village view

by Andrea Leonard

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Ah, we're going to have a PARADE, a CIRCUS, a FAIR!! We surely are; right here in Osterville. And it looks as though most everyone will be helping to put on the entertainment, so I hope people from outside the village will come and support it.

This is the way village projects ought to be, isn't it? What better way to get things done and be sure everyone is having fun while accomplishing something? Many hands make light work.

A seed of an idea sprouts, and we smile upon it and maybe rain a few hopes upon it, and nurture it with the sunshine of interest and concern. Then we set it out and let other folks give it the warmth of their smiles and hopes and concerns.

First thing you know, you've got a blooming garden of ideas and activities, and everyone's involved, taking part and having a grand time, all the while achieving important things together.

That's how it's coming along with the Osterville Village Fair.

There's a serious purpose behind our Fair, for it will be the year's **all-out one-day** effort to raise funds for the support of the Osterville Village Chapter of the American Cancer Society.

Cancer. That word is capable of striking terror in the hearts of the bravest among us. The disease needs to be fought and licked. We can't do it with explosives and violence; we can only do it with research and education and service.

These are the slow ways, the expensive ways, but the only ways that work. Little by little cancer gives way to years of studying and experimentation, education and training. The decades of work already completed were made possible through support given in the past. In the years ahead, more support must follow.

And that's how Osterville will show its spirit. Osterville will do its part to battle cancer in 1976 by having a parade, a circus, a Fair on June 5th.

What good does it all do? Are we making any progress against the disease? Seventy years ago almost no cancer-patient could be cured; forty years ago fewer than one person in five lived five years after first being treated for cancer; twenty years ago it was one in four; today, one person in three will be living five years later.

That means that about 225,000 Americans, or about one third of all those who get cancer this year, will be alive at least five years from now. In 1976 more than a million Americans will be under medical care for cancer, and 675,000 new cases will be diagnosed.

Cancer is not just one disease, but a large group of diseases. Some types of cancer can be treated with almost 100% success if diagnosed early enough; others have stubbornly resisted control. The immediate goal of cancer control in this country is saving 338,000 lives, or half those who develop cancer each year.

The only way that goal can be met is through research and through early diagnosis and treatment.

What kinds of things do people who work in cancer research do? Not long ago, in a waiting room at Deaconess Hospital, I ran into Rosanna Chute; Rusty and I were children together, here in Osterville. As people will, who come from the same home town, we exchanged greetings and news of mutual friends.

"Why don't you come up to the lab and let me show you our work," she said.

"I'd like to do that. Thanks."

And that's how I came to see, first hand, some of the work being done in cancer research. Rusty was right in the middle of one of her operations when I walked in. I was fascinated with what she was doing.

On the table in front of her were two white rats; both had been anaesthetized and both had incisions about two inches long down their backs, running from just below the neck to below their middles. As I watched, Rusty was creating Siamese Twin rats.

"When these animals are joined in this way," she explained, "they will share the same circulatory system. When they have healed from this operation, we will induce cancer in one of the animals and conduct tests on them both."

"We've found," she said with a smile, "we can control the growth of malignancy with the help of a healthy animal. The one that's diseased can recover completely with support from the other."

"What happens to the 'helper'?"

"Sometimes he gets cancer; sometimes he doesn't. But if he does, usually the one that was previously sick can then be used to help cure the new malignancy."

As we talked, Rusty's deft fingers were handling the small animals quickly. With needle and thread she had sewn up the incisions, joined the two animals together just behind the shoulder.

After wrapping them in a small blanket she placed them gently beneath a lamp "to keep them warm", and led me to another room where many pairs of animals were kept in drawers similar to file drawers in my office.

The pairs of rats she showed me were in various stages of illness, treatment and cure, and we examined several pairs to see the progress being made.

"Do you think cancer's catching, Rusty?"

"No. I feel sure it's not."

"And through the work you do, it's possible to learn the best ways to treat cancer in humans?"

"We've learned a great deal about carcinoma and carcinogens; of course, we still have a lot to learn. Gradually the keys are found, the doors opened, and the secrets revealed."

Driving home to the Cape, I had a lot to think about.

In last week's paper I read that Rosanna was honored in April at a service award dinner held at the Sheraton-Boston Hotel to celebrate twenty-five years of service with the New England Deaconess Hospital.

As a research associate in experimental pathology at the Cancer Research Institute, she works under the direction of Dr. Shields Warren, pathologist-in-chief emeritus.

Before coming to Deaconess, she worked in genetic and cancer research at the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratories in Maine. Rosanna has co-authored many articles for scientific journals on cancer, the effects of irradiation, and endocrinology.

New England Deaconess is internationally known for diagnosis, treatment and research in cancer as well as in other fields of medicine; the hospital complex includes the Center Research Institute and the Shields Warren Radiation Laboratory.

I'm glad there are people like Rusty Chute who have worked for over twenty-five years in cancer research. I'm glad the American Cancer Society supports cancer research programs.

And I'm glad the people of Osterville are having a Fair for the benefit of the American Cancer Society. Let's all do everything we can to support this effort.