

# YWCA Role Gets New Definition, Dimension

By MARGARET MILLER  
Women's Editor

A changing role for the YWCA — or maybe a return to its original one — is seen by those who make things tick at the Western Wayne County YW.

The leaders and dedicated members of the Dearborn-centered branch, which encompasses much of Oberlin in its outreach, think of their YW as a force to pull communities together for mutual benefit.

That means turning away somewhat from the craft-class-activity program that has in the last decade or so become a large part of the YWCA scene and coming closer to grips with the social problems in which women might be able to make a dent.

CLASSES in various arts and skills still are offered in the Western Wayne YWCA program, and many women, especially in areas of comparative affluence, enjoy them.



CORINNE VINCENT

But as it was put by Corinne Vincent who during the last year has taken over as program director, "We're not in the class business — the adult education programs in the schools do a fine job in that area."

Instead, the emphasis is on finding ways that some women can help and others can receive help. Mrs. Vincent used the term "meaningful involvement."

SO, UNDER Western YW auspices, you find women tutoring and junior highs conducting Saturday morning recreation programs among school children in the same area.

You see the beginnings of organization of Y Wives clubs that start in separate communities but soon begin to get involved together in service projects.

You are told about clubs for teens in the areas where many have afternoon and weekend time on their hands, and you hear plans for a panel of YW Women of various races and backgrounds and a teen panel representing assorted communities or church denominations.

SEVERAL of these activities come under the direction of YWCA special projects committee.

Its work also has taken in a glass collection project in Inkster, work with low-income mothers in Saline, Dearborn Heights and Inkster, a canteen for teens in Saline, work with unwed mothers in the area and work with girls who are potential dropouts.

Also ready to put into action will be a pilot project to train babysitters for retarded children and maybe a service-

oriented club for the many young married couples who moved into areas like Westland.

TYPICAL of the kind of activity now moving front and center for the Western YWCA is the Saturday morning work with children at Brake School and Smith Chapel Church in Inkster.

Mrs. Sylvia Brownie of Garden City is one of the teens and adults who have been volunteering to work with some 200 youngsters there.

She thought more teens might like to be involved and taught Cambridge Junior High. There were about 25 who wanted to participate.

"So we started bringing them, with the help of Mrs. Brownie and others," Corinne Vincent reported. "You can't imagine what a boost the enthusiasm of a new bunch of kids can give to the program."

Three of the teens, Richard Booterbaugh, Tom Sepin and Kim Emery, agreed that games with the Inkster children are even more fun than they had anticipated and "certainly better than Saturday morning cartoons."

THE DECENTRALIZED program, as it now is conceived in the Western Wayne YWCA, really was "developed out of necessity," Mrs. Vincent said.

"The communities we serve are so different," she explained, "that it's the only way to serve them all well."

The Western Y is desperately in need of new quarters to replace the outgrown and out-dated building at 1034 Monroe in Dearborn, Mrs. Vincent said.

Land for a new headquarters is paid for and there are

hopes that building may begin in the not too distant future. "But our program will keep its present emphasis."

"WE HAVE no plans, for instance, to build a swimming pool. Maybe that was a legitimate use for YWCA funds when there were so few pools in schools, but it doesn't seem so now."

"I'm not sure how the YWCA has come to be seen as a building and classes and swimming pool."

"It originally began as a means of providing lodging for nurses back from the Crimean war — women ostracized because of the work that was so unusual in their day."

"Historically the YWCA has been associated with service. We want it that way here."



PLANNERS of the new-image Western Wayne YWCA include Mrs. Helen Nevill, Mrs. Lois Trumbull and Mrs. Fran Hessenbruch. (Observer photos by Bob Woodring)



A JEW'S HARP is one of the things you use to entertain youngsters in a Saturday morning YWCA-sponsored recreation program in Inkster. Tom Sepin (center) shows Richard Booterbaugh (left) Mrs. Sylvia Brownie and Kim Emery how he plays for the kids.

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## Ex-Resident Could Be Mother Of Year

A former resident of Livonia and Farmington, Mrs. Ralph L. Strother, may end up to be U.S. mother of the year on May 7.

The former Ruth Balfour, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Balfour of Livonia, has been named mother of the year for New Mexico where she is now living.

