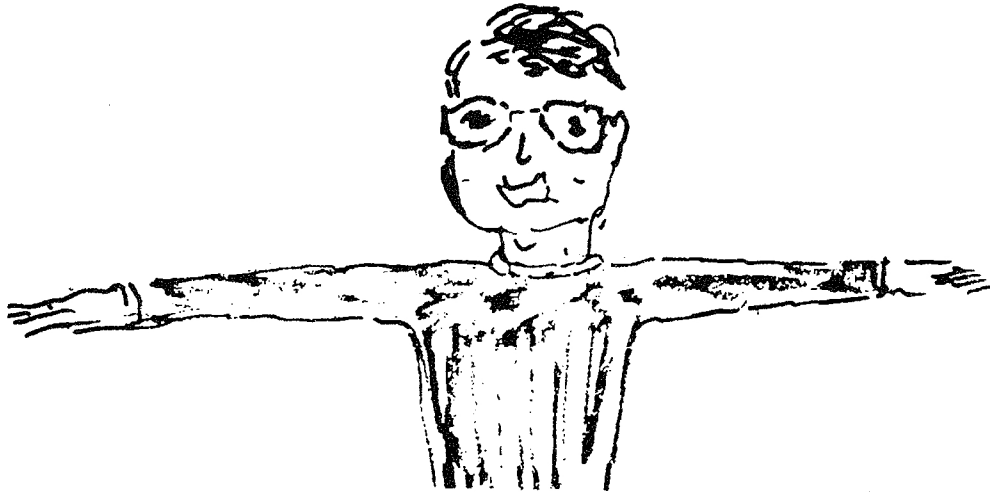


HOW JOHN WAS UNIQUE



By
Joe and Nancy Hathaway
for their son John
and the children
of the
NATIONAL MARFAN FOUNDATION

When John was small,
he was like other girls and boys,
he loved to laugh and sing,
and play with all his toys.



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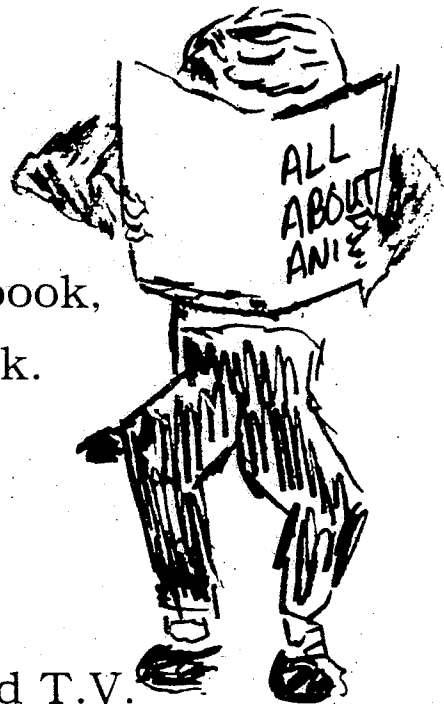
Inquiries should be addressed to:

The National Marfan Foundation

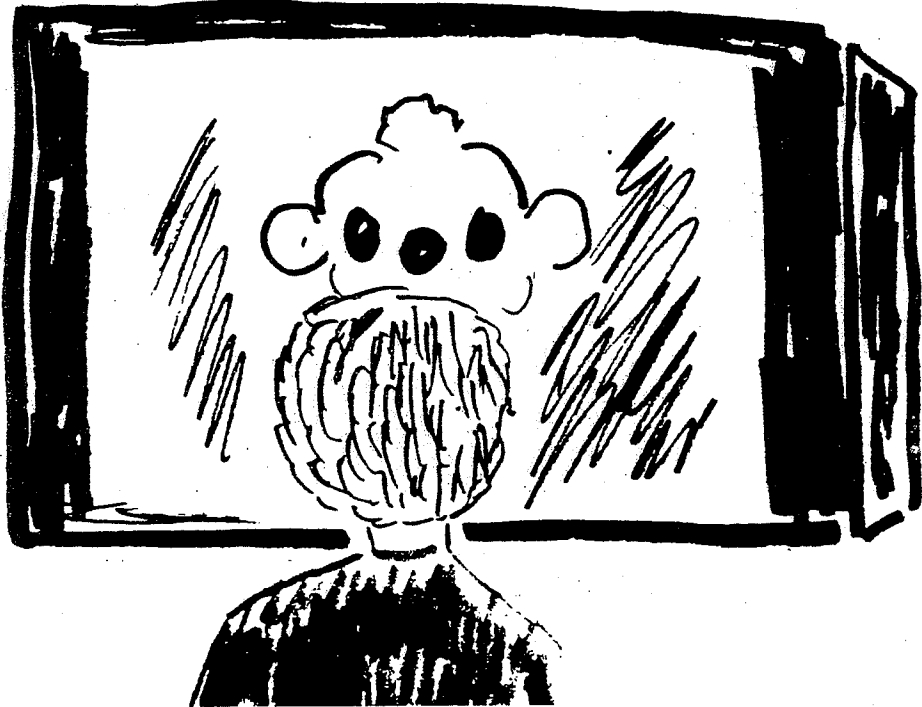
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But when he read a book,
he held it close to look.



