



THE EMPTY CHAIRS at the low table where Mrs. Cathie Walker and Salvation Army Capt. Warren Yoder are sitting will be filled with

busy children when the new Plymouth Play Skool gets under way next month. (Observer photo by Harry Mauteh)

Cooperative and Free

Plymouth Gets 'Play Skool'

By MARGARET MILLER  
Women's Editor

An open house for mothers and pre-schoolers in the Plymouth Salvation Army building on Thursday, Sept. 2, will begin a new phase in the young life of a most unusual nursery.

All mothers interested in the newly-named Play Skool are invited by Salvation Army Capt. Warren Yoder and Mrs. Cathie Walker, Plymouth mother of three, to stop by the

Army building at 290 Fairground.

Mrs. Walker has led a group of mothers who worked with Plymouth Family Service to establish a cooperative play center last spring.

Time for the open house will be 9 a.m. to 12 noon, the same hours the free center will be operating when the program for the pre-schoolers begins on Tuesdays and Thursdays later in the month.

THIS FALL, the program

that began over coffee cups in Mrs. Walker's home will expand to include trained teachers who will work on a volunteer basis and two social work students from Eastern Michigan University.

"We've made a lot of progress since we started with eight mothers last spring," Cathie Walker said.

The story really goes farther back than that—to Mrs. Walker's determination to find a way to make life more meaningful for herself and others who, like her, were taking care of young children on very limited funds and often without a father to head the family.

Working with Mrs. Ruth Abell of Plymouth Family Service, she used a story in the Plymouth Mail and Observer to invite other mothers help her establish some sort of play center.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic church had offered use of its gymnasium facilities for the summer, so the group went ahead with plans.

COOPERATION instead of money was the means of exchange as the group began its drop-in center for mothers and children when the summer began. Toys and supplies were donated, and mothers were invited to bring their children.

If occasionally they wanted to stay and help, that was fine with the organizers. If not, they still were welcome.

Capt. Yoder offered Salvation Army help as the summer got rolling. With the SA bus, he transported the children on several short trips and provided instruments for one memorable afternoon.

More than 20 families, with more than 130 children, were involved in the summer project.

Toward fall, Capt. Yoder was informed the church facilities would not be available after school began.

He offered the big room at the Salvation Army.

"I WAS INTERESTED because I came to Plymouth from Highland Park and we

had a Solo Mothers club there," he said. "I felt there was a need here, and when the center was organized, I wanted to help but didn't want to interfere."

"His offer was a godsend," Mrs. Walker said.

Other help offers came in. Mrs. Linda Leavitt and Mrs. Joyce Totten, both Plymouth residents and former teachers, agreed to take over as program advisers and help as teachers. Fran Carmine, a nurse, said she'd be health adviser.

The organizers set up an administrative board, including Mrs. Abell, Mrs. Walker, Mary Leich as secretary, the teachers and nurse, and Capt. Yoder as community liaison director.

"We had quite a time coming up for that title for Capt. Yoder," Mrs. Walker said. "He's done so much, maybe Superstar would be better."

ONE OF THE GREATEST things about the nursery so far, Mrs. Walker said, is the way some of the children have blossomed.

"At first they just stood around and squabbled," she recalled, "and there was one little boy who kept his hands over his face and another who needed his security blanket."

"It was wonderful to watch them start to play together and to realize the blanket no longer was there."

Capt. Yoder and Mrs. Walker agreed that they would like to see more low-income mothers involved in the program. "I think," the captain said, "we'll have to get better established and then we can win their confidence."

Besides the play and learning experiences for the children, Capt. Yoder plans to provide transportation where needed in the Plymouth area, and he also is thinking in terms of recreational activities for the mothers.

"We want to get as many mothers involved as possible," he said. "No excuses for not participating."

Stephanie Caid Is August Bride

Stephanie Rae Caid became the bride of William Bailey in an Aug. 7 candlelight ceremony in Merriman Road Baptist Church, Garden City.

The Rev. Ray E. Babb officiated for the double-ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Caid of Plymouth, and Mr. and Mrs. Reese Bailey of Garden City are parents of the bridegroom.

