

Wednesday, December 4, 1968



DIAGNOSIS — Edith Grow, Farmington schools clinical psychologist, is not giving Glen Warheit an intelligence test. She is testing him for perceptual and conceptual learning disabilities.

Not Every Student Learns In Classroom

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

"The Shadow Children." This is what author Carole Ellington calls children with learning disabilities in her definitive book by the same title.

Educative processes slight these children. Education is fitted into standard patterns -- education for the normal -- education for the abnormal.

Between these black and white extremes is the wide grey area belonging to the shadow children.

POSSESSED of normal intelligence, these children have disabilities and symptoms of disability that take many forms, differing in each child. But all these children share in one disability -- their inability to learn in the standard classroom.

What does the Farmington School District do to accommodate its shadow children? It is the contention of some members of the Farmington branch of the Michigan Association of Children with Learning Disabilities that not enough standard classrooms in Farmington schools do not do enough.

All parents of children who are handicapped with minimal difficulty contend that such children could be accommodated in standard classrooms if a procedure of in-service training for teachers were instituted.

HUGH WATSON, Farmington schools director of special education, agrees.

But he cites obstacles that must first be overcome.

Primary is the newness of the awareness of the problems of these special children.

Until quite recently -- perhaps just the past few years -- no one was aware there was a problem.

Recognition that "learning disability" was a category in itself has come slowly.

WITH THIS RECOGNITION has come the concern of professionals working from a mul-

ti-disciplined approach -- medicine, psychology, education. Watson notes that there is still investigative isolation among these experts, wide disagreement about terminology, effective treatment and even about the nature of learning disabilities themselves.

Considering the disparities among authorities, Watson maintains that Farmington is forefront in having programs of any sort for children with learning disabilities.

FARMINGTON conducts three such programs at Cloverdale and Forest Schools. He agrees, "the best solution would be to increase the resources of the general classroom. Adaptations and modifications would have to be made, but more and more of these children should find their needs met there."

"We used to say these youngsters were lazy or emotionally disturbed. Today, thankfully, we know better."

"But," adds the director, "they differ more one from the other than any other exceptional child. All they have in common is that they don't get along in school."

WHAT ABOUT the advantages of screening these children out when they first enter school?

Watson concedes that individual testing of each child would be of great benefit.

But with hundreds of children entering Farmington schools each year, the cost would be prohibitive, as would be the time factor.

He says that the group testing done by Farmington schools has had some good results.

Although the parent has usually been aware of it, it is generally the classroom teacher who first recognizes a child with a special learning problem.

AFTER CONSULTATION with the parent and school principal, this child is given a series of tests by the school

clinical psychologist, Edith Grow, who has the advantage of also being a teacher.

This testing is supervised by the psychologist, a perceptual development teacher, a speech therapist and a doctor. The involved process of this testing may take as long as two months.

Watson comments, "This might seem slow, but if the child has waited all these years, it is better to wait two more months to have his problem diagnosed and not make a mistake."

MISS GROW is Farmington's only school psychologist.

Watson admits one psychologist is not enough and laments the fact that the field is so limited.

He has a dream of an ideal school structure in which exceptional children could have individualized instruction but in which they could still be in a normal classroom environment.

THIS IS HIS DREAM STRUCTURE:

• Decentralization of special education departments into education specialists for each three elementary schools.

• The specialists would include a well-trained special ed teacher, a speech therapist and a psychologist.

• The classroom environment would not be clinical, but specialists would be always available for individual consultation.

• Each classroom would have a para-professional in a trained aide to help the teacher.

BUT UNTIL colleges and universities turn out more professionals trained to educate learning-disability children, many may fall by the wayside.

They are more fortunate today than they were a decade ago in that their problem has been recognized, but with this awareness has yet to come a specific plan to help them.

Until then, they remain "The Shadow Children."

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

It may be because she comes from a family that's been involved since Revolutionary days -- it may be because she's just the way she is -- but few persons have the total involvement of Barbara (Mrs. Zar) Reader of Farmington.

Mrs. Reader's main interest in life is the Republican Party and she is involved in party politics to the top of her pretty blond head.

THE OAKLAND COUNTY Republican Committee elected Mrs. Reader vice chairman last week and also chose her for a precinct captain and party delegate.

She is also first vice president of the Oakland County Council of Republican Women's Clubs and was elected secretary of the 19th Congressional District committee and secretary of the county Republican Committee in January.

ALONG THE WAY, Mrs. Reader has been president of the Farmington GOP Women's Club, which has grown to be the largest GOP women's group in either the 18th or 19th District, and she has been educational chairman of county council of GOP women.

HOW DOES SHE DO IT? Her explanation is -- she gets "involved."

