

CROWLEY'S Community Planning Is Topic

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By MARGARET MILLER Women's Editor

Members of the League of Women Voters of the Northville-Plymouth area have scheduled unit meetings for next week to discuss community planning in the two areas. The Wednesday evening Plymouth unit will meet at 7:45 p.m. May 20, in the home of Mrs. William Von Glahn, 9446 Marilyn. The Thursday afternoon unit meets at 1 p.m., May 21, with Mrs. Paul Cargo, 1401 Palmer, as hostess.

PRINCIPAL TOPIC to be considered at the two meetings is the master plan for Plymouth and Plymouth Township. All meetings of the LWV are open to interested women residents in the area. Those interested in attending may call Mrs. Donald Birkmeier, 453-2681.

The Northville-Plymouth chapter recently elected officers for the coming year. The Plymouth-Northville Chapter of the League of Women Voters has elected officers and directors for the coming year.

Re-elected president is Mrs. William McAninch. Other officers are: Mrs. Edward Hancock, first vice president; Mrs. William McNamara, second vice president; Mrs. Dumont Hixon Jr., secretary; and Mrs. Harold Wright, treasurer.

Named directors were Mrs. Elden Biery, Miss Linda Edgerton, Mrs. George Gougeon, Mrs. William Klockner, Mrs. Harry Olds, Mrs. Robert Sorisio, Mrs. Donald Stacy, Mrs. John Federspill and Mrs. Paul Cargo. Mrs. Milton Holstein was named membership chairman of the chapter.

Proceeds Help Children In State Home

Residents of Plymouth State Home and Training School will benefit from a card party to be held at 8 p.m., Friday, May 22, in Local 157 Hall, 28841 Van Born, Romulus. The party is sponsored by the Plymouth Association for Retarded Children.

Tickets may be obtained by calling Mrs. Gerald Laura, AV 5-0973, or at the door.

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Women on the Go This Redford Mother Researches Santa Claus



MRS. SHIRLEY HENRY, right, and her daughters, Susan, left, and Carol. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

"Out of the 'Readers Guide to Periodical Literature' for a one-year period, I found over 50 references to Christmas presents themselves, but none reflecting any opinion or reasons for giving.

"We uphold and continue this tradition year after year in our culture and spend millions of dollars doing it without giving much thought to the reasons behind it."

"The book, 'The American Christmas,' by James Barnett, proved a valuable source, and she found a few other writings on Santa Claus, but one of her main sources was what she did among members of her own church, Littlefield Presbyterian of Dearborn.

"She handed out questionnaires asking about several aspects of why we perpetuate the Santa Claus myth and why we give gifts at Christmas. Forty questionnaires went out and 32 came back.

"What I found was nothing startling," Shirley said. "I was a little surprised to find that even in a group of church people, the traditional aspects of gift giving seemed at least as important as the 'Christian' ones."

FROM A SOCIOLOGICAL viewpoint, Mrs. Henry said, she felt her paper only "scratched the surface" of a fascinating subject and she

would like to see someone who could research on a wider scale go into the matter of differences in ethnic and economic groups' reasons for gift giving.

But from a personal standpoint, Shirley intends after making the study to take a careful look at Christmas celebration.

"There's a great deal of the want-should aspect in Christmas celebration," she said. "We do too many things because we think we should or because we always have."

"I'm not sure we can change, but I know I'm going to try. I want to help my children enjoy the time of year but avoid some of the pressures it brings."

SHE SAID she had found the study fascinating because it correlates social sciences and humanities -- fields of study that interest her.

Shirley agrees with WSU's folklore teacher, Dr. Ellen Stekert, in her approach to the study.

"Folklore need not be the study of quaint and simple things characteristic of isolated segments of society," her paper stated. "Rather, it may be an avenue for examining primary, basic behaviors of individuals and groups within and without our mainstream culture."

Shirley "started from a first-serve basis. Reservation forms may be requested by calling the institute, 871-8600.

There will be folk and modern dancing to the music of Al Navarro's band and exhibitions by representative ethnic groups.

Those attending are urged to wear either national costumes or evening clothes.

The event, which will climax an anniversary week celebration at the institute, will be preceded by a champagne dinner in the institute's Hall of Nations, 111 E. Kirby. Sponsors will be the Friends of the International Institute.

Attendance at the ball will be limited to 1,200 and tickets for \$5 will be sold on a first-

Daughter Born
 Mr. and Mrs. James Chellman of Clinton, Mich., announce the birth of a daughter, Mari Anna, April 22 in University Hospital, Ann Arbor. Mrs. Chellman is the former Mary Ann Ohman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Ohman of Northville, formerly of Farmington. Mrs. Harold Chellman of Farmington is the paternal grandmother.

scratched" on her degree work at WSU six years ago. She now has a B.A. in English and a teaching certificate and expects to take the last class toward her master's degree this summer and finish it in the fall.

HUSBAND ALAN, an engineering supervisor for Fisher Body, went to Wayne at night to get his master's degree in the early years of their marriage.

"When he finished, I started," Shirley said. "In the last couple of years she has been substitute teaching while taking classes, and hopes to be teaching full time next fall."

She also is a soloist in her church choir and sews for the girls and herself "when I have time."

When Shirley did her paper for the institute at WSU, she found herself being interviewed by several news media.

"I was amazed at the attention my paper was given -- even in the spring," she said. "It's a good thing I didn't finish it in December."

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