



NEWS photo by Bill Meurer

Ken Kunken's highest hope is to be able to return to Cornell and continue his studies in industrial engineering.

Return to Cornell Aim Of Paralyzed Gridder

By JIM HANCHETT

While most collegians are hardly into their vacations, most of Ken Kunken's waking thoughts—and dreams—concern plans to return to school.

Ken, of Oceanside, was forced to quit Cornell last Oct. 31 when he broke the third and fourth cervical vertebrae of his neck making a tackle in a lightweight division football game against Columbia at Ithaca. From that day till this he has been almost completely paralyzed from the neck down.

Not Helpless

Paralyzed, but not helpless. In the eight months in which he has been hospitalized, Ken has re—enough to learn, with braces, covered some use of his left arm splints and other tools, to type 10 words per minute; to feed himself to a certain extent; to operate an electric wheelchair.

Now he dreams of getting back to that hilly Cornell campus in the fall and continuing his education.

Meanwhile, he is undergoing heavy therapy at the famed Rusk Institute, 34th St. and First Ave., Manhattan. And, as some of his physical abilities have returned to him Ken has been able to contribute something to those around him. For instance, up until lately he has been tutoring ninth-grade pupils in mathematics at the pediatrics department at Rusk.

That has been stopped so Ken could undertake more physical therapy. Meanwhile, he has had time to ponder his future and consider, with a number of experts, what profession he might be able to pursue in his struggle to remain a useful human being.

In the next month or so, he

will continue a program he has already begun—meeting professionals in the banking, law, business, insurance, engineering and other fields to see how a man, handicapped as he is, might be able to function usefully. His highest hope is to be able to return to Cornell and continue his study of industrial engineering.

Should Ken be able to return to Cornell—or wherever he is to continue his education—he will need an attendant for the foreseeable future. Someone to help him handle his wheelchair over steep steps, for instance . . . to help him feed himself . . . to get him out of the chair and to a desk or into a bed.

Expenses Are Heavy

That, like everything else in Ken's life, will require large chunks of cash. In the eight months since his accident, bills have already amounted to more than \$50,000. The future can only be seen as a stack of bills.

The tax-deductible Oceanside Medical Fund, 90 Mott St., Oceanside, will accept contributions to help his father, insurance man Leonard Kunken, with the heavy medical bills.

The Ken Kunken Fund, established by his teammates, Sigma Nu fraternity brothers, and other friends in the Cornell community, accepts contributions for medical and other needs. Its address: Ken Kunken Fund, c/o Cornell University Athletic Association, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850