



Hearing Aid
Systems, Inc

MAY 2017

SoundBites

FUNNY BONE

"A cheerful heart
is good medicine ..."

A funny thing happened on the way to better hearing...

Helping my mother empty her garage, I waved my hand towards a row of cabinets and said, "Mom you'd better make yourself a reminder note to call the pickup service for that metal cabinet."

Dismayed, she said, "I don't want to get rid of that cabinet."

Confused, I responded, "Really? You've said for months you want to get rid of it! I want to move it to the front of the garage so you don't have to for the pick up."

Mom said, "No way, honey! I'm keeping that cabinet, along with the others."

Shrugging my shoulders, I dropped the subject. Later, **after** we had cleaned up and showered, Mom exclaimed, "Oh, heavens! We forgot to move that metal cabinet to the front of the garage for the pickup crew."

Thinking she'd "lost it", I reminded her she had told me earlier she wanted to KEEP the metal cabinet.

She looked confused and then responded, "Oh, no, honey. I thought you were talking about the MIDDLE cabinet of the group of three that I want to keep!"

**How About You or Someone
You Know? Is It Time for a
Hearing Test? Call Us Today!**



Tips for Traveling with Hearing Loss

For Those Who Wear Hearing Aids
Memorial Day Weekend is the beginning of the summer travel season so here are a few travel tips to make life easier:

- Have us check your hearing system before you leave. Allow sufficient time before your departure date in case some factory service needs to be done.

- Mention your hearing loss in advance to the TSA or customs personnel to avoid misunderstandings. TSA says "leave your hearing aids in" when you are going through security. They want to be sure you can hear their instructions.
- Take 3 X 5 cards and a pen with you. If you feel concerned that you are not

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Unheralded Moment of Honor



In recognition of Memorial Day, this short story by Roy Popkin helps us appreciate the nobility of our military personnel, played out in uncountable selfless moments like this

fictional account. It was originally published under the title "Night Watch" in Reader's Digest, September, 1965. Though somewhat rewritten over five decades of worldwide circulation, the original core story of humble military service—honorably given—remains the same:

The shadowed hospital was quiet as the

erect figure in uniform approached the nurse's station. Before he could speak, the nurse held her fingers to her lips and escorted the serviceman to the old gentleman's bedside. "Your son is here," she whispered to the dying man. She repeated the words several times before the patient's eyes flickered lightly.

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Unheralded Moment of Honor

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Heavily sedated for pain, the old man's eyes closed again, never seeing the uniformed soldier. The young man wrapped his strong fingers around the old man's limp ones, squeezing his message of reassurance.

The nurse brought a chair for the soldier. Hours passed. All through the night the young man sat in the dimly lighted room, the old man's hand holding tight. The soldier sat quietly, oblivious to the nurse and the muffled night noises of the hospital. The only sounds in the room were the old man's shallow breathing, the slow beeping of the monitor and the soldier's occasional words of comfort.

Towards dawn, the beeping monitor yielded to a penetrating, monotone signal. The soldier gently released

the now lifeless hand he had held during the dark of night and solemnly approached the nurse's station. The doctor came to confirm the time of death. The unwavering man in uniform waited patiently as the medical team followed routine. Finally, the nurse turned to the young soldier to offer words of sympathy. He raised his hand to stop her. *"Who was that man?"* he asked softly.

The nurse was startled, *"Why...he was your father," she answered.*

"No, mam" the soldier gently replied. *"I never saw him before in my life. I knew right away that there had been a mistake. But this man needed his son, and his son wasn't here. I've seen too many dying men who needed their loved ones and watched as, instead,*

nurses held their hands. When I realized this poor man was too sick to know whether or not I was his son, I stayed."

"Then why were you here?"

"To find a Mr. William Patterson. His son was killed yesterday in Iraq and I was dispatched to deliver the news."

In wonder, the nurse whispered, *"You held Mr. Patterson's hand all night through."*



Better Hearing Month—Out with the Old, In with the New

Since Biblical times (when using the horn of an animal to capture and direct sound into the ear canal was as effective as "hearing aids" got), man has attempted to overcome poor hearing while disguising the amplifier in an untold number of ingenious ways.

May is Better Hearing Month and, as we focus on the intrinsic need to hear better here is a sampling of clever, "discreet" hearing aids designed over the years, along with a couple of the newest designs for the modern age.

Decorated hearing aids have become iconic fashion accessories, even on couture's designer runways.

Hearing impaired models are no longer trying to hide their hearing aids. They're flaunting them!



'Deafness in Disguise' Ear Lobe "Plugs"

German design studio, Design Affairs, has taken hearing aid design to a whole new level. Their "Deafinite Style" hearing instruments appeal to those



who are a bit on the "wild and crazy" side, but with Baby Boomers and younger being so profoundly affected by hearing loss, this style will

help them "keep the cool" while helping them "keep their hearing".

Aurolese Opera Comb by F. C. Rein

This decorative tortoiseshell hair comb, acting as a sound



receiver, was secured into a woman's hair, styled to hide the two tubes that entered the ear openings. Concealed transmitters sent sound directly into the ear canals. (1933)

Beard Receptacle

This was a typical device designed for men in the 1800's. Worn with the base resting on the upper chest, the "sound collector" in

the receptacle was hidden under the beard. Rubber tubes leading to each ear were also partially concealed. (Not sure how effective this amplifying system could work.)



