

SUBURBAN LIFE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1993



KATHRYN BRIGGS

Cemeteries: Markers of history

There are five cemeteries in the area, two in Farmington — the Quaker Cemetery and the Oakwood Cemetery and three in Farmington Hills — Uley of East Farmington Cemetery and West Farmington (both taken care of by the city) and the North Farmington Cemetery, which is still handled by a private organization.

The Uley Burying Ground, the East Farmington Cemetery, is on Twelve Mile Road between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. This cemetery was established on Sept. 25, 1824, when Patience (Mrs. Sanford) Uley died as a result of injuries from a fall from a wagon when her family arrived at their home in Farmington.

On Aug. 24, 1895, Henry West called a meeting of those interested in the cemetery in District Number One. At another meeting it was decided that the name be "The East Farmington Cemetery."

Then on Sept. 29, 1906, the Mystic Workers of East Farmington Cemetery was organized at the home of Ellen Bower. On Sept. 29, 1906, they wrote, "What Constitutes Memory Day: It is hoped that the societies of this cemetery will cheerfully accept as a sacred duty the responsibility which constitutes Memory Day."

It is intended that upon this day shall be performed such labor as is found necessary in putting in the best order possible the rural cemeteries . . . in short — anything that will tend to improve the condition now existing in the cemeteries and to render as beautiful as possible the last resting places of our departed dead."

Tradition continues

Unfortunately this year the day fell on Sunday, but our work was done on Aug. 24. It matters not upon which date the work is performed so long as it is not neglected altogether.

Amid the multitude of duties and cares in that of keeping the graves of our dead in becoming condition, an obligation of duty which we owe to both ourselves and to the memory of those who were dear to us in life. The condition of many of our rural cemeteries is a sad commentary on our boasted advancement as a Christian nation.

While it is true that the inmates forms resting there are beyond the reach of pain or sorrow, there is more than sentiment in the proper caring of their graves. If it wasn't the case, why place beautiful flowers on their casket or rear a stone to mark their grave.

"Record of Burials in East Farmington Cemetery," 217 lots with their occupants are listed, some with as many as seven on the one lot.

Apparently the cemetery was neglected for some time. The township had been allocating funds for all three cemeteries until the late 1950s when the township attorney, on complaint of a resident, investigated the legality of township support for what were essentially private cemeteries.

Finding it illegal, the township abandoned the support. Boy Scout groups volunteered their support at times, but when the township became Farmington Hills, that city legally took over jurisdiction of the East and West Farmington cemeteries, and currently maintains them.

Oakwood Cemetery

The next cemetery to be established is the Oakwood Cemetery, in the city of Farmington, on Grand River just west of the intersection of Shawnee.

The ground for Oakwood is part of the original purchase of land by Arthur Power, and was first used as burial place for the interment of a Mr. Green in 1825. He had been a shoemaker.

The next person buried there was Mrs. Sybil Hopkins, the third was Constantine Wood, and half a year later the wife of David Smith, who died April 8, 1827. (She was the wife of the friend who had come with Power, who founded Farmington in 1824).

Four years after the incorporation of the Village of Farmington, the ground was surveyed and platted, and lots were then sold under the rules and regulations usual in cemeteries. It is a spot of natural beauty, and has been creditably decorated.

Little was written down, though, and Harry Moore who was township clerk for many years, reorganized the old records. Later, more recently, Robert Cook spent much time on them.

Fond memories

For quite a few years, the top of the hill at the back of the cemetery, beside the huge tower was the end-point of the Memorial Day Parade.

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Physician assistants

They're just what the doctor ordered



Physician assistants perform many of the same tasks as doctors. It is a field that promises to draw more and more professionals as the medical care delivery system get ready for change.

BY DIANE GALE
STAFF WRITER

The Clinton Administration is spending money to get more people interested.

Patients are less resistant.

There's no doubt physician assistants will be part of medicine in the 21st century.

"I think it's the wave of the future," said Robert Ross, president of the Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants. "We need more people in primary care, and that's where most PAs are. Most medical schools show trends toward specialty care."

The Clinton Administration appears to be charting the same trend. Earlier this year the president recommended an 80 percent increase in federal funds to educate more physician assistants in the United States.

Demanding responsibilities

Under the supervision of a physician, PAs perform physical examinations, diagnose illnesses and determine treatment plans, order and interpret lab tests, suture wounds, set fractures and assist in surgical operations. In some states, PAs are allowed to write prescriptions.

They do much of what doctors do. "PAs are trained to provide 85 percent of the care administered in a primary care setting," according to Barbara Wolk, a certified assistant working with Dr. Mark Hertzberg, internal medicine, in Southfield.

However, Wolk said that when

she first started working with Hertzberg in his 14-year-old practice, some patients insisted on seeing only him.

