



[Press 9/5/68]

12:10 AM - TUESDAY - TRUCK
CRASHES ON INNERBELT



LAKE

ERIE

FRWY.

LAKELAND

ST.

SHOREWAY (EAST)

SUPERIOR

10:AM WEDNESDAY -
MRS. SMITH TAKEN TO
CLEVELAND CLINIC

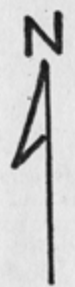
AVE.

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INTERBELT



1:AM - MRS. SMITH TAKEN
TO CHARITY HOSPITAL -
CLINIC TEAM ALERTED.



7:30 PM WEDNESDAY -
ALL SURGERY COMPLETED

Artist's sketch illustrates timetable in drama that brought death to Mrs. Barbara Smith—and new hope for life to three other persons.

WEATHER

Warm and humid with scattered thundershowers. High in 80s, low around 60.

Details on Page 9

THE PLAIN DEALER

GREATER
CLEVELAND
FINAL

OHIO'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

127TH YEAR—NO. 249

CLEVELAND, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1968

76 PAGES

10 CENTS

Surgeons at Clinic Transplant Traffic Victim's Heart, Kidneys

By FRASER KENT

Surgeons of the Cleveland Clinic Hospital successfully transplanted the heart of a 25-year-old waitress into a 50-year-old Akron man last night.

Within the next three hours, they also transferred the girl's kidneys to two men who had been waiting here for months for such a transplant.

The heart transplant was the first in the Midwest and the 40th in the world. The first was performed nine months ago in South Africa.

PRINCIPALS in the multiple transplant were:

- Mrs. Barbara Lancaster Smith, of Blytheville, Ark., the donor, who was fatally injured in a Labor Day weekend accident here.
- Dellett Howard Lawson Sr., of 461 Morningview Avenue, Akron, who received the heart after almost a year of hopeless heart trouble.
- Robert Clapper, 29, of Minerva, a grocery store clerk who had been waiting here for a kidney transplant since last November.
- Charles Mundy, 21, a recently-discharged airman from Berkley, Mich., whose kidneys were removed in January, and who had also been waiting at the clinic for a transplant.
- Dr. Donald B. Effer, senior surgeon in the op-

erating room, and head of the clinic's department of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery.

There were three other unidentified surgeons, six nurses, two persons working on a lung bypass machine, and two anesthesiologists. There may also have been other specialists involved in the two kidney transplants.

MRS. SMITH WAS INJURED in a truck accident at 12:10 a.m. Tuesday. She was a passenger in a truck driven by James Welch, 36, of Houston, who was taking

Impact!

Full page of photos and stories about Cleveland's first heart transplant, Page 12.

a load of watermelons to Toronto, when his truck crashed on the Inner Belt Freeway curve near Memorial Shoreway N.E. Welch is still in serious condition, according to St. Vincent Charity Hospital spokesmen.

Mrs. Smith was admitted to St. Vincent's emergency room about 1 a.m. Tuesday. Shortly after, she was taken to the hospital's intensive care unit.

By the early hours of yesterday morning, it was apparent that she would not live, because of massive bleeding between the skull and brain tissue, doctors said.

'Barb Would Have Wanted It'

By DONALD L. BEAN

Tears streamed down the face of Mrs. Opal Lancaster, a farm woman and mother of 13, and in a hotel room filled with grief, she said she knew her daughter would have given her heart to save a life.

Of Mrs. Lancaster's children, only eight are still living.

The fifth to die, Mrs. Barbara Smith, 25, was the donor in Cleveland Clinic Hospital yesterday in Cleveland's first and the world's

40th heart transplant operation.

SURROUNDED by other members of her family in a sixth-floor room of the Bolton Square Hotel, Mrs. Lancaster looked up through eyes filled with tears and said:

"I know if Barb had been conscious, she would have done the same thing, because we had talked about this before. She told me, 'I would give anything I can to help somebody else, because when I go they won't do me any good.'"

In an exhausting, 300-mile trip, Mrs. Lancaster and her husband, Willie, 63, arrived in Cleveland yesterday afternoon from their farm home near Lake Village, Ark. Lancaster still works on an 800-acre farm.

