

# A Symbol Of Hope

(Continued from Page B2)

— we asked everyone to pray. We figured we needed all the help we could get," said Linda.

Although it was difficult dealing with the stress of a diagnosis that shattered the family's day-to-day lifestyle so quickly, it was hearing the other children on the ward cry that Linda found so devastating.

to remove life support, yet when they called to say Jonathan was being taken to surgery, she had the presence of mind to turn to me and say that she hopes the operation goes well for my son," Linda said.

Jonathan's surgery required a day-long operation to remove an adrenocortical tumor, formed on top of the gland that sits on top of the kidneys. It is a rare tumor that

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Their stories were so heartbreaking.

Doctors encouraged Linda and Barry to sit in on a parents' support group that met at the hospital.

"When we are in situations like that, we tend to wallow in our own horror story and grief," Linda said. But as she listened to other parents tell of dealing with life-and death illnesses, Linda was amazed at the compassion these parents showed toward each other.

"One mother's 7-year-old had been hit by a car and was brain dead. She needed to decide when

had grown into the size of a baseball in Jonathan's small stomach.

The doctors have no explanation for this type of tumor. Although the Bruce family was assured that this type of cancer is definitely not hereditary, Barry's uncle recently died from it. The doctors said the coincidence is a rare fluke of nature, and not a sign that it is hereditary.

Surgeons were able to completely remove the tumor from Jonathan and no chemotherapy or radiation therapy was performed.

"After the operation, there was

no guarantee that it would not return or anything. No one had any real answers at that point and it was not reassuring," Linda said.

She saw that she had a choice. She could either worry that the tumor would return or learn to live one day at a time without borrowing trouble from the future.

"I absolutely learned to enjoy each moment, to focus on what we have and not on the way I wish it would be," Linda said.

Jonathan returns for testing on a regular basis. Each test is clear, a

reassuring confirmation that all traces of cancer are gone. Now Jonathan receives only annual testing.

Since then, the Bruce's had another child, Christopher, who is now 3.

"I held my breath during his 9-month-old checkup," Linda said.

Both sons are sources of endless energy and a delight to their parents who said the experience has caused them to enjoy each day more fully.

While most people perceive cancer to be a greater fear than nor-

mal day-to-day living, Linda points out that no one has the promise of tomorrow or a guarantee of anything.

She said, "You never know who could have an accident or get sick. We can only do our best and leave the rest to God."

Linda, who is a home economist and was director of the Lancaster Better Business Bureau for 10 years, is now a full-time mom and an accredited volunteer leader for LaLeche League. Her husband has his own advertising business.

## Dairy Board Offers Scholarships

ARLINGTON, Va. — Applications for the 1994 National Dairy Promotion and Research Board Undergraduate Scholarships are being accepted from college students who will be in their junior or senior year in the fall of 1994. Up to 19 scholarships will be awarded to junior-and senior-year college students in dairy-related fields of study. Winners receive a \$1,500 scholarship check and a plaque.

In honor of its recent Chair James H. Loper, Jr., who died July 19, 1993 after an accident on his Santa Teresa, N.M. dairy farm, the National Dairy Board has added one special award — the James H. Loper, Jr., who died July

19 after an accident on his Santa Teresa, N.M. dairy farm, the National Dairy Board has added one special award — the James H. Loper, Jr. Scholarship. This \$3,000 scholarship and plaque award will be given to the most outstanding undergraduate dairy science student in the U.S. The recipient will be selected from candidates applying for a National Dairy Board Undergraduate Scholarship.

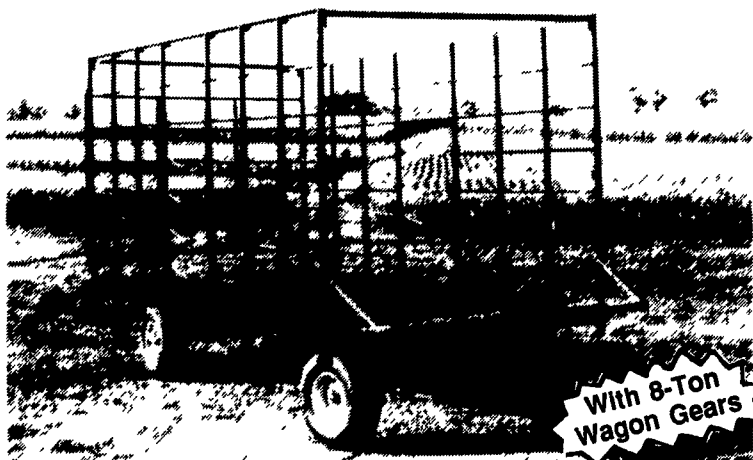
Glenell Loper, Jim's wife, will present the first James H. Loper, Jr. Scholarship at the National Dairy Board's annual meeting May 17-19 in Washington, D.C.

Scholarship recipients will be selected based on the following criteria:

- academic performance;
- commitment to a career in dairy science or technology, dairy marketing, or a food-related science with an emphasis in dairy products;
- involvement in dairy/food science extracurricular; and
- evidence of leadership ability, initiative, character and integrity as confirmed in letters of recommendation.

Scholarship applications are due April 1, 1994. For an application, contact dairy or food science college department heads, or write or call the National Dairy Board, Attn.: Rose, 2111 Wilson Blvd., Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22201, (703) 528-4800.

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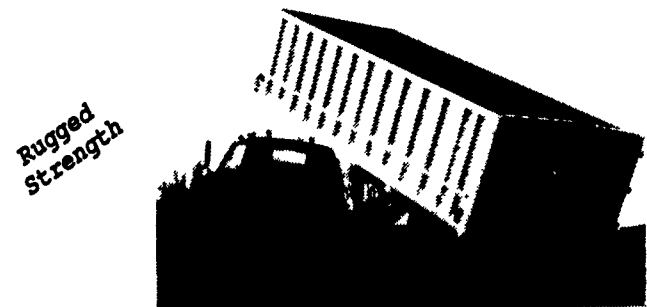
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