

## LOCAL CHAPTER FINANCES POLIO TREATMENTS OF DIME BOX BOY

**TOTAL OF \$2,431.96 HAS BEEN  
DISBURSED BY LEE COUN-  
TY CHAPTER UP TO  
DEC. 31, 1949**

Arvis Dale Markwardt was stricken with poliomyelitis on October 26, 1949. Three days later he was removed to the polio ward of Breckenridge hospital in Austin.

Arvis Dale, is the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Harold F. Markwardt of Dime Box, Texas.

The Lee County Chapter of the National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis has financed the treatments for Arvis Dale with the exception of some X-rays, which the father wished to pay for himself, according to Mrs. James Dixon, Chapter Chairman. A total of \$2,431.96 had been disbursed by the Lee County Chapter up to December 31, 1949, it was disclosed by Monroe Hannes, Treasurer. \$900 of this was for special nurses during the critical first stage, he added.

"Arvis Dale's condition has improved so that he can now be with other children," Mrs. Markwardt told the Star reporter. She said they spent the first two weeks with the child in the Hospital when his condition was such that the doctors held out little hope for his recovery.

Mr. Markwardt asked the reporter to tell the people that their child's recovery was made possible by the unstinting support given by the March of Dimes. He wishes to thank all supporters of the March of Dimes for helping preserve their child for them.

For seven weeks Arvis Dale was unable to speak or eat. During this time his slim hold on life was sustained by food administered by means of a tube. Today he has managed to eat by himself, very slowly yet to be sure, but an important forward step in his recovery.

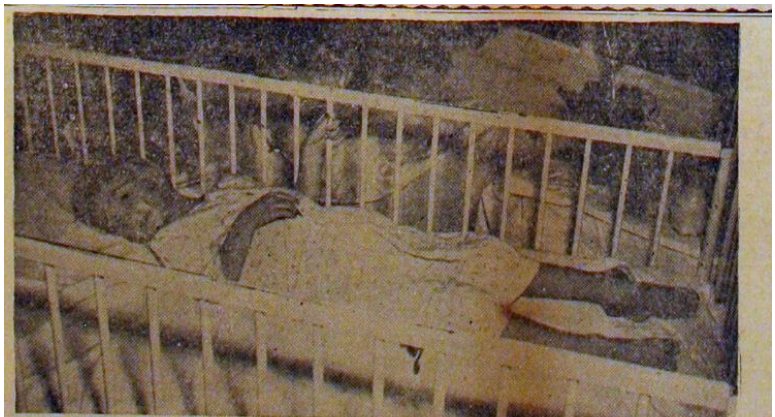
He also can speak again, the paralysis of his neck and face muscles having been conquered to the extent that the right side of the face and the neck to a limited extent are still affected.

The doctors have given no date as to the time he can be released from the hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Markwardt, as well as local officials of the polio chapter, have been given to understand that his stay there will be indefinite.

The reason for his uncertainty is reported to be the fact that the attack of the disease was so violent in his case. Although the paralysis of the face and neck is responding satisfactorily, therapy in this area was so essential and exhausting to the patient that therapy for the rest of the body had to be limited to the most essential only.

Arvis Dale has not yet stood on his own legs since his illness began. It was only Christmas week that his father was permitted to hold him on his lap. With each small advance against the crippling effects of the disease eagerly awaited by both Arvis Dale and his parents, no other Christmas gift could have been more welcome.

The reporter of the Star asked Mr. Hannes about the outlook for continuing the payments for Arvis  
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ARVIS DALE MARKWARDT was stricken with polio on October 26, 1949. This picture was taken on Christmas Eve in his room at the Breckenridge Hospital in Austin, Texas.

## Local Chapter - - -

(Continued from page 1.)

Dale's treatments. The funds of the local chapter have been exhausted for some time and the larger part of Arvis Dale's hospital bill has been supplied by the National Foundation. Since special nurses are no longer needed, the costs will not mount as fast as they did in the initial stages of the treatments. They will continue, however, and the local chapter will underwrite the expenses with the assistance of the National Foundation as has been done in other cases from this county.

Mrs. Dixon pointed out that the local chapter was carrying three other cases in which expenses arose for continued check-ups and therapy. One of these is that of Mildred Kocurek of Dime Box. During the past year Mildred underwent additional surgery as part of the treatment the National Foundation provides for patients. Each additional treatment has improved her condition and, says Mrs. Dixon, "The National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis will not desert anyone afflicted with polio until they are fully restored, regardless of the length of time involved."

Continued therapy is also being supplied for Joyce Lee Haggard

and Nola Jean Simmons of Tanglewood. These two girls were victims of polio several years ago, being stricken within a few days of each other. The Lee County Chapter is paying for treatments by an orthopedist in Waco for these two. These two children are cousins.

The local chapter also incurred expenses this past year in one case of suspected polio, the child being sent to Austin for observation. The chapter underwrites such expenses as a means of getting to actual cases as early as possible.

Mrs. Emmett Hannes, March of Dimes chairman, told the Star reporter that local funds from former drives had been sufficient to pay for the expenses in the old cases from former years. "This year's drive must exceed all previous efforts," she said, "if we are to take care of these cases for which we are already obligated. We should assure ourselves that the necessity of calling on the National Foundation can be limited to new cases, since the Foundation's reserve has also been exhausted by the epidemic of 1949."