

# Spotlight on Women

## m. m. memos

Back-to-school preparation at our house means, among other things, a well-piled sewing machine.

All year it's strictly normal to have several dress-making projects going, but the stitching reaches a crescendo at summer's end.

Besides making a few new outfits, we've given the closets and storage boxes their annual what-fits-whom survey and we have all kinds of seams going in and out and hems going up and down.

We have one interesting circumstance in this regard—one girl has passed her older sister in height, so the older one is getting a couple of "hand-me-ups" this year.

We have assorted buttons and snaps being attached or moved so that, at least for the first week or so of school, we won't have so many morning scrambles for safety pins.

We're also trying to accomplish such major feats as turning out one skirt that was promised a year ago, finish up another started last spring and even put together a couple of Goodfellow dresses that won't squeeze into the schedules come November.

But from the middle of my pile of material and patterns and pins, I'll take time out to sympathize with a fellow-worker with a back-to-school wardrobe problem far greater than mine.

Her daughter is beginning college most of a continent away, so their burning question is "What length skirts?"

They're compromising on some short ones and a few of mid length. But daughter is going to tot along her scissors, pins and thread. She figures if she's sewing all over again it may be time for back-to-school sewing all over again.

-Margaret Miller

# Volunteers Do Their Own Thing

By BETTY MASSON  
Northville State Mental Hospital is a place where volunteers "do their own thing" and quite a few people benefit from it.

For instance, have you ever heard of horticulture therapy? It's being practiced at Northville by a group of women from Livonia.

Or what do you do when a music therapist quits and you're responsible for a group of women who would benefit from a chance to sing? A Farmington group has the answer.

IF YOU CAN'T SING and you don't have a green thumb, you can still be a help if you can drive a car. Seven women from Plymouth donate their time as chauffeurs.

These three are representatives of about 20 groups in the area who give services of one sort or another to the hospital and its some 1,000 mentally ill patients. Also about 75 individuals help in activity therapy projects, involving their knowledge of drama, crafts, sewing, cooking and so on.

The groups, from service organizations, youth groups, church groups and high schools have a wide variety of projects according to the coordinator of volunteers, Mrs. Robert Bachelder.

MRS. OMAR VAN GORP is horticulture chairman of the Livonia Branch of the National

Farm and Garden Club Association, Inc.

She feels that a group interested in gardening can do a lot for hospitalized patients. Every month representatives of the branch carry out craft projects for about 15 long-term patients. They concentrate on making flowers from construction paper or in using grasses, seeds and pods in projects which add color to hospital life.

"Our whole group of about 40 members contributes in one way or another," she says. Women who cannot go to the hospital, help by providing supplies for the projects, by providing baked goods for special treats or by giving money to help pay for things such as coffee and cream.

The treats are something special and special too. On the menu for the last get-together was strawberry shortcake. One time the project was a watermelon festival.

THEY HAVE branched out a little from the horticultural aspect in giving patients cosmetics, purses and even at times having found needed clothing. Last year they gave the ward a sewing machine, and they are now working hard on getting another.

In all, Mrs. Van Gorp calculates that club members have given more than 250 hours a year to the hospital. "I don't enjoy seeing people in their misery, but I do feel that by going there we make their af-

ternoon a little more pleasant," she says.

"A simple thing such as a bit of greenery might bring back happy memories for someone."

THE PEOPLE who help fill the gap left by the musical therapist's departure are some 25 members of the Farmington Musicales. They are one of the few groups who come weekly, and they come to play the piano and lead women in an admissions ward in familiar songs.

"We get a good response," says former president, Faith Rickey. Sometimes the patients respond so well, the music programs wind up in a dance. A polka or two is not unheard of, and sometimes a musical patient will take over the piano.

It seemed like a good project to club members when the hospital contacted them about its need for more music. The club's chief purpose is to bring music to the community through monthly programs at its meetings, through giving scholarships and through its recent sponsorship of a Junior Musicales.

This group also brings refreshments and almost as important as the music is the social hour afterwards, when members and patients can talk woman to woman.

THE PLYMOUTH group comes from Epiphany Lutheran Church, and is "a real good group," according to Mrs. Bachelder. Every Tuesday morning, all winter long, through sleet and snow, they drive patients to free movies in the Livonia Mall.

"All the way down Seven Mile Road they tell us how nice it is to be out," says one of the chauffeurs, Mrs. Albert Grissom.

