

Nursery Enjoys 10 Good Years

By MARGARET MILLER
Women's Editor

A strapping "youngster" not yet 10 years old is high in the affection of families throughout Plymouth.

It's the Plymouth Children's Nursery, Inc., which has helped scores of preschoolers learn and have fun and given their parents some valuable information and fellowship too.

This cooperative nursery, which held its first classes in

March of 1962, now has grown to be one of the largest and most successful in the area. Just finished with its classes for the current term, the co-op is planning five different class groups next fall. Of these, only the once-a-week class for three-year-olds has vacancies left.

AND THIS SUMMER the nursery will take a new step and one not often tried by cooperatives. It will offer a summer day-camp program for small children.

"We're planning one session the last week in June and the first week in July," said Mrs. Jan Lucchetti, one of the four teachers during the year and director for the summer class. "Then if there's enough interest there may be a summer session the following two weeks."

"Some of the mothers in the nursery expressed an interest in a summer program, and we really feel we should use our facilities to whatever extent is needed."

THE FACILITIES now are centered in a roomy old school building leased since 1963 from the Plymouth Community Schools.

For \$1 a day and promises to keep up the old Hough School on Warren just west of Haggerty, the nursery has a building with several separate rooms and a large play-yard. "It's an ideal setting," said Mrs. Lucchetti, who began with the first group of mothers who organized the nursery and has been a teacher for the last four years. Her son, David, was one of the first children and daughter Anne has belonged this year.

"There are lots of horses out here and not many people — and lots of room for the children to play," she added. The schoolhouse is filled with exciting play equipment for a pre-kindergarten. There are stacking benches that were made and presented by the Plymouth Senior Citizens, craft and art supplies, racks of dress-up clothes for playing grown-up, and

even an incubator that this spring hatched one baby chick (out of four dozen eggs) in full view of one of the morning classes.

THE PLYMOUTH Children's nursery, of course, wasn't always that well equipped.

The eight mothers who started it wanted, like other mothers who have organized co-ops, an experience that children and parents could share.

The first classes were held Monday, Wednesday and Fridays in the Salvation Army building, with make-shift equipment that was donated, built or borrowed.

In 1962 the nursery joined the Huron Valley Council of Cooperative Nurseries and moved to the Community Building.

Nursery members that year not only made all building improvements needed for licensing the co-op, but also had to sweep up gunpowder and rifle casings before every session because the building

also was used as a rifle range.

INCORPORATION as a non-profit organization came in October of 1962, and in January of the following year a second session was added with Mrs. Lucchetti as teacher.

It was the next September that the nursery leased the Hough school, after first agreeing to clear the first-floor rooms (filled with desks because the school had been used for storage), as well as clean the yard and interior and renovate the plumbing and heating systems.

Fathers and mothers joined in painting bees at the school, and the Senior Citizens donated equipment.

A third class was added in the fall of 1964 and a fourth in May of 1966.

Last year for the first time the nursery tried a once-a-week class.

"It's a little hard for the teacher to fill everything into one class a week," said Mrs. Lucchetti, "but it has worked out well for the mothers,

especially those with younger children at home, because they didn't have to assist in class as often."

OTHER TEACHERS in this going nursery are Mrs. Doris Balconi, Mrs. Barbara Wade and Mrs. Linda Graisch.

Mrs. Lucchetti, participating in the nursery in some capacity throughout most of its history, said she's found a great deal of satisfaction, working with both children and mothers.

"There's no job in the world that's better as an ego builder," she said. "It's wonderful to get all the admiration a nursery school teacher gets."

Mothers interested in participating in next year's program for three-year-olds may call Mrs. Howard Oldford, 16650 JoAnn, Plymouth.

In charge of the summer program is the nursery president, Mrs. Robert White, 14795 Dogwood Court, Plymouth.

MRS. JAN LUCCHETTI supervises play in the yard of the Plymouth Children's Nursery, Inc. (Observer photos by Bob Woodring)



BPW Holds Installation

Rosina Raymond was installed as new president of the Livonia Business and Professional Women's Club at a meeting in the Hillside Inn.

Other new officers are Joyce Lewis, treasurer; Nellie Reynolds, corresponding secretary; Beth Milligan, vice-president; Sarah Smith, president-elect; Leone Kiscaden, recording secretary; and Clara Karr, past parliamentarian.



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Eliza Pritchard Marks 95 Years -- Or Is It 97?

It was an unusual party when they sang "Happy Birthday" to Mrs. Eliza Pritchard last Thursday.

The setting was the Northville State Hospital, where Mrs. Pritchard is the oldest patient. Hospital records list her age as 96, but her great-grandson, Anthony Hughes of Detroit, said he thought she was 97.

Whatever the age, it was a gala occasion for the guest of honor—friend long ago to the little boys who grew up to be Joe Louis, Nat King Cole and Little Jackie Wilson.

CANDLES were arranged into the figures 96 on two cakes placed before the smiling Mrs. Pritchard. The nurses in geriatrics ward A22 worried about the age discrepancy.

"Doesn't make no difference," the birthday lady said. "Make it 200 — I'll be here."

Cake and ice cream were passed around to Mrs. Pritchard and her great-grandson, staff members and some patients who came into the party room.

A Birmingham resident, Mrs. W. Calvin Patterson, was elected a WUF vice president.

Mrs. Scott Installed

Mrs. Samuel Scott of Farmington is the new president of the Farmington alumnae Association of Delta Gamma sorority.

She was installed recently during a luncheon meeting, along with Mrs. David Comfort of Farmington, secretary, and Mrs. James Rumples of Livonia, treasurer.

The alumnae group also announces that a Delta Gamma Foundation scholarship has been given in honor of Mrs. Russell Atchison of Northville for service given as the sorority's province alumnae chairman for the last five years. Delta Gamma Foundation scholarships aid students in fields of study related to sight conservation and aid to the blind.

Class Reunion

Garden City East High School graduates of 1966 will hold a reunion June 13, at 1 p.m., in the Edward Hines Parkway between Merriman and Inkster.



THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE provides an ideal spot for a cooperative nursery.

UF Elects Directors

A Farmington resident, Mrs. Ernest Meyers has been elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of Women for the United Foundation (WUF).

Mrs. Meyers, who is employed with the women's