

Steel-fiber cloth provides comfort for arthritis sufferer

Daily crippling pain is a way of life for feisty Marianne Vermette.

She was born with rheumatoid arthritis and today it is very severe, her wrist and finger joints have twisted and cramped into permanent disfigurement. She has stainless steel replacements for both hips, both knees, both ankles and the top joint of her right elbow.

She's had surgery on her right foot three times and twice on the left one, she said. Surgical operations are on-going in a constant battle to reduce calcium deposits.

But as the greatest Christmas present of all, late last year she discovered a treatment that eases her pain so much that she now sleeps through the night for the first time in many years.

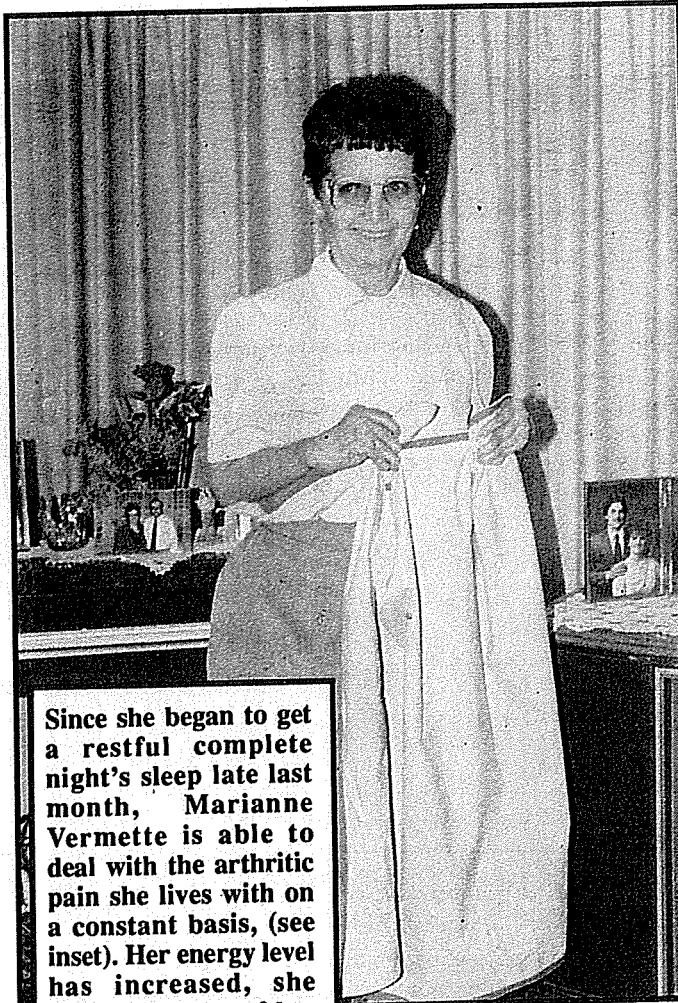
"We went to Coquitlam to visit our daughter and I was in so much pain from the long drive, (cars are not built for me either), that I could do nothing. For three days I could only lie there. Then my daughter said, 'Okay, we're going to get that cloth,'" she explained.

"That cloth" turned out to be the most wonderful thing in Ms. Vermette's life today.

The small square of material she purchased looks like a dinner napkin. It comes in varying sizes, each style designed for a specific use, and some are as large as a sheet while others can be carried in a purse or pocket.

It's called Farabloc. It is a steel-fibred fabric invented by landed immigrant Frieder Kempe. His Coquitlam-based office also has branches in Los Angeles and Germany.

When wrapped around or



Since she began to get a restful complete night's sleep late last month, Marianne Vermette is able to deal with the arthritic pain she lives with on a constant basis, (see inset). Her energy level has increased, she said, and much of her daily aching and discomfort are now alleviated as well. Her secret is a product she calls her miracle cloth and she'd like to discover other local people who may benefit from it as well.



placed on the stumps of people who have had limb amputations, Farabloc can relieve the often intense phantom pain.

Mr. Kempe has a background in physics, a Vancouver newspaper reported, and began work on the project after watching his amputee father suffer the pain from severed nerve endings.

Farabloc works by shielding the nerve endings from positive atmospheric ions. It has undergone a double-blind crossover designed university study funded by the British Columbia Ministry of Health to the tune of \$50,000. The study took place over two years and was conducted by two eminent specialists in physical rehabilitation, according to the Vancouver paper report.

While designed and tested specifically for amputees, Farabloc has been known to ease or eliminate many other kinds of pain such as menstrual cramps, some headaches, children's growing pains, fibrocystitis and, as Ms. Vermette will testify, arthritis.

It works best on intermittent limb pain. Farabloc is not a cure and will not eliminate constant pain, nor does it work for everyone.

Some people who have tried the cloth feel no relief at all. That is why it comes with a 30-day money back guarantee.

Ms. Vermette would like to become the company's dealer for this area. She does not expect to earn any financial profit from doing this, she said, but wants to share what she calls her miracle cloth with others it may help.

"I would have liked people to tell me about it before," she said.

Anyone who would like to know about Farabloc can call Marianne Vermette at 723-7004.