And when he watched T.V.
he sat very close to see.

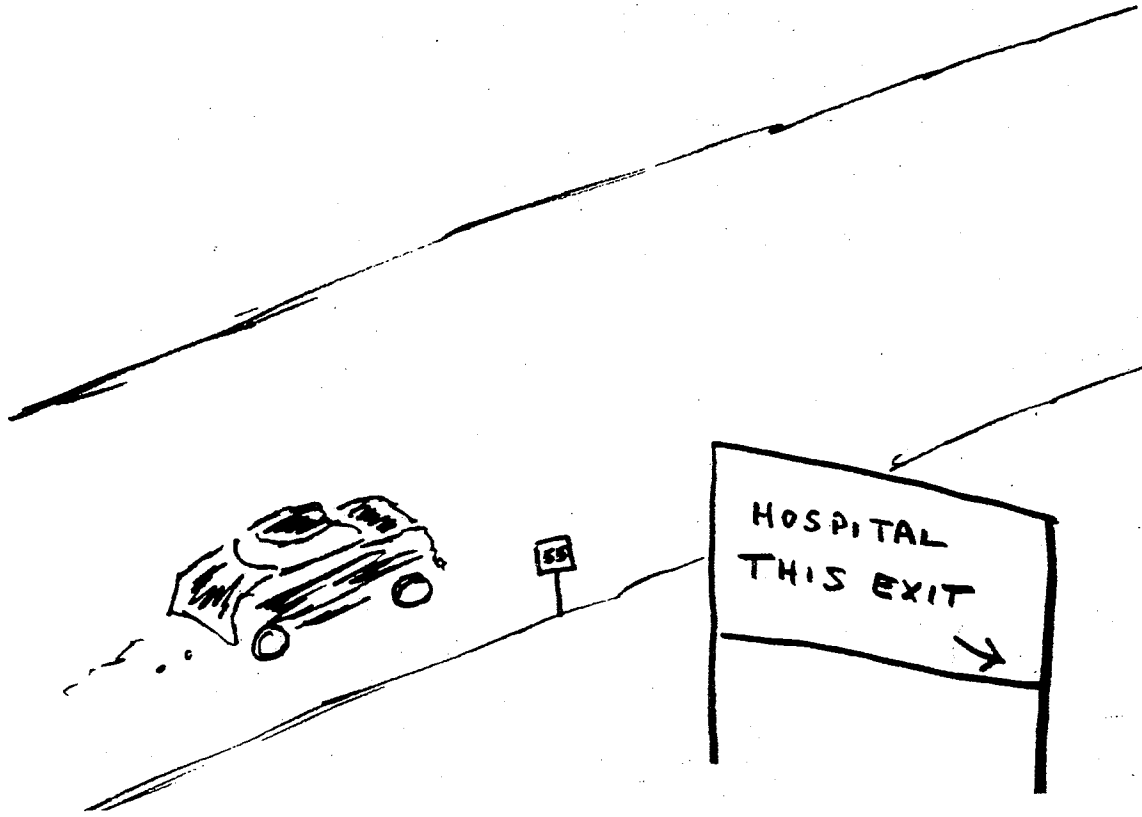
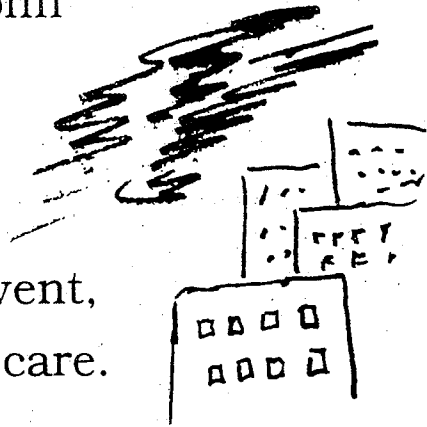


