

# The Observer

## WOMEN

### Madame President



Mrs. John Van Lier

## By BIBB LINDHOUT

What is it that pushes, or pulls, "just plain housewives" to go beyond the confines of their home and family, to assume the added responsibilities of actively participating in the vast vaguely defined field which carries the unassuming name of "volunteer work"? How do they reconcile having the demands of their family often times go unanswered because mother's busy volunteering?

We propose to ask the presidents of many different organizations for answers to these and other like questions in this series entitled Madame President.

Until 1955 Mrs. John Van Lier did not do much socializing. She worked full time in a business office and after work and housework were the only activities left on the schedule for "clubbing."

And so, when her husband suggested that she'd worked long enough, and wasn't it time she stayed home, Hattie found a great big 40-hour hole in her week.

"It was so need to belong but I had after a year of sitting home I thought I'd go out of my mind," she says.

In 1955 she started to work with the newly formed Y-Teens at Riley Junior High School.

Her interest in gardening soon led her to Livonia's Farm and Garden Club and there she met Mrs. Marion Burns, introduced her to the City Women's Club.

Hattie and her husband moved to Livonia in 1958. When they bought the house at 15694 Farmington, it was a fine home north of Five Miles, whereas now office buildings and houses line both sides of the road. The challenge of taming the wilderness immediately around them developed their interest in gardening. They still consider it one of their favorite hobbies.

Hattie also likes to dry and preserve flowers and foliage—making pictures and plaques with them. "I am interested, too, in the more wooded areas and the wild flowers of Michigan," she says.

It is easy to see how she can combine a president's hat with her hobby. Hattie was first elected president of the Council Club in 1960 but her health forced her to resign. She was elected to that post again this year.

The activities of the Women's Club are more in the area of service. Here Hattie is serving her second year as president. "Each year we have one big project," she says. "We have a card party to raise money and then buy a gift for some group—we think this is nice just don't know what."

Gifts in past years have included a ceramics bin and supplies for retarded children at Elm School, a special bassinet for St. Mary Hospital, tape recordings for Livonia's emotionally disturbed children.

Hattie also spends one day a week working at the Well-Baby Clinic at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church and is a member of the Wayne County Health Council. Her hobby for these varied outside interests are the same. "I enjoy being with people and meeting new people," she says. "There is so much we can learn from each other."

As president, Hattie makes a point of calling on new members in her club. "Many new members are newcomers," she adds, "I think they join these clubs to get acquainted, and it's part of my job to make them feel welcome."

**Los Caballeros Meet**  
The Los Caballeros 4-H Club has held its latest meeting, with Vice President Linda Steller presiding. Janice Priebe acted as both Secretary and Treasurer, with Carole Andrews, the Treasurer, absent.

### Wedding Gowns Of All Ages Modeled

Wedding gowns of the past and present and the coming future will be shown at the Keeler Mothers Club Fashion Show at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, in the school gym.

The spring fashions are from local and out-of-town designers. They will be described by Mrs. Richard Freund, fashion coordinator for the store. The theme of the show will be "My Fair Lady."

The bride gowns, requested years from the 1920's through the 1950's, then will be modeled to a background of wedding music sung by the Melody Morn Quartet. The singers are Betty Scheck, Nancy Conley, Mary Jo Pfeifer and Carol MacDowell. Eleanor Manini will play piano accompaniments for the entire show.

All the models will be members of Mothers Club and teachers at Keeler High School. Hair styles will be done by Mr. Ronald.

Tickets for the affair must be purchased by Feb. 15. They can be bought in the school office or from Diane Mienk for \$1.75 each. All proceeds will be sold after Feb. 15.

A Maurice salad luncheon and dessert will be served by members of the Future Teachers Club and other students from Redford Union High School.

Making arrangements for the affair are Pat Judd and Ann Weyher, co-chairmen; Jean Hengar, Mothers Club president, and Mrs. Mienk, tickets.

### Troth Told

Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Olen of Livonia announced the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Vincent, to Charles Cooper. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Cooper of Plymouth. The bride attended the Detroit College of Optometry and is a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. She is a graduate of the University of Indiana.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Watchko of Livonia and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William O'Bryan of Livonia.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a floor length Paris Couture Design gown of peau de soie with a Victorian neckline. Her veil was floor length and the bride carried a bouquet of white roses and a spray of white carnations with streaming lace.

