

## Plymouth author

# Favorite anecdotes in new book

By ELINOR GRAHAM

Elizabeth Betts Urquhart of Plymouth, who had her first book published, and her friends are delighted. One of their favorite persons suddenly has become one of their favorite authors.

Little anecdotes about Betty Urquhart's childhood, as the daughter of an often-moved Methodist minister, have been a source of enjoyment over the years. Now they have been assembled in "Dig Weeds, My Son" (The Naylor Co., \$4.95) soon to be available in book stores across the country.

Mrs. Urquhart received her first copy of her book Christmas Eve. The flyleaf had been autographed by all the staff members of the Texas publishing house.

Since June, when her manuscript was accepted, there had been a steady exchange of correspondence, telephone calls, galley proofs etc. between Plymouth and San Antonio.

More copies arrived and the word spread. "Betty has written a book!"

Last week a group of friends in Saginaw had a get together to honor the author. This afternoon, Mrs. Alvin Folger and Mrs. Raymond Doty are hosting a

**Bingo game**

**to help eye**

**disease study**

The Notre Dame Council 3621 of the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a bingo game with all proceeds going toward research for retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic eye disease which leads to blindness.

The bingo game will be held Saturday, Jan. 19, at 5 p.m. in the Knights of Columbus Hall, 35100 Van Born Rd., Wayne.

Quickie games start at 8:45 p.m. Refreshments will be available.

"meet the author" party in Mrs. Folger's home in Plymouth.

Mrs. Wayne Dunlap, a former Plymouth resident, wrote from her home near Grand Rapids, "I stayed up and read your book after I got home. I laughed so hard, the dog thought I was having a fit."

The Urquharts' nine-year-old grandson sent a note congratulating his grandmother. He said, "The part I liked best was 'Slap 'em in the face! Kick 'em in the jaw! Send 'em to the cemetery! Rah - Rah - Rah!'"

"Dig Weeds, My Son" is a family chronicle. It records her memories of growing up as a PK (preacher's kid), the 15th of a strict southern minister's 16 children.

Mrs. Urquhart chose the title because, she explains, "Papa's whole life seemed based on that idea both literally and figuratively."

Hating inactivity, he would send an idle boy to the garden to pull up weeds. Above all, she writes, he was a hard taskmaster.

Wherever they moved, although it was usually only for one year, Papa planted a garden. ("With slave labor," the boys commented.) Once, seeing the boys using pick-axes to break the hard Texas soil, their mother complained that they looked like convicts.

**Slimnastics**

WESTLAND Women worrying about their weight will have a possible solution to their problem at the Wayne-Westland Family YMCA.

The Y is offering a slimnastics class for women starting at 7 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday) at the Y activities center, 827 S. Wayne, Westland.

The one-hour class includes music and dance movements to get muscles toned up, a Y spokesman said.

An 1880 philosophy graduate of the University of North Carolina, Papa entered the ministry soon after his marriage to Lillie Wadsworth, who died after giving birth to her sixth child.

Later he married Lula Frances Young, who was 19 years his junior and trained as a concert pianist. She became a successful mother for the minister's children, even though the oldest was only six years younger than she.

She had 10 children of her own, two dying in infancy. Mrs. Urquhart remembers her mother, whose gentleness and kindness complemented Papa's harshness with love and respect. Despite having to move her brood almost every year, Mama rarely complained.

The author remembers once, however, the children asked Mama what she would like for her birthday. She responded, "Just a little peace and quiet."

Far from being subdued by Papa's rigorous discipline, the children were spirited and mischievous. Whenever Papa went out of town, they enjoyed unusual freedom. The parishioners cooperated by warning them the moment Papa arrived back in town.

As adults, the children retained strong ties of family loyalty that stemmed from their childhood. The older brothers and sisters helped the younger. Mrs.



BETTY URQUHART AUTOGRAPHS a copy of "Dig Weeds, My Son" for Mrs. Alvin Folger of Plymouth. Mrs. Urquhart's newly published book tells of her childhood as the 15th child in a Methodist minister's family of 16 PKs (preacher's kids). (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

Urquhart remembers fondly her sister, Lillie, who took her "under her wing" and saw to it that she received a degree in nursing from the University of Michigan. The children were successful in their careers as nurses, mis-

sonaries, teachers, attorneys and physicians.

