

Whistle! and it Works!

The genius of Ed Prentke, Electronics Engineer in P. M. & R at Highland View, has extended itself to JCRC. As a result Evelyn Brenner, formerly a patient at Highland View has on loan a device making life a lot more bearable for her.

Over Evelyn's bed is suspended a tiny microphone which picking up a whistle from her, will turn on or off the call-light, radio or television. It is known as the Sonic Paratrol and is activated by a limited pitch range of tone. This delicate equipment works only when properly directed.

Mr. Prentke designed this unit 3 years ago but it was fully accepted for use only this last year. It was loaned to JCRC for Evelyn's use by Dr. Charles Lang, II - Acting Director of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, for as long as she needs it.

Mr. Prentke has a daily volunteer assistant - Sheldon Stoltz, 17 yrs. Sheldon is a paraplegic who was formerly a patient at Highland View. Together they custom-design electronic controls. Mr. Prentke considers his young assistant a genius.

With Barry Romich, another young assistant, Mr. Prentke and Sheldon have just completed a 9 push-button custom designed device. This device controls 56 characters on an Ohio Bell Teletype Machine to be controlled by just a touch with the left hand. The machine serves the purpose of a typewriter. All three are currently working on several other projects. Much of Mr. Prentke's work is in constructing controls for operating hand splints. He is a Case graduate and Electronics is both his vocation and avocation. He is truly a pioneer in this field and has already given a great number of people a feeling of some success in self help.

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