Elizabeth Watchko, the bride's sister, who served as maid of honor, wore a floor length deep blue velvet gown with a round neck and a train.

The bridesmaids, Joyce Watchko, Jan Rae Schollenberger and Mary Lou Johnson, wore white gowns. However, two of the bridesmaids' dresses were in deep purple.

Tom O'Bryan, the bridegroom's brother, served as best man. Seating the guests were Donald and Michael Wiers, Donald Wiers, Dr. Robert Hirschlein is in charge of decorations and Mrs. Sam Goss is memorium chairman. Mrs. Sam Columbus is in charge of the ad book. Those wishing more information may call Mrs. Martin Katz of Livonia at GR 6-5746.

The final session on Sex Education for Junior High youth and their parents will begin Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. at East Junior High, Farmington. The total program is divided into three parts on three consecutive Thursday evenings, Feb. 4, 11 and 18. Its intent is to help people better understand the psychological changes of adolescence, and to promote a closer, more comfortable relationship between parents and young teenagers.

Giving important leadership to this program will be Dr. Edwin Blumberg, Rev. Richard Markham and Dr. Paul L. Schaefer, who are spear with authority and the experience of dealing with teenagers in the area of development.

Membership in the YMCA is not necessary, but a pre-registration of \$2 must be made in

order to get a place. People may register in person at the YMCA, Grand River, east of Drake.

A similar program for high schoolers and parents is being planned on March 11, 18 and 25 at North Farmington High, Call the Y for more information at 474-3232.

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Dr. and Mrs. Roger L. O'Bryan

### Watchko-O'Bryan Marriage January 9

Marlene Helen Watchko and Dr. Roger L. O'Bryan were married Jan. 9 at St. Theodosius Roman Catholic Church.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Watchko of Livonia and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William O'Bryan of Livonia.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a floor length Paris Couture Design gown of peau de soie with a Victorian neckline. Her veil was floor length and the bride carried a bouquet of white roses and a spray of white carnations with streaming lace.

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### Girl Scout Notes

Junior Troop 1088 from the Whitman Neighborhood was one of many troops in attendance at the recent Girl Scout Symposium. Both the music by the Detroit Girl Scout Band and dancing by the Detroit City Ballet were much enjoyed by everyone. A recent weekend spent at Kensington provided the girls with the opportunity to learn many outdoor skills and crafts.

Moving over to the Jackson Neighborhood we find that Junior Troop had fun at the roller rink. This was the first time on skates for many of the girls and they all had fun even though it wasn't their feet that hurt when they were done.

Cadette Troop 2249 of Cooper Neighborhood had created the best decorated program with an intriguing re-enactment ceremony attended by the parents of the girls. The spectators thoroughly enjoyed the program, troop movies, ceremony, and refreshments.

Pop tunes have temporarily been replaced by classical music for Girl Scout Troop 358 of the Missouri Neighborhood. These Junior Scouts have been studying the compositions of the masters for the last three meetings as a requirement toward the Junior Musical Badge.

Highlight of the music appreciation portion of the badge was a trip Jan. 24 to see the Michigan Symphony Orchestra at Plymouth High School under the direction of Wayne R. Dunlap.

After the concert the girls were invited backstage to interview the conductor and musicians and examine the various instruments of the orchestra.

Mrs. Carl Klessel, who is a committee mother for the troop and coordinator for the Musician badge is busy preparing the girls for their own recital in March.

"The girls are learning to play the song flute and are practicing for a concert before their sister troops and parents," Mrs. Klessel said. "The highlight of the program will be some original songs composed by the girls. We hope they will be able to appreciate all types of music at the completion of the badge."

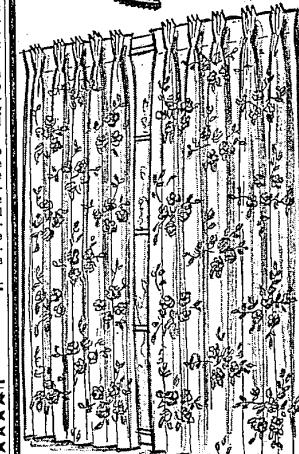
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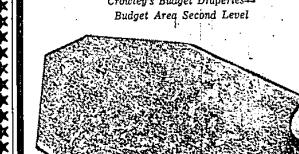
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Crowley's Budget Draperies—Budget Area Second Level



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Crowley's Budget Rugs—Budget Area Second Level

