

# BPW chooses editor Rosiek for district's Young Careerist

Sue Rosiek, editor of the Garden City Observer, is the Young Careerist of the Year for District IX of the Business and Professional Women's Club.

She won the award in a competition Sunday involving talks before BPW members from Garden City, Westland, Plymouth, Livonia, Southfield, Lela Valley, Farmington, Novi and Wayne clubs and interviews with a panel of judges.

Next she will seek the title of Michigan BPW Young Careerist at the organization's state convention May 13-15 at Boyne Mountain.

A member of the Garden City BPW club, she first won the competition in her local group. Last year she was runner-up at the district level to Paula Joyner of Livonia.

Runner-up for District IX this year was Laura Toy of Livonia, program director of the Western Wayne County YWCA and a political activist. Also competing was Margaret Stacey of Plymouth, executive secretary of a Plymouth plumbing and heating firm and a booster of consumer awareness.

Judges for the third annual competition were Jean Day, women's editor of the Northville Record; Barbara Geil, director of admissions at Schoolcraft College; and Judy Avery, a registered nurse.

IN HER SPEECH to club members, Ms. Rosiek paid tribute to Frances Perkins, secretary of labor in the administration of Franklin Roosevelt and the first woman to hold a cabinet post.

"Ms. Perkins' climb to leadership in the federal government was an inspiration to men and women who believed that true equality for all persons was the only way to make a more perfect union in which democracy could survive."

"Today, more than ever before, Ms. Perkins public service is a reminder that we, as women, are obligated to serve our community through the public sector if we are to continue the battle for equality—and win before this century ends."

She declared the urgent need for women to become politically active to press for passage of such legislative

programs as child care services, civil rights, the Equal Rights Amendment and reforms in criminal law, Social Security and taxes.

"As Garden City Observer editor, I am able to see the valuable role women play through political and social contributions, especially at the local level where concerned residents and an organization such as BPW play an important part in improving the community," she said.

SHE LISTED AS district IX activists Geraldine Kessel, Garden City's first woman councilmember, who was recently elected as Garden City's delegate to the Southeastern Michigan Council on Government (SEMCOG), and Jean Wagner, Plymouth attorney.

Others mentioned were Rosina Raymond, vice-chairperson of the board of trustees of Schoolcraft College and Dianne Bish, a previous winner of the Young Careerist award of District IX, who was recently appointed to the Novi Library board; Connie Shotwell, who holds a management position at the National Bank of Detroit; and

Louise Cutler, co-owner of a Northville real estate firm.

Miss Rosiek joined the Observer staff in 1974 and worked as entertainment editor and general assignment reporter before being named Garden City editor 1½ years ago.

"Being a community editor allows me to make a contribution to a municipality by informing the public, and editorializing on questions which will affect the fate of a city, its people and schools," she stated.

"It also lets me give recognition to individuals and groups which have made outstanding gains and contributions to the community."

"I feel I am providing people with a most important service, communication, the lifeblood of American society."

She concluded by stressing that it is the responsibility of every woman to strive toward a role of leadership in our society.

"Whether it's on the local level or the national scene, women must be willing to grasp that responsibility."



SUE ROSIEK

## Bereaved parent writes to help others cope

By ALICE COLLINS

"When Robby died, we were surrounded by a great many friends and relatives who threw comforting things at us. It was like, 'I'll help you.' 'It's best to get busy.' 'It won't always be this bad.'"

"But after they'd gone home, my husband and I said to each other, 'What do they know? They're going home to a house that doesn't have a hole in it.'"

"Our friends weren't really able to help us," said Harriet Sarnoff Schiff, speaking about 1968 when she and her husband Sander lost their 10-year-old son Robby following heart surgery. And when Dale, then 12, and Stacie, then 4, lost a brother.

"Sandy and I ceased functioning. We couldn't help ourselves, and we also stopped functioning as parents to our other children."

"The only people who could have helped us then would have been other bereaved parents whose child had died."

ABOUT SIX YEARS after Robby's death, Mrs. Schiff and her husband, who for newspapers, decided to write a book "to help others in the same situation."

Her book, "The Bereaved Parent," published by Crown Publishers Inc. of New York, was released last week into bookstores all over the country. Most book stores in this area will be carrying it, she said.

The Schiffs live in Beverly Hills, Sander Schiff is with the Oakland County Community Development Council. Stacie is a student at Berkshire Junior High School, and Dale, now married, is a student at Ferris State College.

TO RESEARCH HER book, Mrs. Schiff interviewed 100 parents in the greater Detroit area whose children had died. "They ranged from young parents whose babies were victims of sudden infant death to an 85-year-old woman who had lost her 45-year-old daughter to cancer."

"These people opened up to me. They wanted to talk about it. In fact it was almost an embarrassment to end the interviews. They needed to talk."

Mrs. Schiff also interviewed social workers, clergymen and other professionals.

"It's not a book like Eric. I could

never have written a book and called it Robby. It was not written to cause more crying."

"I had to complete my grieving before I could write a book that would help others cope with life. My book is definitely not for crying."

"Whether a child is lost to disease or to sudden, violent death, such as the case of Timothy King's family in Birmingham or Rose Kennedy, the first feeling of the parent is one of amputation. A part of your body has actually been taken away."

WHEN YOU'VE LIVED with disease for a long time (such as the Schiffs) and had an opportunity to do the things you wanted to do and say the things you wanted to say, there may not be the same feelings of guilt, she said. "But when you're told your child is dead, the devastation is the same."

"One of the most common feelings I found among the people I talked with was the reaction to the first time the person went outside following the death," Mrs. Schiff said.