She will be in New York City May 3-7 for the national convention in the Waldorf-Astoria where she will com-

pete for American Mother of the Year.

MRS. STROTHER lived at 20160 Milburn, Livonia, for eight years before moving to Albuquerque, N.M., with her family in 1945.

As a student, she had attended Clarenceville Junior High and graduated from Farmington Senior High in 1941. After graduation, she worked at Emory Hutton's Farmington Hardware and Farmington Gauge & Tool.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Farmington and sang in the choir.

Mrs. Strother and her husband, a civil engineer, have three children: Robin Dale, 19, a second year cadet in the U.S. Military Academy; Kathy Lee, 17, a high school senior; and Gail Jean, 15, a ninth grader.

WORKING with the PTA clothing bank in Albuquerque, she has assisted in distributing clothes to needy students and has done volunteer work at the Bernalillo County Medical Center. She is a member of the Gamma Delta chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha and has been active in a garden club and the Olympette Track Club.

Mrs. Strother has held several offices with the Highland Baptist Church her family attends and has participated in civic drives for heart, cancer, muscular

dystrophy, mental health, arthritis, cystic fibrosis and the Mothers March of Dimes. Her personal interests include cake decorating, sewing and camping.



MRS. STROTHER

## m. m. memos

An interesting volume has been making the rounds of our editorial staff. It's titled "One For A Man, Two For A Horse." and it's billed as A Pictorial History, Grave and Comical, of Patent Medicines.

Leafing through its colorful pages, I came upon a few items that might come in handy around home.

There was, for instance, Dalley's magical pain extractor. Wonder if it worked as well as a kiss on an injured spot.

I also noted a tonic marketed by Dr. Pierce and said to cure Female Weakness. How about that for dish-washing and room-cleaning time?

Then I thought our instrument-tooters might appreciate German Syrup, said to have been the life-saver of a tuba player with a cold, and our dieters would like Rengo, Nature's Remedy for Obesity. This remarkable creation was said to invigorate muscle and nerve and carry off excess fat.

One concoction I wouldn't try is the 7 Sutherland Sisters Hair Grower. That we don't need.

The book reminded me of an old volume I once read. It dwelt at length on cures for the feminine complaint known as "the vapors."

The term seemed ideal to cover a multitude of unspecified complaints.

One day, it slipped out when I was telephoning the school to say one of the girls wouldn't be in class that day.

Fortunately, the secretary had a sense of humor. And, who knows, by now her children may get the vapors too.

—Margaret Miller

## Local Girl Scouts Model For Meeting

New outdoor outfits for Girl Scouts, modeled by four Oberlin members, will be featured during the annual meeting of the Girl Scouts of Metropolitan Detroit at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, in the Rackham Auditorium.

The program also will include a talk by Mrs. H. Edmund Lunken, first vice president of the national Girl Scout organization, presentation of thanks badges to outstanding leaders, and election and installation of new officers.

The new outfits will be from the Federal department store in the Wonderland Center, Livonia, one of three in the Detroit area selected to sell the Girl Scout sport clothing.

Models will include Michelle Pierrard and Roberta Bonzack, members of Cadette Troop 224 in Livonia, and Lynn Cundiff and Jeanne Huhn of Junior Troop 2208 in Garden City.

Senior Scout Leslie Townsend of Livonia will participate in the installation ceremony along with Mrs. Ted

Salinski, a leader from Riverview.

The thanks badges, highest honor to be bestowed on a member of the Girl Scout organization for outstanding service, will be presented to a leader and two neighborhood chairmen by Mrs. Edgar A. Guest Jr., president of the Girl Scouts of Metropolitan Detroit.

### Mrs. Cox Is Speaker

Mrs. J. Clyde Cox, territorial president of Salvation Army women's services in 11 states, will speak for the annual rally of the SA Ladies' Home League at 10:15 a.m. Thursday, April 28, in the Citadel, 601 Bagley, Detroit.

Her topic will be "Where Are You Going?" The rally will continue with a luncheon and a 7:30 p.m. self-denial service. Commissioner J. Clyde Cox will be speaker for that service.

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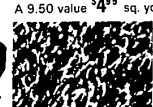
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