"As time goes on, that happens less and less," said Wolk, a Farmington Hills resident.

"There's a lot of misunderstanding about the role of PAs. A lot of practitioners see the expansion of the role of mid-level providers as a threat. When in reality there's not enough primary care providers in our country."

While medical schools turn out plenty of graduates, too many of them go into specialties rather than into primary care. And it is the primary-care physicians that attend to our aches, pains and sore throats.

Extensive education

To maintain certification, PAs must complete 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years and take a recertification exam every six years. PA programs generally require applicants to have at least two years of college education and previous experience in health care. The typical PA student in 1992 had a bachelor's degree and over four years of health care experience prior to admission to the PA program.

PA education is usually 24 months in length and is approximately two-thirds that of medical students.

Also, PAs are certified by the Na-



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On the job: Barbara Wolk, a certified physician assistant and Farmington Hills resident, takes a moment from her job in a Southfield doctor's office.

tional Commission of Certification of Physician Assistants.

Doctor relationship

PAs must have some type of connection with a physician. However, that physician doesn't have to be on the premises at all times.

PAs also often set-up offices in rural settings and inner-city clinics, where doctors are sometimes scarce. Often times in these cases, the PAs maintain telephone contact with physicians.

The PA field is attracting more and more people and the job market couldn't be better.

Published reports say there are seven jobs waiting for every graduate of the country's 54 accredited programs and that job opportunities for physician assistants will grow by

nearly a quarter during the next decade.

The salary is attractive, too. PAs earn on average between \$35,000 to \$40,000 annually during their first years. The salary increases an average \$45,000 to \$50,000 thereafter nationwide.

Physician assistants came on the medical scene in 1967. Today most are in clinics, doctor's offices and health maintenance organizations.

A benefit of seeing a PA, Wolk said, is that often patients feel rushed when talking to doctors, because they worry about wasting the physician's valuable time.

Aside from everything else, Wolk said the patients' care is the first concern.

"My job is to provide the best care that I can," she added.

Key: set priorities

BY DIANE GALE
STAFF WRITER

Cooperation and delegation are keys to Kathleen J. Dobbs.

She was named Physician Assistant of the Year in 1992 and while that's a tremendous accomplishment in itself, the Farmington Hills mother of four children 6 years old and under, including a set of 2-year-old twins, works full time and attends graduate school.

Her advice to others: "You have to be honest and love what you're doing, otherwise you'll go nuts."

Sacrificing sleep, that at one time she craved, is another way she succeeds so much out of her day. On average she gets between four and six hours of rest nightly. When she's lucky she gets eight hours.

Prioritizing responsibilities is important, too.

"You have to realize that you have



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

See PRIORITIES, 2H Kids first: Kathleen Dobbs and husband, Herb, play with their children.

Holiday fun, events with Farmington groups

It's time to start marking your calendars with Farmington area holiday events.

The blooms are gone. The trees are bare. But, Heritage Park is coming alive with a little help from Friends of Heritage.

The nonprofit organization, in cooperation with the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services, is planning the annual Heritage Holiday Tour at Heritage Park, Dec. 2-5, in the visitors' center and day camp at the park.

Money raised will go to support park projects, according to Barbara McCann, organization coordinator.

This is the group's only event of the year to raise funds.

Decorated trees and holiday displays will be featured. Other organizations in the community participate by decorating trees and having boutique tables. Santa will be talking to children during weekend hours.

The tour will be from noon to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday; and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday

and Sunday. Lunch in the tea room also will be available.

The cost is \$3 for adults; \$2 for senior citizens and teenagers; \$1 for children 6 to 12 and children under 6 are free.

Singles

Listen up singles. A Singles Coalition Benefit Dance is planned from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, at Riverfront Ballroom, Cobo Conference Center. Many singles organizations, including Farmington Single Professionals, will come together to dance, socialize, form new friendships, have fun and raise money for Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Admission is \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. The attire is semi-dressy and a cash bar will be available. For information call 478-9181.

For kids only

If you need things to do with youngsters look into events at the Community Center, Farmington-

A Santa luncheon is planned for children and their guardians at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, and Friday, Dec. 3, or 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4. A \$5 fee per person will be charged for a meal, goody bags, lots of entertainment and a visit with Santa. The Volunteer Guild is talking reservations. Call 477-8404 for more information.

The center is also featuring the Create a Gift program for children 6 to 13 years old. In the spirit of Christmas past, children will learn that making is as good and fun as receiving a gift. Children will create some useful gifts at the workshops. All gifts will be wrapped, too.

The two sessions are at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11. The cost is \$15.

And people of all ages can enjoy the Chanukah/Christmas Theatrical Performance in celebration by the Community Center's own Chocolate Chip Players' Traveling Theater Troupe. The performance is 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at the center. The cost is \$3 per person and children under 5 years old are free.