Mrs. Reader has been going to GOP meetings since she was a student at Wayne State. While in school, she was secretary to a dean in the WSU college of liberal arts and recalls those days happily. "We used to have lively political discussions in that office."

During World War II, she served as a liaison between the Farmington organization and the Bureau of Aeronautics in Washington, D.C. while WAVES

Company In Hospital Can Help

The patient entering a hospital may feel apprehension, resignation, or despair, but a cheerful greeting can change his fears to hope.

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau is seeking women who can provide this friendly companionship while they escort incoming patients through the admissions procedures at a local hospital.

The volunteer will escort patients to X-Ray or lab tests and then direct them to their rooms. She will be able to put patients at ease by answering their questions and providing information about hospital services.

If you enjoy meeting people and would like to serve in this way, contact the bureau, a division of United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit, at 642-7272.

Gets Involved

GOP Finds Lady's Touch

were being trained to replace male aerial gunners.

WHEN some Jam Handy men formed a management consultant firm, Mrs. Reader became their organizing manager.

The common denominator in all these jobs is that she was working with people. She loves people and she has a talent for them.

Her talent with people even works when she has a mouthful of dental instruments. She met her husband when she was his dental patient. Dr. Reader is a periodontist.

DURING the years of her marriage, party politics have been Mrs. Reader's major hobby.

She quotes Dwight Eisenhower as a reason for this direction of her interests: "Politics ought to be the part time job of every citizen."

Mrs. Reader's family -- Susan, a North Farmington High senior, Zar III, a student at Brown University and Bill, just graduated from Culver Military Academy -- join her in her party efforts. Their mother claims she couldn't give the time to her interest if they didn't.

ALTHOUGH she has reached a pinnacle in her party, Mrs. Reader wasn't handed her laurels. She earned them.

"Telephoning, canvassing, finance drives, challenger at the polls, typing, office work, coffee, handing out literature -- I've done them all," says the new vice chairman. "And I would do it now if it were needed."

"Every bit of work you do to get a candidate elected teaches you something," she adds. "And there are so many opportunities for women in party work. You can almost pick your job. It all has to be done and it's the grass-roots work that pays off."

AS VICE CHAIRMAN, Mrs. Reader won't say what direction county GOP politics will take this year.

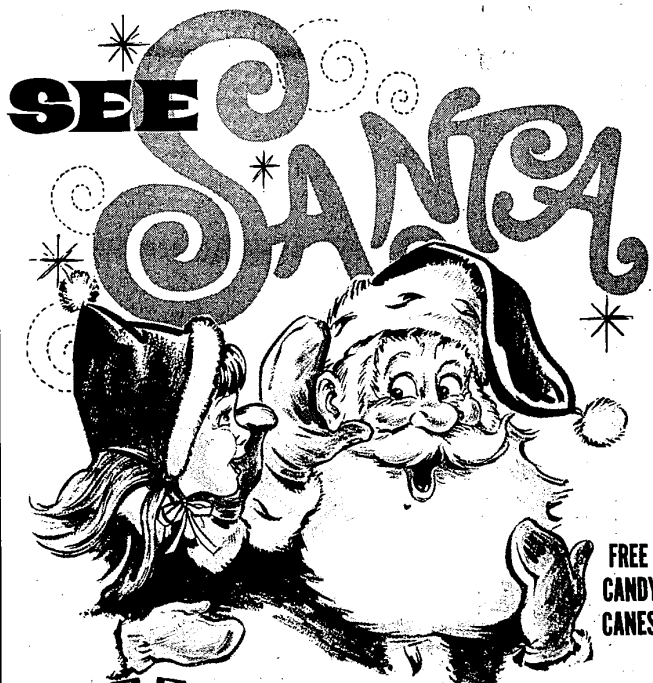
She also won't venture an opinion on what the county GOP will do if Gov. Romney takes a post in the Nixon administration.

With a touch of political sagacity she hazards, "Lieutenant Gov. Milliken would make a good campaign."

If Milliken ever is a candidate, Mrs. Reader will be in there working for him. That's a bet.



PARTY LEADER — In her new post as vice chairman of the Oakland County Republican Committee, Mrs. Zar A. Reader, of Farmington, will find her days busier than ever. She is also a precinct captain and party delegate. (Evert photo)



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and his CANDY CASTLE!

Santa's here, every day until Christmas Eve... with his own LIVE reindeer! Come see Santa's Magic Candy Castle and tell him what YOU want for Christmas!

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NOON TO 6 p.m.

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TROPHIES — First, second and third place trophies went to (center, from left) Officers Richard Marchewitz, Richard Niemisto and Sgt. Arlo Newell, the department's summer pistol shooting competition. Competition was from

prone, kneeling and standing positions using both hands in combat situations. Looking on is Police Chief Irving R. Yakes and Township Supervisor Curtis H. Hall.