They have also brought women patients into the church for several luncheons where home-cooked food makes a big hit. They help transport patients, from family care



SINGING IS a popular activity in Northville State Mental Hospital under the direction of members of the Farmington Musicales. At the piano are Charlene Stabey, (front) and Beverly Notestine, the president. Leading the singing are (left to right) Anita Mallette, June Fair and Faith Rickey. (Observer photo)



FLOWERS MADE from construction paper add color to patients' rooms at Northville. Admiring the flowers they made are (from left) Gloria Wells, Katharine Crivelli, Mrs. Clarence Hoff and Mrs. Omar Van Gorp. Mrs. Hoff and Mrs. Van Gorp supervised the project as members of the Livonia Branch of the National Farm and Garden Club Association, Inc. (Observer photo)

homes to the hospital for appointments. individual or a group interested in helping, talking to Mrs. Bachelder can be an interesting experience. A housewife and mother who went back to work two years ago, she is a former director of Christian Education at Plymouth's Presbyterian Church.

Whether you are an individual or a group interested in helping, talking to Mrs. Bachelder can be an interesting experience. A housewife and mother who went back to work two years ago, she is a former director of Christian Education at Plymouth's Presbyterian Church. According to her, more volunteers are needed, especially if you shared them.

# YWCA Classes Cover Big Variety Of Subjects

Registration for Northwest Branch YWCA classes will open Wednesday morning, Sept. 9, at 9 a. m., at the YWCA, 2590 Grand River. Coffee will be served as old acquaintances are renewed and new friends are met after the summer holidays.

A wide variety of class subjects and programs is being offered. A special daytime package program will be geared to women who would like a day out at the YW to learn new skills.

Nursery facilities will be available for pre-schoolers on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for mothers enrolled in the program. Daytime classes will include holiday crafts, knitting, flower arranging, physical fitness, rug making, decoupage, ABC's of entertaining, interior decorating, art, bowling, charm, yoga, ceramics, ballet, painting, guitar, parent education and tinetti.

Evening program will be geared for men and women and will include such activities as ballroom dance, guitar, driver training, astrology, painting, woodcarving, ceramics, dog obedience, aircraft ground school, yoga, bridge, fencing and education for parenting today's teens.

Specialties for women will include "bazaar workshop," tailoring, beauty clinic, bishop and general sewing, knitting, physical fitness, self defense, and powderpuff mechanics.

SATURDAYS will include a variety of subjects including swimming, crafts, fencing, creative dance, and gym and baton for boys and girls. This program will be held in the Henry Ford High School from 8:45 a. m. until 12:30 p. m., starting Oct. 10. Registrations are to be made at the YWCA building at 2590 Grand River. The branch building classes will begin during the week of Sept. 28.

Adult membership in the YWCA is \$5 yearly; \$2.50 for boys and girls under 17, and \$15 for family memberships. For a list of classes and fees, call the YWCA at KE 7-8500.



MRS. JAMES ANDERSON of Northville and Mrs. Glen Haffley of Plymouth are members of the Epiphany Lutheran Church Women, who help at Northville by driving patients to movies and appointments. (Observer photo)

# Mom's A Sharpshooter

Mrs. Thomas Swarthout of Westland is a lady who can take steady aim and hit her mark.

She proved it recently by winning fourth first place, trophy and a grand prize in her division of the National Power Rifle Association matches at Camp Perry, Ohio.

Betty Swarthout was shooting against 50 men in the sharpshooter division of the national competition for 30-caliber rifle shooters.

HER HUSBAND also was making a name for himself, taking four firsts in the expert division, the next one up from his wife's. There also is a master division, for shooters with the top averages, and marksman, which ranks below expert and sharpshooter.

"I don't know how I did it," said Mrs. Swarthout of her record in her first national competition. "I certainly was happy."

She found the national meet a tough one.

"It was steady shooting; against people from all over the United States," she said. "There were between 750 and 800 contestants, and only a handful were women."

Most of them got started in high-power rifle marksmanship the way Betty Swarthout did—because their husbands were interested in the sport.

"My husband is president of the Western Wayne County Conservation club and has been doing high power shooting for a couple of years," she said. "I got tired of dragging around with him, so I decided to try it."

done some small barrel shooting, with a .22-caliber rifle, and used to bowl often.

However, she finds it best to concentrate on one sport, from both a time and money standpoint.

"It takes about \$600 worth of equipment for high power shooting," Mrs. Swarthout said. "And it's a demanding sport. If you want to be good you have to put in a lot of practice time."

She decided to try the national competition after a regional meet at Camp Perry when she picked up five second-place trophies, a record better than husband Thomas made in that meet.

THE SWARTHOUTS' older daughter, nine-year-old Joanne, enjoys shooting too, and later may be able to compete in a junior division. Sherry, eight, isn't interested yet.

Although her sex was in the minority in the national competition, Betty Swarthout didn't find herself at a disadvantage.

"The fellows were just great to the girls who were shooting, she reported.



READY FOR ACTION—Betty Swarthout of Westland readies her rifle.

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