GIVEN IN MARRIAGE by her father, the bride wore a gown of candlelight chiffon over taffeta with lace trim and pink ribbon inserts on the bodice, sleeves, collar and train.

A pearl headpiece held her elbow-length veil, and she carried pink and white baby roses.

Her attendants wore pink and blue flowered peasant-style gowns and pink ribbons in their hair. They carried white baskets of pink baby roses and blue and white daisies.

Rita Caid, sister of the bride, was maid of honor.

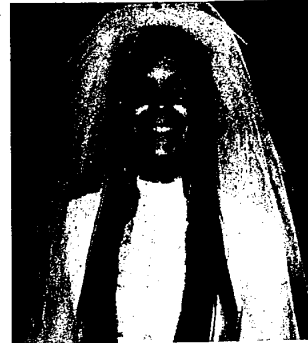
Tanya Poole and Pam Fruman were bridesmaids, and Gina Bailey, sister of the bridegroom, was flower girl.

ASSISTING the bridegroom were Ed Wright as best man and Ted Maluch and Tom Keller as ushers.

Mrs. Caid wore a pale pink street-length ensemble and Mrs. Bailey was in blue.

The reception for 140 guests was held in Blue Bonnet Hall, Garden City.

The newlyweds will live in Ypsilanti, where both are Eastern Michigan University students. The bridegroom also is employed by Western Electric in Plymouth.



MRS. WILLIAM BAILEY (Stephanie Rae Caid)



Casting Call

The Redford-Livonia Theatre Guild will hold tryouts for its first production of the season Sunday, Aug. 29, and Monday, Aug. 30, at 7 p.m. in the Guild Playhouse, 15138 Beech-Daly, Redford Township.

The productions are two one-acts, "The Tiger" and "Next." They will be presented Oct. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9 and 10 at the playhouse.

Ken Chomont will direct "Tiger," and Jim Wotling will direct "Next."



MRS. LARRY WILLIAMS (Kathleen Christian)

Farmington Couple Is Married

Kathleen Christian wore a silk organza dotted swiss gown and carried yellow and white daisies when she exchanged marriage vows with Larry Lynn Williams at noon Saturday, Aug. 14, in the Forest Park Baptist Church, Farmington.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Christian of Cora Avenue, Farmington. Mr. and Mrs. Mary Williams of Slocum Avenue, Farmington, are the bridegroom's parents.

ALICE JOHNSON, as maid of honor, wore a pale green floor-length gown and carried a basket of yellow and white daisies.

Ned Gerber was best man and the ushers were Bruce Christian and Bobby Perce. Also in the wedding party were Leslie Lorraine, niece of the bride, as flower girl, and Barry Williams as ring-bearer.

The two mothers wore street-length polyester dresses. Mrs. Christian's is blue and Mrs. Williams' is pink.

A RECEPTION for 250 in the Brightmoor Temple followed the ceremony.

The couple will live in Canton, Ohio. The new Mrs. Williams is a 1971 graduate of Farmington High School. Her husband graduated from Farmington High in 1969 and attended Central Michigan University.



CAROL KLANCNIK Mr. and Mrs. Frank Klancnik of Barwell Avenue, Farmington, announce the engagement of their daughter, Carol, to Ronald Rossi, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Rossi of Detroit. The bride-elect is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University and teaches in Taylor. Her fiance is employed by Darin and Armstrong. They plan a Sept. 4 wedding.

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Orchard Ridge Registration Set

Alphabetical registration for fall classes at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College will continue this week, Sept. 1-3 on the campus.

Students whose last names begin with MR through WH can register between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Those beginning with WI through Z and A through JZ can register on Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Any student can register between 6 and 8 p.m. on Thursday or between 9 and 11 a.m. on Friday. Classes begin on Sept. 8.

St. Mary's Grads To Meet

Hoping to make Number 13 a lucky one, the 1958 graduating class of St. Mary's Catholic High School in Wayne will hold its first reunion at 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, at the Edward Hines Park Maple Grove site.

Skip Miller, class president who now lives in California, said the reunion would uphold the class motto, "Dare to be different."

"It should make up for the 12 other reunions we missed," he added.

Members of the St. Mary's class of 1958 who have not been contacted may call Mrs. Gene McKinney (Sue Etherington), 1273 Dowling Court, Westland.