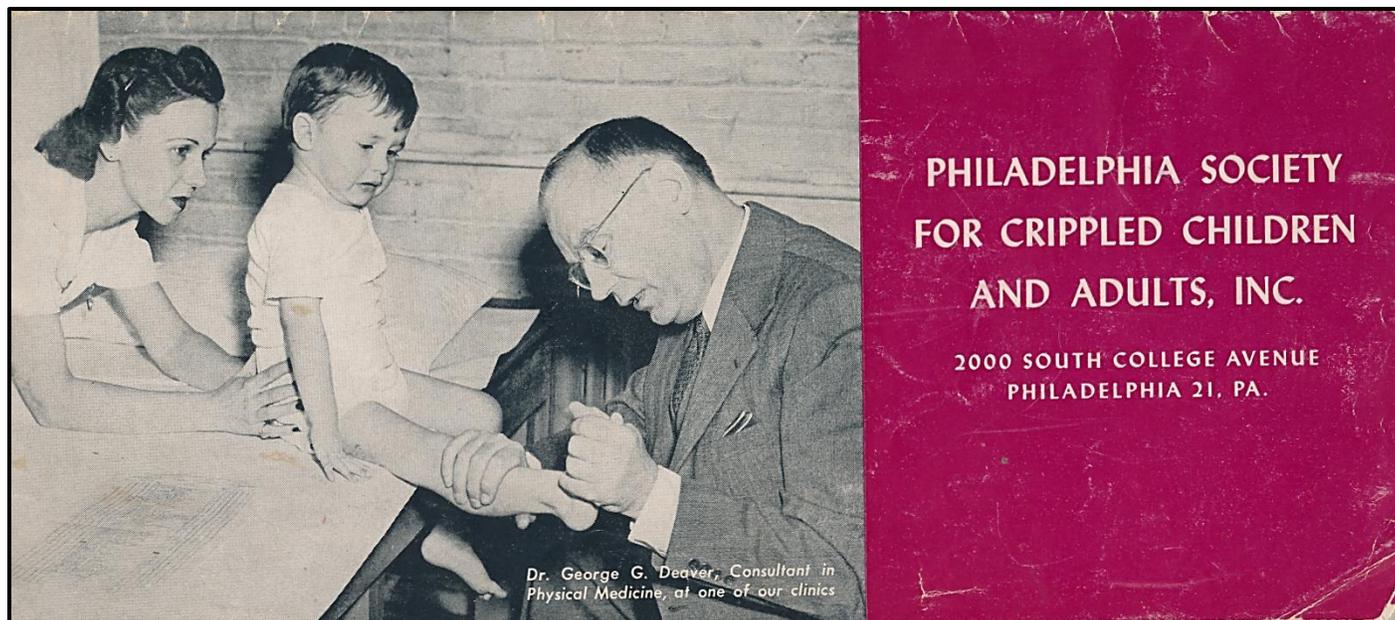


# “Stop, Look and See” Jim Smith

Born in Bristol, Pa, Jim was a toddler in 1945 when Polio came his way.

Only 2 ½ at the time, there were no hospital beds or iron lungs available in the area. Paralyzed from the neck down, his Mother took care of him at home, making sure he was isolated from his older brother. He has memories of warm baths and loving attention through those few months.

Jim recovered and as he put it “got in trouble just like any other little boy”.



When he was 7, he moved to Penndel, Pa., helping out at his parent’s card and gift shop. As a preteen, Jim’s life changed. His foot drop was significant. He was admitted into the Hospital at the University of Pa, in Philadelphia, for what would be 3 surgeries in a year – spending 3 months in a full body cast. Jim was influenced profoundly by that year of care. He has fond memories of his Dad fashioning a home made stretcher and using it to slide him into the back of the family station wagon, so he could go to the ‘shore’. He was a lucky 13 year old, to have the kindness of a cheerful student nurse each day! At the end of all the surgeries? He only needed an ankle brace.

Jim’s love of all things mechanical began at a very young age, when he began working at McHugh Brothers Equipment Rental – sorting nuts & bolts, sweeping floors and cleaning equipment. He graduated from Neshaminy High School and went on to study Mechanical Drafting at the Trenton Technical Institute. His career as a draftsman included full time work at McHugh and other manufacturing plants in the area, designing reinforced concrete rods and high pressure steam valves.

