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By MARGARET MILLER  
Women's Editor

Nobody except Doc gets temperamental on her staff, lady bank executive Noreen Gardner is glad to report.

Mrs. Gardner, Redford Township mother of three, is one of three women managers in the National Bank of Detroit, and last month she took over as head of the Wayne-Cowan branch in Westland.

There, she has found wonderful acceptance and cooperation from both the staff of eight in the branch and her superiors in the NBD profit center in Wayne.

No problems at all, says Mrs. Gardner. Except maybe Doc.

DOC IS the nickname given by the staff at the Wayne-Cowan branch to Docutel, an amazing cash-dispensing machine that can provide 24-hour banking service to residents of the Westland, Plymouth and Livonia areas.

A computerized operation that will provide cash in return for insertion of a special customer card, the Docutel at the branch Mrs. Gardner heads is currently the only one in the system, though others are planned in this area in the next few months.

"But it has to be programmed very closely," the manager says, "so it tends to get out of order rather easily."

DOC'S TENDENCY toward temperamental just serves to supply some excitement in a career full of satisfaction for efficient Noreen Gardner. She and NBD first got together when she was a student from Wayne studying in the cooperative program at Plymouth High School.

"I put in some of my school hours at the bank," she said, "and after I graduated it was natural to keep on working there."

After her marriage to Leonard S. Gardner, a Ford Motor Co. electrical repairman, Noreen left the bank to

have her family. Leonard Jr., now 14, Terri, now 12 and Shari, 10, and when she returned to the teller line it was on a part-time basis.

"I began full-time work again in 1965," she recalled. And worked on the teller line and in bookkeeping.

"It was about that time that my manager asked me if I was planning to be a teller the rest of my life or if I'd be interested in going into management. I thought that over and decided I definitely was interested in moving on."

MRS. GARDNER then went to the Cherry Hill-Meridian branch as general teller, or supervisor of the line, and then to the Garden City office as assistant manager. After that there was a stay at the Wayne-Cowan branch as senior assistant manager, where she was the first in this area to hold that position, and a year as manager of a Wayne branch before

moving to her present responsibilities.

Her responsibility is complete in the branch office, which handles all banking functions except approving loans. That is done in the profit center office in Wayne, but can be handled in a few minutes for the customer in a hurry.

Outside banking hours, Noreen Gardner serves as president of the Westland Business and Professional Women's club, is a member of the Wayne Soroptimist Club, the Westland Chamber of Commerce and the NBD Women's Club, and is working on Mayor Eugene McKinney's committee to arrange Westland's first Spring Festival next May.

She also—with a needed assist from her family—does all the household cleaning and cooking and errand-running—a task working mothers will agree is monumental.

"I get dinner preparations ready to go before I leave in the morning," she said, "and the children are good about getting things started until I get there."

She agreed that things get "pretty wild" on weekends that include a big assortment of activities and doctor and

dentist visits; but also added that the bank has been most cooperative about giving her time off if a child is sick or another emergency comes up.

MRS. GARDNER doesn't let her full-time work keep her from keeping in close touch with her children's friends and activities.

"I was quite involved with the Girl Scouts until this last year," she said. "When you are active with your children you know where they are and who they are with."

This executive can't go along with the contentions of many of the espousers of "women's causes."

"It seems to me that the women's lib proponents who are doing the most talking either don't work for the right men or else they just aren't qualified to move on," she said.

But she does feel pretty strongly that banking isn't a field for women who aren't totally interested and concerned in their job.

"Being a banker is a little like being a doctor," she said. "You can't afford to make a mistake, because banks just aren't excused by the public."

## Women on the Go

### Now If She Can Just Make Doc Behave



NOREEN GARDNER and Doc (Observer photo by Leonard Poger)

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## 'March Of Dimes' Teenager Sought

The search for "Miss March of Dimes-1971" is underway. It was announced by Pam Eldred (Miss America 1970), youth activities chairman for March of Dimes.

Girls 13 through 19 years of age who are residents of Wayne or Macomb counties are eligible. A letter of nomination, submitted by the candidate herself or by a friend, must contain her name, address and telephone number, as well as her general scholastic standing, school activities and outside

interests, and a recent photograph (polaroid will do).

The deadline for entering the contest is Friday, Nov. 27. The letter and photo should be sent to "Miss March of Dimes Contest", 19330 W. McNichols Rd., Detroit, MI 48219.

The contest is sponsored by the Metropolitan Chapter (Wayne-Macomb counties). The national Foundation-March of Dimes. Each community in Wayne and Macomb counties will select its own candidate no later than Saturday, Dec. 5. For the remainder of the month of December, the finalists will compete for votes at ten cents a vote.

"Miss March of Dimes" will reign during 1971 and make numerous personal appearances on behalf of the organization.

## Help Program

As part of the Keep Michigan Beautiful conservation program, Camp Fire Girls in Livonia planted flowering bulbs at St. Edith and Randolph Schools in Livonia this month. The girls are from Mu Ka Ya Camp Fire unit, led by Barbara Zelenick.

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