

Rodney Dee Brodie Dies At Farm Home

Ferris, Ill. (UPI) – Rodney Dee Brodie, who made medical history 11 years ago when he was separated from his head-joined Siamese twin brother, died Sunday at the farm home where he had struggled to lead a normal life.

The boy was 11 ½ years old when he fell victim to the prolonged after effects of the operation which had spared his life.

The boy's father, Royt Brodie was feeding his son when the little boy choked and died.

His doctor, J.D. Trotter, said the technical cause of death was malnutrition. Despite prolonged medical care, the boy's body had failed to develop properly over the years, Trotter said.

It was on Dec. 17, 1952, that a team of doctors at the University of Illinois Educational and Research Hospital performed a precedent-setting 12 ½ hour operation on Rodney Dee and his twin brother, Roger?? Lee.

It was the first time in medical history that doctors had been able to operate on head – joined Siamese twins. But a decision made in the operating room doomed Roger?? Lee so that Rodney Dee might have a chance for life.

The surgeons discovered that the brothers showed a ??? vein which drains blood from the brain. Since Rodney Dee seemed to be the healthiest baby, the vein was allotted to him. Roger Lee died 25 days later.

Rodney Dee underwent a serried of operations and then returned to his parents and his seven brothers and sisters at their home near this west central Illinois community.

There were hopes that Rodney Dee might live to become a normal boy. But his head never lost its ??? appearance. (Mon. May 27, 1963)