BIO-Lancaster Farming, Saturday, December 3, 1907

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Boy Draws By Holding Pen In His Mouth

LEOLA — Seven-year-old David Nolt was born with a rare crippling disease that prevents him from using his arms. He cannot feed himself, brush his teeth or hold things in his fingers. But David does not let that stop him from enjoying his favorite pasttime—art.

To draw, David sprawls flat on the floor and holds a pen in his mouth. A clipboard keeps the paper from sliding around. Last year, David won fourth place in a drawing contest.

When David was a baby, doctors did not believe he would be able to walk because he has severe club feet, weak muscles, stiff tendons, nerve damage and contractured joints. But when David was two years old, he began walking. Today, David walks ½ -mile to a

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Since he cannot use his arms, David compensates by using his mouth and neck a lot. He opens doors with his chin. He uses his mouth to hang up washcloths and socks. He stirs cakes by biting a wooden spoon handle and stirring the batter while his sister holds the bowl.

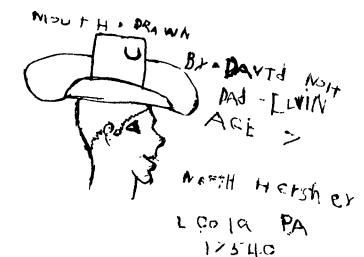
Most of all, David would like to be able to feed himself. But his arms are limp and do not grow with the rest of his body. Two of his fingers, crossed sideways like a scissors, allow him to move a few things, but he cannot raise his hand to his mouth. Every day, his parents Elvin and Lydia Nolt help him with therapy exercises. He wears special shoes that cost almost \$1,000 a pair.

At school, his classmates take turns feeding him and picking things up for him. He is happy that his friends enjoy helping him.

Although David can't do many things he would like to do, he does not feel sorry for himself. He has a happy smile and lots of fun with his brothers and sisters who range in ages from 8-17.

His mother said, "God gave David to us and we are determined to do everything possible to help him. David is special, it's so amazing watching him do things."

If you would like to write to David, mail your letters to David Nolt, c/o Elvin Nolt, 321 North Hershey Avenue, Leola, PA 17540.



David Nolt, 7, cannot use his arms and fingers so he learned to draw by holding a pen in his mouth. Try drawing a picture in this way and then you can see how difficult it really is to do.

