



In 1966, I supervised the establishment of therapeutic activity programs in eight area nursing homes in five counties. In 1980, occupational therapy services were provided to school students with disabilities. It is gratifying to be a pioneer in rehab.



I was interested in Occupational Therapy and I volunteered at Gillette hospital and enjoyed working with patients. I applied at the University of North Dakota Occupational Therapy program as they were trying to recruit male students and I was accepted. I completed the program and graduated with BS in Occupational Therapy.

I was ready for a paying job, but would anyone hire an occupational therapist with two hook hands? After nearly a year, I was invited to come to Minnesota to establish a new Occupational Therapy department at Northwest Medical Center.

It was scary to start a new Occupational Therapy department as the only occupational therapist in the area and with only 1 year of experience. But I felt there must be some divine intervention at work because I was a small-town boy at heart and always wanted to work in a smaller rural hospital. It is now a regional medical center in northwest Minnesota.

In July 2003, I officially retired as director of occupational therapy at Northwestern University Medical Center, after nearly 40 years of service. I am still active in my community, church, scouting, and other volunteer organizations. It is my way of paying back. I often say my accident was a blessing in disguise.

Winston Churchill once said,
"You make a living by what you get,
but you make a life by what you give."

Story courtesy of
The Amputee Coalition of America