

# The nicest title I've ever had

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

Bob Carson was the featured speaker at a gala luncheon in Saginaw this week when the American Cancer Society kicked off its "Cancer Crusade" in Michigan on April 1.

The actor has been working with the society in varying capacities for the past 18 years. When asked if he had an official title in the society's functioning this year, he answered, "Volunteer. It's the neatest title I've ever had."

He has been in "every state of the union at least twice" in his volunteer work "doing whatever has to be done, doing whatever they ask."

CARSON'S volunteering brought him to Oakland County this week for radio, TV and interviews, to help boost the residential drive here when thousands of volunteers will be going from door to door from April 21-28.

Of this Carson said, "We hope they (the residents) will contribute, but if they can't, we hope they will welcome the volunteer into their homes and take our literature."

This is "Cancer Control" month and that's our big aim. If they read what information we have to give them, maybe they can save a life."

The American Cancer Society puts a big emphasis on the public learning the seven warning signals of cancer.

"WE'RE SAVING one out of three cancer patients now. If we could persuade everybody to have annual tests we think we could save 50 percent," he said. "Education conquers many things and probably the greatest of these is fear."

He went on to tell that in the area of medical research there is an absolute free exchange of information between all nations being

cause the disease is such a universal, international problem.

"That's one of our hopes and it's a right of ours not to be deprived of hope," he said.

He continued, "Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing to have a free exchange with other nations in all areas of information?"

CARSON'S LIFE has been brushed with cancer three times. He lost his wife 18 years ago; then his brother, the noted comedian Jack Carson in 1963; then his mother.

He called his wife's death, "one of the needless deaths."

She was found to have cancer after the first pap test she had ever had "when neither of us and not many doctors knew what a pap test was. It certainly wasn't an automatic thing (in a physical examination) the way it is today," he said.

She was hospitalized for seven years, "a lingering and unhappy death for her," he said.

JACK CARSON died of cancer of the stomach, settled in a spot not accessible to X-rays, with no indication at all of the disease prior to his collapse in a rehearsal of "The Music Man."

The brothers' mother died of a tumor that could not be removed. Carson described his mother as a woman who "held a driver's license, didn't wear glasses and closed shop bars when she was 81 years old."

Her death was one, he said, "that shouldn't happen to anyone. No one should suffer the indignity of shrinking to 85 pounds after living such a healthy and useful, active life. It is unfair."

Of these deaths, Carson said, "There are those of us who have some knowledge of what it (cancer) can do and some knowledge of how to prevent other deaths, and it is up to us to help

others learn about it under less adverse circumstances."

IN ADDITION to traveling around the country as a speaker, Carson has narrated his can't remember how many training and educational films for the American Cancer Society, and he put together the society's original "Celebrity Council" which acts as a speaker's bureau to give out public information on the disease.

The statistics of the society show now that if the present rate of cancer continues, cancer will hit one out of every four people in America.

The American Cancer Society now boasts the largest volunteer group in the country, numbered at 2.6 million.

Persons wishing to ask questions, those who need assistance, medication, or desire literature, may call the Oakland County Unit of the American Cancer Society in Birmingham, at 944-0770.



BOB CARSON

## DAR chapter sets meeting

Three Flag Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will meet at noon Monday at the home of Mrs. Frederick Holtz, 450 Westwood Drive, Birmingham.

Mrs. Howard Byrne Jr., of Birmingham, regent of the Three Flag Chapter, will present the

resolutions of the State of Michigan DAR at the meeting.

Mrs. Charles Shaw of Farmington will speak on the activities of the National Society of the DAR during the country's bi-centennial celebration. Mrs. Shaw is chairman of the chapter's bi-centennial committee.

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## Deaf students graduate

Thirty deaf students from West Hills Junior High in Orchard Lake will be graduated from a six week charm school program at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 10 at the Twelve Montgomery Ward store.

The course was offered free of charge by the Wendy Ward Charm Center and began Feb. 7.

The girls learned modeling techniques, hair care, nail care and other self-improvement techniques.

Wards offered the course to girls from 12 to 16 years of age from all areas of Oakland County.

BLOOMFIELD Hills has the only program for junior and senior

high hearing impaired students in the county.

Interpreters were used as well as sign language.

Some students read lips, but most depend on sign language.



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