



THREE NEW OFFICERS of the Western Wayne County Mothers of Twins Club live within two miles of each other in Plymouth, so they brought their twins to the Observer office for a picture. The mothers (from left) are Mrs. Lynn Lyon, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Emma Niebauer, president, and Mrs. Jan Nicholson, second vice president. The twins are Ross and Greg Lyon in front, Lisa and Laurie Nicholson in the middle, and Kendra and Keith Niebauer in the back. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring.)

Twins' Mothers Find Needed Group Support

"I have three-month-old twins. Do you think I'm going to make it?"

The question is put by a harassed young mother to members of a club she is visiting.

"Everyone there assures her that yes, indeed, she'll survive and soon enjoy her babies. They know, because they are members of the Western Wayne County Mothers of Twins Club.

The group was organized in 1960 and Mrs. Emma Niebauer of Plymouth, new president, puts the current member count at 87 mothers.

"At first you depend on the meetings like Alcoholics Anonymous sessions," said Mrs. Lynn Lyon of Plymouth, corresponding secretary.

"You just want to talk to other mothers and get assurance that you'll get through taking care of two babies at once.

"Later, you really enjoy the meetings and special activities for the social contacts."

The club meets once a month and also sponsors family picnics and other outings. It publishes a newsletter with tips for taking care of twins.

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29 Volunteers Are Honored By Plymouth State Home

A total of 29 area volunteers were honored by Plymouth State Home and Training School in Northville Township.

The volunteers were honored during a service awards evening for working more than 200 hours in one year or for accumulating 500; 1,000; 2,000; 4,000 or 9,000 hours at the institution.

"You volunteers are earning brownie points here on this earth and most certainly shall be amply rewarded because you have cared and you shared," Dr. Joseph Dennison, deputy director of the Michigan Department of Mental Health, told them.

Plymouth residents who earned pins for 200 hours service include Kathleen DeLaura, Sandra Drouillard, Sheri Hillner, Jane Koepke, Karen Korte, Mabel Nelson, Patty Rose and Vicky Woolley.

Also receiving 200-hour pins were Virgil Huey, Laurie Huntsman, Diane O'Driscoll, Douglas Simmons and Jo Ann Stuebben, all of Livonia.

Plymouth residents who have accumulated 500 hours of service include Laurie Hancock, Sue J. Hohnbaum, Miss Koepke, Mary Lee, Barbara Nelson and Dave Sigmon.

Pins for 500 hours service also were given to Pat Corbett of Westland, Joan Cyr of Redford Township, Beth deTigter of Livonia, Margaret Gardner of Redford Township, Kathy Murphy of Livonia.

Jean Henshaw of Plymouth and Hazel MacCallum of Redford Township received pins for 1,000 hours of service and Patricia Beck of Plymouth was honored for 2,000 hours.

Phil Silts of Farmington was honored for 4,000 hours service, and his wife, Faye, was honored for 9,000 hours.

The pins were distributed by Virginia McIlhargie, volunteer coordinator, and Peter Schweitzer, community relations director.

Miss Koepke, a Plymouth High School senior who received both 200 and 500 hour pins, introduced Dr. Dennison.

VD Check Suggested Along With Pap Test

Women who see physicians annually for Pap tests for early detection of cervical cancer should be routinely given tests for gonorrhea as well, according to the Michigan State Medical Society, a professional organization of 8,000 Michigan physicians.

In action announced at the society's headquarters here, its board of directors declared that tests for gonorrhea should be included as part of routine pelvic examinations for women and accepted as a standard of care by the medical profession and that all physicians should be encouraged to give such tests routinely.

The society's action was announced by Dr. Robert M. Leitch, of Battle Creek, chairman of the MSMS Council, and Dr. Louis R. Zako of Dearborn Heights, chairman of the society's committee on public and environmental health.

Because an estimated 80 per cent of the women who have gonorrhea have no symptoms, routine testing to identify cases for treatment is the best way of attacking this health menace, Doctor Zako declared.

Last year, new gonorrhea cases reported in Michigan totaled 22,359 to make it the most prevalent infectious disease, and the total continues to rise. The 1970 total was 20,359 cases, compared with 8,375 cases in 1960.

"The two problems to be faced here are ignorance and embarrassment," Doctor Zako said.

"In men, gonorrhea generally is painful and the patient seeks treatment. But because women have only minor symptoms or none at all, they fail to seek attention.

"Sadly, they are unaware of the major health problems, including sterility, blindness and arthritis, that can be caused by untreated gonorrhea.

"And some women who suspect they might be infected are hesitant to request a test because of embarrassment. Physicians have been hesitant to suggest tests unless requested to do so by the patient.

"We hope that recognition of routine testing as a standard of care will help to solve legal, technical and ethical problems that have stood in the way of detecting and treating this disease."

The Michigan Department of Public Health provides laboratory supplies and service free of charge for use in gonorrhea testing.

MSMS has been active in the last year and a half in informing physicians of the availability of this service.

The state medical society also has an ongoing public education effort on venereal disease and presently is co-operating with the Michigan Jaycees in a statewide program directed at young people.

Pamphlets providing information about gonorrhea and syphilis, the other major venereal diseases, are available from the Michigan State Medical Society Communication Department, 120 W. Saginaw St., East Lansing, Mich. 48823. Individual copies as well as quantities for distribution by schools and other groups are available without charge.

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