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'Women On The Go'
By MARGARET MILLER

Without Peg, Voting Won't Be The Same



When election workers gather in the cold gray dawn next Tuesday, a familiar face will be missing from the staff of Livonia's 23rd Precinct.

For the first election in many years, Mrs. Max A. Schumacher will be at home instead in the thick of the polling action. Serious illness and the death of a daughter during the last year made Peg Schumacher decide the 16 or more hours of hard work which participating in a presidential election requires, would be a little too much for her, though she did help tabulate votes in Livonia's last millage election.

"AND I KNOW I'll miss it," she said, "it just won't seem right."

Max and Peg Schumacher have lived in Livonia since 1938 and were among its first registered voters, back in the days of Livonia Township.

While her children were young, Peg worked regularly on election boards and all kinds of community activities. She and her husband also made it a point to attend meetings of township officials and school boards.

IN 1954, when Livonia had been a city for four years and had a shiny new city hall, she went there to work for former Clerk Marie Clark for a couple of weeks.

She stayed 11 years, retiring from her post as registration clerk in 1965.

During that time she was vitally concerned with voting matters, of course.

"I took registrations, arranged them in the books and kept the records up to date," Peg said.

"When a new precinct was formed, we had to use a map to determine which voters should be moved into it."

"I got to know voters' names so well that quite often when I was introduced to a new person, I could place him in a precinct."

PEG'S INTEREST in matters of government goes back even farther than her election board work.

"My father took me to the voting booth right after my first birthday," she recalled. "He told me then that we might not always agree politically, but he didn't want me ever to miss an election."

"And I've hardly missed a vote since then."

In later years, she added, a political parting of the ways with her father did come. He was living with the Schumacher family then, and a family reunion had been planned on an election day, one when Peg wasn't working.

"But we first went to the polls and canceled out each other's vote," this daughter recalled.

THE 23RD PRECINCT, for a number of years while Peg worked on its polling, had as voting headquarters the small building on Five Mile that used to be City Hall and fire station and now houses the civil service office.

The election that Peg remembers best is the 1952 presidential race, when Dwight

PEG SCHUMACHER checks over a sample ballot for Livonia's Tuesday election.



Eisenhower defeated Adlai Stevenson the first time.

"The lines then really stretched a couple of blocks," she said.

It was built after lightning destroyed the family's original home on the same lot. "The kids didn't want to move," Peg explained.

Son Paul now makes his home in Royal Oak. The family of the Schumachers' daughter, Marilyn, who died of nephritis in June, lives in Petoskey.

The Schumachers find retirement satisfying.

But next Tuesday, it's a safe bet Peg's thoughts will be with the workers of the 23rd Precinct.

Diabetic Group Begins Series

A series of five two-hour classes for diabetics and their families will be held in the Wayne County Health Center on Merriman beginning Monday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m.

Under the direction of the Public Health Nursing division, the course will explain the condition of diabetes mellitus, its control and treatment, and the relationship of diet.

All diabetics may attend with written approval from their physicians. Children under 14 should be accompanied by a parent.

Interested persons may register by telephoning the Wayne County Department of Health, PA 1-0200 or CR 4-2800.

Botsford Club Luncheon To Hold

The Botsford Garden Club will present a "Day of Elegance" card party-luncheon on Friday, Nov. 8 at the Northwest Yacht Club, 25940 Grand River, Redford Township.

The event will begin at noon. Reservations may be made by calling 476-1697.

Monetti Club Will Hold Auction

A "Make It Or Bake It" group, the Detroit Monetti Club, at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6, in the home of Mrs. Ross Birkhill, 31 Shady Hollow, Dearborn.

Auction, with proceeds going to the Ohio Wesleyan University scholarship fund, is planned by the school's alumnae.

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