John's Mom and Dad
took him for an eye test.
John could see the first letter
but none of the rest.
The doctor said "John is near sighted."
He must wear thick glasses.

So his vision can be righted.



Although John's parents did what their doctor wished, they still decided to take John to a Specialist. So they took a long drive till finally they were there. They were very glad they went, for they received the finest care.

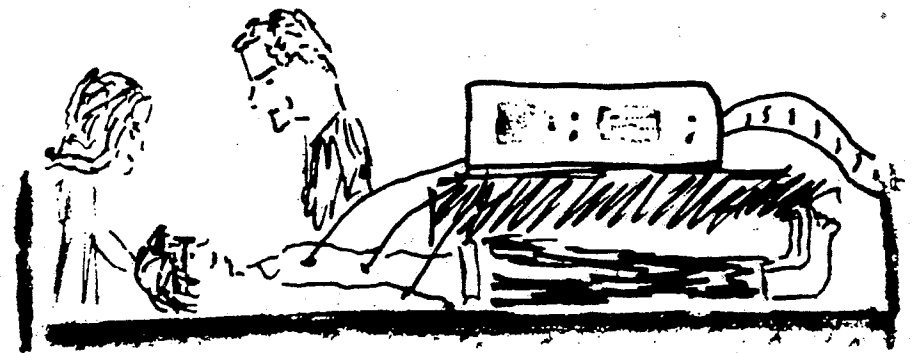


The hospital staff made John feel right at home. His parents stayed with him; So he was not alone.

The doctor told John to lie back and rest, and for a few minutes they would run some tests.

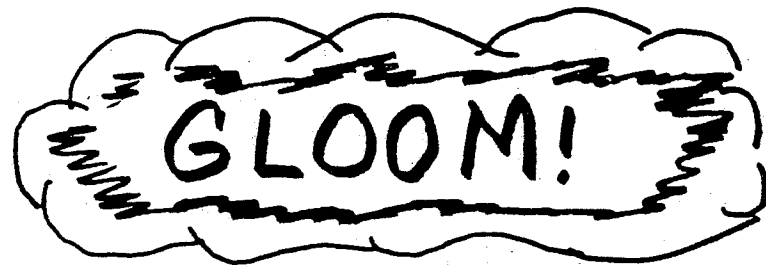
They took an Echocardiogram and an EKG.

The machines made funny lines which John could easily see.



After the tests were done,
the doctors said to John's parents,
"We have news about your son.
I think we have found what's wrong.
I see John's fingers, arms and torso
are all quite long."

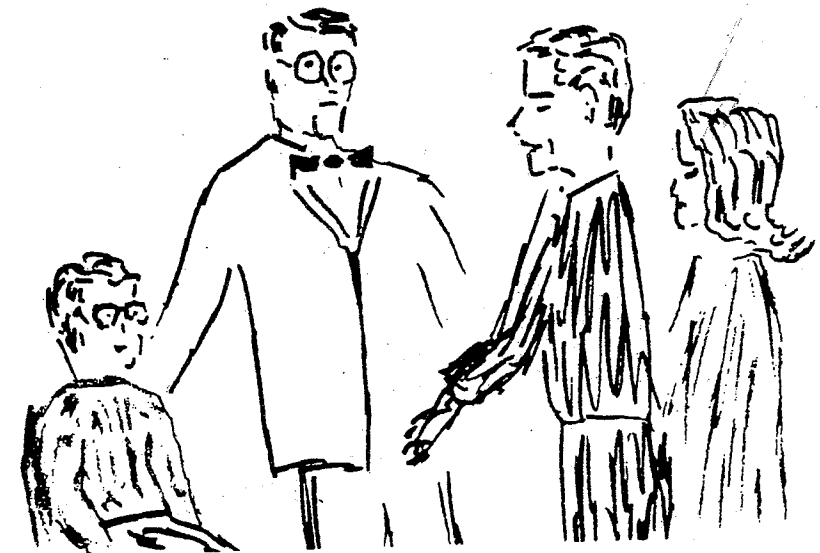
"The lenses of his eyes
are not attached;
all of these symptoms matched
Also his aorta is slightly dilated;
this too is related."



