



Big Families Find Strength In Numbers

BY MARGARET MILLER
Women's Editor

Their insight shows mother and father and six children, all in a row.

Their membership rolls list 63 families with more than 600 children under them.

Their reason for being can be expressed in three E's—for economics, empathy and education—while their income tax statements would have to be heavy on the D—for deductions.

These folks are members of the Large Family Club of Farmington, Livonia and Southfield. Formed last spring, the organization has found itself burgeoning at an amazing rate, both in numbers and in ideas.

THE CLUB—the parents involved, that is—meets once a month in the basement of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington. It's one of the few spots around that is big enough, also about once a month, there's a social event to involve both parents and children. And these get-togethers have led to varied cooperative ventures.

MEMBERS found they had so many ideas to exchange at the rather short monthly meetings that they decided to write some of them down.

So evolved a huge bulletin board, with all kinds of notices. Information also could be disseminated in a newsletter, so a four-page one went into publication, with Louise Sidloky of Farmington as editor.

Some parents found it was hard for both to get away for the meetings. No babysitters who wanted to take on the care of five or six children, even for an evening.

But other parents had teenagers to spare, and who knows better than a teen from a big family how to take care of another big family? So was born a babysitting exchange.

AT THE first few social gatherings, mothers found themselves exchanging recipes that would feed a lot of people. Now Lenora Semplinski and Joan Zott, both Farmington graduates of Marygrove College with majors in home economics, are going to edit a cookbook with

the emphasis on large-quantity dishes.

Eileen Randolf, of Farmington, is compiling a list of housekeepers for members who need them. She knows it takes a special kind of person to take over in a household with five or more youngsters, but points out that such a job might not be as difficult as many think.

Big families, she said, tend to produce cooperative children and discourage picky eaters—by sheer necessity.

THEN THERE'S a file of sewing patterns being compiled by Phyllis Mahinske. Right now, the stress is on patterns for pajamas, robes and doll clothes for Christmas, but Mrs. Mahinske should soon have a complete set of patterns for all types of garments in all sizes.

The club also is working out an exchange of trading stamp books, and a box is set out at each meeting for exchange of mail coupons.

Plans are going forward to work out means of large-quantity discount buying for club members. So far, the big item is detergent at a cut rate.

THE EDUCATION part of the three E's is a two-fold one. Speakers are invited to meetings to give members information on timely matters of special interest to them. And the club hopes to do some educating on its own—to convince the community that a large family is, more often than not, well-disciplined and cooperative one.

Membership in the organization is limited to families with at least five children. A headcount indicates the biggest number have six youngsters.

The club's membership included just one set of triplets—year old girls named Carol, Cheryl and Cynthia who make up half the six-child family of Bruno and Cecilia Walczak.

There are nine sets of twins in seven families. The ones with two sets each are Ray and Ruth Espar, with 15-year-old girls and three-year-old boys, and Paul and Helen Burger, who have boys, 4, and a boy and girl age 2.

SITTER SITUATION WELL IN HAND—Jeannie Stahl's parents belong to the Large Family Club, so she's well equipped to baby-sit the seven children of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Prevost, of Livonia. Here she ties Steve's shoes. The other Prevost youngsters are Mark, holding baby Kathy, while Ann, Mike, Mary and Kevin watch.

6-Pack Carton Decoration

A soft drink six-pack carton, aluminum foil and some cookies and cake icing can create a charming Christmas cookie house.

Cover an empty king-size six-pack soft drink bottle carrier with Alcoa Wrap aluminum foil. Use a shirt cardboard or piece of construction paper to form the roof; cover with foil and fold over the container. Attach graham crackers or cookies to sides of the container with prepared frosting or your favorite confectioner's sugar variety. Chocolate mint shingles decorate the roof of the house. To attach the candles, apply scallops of frosting to the foil, then press each mint into place. The ray roof border consists of frosting half or any firm ball-shaped candy, which can be attached and decorated with a tiny swirl of frosting.

For the chimney, use frosting to attach and decorate a single graham cracker section. Miniature chocolate-coated candles serve as the windows and decorative base of the house. The cobblestone path leading to the house is pink after-dinner mints.

BOYS! GIRLS! BE ON TV WITH SANTA! FREE CANDY CANES! VISIT SANTA'S TOY WORKSHOP WONDERLAND SHOPPING CENTER PLYMOUTH ROAD AT MIDDLEBELT

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775-14	800-14	20.88	2.21
825-14	850-14	22.78	2.38
855-14	900-14	24.82	2.56
885-14	900-15	26.79	2.84
735-15	650-15	18.77	2.04
775-15	670-15	20.88	2.23
815-15	710-15	22.78	2.33
845-15	760-15	24.82	2.53
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SANTA SEAMSTRESSES—It's handy if you can exchange patterns for Christmas gift sewing, so Phyllis Mahinske is presiding over a pattern file.

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