With Mrs. Smith's parents in the hotel room were a sister, Mrs. Thelma Elliott, 21, of Blytheville, Ark., and two of her brothers, Bobby Joe, 24, and Lenroy, 42.

"IF SOMEBODY could have done something to help Barb, I know they

would have done it," said Mrs. Lancaster. "Maybe she saved somebody from going through the grief we are going through now."

From identification carried by Mrs. Smith, aides at St. Vincent Charity Hospital here notified Mrs. Elliott at 2 a.m. Tuesday that her sister had been injured seriously in an accident on the Inner Belt Freeway.

Mrs. Elliott said she notified her parents, then left for Cleveland on a bus. She

SURGEONS AT the Cleveland Clinic had been preparing for a heart transplant for several months, and they were alerted to the possibility of Mrs. Smith being a suitable donor. The patient was transferred to the clinic, where she died at 4:30 p.m.

By this time, Lawson and Clapper had been called to the clinic, and Mrs. Smith's parents were on their way to Cleveland. Permission to use her organs was given by a sister, Thelma Elliott, and this was confirmed by the parents upon their arrival here.

The heart transplant began about 5 p.m. and took 2½ hours. Two operating rooms and two surgical teams are routinely used in such cases, with the donor on one table and the recipient on another.

The two hearts—one dead and one damaged—must be removed almost simultaneously. The donor's heart is quickly taken from its resting place, slipped in to peal while an artificial heart-lung machine maintains the recipient's circulation.

After being delicately stitched to the base of the living patient's heart, electrical power is zapped into the muscle tissue to stimulate normal heart beat.

When this is successful—as it was last night—the current can be discontinued and the heart muscle begins to beat again in its new body.

CLEVELAND CLINIC spokesmen were silent on the question of whether the kidney transplants were performed simultaneously or shortly after the heart operation. However, Mrs. Paul Munday, mother of one of the recipients, said at 9 p.m.—90 minutes after the heart



D. Howard Lawson Sr.



Mrs. Barbara L. Smith

Continued on Page 9, Col. 4

Continued on Page 12, Col. 2

Akron Man Gets New Heart in 1st Transplant Here

★ From First Page

transplant had been completed—that her son was still in surgery.

Throughout the operation, Mrs. Leona Lawson waited tensely in the second-floor waiting room with her oldest son, John, 21. At home were Howard, Jr., 17; Cynthia, 16; and Deborah, 13.

The Lawsons have another daughter, Mrs. Sandra Miller of Akron.

Lawson is a freight checker with the Pacific Inter-mountain Express Trucking Co. in Akron. He had been in and out of the clinic several times, having been admitted three times since January.

He suffered from a cardiac condition in which the heart is unable to maintain an adequate circulation of the blood. It was not considered suitable for any surgery other than a transplant.

His first indication of heart trouble occurred about a year ago. In other heart transplant operations, there has been a longer interval between the onset of cardiac failure and actual surgery. However, in a case such as Lawson's, the first sign of inadequate circulation maintenance indicates widespread heart damage.

Mrs. Lawson said she felt her husband was "in the best hands in the world" at the Cleveland Clinic. The family knew nothing of the donor's identity at the time of surgery.

DURING AND IMMEDIATELY after the heart transplant, the Cleveland Clinic imposed maximum secrecy, issuing only a 30-word statement on the outcome of the operation and brief biographical sketches of those involved.

Its spokesmen said they wanted to avoid the "circus atmosphere" that had surrounded heart transplants in other medical centers, and that they wanted to protect the families of all those involved.

NO SUCH ATTEMPT was made in the case of the kidney transplant patients. Mrs. Paul Mundy and Mrs. Robert Clapper were brought to the hastily set-up news room for interviews and photographs.

However, in both cases, the names of those on the surgical teams were concealed. Even medical staff members were not advised of the names, although many made "educated guesses" as to who was involved.

The clinic asked Mrs. Lawson not to speak to newsmen, and a public relations counsel said it was routine policy to "swear the families in such cases to secrecy." Apparently no such attempt was made for the kidney transplant patients or their families.

THE DECISION to block all information was made two months ago by a clinic committee of physicians, said J. G. Harding, hospital administrator.

"They felt that too much of a circus had been made of the earlier transplants, and they wanted to avoid all that," he said. "This was a private case involving a private patient."