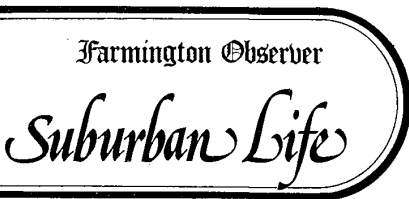
"I remember being offended when I went outside and found that business was still going and cars were still moving in the streets. How can things keep going when Robby is dead?"

Mrs. Schiff also talked with surviving brothers and sisters during her research. "I didn't find one child who felt their parents were any help during the grieving."

"These people opened up to me, they wanted to talk about it. It was difficult to end an interview," Harriet Sarnoff Schiff, author of "The Bereaved Parent."



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MRS. SCHIFF advises parents to "force yourself to listen to your children, avoid making comparisons with the dead child, ask questions and find out what they're really thinking."

"Do they feel guilt? Remind them of the good acts toward their dead brother or sister."

"In our case, Dale played Little League baseball and more than anything else, Robby wanted to play, too. Of course, he couldn't because of his heart condition."

Dale, on his own initiative, went to the coach and asked if Robby could be the bat boy. They gave Robby a uniform and he attended all the games.

"You know, when Robby died, Dale didn't remember that. But there are always good things to remind them of."

Also important is not to allow a breakdown in discipline with the children. Don't condemn them for laughing and don't turn the dead child into a saint.

ONE OF THE GREATEST injustices in our culture in time of grieving is to the American male, according to Mrs. Schiff.

"When our son died, friends patted me on the head and gave me their shoulders to cry on. But my husband was told to be strong, make funeral arrangements, be the man."

"He was so busy filling his male role that he didn't grieve for years... not until he went to a psychiatrist who gave him permission to cry."

"I found in my research that within three to four months after a child has

died, 90 per cent of the marriages find themselves in serious crisis situations.

"You might think the opposite would be true, that there would be a pulling together."

"But grief can't be shared. Everyone has to carry it his own way. I found the expectations of one's mate at this time become totally unrealistic."

"My husband and I split for a few months, but got counseling and now we have a good marriage. I'm lucky."

"SEX BECOMES a terrible problem when a child is dead," she said. "I remember thinking, 'How can you even think of having sex when my child is dead?'"

"Socializing is a problem as well as holidays, vacations, coming home from vacations and many other home situations, she points out in her book."

She advises people to seek help by joining groups of bereaved parents and by counseling.

"To rebuild your lives, start small with little tasks," she says. "And force yourself to finish them. Set a special day and time to go over your check book and even if you're crying all the time, don't stop till you're done."

Mrs. Schiff has started a series of personal appearances and interviews promoting her book.

"I know my book will help others cope with death, and maybe they'll be able to avoid some of the things we went through."



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## Eva Linn celebrates her 90th birthday

Evelyn Linn, of 23700 Ely Court, Farmington, celebrated her 90th birthday with a dinner reception for relatives and friends in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church hall.

Among the guests were her son, Robert Emerson Linn, and his wife Margaret, of Howell, their four children and four grandchildren; and Mr. and Mrs. Roger L. Van Dorpe, with whom Mrs. Linn resides. She has one other daughter, Mrs. Richard C. Bird, of Vancouver, Wash.

Mrs. Linn was born Eva Hesel, in Miller City, Ohio, the sixth and youngest daughter of William and Sarah Taylor Hesel, on March 24, 1887. Her father served in the Union Army during the Civil War, and saw action at Gettysburg, Antietam and Sherman's march through Georgia.

She met her future husband after a move to Detroit to join her sister Carrie. She married Robert Emerson Linn and changed her name to Evelyn on June 29, 1912.

Their purchase of a yacht brought them membership into the Detroit Yacht Club, which they retained for 30 years. Linn worked for the Ford Motor Company in Highland Park, and later became superintendent of the Lincoln plant.

WITH THE arrival of World War II, Linn sold his boat, and organized and operated a machine shop in Detroit. Their three children all served in the armed forces.

The couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1962.

After her husband died in 1963 she

lived alone until 1970 when she was persuaded to join her daughter, and son-in-law in Farmington.

She suffers some from arthritis, and walks with difficulty, but it does not interfere with her being a member of Our Lady of Sorrows bridge tournament, where she has competed for the past three years, and she plays pinocle regularly.

"She does not permit catarracts to inhibit her card playing nor her traveling," Mrs. Van Dorpe said, "and she would not dream of missing the next episode of her favorite television programs."

Mrs. Linn has spent the last few summers in Washington, visiting her daughter and son-in-law and their four children. And she has spent the last few winters in Florida.



EVELYN LINN

## 4 ministers join for Tre Ore service

Tre Ore Services will run from noon until 2 p.m. in Primes of Peace Lutheran Church, Twelve Mile and Farmington Roads, on Good Friday, April 7.

The afternoon will consist of seven devotional units, each of which will be

clude hymns, Scripture readings, music, prayer, and a brief meditation on one of the "Words of Christ from the cross."

A five-minute interlude will separate the units to allow visitors to enter or leave the church. The "First Word," set for noon, will

be officiated by Rev. Larry Stier, former pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Highland Park.

Other ministers officiating, for units titled "Second Word" through "Seventh Word" are Rev. Elmer Boyer, Anglican Lutheran Church in Allen Park; Rev. Charles Fox, St. John

American Lutheran Church in Farmington; and Rev. Edward Elmer, institutional chaplain for the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church, Muskegon.

Members of the community are invited to join the congregation in celebrating this day of meditation.