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Women on the Go

Dr. Cindy is ready for some pet patients

By MARGARET MILLER, Women's Editor

Cindy Baumhart of Livonia has thought about being a veterinary doctor for about as far back as she can remember.

Now she's Dr. Cynthia J. Baumhart, a December graduate of the Michigan State University college of veterinary science, but it didn't happen without a detour or two.

"When I went up to State in the fall of 1969," said this member of the first Stevenson High School graduating class, "I had registered as a zoology major."

"I guess I figured vet medicine was not a field for a girl, though I had had it in the back of my mind for a long time."

"Let's see, we had chickens and rabbits and cats and even the men don't try to kill a St. Bernard."

Along with her classroom studies and work at the MSU clinic, she and other women vet students ran a somewhat illegal menagerie for an assortment of dormitory animals.

"Let's see, we had chickens and rabbits and cats and even the men don't try to kill a St. Bernard."

One of those foundlings was a part sheepdog Cindy plucked out of a sleet storm. She's now an honored member of the Baumhart household, sharing dog quarters with a border collie named Knight, and she answers to the appropriate name of Mocher.

"Mocher really was a mess when I found her," Cindy recalls. "She was infested with parasites and getting pneumonia. It would have cost a fortune to make her healthy if I hadn't been able to use the clinic facilities."

Cindy plans to work with small animals, a part of veterinary medicine in which she feels women have a definite advantage.

"There are a lot of dogs that respond much better to women than to men — probably because they are around women more at home. Knight is one of those. When we had him up at the clinic for tests, he did much better when the girls gave him his shots."

Studies in vet school ran year-round, and Cindy was

one of 14 women in her graduating class of 47.

"The work was hard," she says, looking back over four years of schooling crammed into a little less than three years, "but there certainly was no problem because I am a woman."

"Fortunately, all the women in the group were strong you have to be, because if there's a 40-pound sack of oats no one is going to hoist it for you."

"I can handle just about any dog but the biggest ones, and even the men don't try to kill a St. Bernard."

Working at the clinic is an important part of veterinary school training, Cindy said.

"It's sort of an internship," she explained, "but we do it while getting classroom work too. At first what we do is just the small busy work, but in the last two terms, as seniors, we do a good share of the running of the clinic."

Cindy highly recommends Michigan State's "Vetvist" day in the spring for high school girls — and boys too — interested in a career in veterinary medicine.

"The whole clinic is turned into exhibits," she said, "with all the classes making contributions. It's really a good way to learn more about the school and see if that field is what you want."

Still considering where to settle in small animal practice, Cindy needs only to talk about Mocher to show she's in the right field. Sheepdogs can be pretty entertaining, she relates, largely because they really can't see very well with all that hair in front of their eyes.

"I had Mocher out for a walk one night," she said, "and she ran smack into a trash can because she couldn't see where she was going. And last night she came up to my room and addressed the clothes lying on my bed because she thought I was there instead of sitting across the room."

"Then one day I tied her hair up in a top-knot and she sat at the front window just amazed at what was going on in the world."



DR. CYNTHIA BAUMHART of Livonia is shown with a couple of friends well able to appreciate her new degree in veterinary medicine. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

Bazaars

Continued from Page 1B

Too many people are doing the same thing themselves that we were trying to sell."

A representative from a Garden City Church, which made money on its bazaar, had this to say: "There were people who would come in and look and say they could make it themselves. But you know there are plenty of people who, if you sat them down and showed them how, still couldn't make anything. They are the ones who bought."

We turned to some professionals for answers on the craft craze (on the same day a 17-year-old boy told this writer what a kick he was getting out of making his own soap).

From a psychologist: "We manufactured ourselves right out of some of our most satisfying — touching — feeling experiences and now we're re-discovering, latent talents for creating. The motivation is the mastering of something just for the satisfaction of doing it."

From a sociologist: "The do-it-yourself thing has to do with being in touch with yourself. It's the only thing we have left in a society that is as bureaucratic and as depersonalized as ours. We can identify with the end product because it is the direct result of our very own inner and manual energies."

From a professor of education: "It is therapy, a release from the insecurities and the pressures of contemporary life, and a very healthy one at that. When technology tried to beat this making-with-our-own-hands out of us, the psychologists and psychiatrists brought it back, first, into mental hospitals as a stabilizing factor."

"The one sad fact is that our society demands a price tag be put on these things we create and that changes everything. The fun is in the doing. The joy is in the process itself. The value of it has nothing to do with economics."

The professionals all seem to agree that those who are turning an artsy-craftsy hand these days are doing a mentally healthy thing.

But a great many of the club women and church women in the area who find themselves on ways and means committees next season, we bet, are going to be scouting around finding new and different ways to raise money for their special charity.



Mr. and Mrs. John T. Smith of Heritage Drive, Plymouth, announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, Stephanie Ann, on Dec. 7 in St. Mary Hospital in Livonia. Mrs. Smith is the former Patricia Holmes.

Mr. and Mrs. Doug Chevillet of Wakenden Avenue, Redford Township, announce the birth of a son, Shawn Charles, on Dec. 22.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas P. Carlan of Park Avenue, Livonia, announce the birth of their first daughter, Jennifer Ann, on Nov. 15 in Woman's Hospital, Ann Arbor. Jennifer has two brothers, Christopher and Jamie.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kearney of Westland announce the birth of a son, Jeffrey Matthew, on Dec. 12 in St. Mary Hospital. He weighed seven pounds, 12 ounces.

New Voices

New center is MACLD subject

The new Livonia center for children with learning problems will be the topic for the Jan. 9 meeting of the Livonia - Redford chapter of Michigan Association for Children with Learning Disabilities.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Franklin High School cafeteria.

Leading the discussion will be Nicholas Lovich, section chairman for the elementary learning disabilities program in Livonia and Roland Montambau, director of pupil personnel in the Livonia school district.

The local chapter seeks to inform parents on specific problems of children with educational handicaps. Mrs. Stanley Strzalka of Redford Township is current president. Other officers are Mrs. Gordon Owens of Livonia, membership, and Mrs. Gerald Trimark of Redford Township, publicist.

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