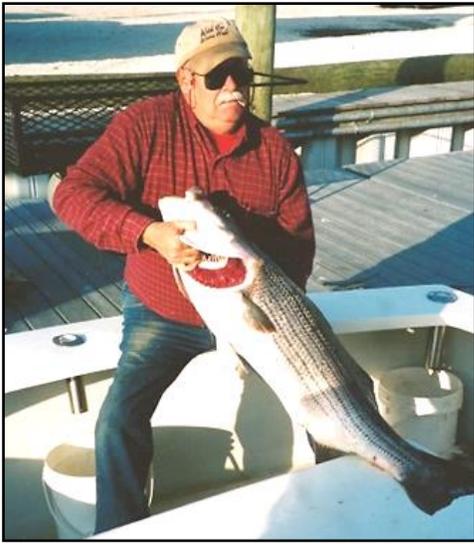
In 1968, he met Mary at the Piper Hill Ski Area. They were married in 1973 and have remained in the Langhorne area.

Jim actively served the community of Penndel for 35 years as a volunteer fireman. He became a Certified State Instructor specializing in teaching Firefighting and Pump Operation. He is now a 55 year member of the Penndel fire Company.

While recovering from surgery in 1998, Jim & Mary realized the reality of PPS. He decided to “Stop, Look and See” in an honest way. He retired and they’ve never looked back.



(continued . . . .)



Any time he can, Jim goes striper fishing in Cape May with his friend Captain George. He leaves that wheelchair on the dock, uses light tackle and goes for the big ones. His largest so far is 38 pounds. A fish story? The evidence was caught on film !

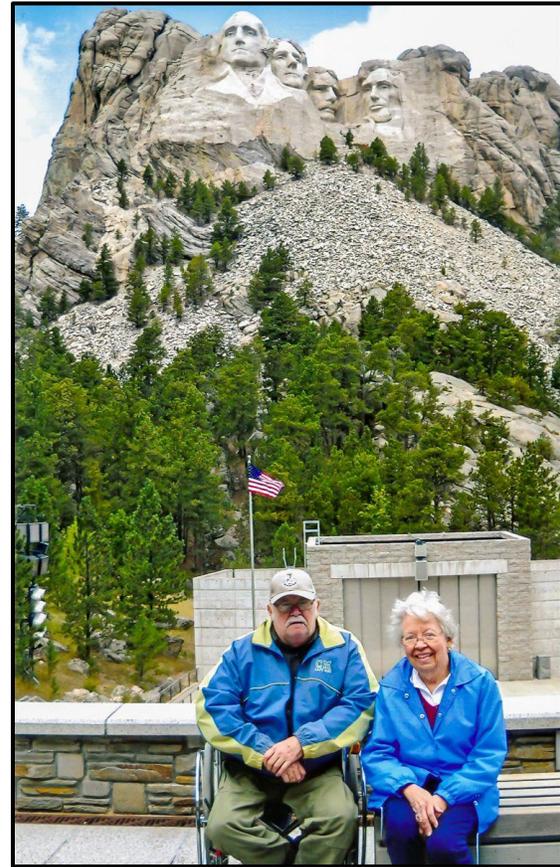
A highlight of their life, has been membership in the “Jim Smith Society”. With a name like Jim Smith? Why not. They gather annually for their ‘Fun Fest’. They had a ‘wild’ animal adventure in Winston Salem, they’ve been to Florida and cruised the Caribbean together. Imagine a cruise ship loud speaker announcement asking for Jim Smith to come to the Concierge Desk – when there are 57 Jim Smith’s on board! There’s no doubt, that the TSA will never be the same after 12

“Jim Smith’s” went through their pre-flight check at the same time.

This past September was a “Jim Smith Society” highlight for Mary and Jim. Their adventure in South Dakota resulted in their being able to actually get close to Mount Rushmore. They discovered that the viewing platform and the elevator that went to the top, are fully accessible. You may have seen this photo before – it was the Post-Polio Health International’s “We’re Still Here” Show Me Accessibility Photo Contest.

Jim has been seen in a hospital gown (and a smile) while active helping as a Standardized Patient at the College of Nursing at Villanova University.\*

Jim is an advocate for Post-Polio Support. He was the Chairperson of “Casual Coffee Moments” with Dr. Richard Bruno, this past October.



Without question, Jim’s decision to “Stop, Look and See” was the right one – a lesson for us all.

\*\*You can read an interesting story about this special program, involving people with disabilities at Villanova University “A New Standard” here.

[http://www.papolionetwork.org/uploads/2/7/7/2/27726699/villanova\\_article.pdf](http://www.papolionetwork.org/uploads/2/7/7/2/27726699/villanova_article.pdf)