

Farmington Observer

Volume 90 Number 30

Monday, January 29, 1979

Farmington, Michigan

32 Pages

Twenty-five cents

©1979 Suburban Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

Pharmacists weigh pros and cons

Are generics as good as brand-name drugs?

By MARY GNIEWER

Consumers scored a victory last year when Michigan passed a law allowing druggists to dispense generic substitutes for brand name prescriptions, but a Botsford Hospital pharmacist said customers should be warned that some generic compounds have little or no effect on the body.

All Michigan druggists are required by law to offer generic substitutes for brand name products barring doctors' specification but the type of substitute offered depends on the pharmacist's faith in the drug he prescribes.

"Some take it as a free license to substitute a cheap generic product that has the same chemical composition as the brand name, but not the same ef-

fect on the body," said Botsford staff pharmacist Henry Goodman.

Goodman explained that the ingredient that binds the chemicals together (binding) and the outer shell (coating) both affect the way medication acts on the body.

"You could buy a cheap brand of aspirin, say 100 pills for 49 cents, that contains five grains of aspirin like other brands, but because of its packaging could pass through the body without dissolving.

"It's called bio-availability. The products may be the same chemically, but don't produce the same effect on the body."

A Wayne State University professor of pharmacology said the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) established

a list of drugs with bio-availability problems. It is available from the New York Board of Pharmacy for \$1.

"The FDA monitors drug manufacturing, but the inspection arm is understaffed," he said. "It's not possible to monitor every manufacturer to insure federal standards are met. The consumers only protection is the pharmacist making the decision. Some are reluctant to dispense a generic equivalent if they have no faith in the product."

GOVERNOR MILLIKEN signed Michigan's law into effect July 25, 1978 as part of the public health code. It allows druggists to dispense generic equivalent if a doctor has not prescribed a particular brand. The pur-

chaser can choose either name or generic brand.

Of the top 100 prescription drugs, about half are available as generic substitutes. Some, such as Librium, a tranquilizer, are available in generic form for half the cost of the brand name drug.

"What is happening as more states adopt laws is that prices of brand name products are coming down," the professor said. "And generic houses are upgrading their products to meet federal standards, so those prices are going up. The differential is shrinking.

In a random phone survey, Farmington druggists said that generic substitutes are dispensed with care.

"I'd say 90 per cent are at least equal if not better than brand name

drugs," said Bernard Friedman of Sherman Prescriptions. "A lot of them are manufactured by the same companies who make name-brand drugs.

"IF THE SUBSTITUTE is therapeutic and can save people money, we offer it."

Kenneth Brown of Brown Drugs in Farmington Hills said he is more apt to dispense generic drugs for symptomatic illnesses, like colds and coughs. He is leery about substitutions for heart medication and some antibiotics.

"Our company has its own quality control laboratory at our main office in Ohio," said Neil Robinson, staff pharmacist at Revo.

"We have been using generic drugs for two years and find they are just as

effective as brand name. We rely on our customers to let us know how effective they are. And they have been coming back and requesting generic drugs once they have tried them."

Added Jerry Logan of Bel-Aire Drugs:

"Some of the large drugstore chains buy the cheapest brand possible without considering the customer. It's up to the pharmacist to buy from a reliable house."

Another pharmacist used a different analogy.

"A car is a generic term," he said. "There are many different brands. You can buy a Cadillac or a Pinto—both are cars but of different quality. The decision is up to the consumer."

City church celebrates 150th year

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

The First United Methodist Church of Farmington claims a 150-year history which makes it the oldest continuous Methodist congregation in Michigan.

As church members celebrate their anniversary, they can look back on a history that weaves itself into the very development of the Farmington area.

In 1838, the village of Farmington boasted 20 families, two saw mills, a grist mill, tavern, doctor's office, blacksmith shop, soap making facility and post office.

Such a collection of buildings so impressed the author of the "Michigan Gazetteer," that he was prompted to comment, "This is a flourishing village and is surrounded by fine farming country."

As the village grew, religious services for local Methodists were supplied by circuit riding preachers who traveled through an area bounded by present day Farmington, West Bloomfield, Livonia, Walled Lake and Novi.

The preachers received dinner, lodging and breakfast for their services from the small scattered congregations.

Their expenses testified to an itinerant, simple life. In November, 1844, Rev. O.F. North listed his expenses as "\$216 for quarterage, \$60 for table and \$25 for traveling expenses" according to church records.

THE PREACHERS WHO tra-

veled through Farmington and other small towns to reach the Methodists began early to set up formal classes and meetings.

As early as 1829, 38 years before Farmington became a village, classes were being conducted in the area.

