phone FREE!** Some phones are simple amplifiers; others come with **closed caption screens so you can read the words being spoken** on the other end. Amplified phones often come with loud ring tones, so it's easy to hear when a call's coming in.

Hearing in noisy environments always presents a challenge for someone with hearing loss. Small, wireless **remote microphones** are an option and can be worn by a speaker, enabling you to hear speech directly in your hearing aids— from across the table in a restaurant, in a crowded room, or even in a large auditorium.

In my 35 years of helping people hear better, we now have more assistive listening devices than ever that can really make a difference in our daily lives. There is a wide variety of "holiday gift ideas" to choose from: loop systems, wireless listening systems and speaker systems that we can recommend so your family members or neighbors in connecting apartments or retirement homes aren't bothered by your loud TV volume.

Before you spin the dreidel on a Silent Night, come in and find out which add-on products can help you or a loved one hear better. A great idea for your Christ-mas and Hanukkah gift lists!



## Solution to Fractured Christ-mas Carols

From pg. 4

1. We three kings of **orient are** ...
2. On the first day of Christmas my **true love** gave to me...
3. Later on we'll **conspire**, as we dream by the fire...
4. He's makin' a list, **checking it twice**...
5. With the **angelic host** proclaim...
6. **All of**, the other reindeer...
7. You'll go down in **history**...
8. Oh, what fun it is to ride **in a one horse, open sleigh**...
9. O come, **all ye** faithful...
10. **Yuletide carols being sung by a choir**...
11. Frosty the Snowman is a **fairytale they** say...
12. Sleep in heavenly **Peace**...

24310 Moulton Pkwy., Ste. D  
 Laguna Woods, CA 92637  
**949-484-4310**  
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 **Now 'Ear This from the Expert**

**LOOP DE LOOP**

Many of our patients have had the satisfying experience of using the combination of a “t-coil” (or telephone coil) in their hearing aids with a “loop” induction system to hear TV clearly. We started installing these systems over 10 years ago.

The loop is a wire connected to a small amplifier that runs around any given area—perhaps a living room, bedroom, study or even a public stage. The loop picks up sound from a device — like a TV or microphone. The sound is transmitted directly to the hearing aid’s “T-coil”, resulting in better sound quality—and better hearing.

The use of T-coils and loops goes back over 45 years. Today it’s becoming more popular because different venues in public places and retirement homes are installing the Loop systems. This helps residents and

patrons to hear better when attending events.

As more public locations (like theatres and movie houses) install loop-hearing systems, the more public attention they are receiving. It’s old-hat to us here at Advanced Ear Care but new to many of you who have never heard of such a system. In Laguna Woods Village, all of the club houses have a loop system. The Wellington, the Towers and Freedom Village are all “looped”. Ask us for our complete list of local businesses and entertainment locations that are equipped with looping systems.

If you are interested in knowing more about T-coils and Loops, give us a call or come into the office to see if your hearing aid has a t-coil. If you do, we have the loop system installed and ready for you to test out. Call us today!

**FRACTURED CHRIST-MAS CAROLS**

*Answers on pg. 3*

At 6, a deaf little girl was fitted with a cochlear implant, which she called her “Coke Ear Elephant”. Here is a list of her “Fractured Christ-mas Carols”. Can you fill in the correct words?

ex. Deck the halls with Buddy Holly... (Boughs of Holly)

1. We three kings of porridge and tar... (----- ---)
2. On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me... (---- ----)
3. Later on we’ll perspire, as we dream by the fire... (-----)
4. He’s makin’ a list, chicken and rice... (----- -- ----)
5. With the jelly toast proclaim... (----- ----)
6. Olive, the other reindeer... (----)
7. You’ll go down in Listerine... (-----)
8. Oh, what fun it is to ride with one horse, soap and hay... (-----)
9. O come, froggy faithful... (----)
10. You’ll tell Carol, “Be a skunk, I require”... (-----)
11. Frosty the Snowman is a ferret elf, I say... (-----)
12. Sleep in heavenly peas... (----)