

# Specialists Seek 100 Heart Attack Victims For Tests

Two University of Michigan doctors are seeking more than 100 heart attack victims in southeastern Michigan and the Toledo area.

Volunteer men patients are needed in a national study to help doctors find out whether drugs can protect against repeated heart attacks.

Dr. Henry N. Schoch, associate professor of internal medicine at the U-M Medical School, is directing the sole Michigan center of the national Coronary Drug Project. Dr. Rudolph E. Richert Jr., clinical assistant professor of internal medicine at U-M and a St. Joseph Mercy Hospital staff member, is co-investigator.

"We can accommodate some 200 men in the testing program to get under way this year," Dr. Schoch said. Seventy patients are already participating.

**THE MICHIGAN PROJECT** is part of a national program involving 55 medical centers. The \$26 million program is financed by the National Heart Institute.

Four drugs will be evaluated on 8,500 patients over five years.

"This is the most ambitious field study testing the effectiveness of drugs in coronary heart disease in the history of this country," Dr. Schoch said. "It gives men who have themselves suffered a heart attack a chance to participate in research that is aimed at reducing mortality from the nation's No. 2 killer.... The need for immediate protection for these men is pressing."

A volunteer or his physician may call Dr. Schoch at 761-8666 or write to him at C3259 University Medical Center. Men will be considered if they have their own doctors' permission, are between ages 30 and 64, and have had at least one heart attack.

Those with liver disorders or cancer, those taking insulin, psychiatric patients, and alcoholics are ineligible. Women, too, are ineligible because they are more resistant to heart disease than men.

**EACH PATIENT** will get a thorough medical examination and electrocardiogram. He will be assigned by computer to one of the drugs being tested, and will have to take nine capsules a day. He will return to the Medical Center every four months for a checkup and laboratory tests. All of this will be free of charge.

"The Coronary Drug Project is designed to determine whether drugs that lower blood levels of cholesterol and other fatty substances can improve long-term survival among heart attack victims," Dr. Schoch explained.

"It is hoped that one or more of these agents may reduce five-year mortality by at least 25 per cent among treated heart attack victims," he added. Without treatment, 30 to 50 per cent of heart attack victims are likely to die within five years.

**CORONARY ARTERY** disease occurs when the heart's blood supply is curtailed, damaging the heart muscle and causing disability or death. A drug that combats coronary artery disease might also prove effective against cerebral thrombosis, or stroke. This

## Seniors Plan 'Miracle' At Franklin

The Franklin High School Senior Class will present William Gibson's "The Miracle Worker" Friday and Saturday evenings, Feb. 16 and 17.

Curtain time will be 8 p.m. in the Franklin Lecture Theatre. Tickets, at \$1, will be sold on a reserved-seat basis. Major roles in the production will be taken by Karen Mal-kiewicz, as Helen Keller; Linda Eagle, as Annie Sullivan; Crys Fremo, as Kate Keller; and Charlie Pope, as Captain Keller.

## Lady Bird Honored

A committee headed by Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman didn't have to look far in selecting the recipient of a new award—only across town to the White House.

The committee named Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson Monday to give the first D.V. Morrison memorial lecture on a date not yet set. The lecture series will honor the plant explorer, landscape architect and writer who died in 1966.

The five-member committee, which included two other Agriculture Department officials as well as Freeman—called the President's wife "the single most powerful influence on ornamental horticulture that this country has ever known."

foods", Dr. Schoch said. Since certain drugs can lower the blood level of cholesterol, Cholesterol is a fatty alcohol that is manufactured by the liver and also is found in some

But it is conceivable that extra-high blood fat levels are only an indicator and not the cause of atherosclerosis. Other body abnormalities could be the cause.

**THE DRUGS** to be tested are already in use for medicinal purposes. They include estrogens, or female sex hormones; nicotinic acid, a constituent of the vitamin B-2 complex; dextro-thyroxine, a synthetic form of the thyroid hormone; and a drug known as clofibrate. A placebo is also included in the study.

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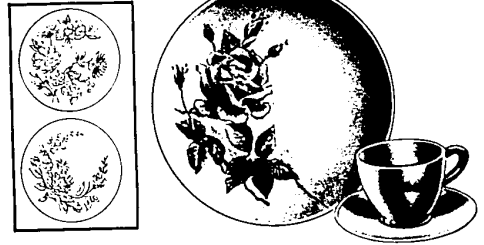
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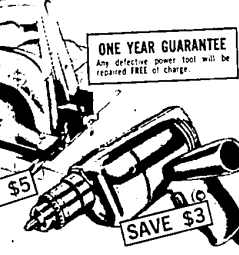
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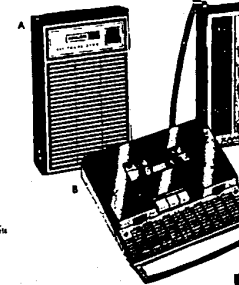
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