In 1840, work was begun on a frame church building on the corner of Shiawassee and Warner. Building funds were scarce and it took the young 200-member congregation four years to complete the church. Rev. North and William Haze led the new congregation in its new church.

While the church made inroads into the area, Farmington began to blossom into a prosperous rural community. By 1870, the United States census reveals there were 642 horses, three mules and asses, 1,117 milk cows, 22 working oxen, 527 other types of cattle, 5,378 sheep and 1,050 swine were recorded in Farmington.

Eight years after that census was taken, the First United Methodist Church of Farmington enlarged upon the original frame building. The Methodists on Shiawassee shared their church bell with the Universalist church next to them on Farmington Road. From its installment in about 1877, the bell signalled the beginning of church services for the Methodists and their Universalist neighbors whose church building lacked a bell tower.

THE WOOD FRAME CHURCH
(Continued on page 4A)



Rev. Charles Beynon of the First United Methodist Church of Farmington pauses in the main aisle of his church. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Girls in trouble get helping hand

They come from a variety of backgrounds. Some are the daughters of doctors, lawyers and auto company executives. Others are wards of the state.

But residents at Marillac Hall in Farmington Hills have one thing in common. They are young, single and pregnant.

Homes for unwed mothers may seem like a dying concept, but Marillac still operates at near full capacity.

According to Administrative Director Sister Mary Patricia, the purpose is not to hide girls "who get in trouble," but to help them through a major crisis.

"ONE OF THE biggest services we offer is helping girls think through the pros and cons of adoption or keeping the baby," Sister Patricia said.

"We are neutral. We are not interested in adoptions. The girls have to make up their own minds because they have to live with the decision they make. We are here to help them see all of the alternatives."

The advantage of taking a pregnant girl out of her home, Sister Patricia says, is that it forces her to look at her situation more objectively.

"The residence is not for everyone. But there are a lot of girls with needs that are not being met at home. The

home environment can be very subjective, with every member of the family telling the girl what she should do. The pressure is too much for some.

"Can a girl make up her own mind under those conditions? Maybe she can, but not always."

Sister Patricia said slightly more than half the girls decide to keep their babies. Those who choose adoption still have time to change their mind after the baby is born. The child is placed in a foster home until both parents sign adoption papers.

"WE DO NOT CONDONE, but we do accept," Sister Patricia said. "Most of the girls did not plan on getting pregnant, but it happened. We try to help them gain a better understanding of themselves."

Marillac is rooted in a history that

can be traced back to 17th century France. St. Louise Marillac, one of the founders of the Daughters of Charity, cared for unwed mothers in her native France.

Marillac Hall was founded in Detroit 110 years ago by the Daughters of Charity, an order of Catholic nuns Sister Patricia joined. The residence moved to Farmington Hills 25 years ago, at the corner of Inkster and Northwestern Highway.

"When the girls learn we were established over 100 years ago, they can't believe it. They can't believe there were unwed mothers then," she said. "I remind them that St. Louise and St. Vincent de Paul worked with unwed mothers in 1653."

MARILLAC HAS ROOM for 35 residents. Unwed mothers learn about the (Continued on page 6A)

Store employee slain in holdup

Farmington police are searching for clues in the wake of a Saturday morning homicide and armed robbery at a Great Scott supermarket, 24063 Orchard Lake Road.

Dead from a bullet wound is Great Scott employee Julius Schnoll, 62, of Southfield. According to police, two white males, one carrying a handgun and wearing a ski mask, surprised four night employees at about 4:30 a.m. inside the store. The store was closed at the time.

The employees, who had been stocking shelves, were taken to a rear lunchroom where they were bound and forced to lie face down on

the floor, police said. "When none of the employees could open the safe, the suspects shot and killed one employee execution-style," a police spokesman said.

The suspects then took about \$250 from the employees, who remained bound until discovered by the store manager at about 7 a.m.

"We believe the people (suspects) were in the store when the store closed," a police source said.

Police have a composite drawing of one suspect who was not wearing a ski mask.

Schnoll had worked for the supermarket chain for 30 years, police said. The other three employees were not identified by police.

inside	
Suburban Life	Section B
Sports	Section C
Classified	Section C
The Inside Angle	A-3
Community Calendar	A-5
Editorial Page	B-7
NEWSROOM	352-5400
CLASSIFIED LINE	591-0900

SOUND INVESTMENT

Fifteen years ago, record players or cabinet stereos were mainstays in many American households. But now they've been replaced by multi-component systems. For a look at the possibilities, please turn to Page 3 of this section.



Social worker Sandra Barakat counsels a young unwed mother at Marillac Hall in Farmington Hills. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)