

# David Bridges



It was during the depression, so I don't suppose we saw a doctor about it as money was scarce. Mom was a nurse. I had a lot of trouble with croup. They said I was clumsy and fell down a lot and had a crooked leg because I walked too young. It was comfortable to stand with one knee slightly bent so one leg was shorter, I think.

At seven years, I went to Iowa City Hospital and was fitted with a brace which they said I wouldn't wear.

In the army basic, some made fun of me because I was knock-kneed and limped. But they were good to me when they found out it was the best I could do. When we went double time, I could get the whole platoon out of step, so they said get to the rear of the column. Ha!

At the age of 47, I had a knee operation, which shortened my leg. They gave me a bunch of tests and called it post polio. My legs became weaker, but I was able to work five more years at the factory until I got to falling too often. They were afraid of insurance claims. Had a genetic blood test at the V.A. Hospital, which was inconclusive.

My arm-hand muscles have gotten weaker, but have stabilized and are good enough for my hobby of woodworking. Easter Seals sent me to school and gave me the tools to get started. Several friends constructed a shop and elevator and Lutheran Aid society helped with the cost. I make mostly kids toys and furniture.

