



Beverly Papai, who made the Library for the Blind and the Handicapped a model for the nation, confides that she would one day like to work for The Library of Congress.



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## Suburban Life

(F)18

# Creator of a model library bids farewell on a happy note

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

During the next two weeks a mass communications campaign will be launched in Oakland and Wayne Counties to spread the word about the Library for the Blind and Handicapped, housed in Farmington Hills Community Library.

"Radio, TV, the press, doctors, churches, hospitals will all be hit with information on what we have here," said Beverly Daffron Papai, who built the collection of 13,000 volumes and a

host of reading aids from scratch.

"It is a nice way to leave a job," she said, "knowing how many people that campaign is going to reach."

Mrs. Papai, who will join her husband in Indiana this month, said the library now serves about 1,000 patrons.

"But statistics tell us that 3.7 percent of Detroit metropolitan area residents are eligible for talking books, and we want our resources known to those 35,000," she said.

"Our library has been monitored by the Library of Congress and has been cited as being a model in the country."

THE LIBRARY houses equipment that goes beyond the shelves of orange cassettes which line the walls in the 12 Mile Road building's downstairs level.

One spot that attracts is a collection of sculpture, given to the blind by Farmington area Jaycees.

One corner is occupied by an electric page turner, a gift from the Farmington Lions Club.

A high-speed cassette duplicator spins out best sellers, so the blind and the sighted are both reading the same best sellers at the same time.

Books in Braille and large print and electronic reading aids that bring newspaper print up to 60 times its size, are all part of the collection that Mrs. Papai has accumulated since she took on her job in 1975.

Her efforts won her the "Young Librarian of the Year" award.

"That was an honor, of course," she said, "but I think the award also honored the fact that libraries are not confined to four walls and our services go outside of the physical building."

When patrons can't come to the library, Mrs. Papai and her staff bring the library to three nursing homes, two apartment complexes, the Botsford Hospital, and the household. She is also a regular visitor, with a cart of

books, at the Gathering Place every Tuesday morning.

MRS. PAPAI may well have received "The Young Librarian of the Year" award for a couple of other reasons.

Her library is the only one in the state that has a summer reading program for blind and handicapped youngsters, running as close as possible to their sighted counterparts' program.

She is also the only librarian in the state who prints a newsletter for her patrons published in large print, in Braille, and on cassette.

She says she gets help regularly from Nardin Park Braille Transcribers, and more recently, the Detroit Story League, who are dramatizing stories on cassettes.

She also has some 60 volunteers, people she can call on for typing in large print or providing transportation.

The Troy Jaycees and Jayettes have furnished juvenile materials literature on consumer protection, and are now working on history books for the Library for the Blind and Handicapped.

Mrs. Papai had already completed study in gerontology when she received her masters degree in library science from Wayne State University.

## Childbirth education classes start May 7

Prenatal instruction in fetal development, nutrition, signs and symptoms of impending labor, and characteristics of the newborn, is being offered in a seven-week program sponsored by Plymouth Childbirth Education Association.

The classes, conducted by Annette Hill, are available to expectant parents in this area beginning at 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 7, in Mercy Center.

Relaxation and breathing exercises are included in the classes, which also

feature the stages of labor and delivery, hospital admission procedures and breast feeding.

The course begins with a free orientation session for couples. The best time to attend is during the fifth to seventh month of pregnancy.

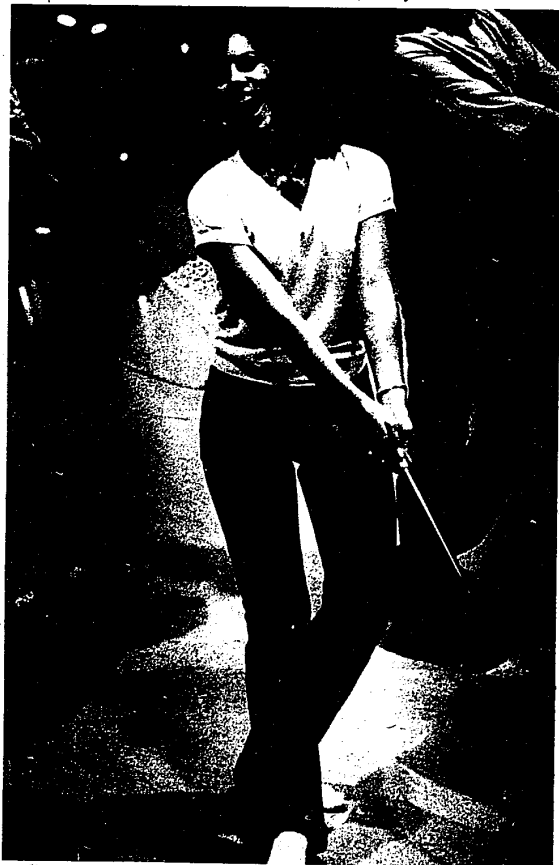
The program will be offered again July 9 to Aug. 20 in Mercy Center.

Registrations may be sent to the Program Department, Mercy Center, 28600 11 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, 48018.



The library cart that comes to the Gathering Place every week was the first regularly scheduled event launched for the now on-going senior citizens program of activities. During one of her visits, Beverly

Papai is flanked by Suzan Carsons, on her left, and on her right, Mary Gamachi, Leola Rummel and Alberta Mannix.

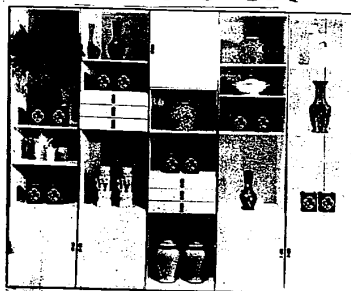


## It's Music Week

Mary Conlin, a member of Our Lady of Mercy High School's Mercynaires, practices with the select group of singers and dancers for their appearance in Tel-12 Mall during

National Music Week. Complete story with schedule of events is on Page 10B. (Staff photo by Harry Manthe.)

## "Avanti" It Has Finally Arrived!



March WAS Wall System Month, but the Avanti didn't arrive until April. As compensation, we've extended our introductory special on this high quality Designer Wall System.

The Avanti Wall System, featured here, can be ordered as a complete wall unit, or individual parts, allowing complete flexibility in design and function. There are glass doors, desk units, open or closed book cases, record dividers, and lighted panels to choose from. Either a dull polomine plastic lacquer; in white, brown, or black, or a veneer of Mahogany or Beech is available. The Avanti comes in four different heights: 86", 70", 48", 25 1/2", with all sections 16 1/2" deep.

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