These aren't your grandparent's hearing aids for sure. If you need hearing help, call us today. We're for whatever it takes to help EVERYONE hear better—during Better Hearing Month and all year long!

— LOONEY LAW —

In Singapore, a second offense of chewing gum in public earns a \$2000 fine and one day of community service cleaning a public area.

— POTPOURRI —

REMEMBERING MOM ON MOTHER'S DAY

Mothers hold their children's hands for just a little while... and their hearts forever.

— Irish proverb

*Youth fades; love droops;
the leaves of friendship fall.
A mother's secret love
outlives them all.*

— Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

*Nobody knows
of the work it makes
To keep the home together.
Nobody knows
of the steps it takes,
Nobody knows—but Mother.*
— Anonymous



*Your mother deserves
a parade and, by golly,
she's getting one!*

— FUN FACTS —

At age 19, on May 19, 1956, Elizabeth Ann Buttle gave birth to a daughter. On November 20, 1997, when Mrs. Buttle was 60 years old, she gave birth to making her children 41 years, 185 days apart!

Tips for Traveling with Hearing Loss

Cont. From pg. 1



aids, if you have them. Pack one kit and keep the other with you in your purse or in your carry-on luggage.

- **Don't leave your hearing aids sitting out in a hotel room. Service staff does not always know what they are and many times throw them out!**
- If you are staying with someone who has pets, keep your hearing aids in your ears or in a drawer.

Dogs and cats love to chew up hearing aids! Dogs love to "eat" hearing aids; cats are more likely to play with them or "hide" them. If your aids are missing, look around carefully as the cat may have "batted" them around the room. Ask your host if the cat has a "hiding place". You might find your aids in a pile of treasures the cat has hidden.

If you encounter problems with your hearing aids when traveling and can't resolve the issue(s), call us. We will most likely be able to find a local professional to help you. Depending on where you're traveling, it may take us a few hours, so please be patient if this happens.

Please be assured: Whether you are in our office or flying all around the world, we always care about you and your hearing!

going to hear your shuttle stop or flight called, write down your name, airline and flight number. Give the card to the driver or flight coordinator, tell them that you are hearing impaired and might miss announcements. Ask them to signal you or come get you if you don't appear to respond.

- Sign up for travel alerts via email or text to avoid missing a flight. Gate/flight attendants, right or wrong, tend to forget to notify people of changes.
- Use the cards and pen to communicate in noisy settings.
- Take 2 small hearing aid cleaning/repair kits. Include: extra batteries, cleaning tools (brush and vent cleaner), a soft cloth to wipe outside casing, "wax guard replacement tips" and a spare pair of hearing

Solution to Springtime Sudoku Safari

From pg. 4

7	5	8	1	3	6	2	9	4
9	2	3	8	4	5	7	1	6
4	6	1	9	2	7	3	8	5
6	3	9	4	7	2	1	5	8
2	4	7	5	8	1	9	6	3
8	1	5	3	6	9	4	2	7
5	7	2	6	9	4	8	3	1
3	9	6	7	1	8	5	4	2
1	8	4	2	5	3	6	7	9



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Now 'Ear This from the Expert

COMBAT VETS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO FIGHT TO PROTECT THEIR HEARING

"War is hell...on your hearing" according to researchers. A 2014 issue of The Journal of Noise and Health summarized researchers' conclusions this way: "...combat experience was associated with a **63% increased risk** for hearing loss [over non-military persons]."

Almost every soldier, sailor, airman or marine will experience disabling tinnitus and/or hearing loss. The two most prevalent service-connected disabilities for veterans in the United States are tinnitus and hearing loss.

Of the 48,540 U.S. service members who reported "new-onset" hearing loss during their time in service, the study found that those individuals who had combat experience were more likely to report new-onset hearing loss, compared to their non-deployed counterparts.

Some combat troops are reluctant to use hearing protection for a variety of reasons, none of which is aesthetic. Researchers cited

concerns of troops who felt such protective equipment "reduced detection of auditory warnings, and attenuated critically important communication among the team members, creating higher vulnerability." Significant numbers of U.S. Army cadets critiqued such protective devices as "performing poorly".

"These findings suggest that additional research is needed to design [effective] hearing protection devices that will meet the needs of ground combat forces," the study concluded.

A note or a call to Congressional representatives could encourage this discussion.

In honor of Memorial Day, visit <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/> to find your local Representatives. Ask them to consider budgeting research money to provide our military with effective hearing protection while maintaining the highest level of combat efficiency. We owe that—and so much more—to the men and women who serve our country.

SPRINGTIME SUDOKU SAFARI

Answers on pg. 3

Hunt down the numbers you need to complete each 9-number square.

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column, and each 3-by-3 block contains all of the digits 1 through 9. If you use logic, you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

7						2		
	2	3	8					6
4			9					5
	3			7				8
		7			1			
					9		2	
			6				3	
	9							
1	8		2				7	9