The author and her businessman husband, Donald S. Urquhart, are parents of a son and grandparents of two nine-year-old boys (twins) and two girls.

## YWCA schedules winter programs

Alcohol education, youth programs, investments and financial planning are among courses to be offered during the winter term at Northwest YWCA, 25940 Grand River, Radford.

"Reflections in the Glass," a course on alcohol education, begins Jan. 23 for a five-week term. Classes are held Wednesdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

The seminar, in cooperation with the National Council on Alcoholism, is a comprehensive look at our places in an alcohol oriented society. The difference between social drinkers and problem drinkers, our role as "pushers" versus being a good hostess and the psychological and physiological effects of alcohol will be discussed.

Pre-school programs in swimming, art, physical fitness, tap and introduction to ballet are available as well as the all-day nursery program on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays and Monday's Parking Meter.

Subjects for subteens include swimming, ballet, tap, a varied Saturday morning recreation program, gym, special gym for mentally handicapped, sewing, tutoring, needlepoint, piano, art and creative crafts.

Teens will find sewing, ballet, physical fitness, drivers' education, art, ceramics, creative writing, charm, piano, creative crafts, needlepoint, guitar, tutoring and gym classes.

The current energy shortage and its effects on the

economy, the market and our personal investment habits will be one of the many topics discussed during a seven-week course on "Investments and Financial Planning," beginning Wednesday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m.

Designed to deal with establishing financial objectives and investments, the course will include investment theory, financial reports, fundamental and technical analysis, stocks, bonds and mutual funds.

Information on taxes, life insurance, real estate and selections of brokers and advisors also will be included.

Lawrence Starke, investment broker for Paine, Webber, Jackson and Curtis, will teach the course.

Registration for all classes at the Y is now open.

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## Grant to expand work of cancer foundation

The Michigan Cancer Foundation has received a \$361,000 contract from the National Cancer Institute to expand cancer information and reporting systems and establish communication links to local, state and national health organizations.

The National Cancer Institute is an agency of the federal government's Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW).

"This contract makes it possible for us to expand and refine our research, information and statistics," data said Dr. Michael J. Brennan, president of the Michigan Cancer Foundation (MCF).

MCF is a Torch Drive agency serving Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Monroe Counties.

Dr. Brennan said MCF staff will be sending the National Cancer Institute data that will be computerized on magnetic tapes. Information will be coded and in a format reporting for nationwide reporting.

MCF is one of a half dozen agencies in the country currently funded under this project, called the Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) program.

The cancer registry department of the Michigan Cancer Foundation will administer the SEER project.

Some 80 hospitals in the metropolitan area will receive data on metropolitan area cancer incidence, causes, cures and treatment results.

Of these 80 hospitals, 21 participating in a central clearinghouse registry service, established by the Cancer Foundation in 1972, will continue to receive individualized biostatistical analyses of "in-house" or institutional data for use in medical staff training and clinical cancer investigations.

Quarterly computerized cancer data reports will be sent to these hospitals. The 21 participating hospitals will be able to compare their results and findings with those of leading centers throughout the nation.

"The additional information and data these 21 hospitals will receive through participation in the Cancer Foundation central registry service will enable them to provide better training for new physicians," Dr. Brennan said.

"Also, this additional data will help the hospitals meet the highest certification re-

quirements for quality cancer care."

Dr. Brennan said the goal of the registry service is to involve all hospitals in a unified program to establish the broad data base needed for measuring the effectiveness of diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cancer.

Consolidated data can be useful in identifying high-risk patients, determining the most effective course of treatment and isolating factors which influence the spread and control of the disease.

"Accumulating data from the experiences of a large number of hospitals is crucial to documenting causes and treatment results for less common forms of the disease such as leukemia and cancer in children and young adults."

"The role of personal habits, life style, occupation and environment in cancer risk can't adequately be analyzed without dealing with entire populations in a regional framework."

Experienced technical staff and proper data processing and computer programming are essential to this analysis, he said.

## NatureProgram

For details of the nature program of Stony Creek Metropark and Kensington Metropark, write "Nature Brochures," c/o Huron - Clinton Metropolitan Authority, 600 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, 48226.

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