

# Impressed with local long-term and healthcare facilities

This past fall has been a busy one in dealing with parental health issues.

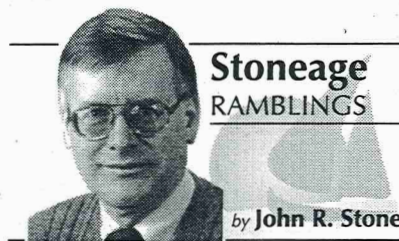
Mom fell in her Parkview Court apartment a couple of weeks ago. While she had no pain it made sense to take her to the doctor because she was having difficulty standing on her left leg.

She was put in a wheelchair and my brother was visiting from North Carolina and they had planned to have lunch. The fall happened just before lunch so Mom, knowing she wasn't going to the clinic right away, decided to have lunch so that is what she and my brother did.

Because of the lack of pain we loaded her into my car after lunch and took her to the walk-in clinic at Glacial Ridge Medical Center. The practitioner suspected a hip area issue right away and an x-ray was ordered that showed a fractured femur up near where the ball on the end of the femur goes into the hip socket.

Mom's next move was onto a gurney and into an ambulance to be transferred to Douglas County Hospital where they have Heartland Orthopedic Specialists.

It was nice to show up in the emergency room where Mom was and find Dr. Eric Nelson there talking to my mother. In



## Stoneage RAMBLINGS

by John R. Stone

a strange hospital a face you know is a really nice face to see. Dr. Nelson has lots of Glenwood connections, his wife, the former Kirstin Martinson, was a classmate of our oldest daughter, Lisa. He explained that the solution to the problem was a partial hip replacement. That really means putting a ball on the end of the femur to replace the one that broke off and put that into the hip socket.

Now that is probably an oversimplification. Surgery was scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday. I sat in a large, empty waiting room, and Dr. Nelson came in at 3 p.m. to announce that everything had gone well. Yes, the surgery only took just over one hour! An hour later I was talking with Mother in her hospital room. The next day they had her standing on her feet and by

Tuesday, she was discharged to a nursing home, in this case Lakeview Care Center, for further rehabilitation.

Two days later Mom was walking down the hall of the nursing home pushing her wheelchair. That's not supposed to happen, she was told pretty clearly she wasn't to try that alone. But she had removed a bed alarm and the wheel chair alarm and set out on her own. Needless to say that created a stir in the nursing home. (She's done a better job of adhering to the rules since.) But I was impressed with her spirit, if not with the risk she took.

Since Mom has an apartment in Parkview Court, she was transferred a week later to Glenwood Retirement Village. She gets her physical therapy there, and she can also visit her apartment, what she calls her home.

Needless to say that has had me in both Glenwood nursing homes and Glenwood and Alexandria hospitals for many hours over the past few weeks. I have to honestly say that I am impressed with all of them.

The medical people I dealt with were honest, caring and efficient. At Glenwood I was impressed that they figured out the problem so quickly. With electronic re-

cords now Mom's x-rays were transferred to Alexandria and when I got to the ER in Alex, Dr. Nelson had already seen the x-rays, which were good enough that he didn't think he needed to do more. He understood the problem and had a solution.

I've written before that I think that people who work in nursing homes have a special calling and nothing I have seen the past few weeks and months has changed my mind. It is not glamorous work, but it is very important work in taking care of our elderly. I know they don't get paid what they are worth because insurance and various reimbursement systems simply don't put enough value on their work. That is a shame. I'm just terribly glad these people put working with our elderly and disabled ahead of the almighty dollar.

My mother is not yet done with her recovery. But I think she has a pretty strong support system to get her physically able to return to her apartment. I'm thankful for every last one of those people! I'll be thinking of all of you as I count my blessings this week of Thanksgiving!



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