GLOOM!

"Although more tests must come;
John probably has Marfan Syndrome."

The name sounded very bad,
and the news made John's parents sad.
The doctors told them not to be
depressed
for the care John will receive
is the very best.



They learned that they would watch for any change in John's heart, and his spine, and that's not all; they also learned that John would grow quite tall.

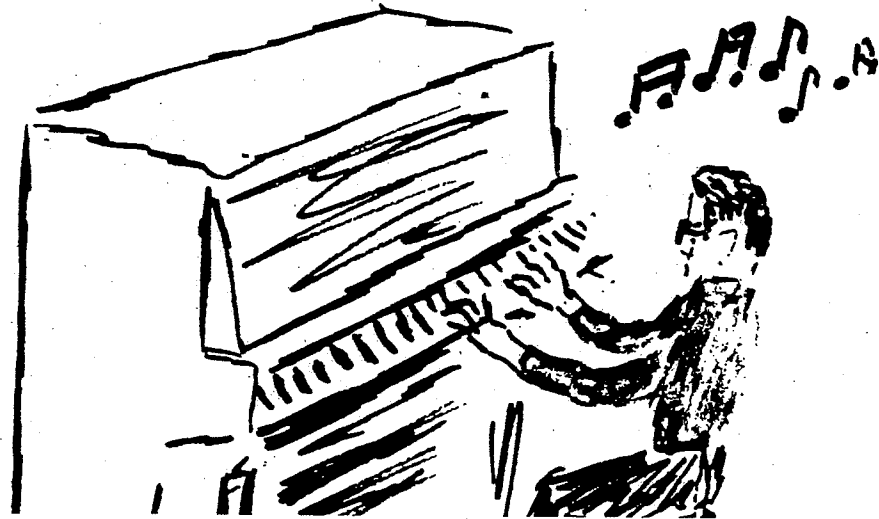


John learned that he would need daily medication and an annual check-up in the city that his parents would make part of a fun vacation.

And although they had to visit the hospital, it's true, they also spent time at the park and the zoo.



There were some things
that John could not do.
He could not play football
and basketball too.
When he asked his parents,
they had to say "No!"
So instead he learned
to play the piano.



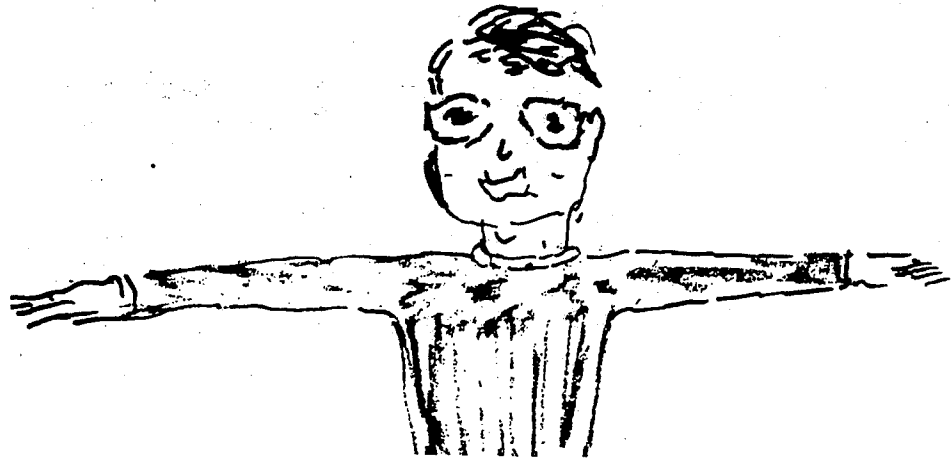
John's playing was very good,
and people listened
whenever they could.

They clapped and joined in singing
and knew that John
was only beginning.

Whether it took a year,
a month or a week

John's talent would
make him unique.





*True stories
are like true friends,
they have no ends...*