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Women on the GO!

By Margaret Miller



The crayoned drawing of pink flowers in a blue vase was typical of a young child's art work. Neater than most, and more artistic than the outline drawings on manilla paper illustrating a classroom story were the kind every mother of a first-grader can stack up by the dozen. But spigittier, with more flair.

The block letters carefully fashioned on lined paper were in the best tradition of painstaking first-grade work. Nothing remarkable — except that all these papers were done by a six-year-old girl who holds pencil or crayon in her teeth, because she can't use her hands.

Bright-eyed, brown-haired Sally Bitel can't use her legs either, so she attends Horace Mann School in South Redford in her wheel chair. A bus picks her up at her Livonia home each morning and brings her back in the late afternoon.

Sally also attends weekly catechism classes at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth. And in both types of schooling she's making progress certainly on a par with that of her more advantaged contemporaries.

Sally, who is Easter Seal Society child for Livonia this year, does have some tremendous advantages built into her life.

Her parents, Leonard and Linda Bitel, are determined to help her lead a good life, and sister Lisa, eight, and Mary, almost five, as well as two-year-old brother Duffy (formally Gregory) make as satisfactory a family as any six-year-old could ask.

Sally was Easter Seal girl in 1965 as well as this year. "We see no reason to hide her handicap," said her mother. "She's going to grow up in a wheel chair, and people might as well get to know her that way."

Sally's defect is arthrogryposis, a multiplex congenital, which is the hard way of saying she was born without muscles in her outer extremities.

SALLY BITEL has her own method for producing pretty pictures, since she can't use arms or legs.

"Not much is known about this rare defect," explained Mrs. Bitel. "We take her to University Hospital in Ann Arbor occasionally so the doctors there can keep tabs on her."

"There's some talk of surgery when she's 11 or 12, but we'll face that when the time gets closer."

Without use of arms or legs, Sally has a lot going for her.

Her mother hopes she may have inherited some artistic talent from her painter and sculptor great-uncle.

"She's probably the most contented of our four children," says Mrs. Bitel, "and that one my mother calls our argument settler."

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Volunteers Briefed for Emergencies

Red Cross volunteers from this area attended a recent meeting aimed at preparation for possible emergencies as the season of floods and tornadoes approaches.

On hand at the session in the Red Cross northwest service office in Livonia were Mrs. Donald Crain, 11454 Ingraham, Livonia; Paul Yoshikawa, 2875 Hillcrest, Livonia; Mrs. Arthur Gribben, 452 Sunnydale, Garden City; Helen E. Lodge, 1103 N. Mill, Plymouth; Mrs. C. B. Lytle, 1049 Dewey, Plymouth; Mary Anne Schneider, 11339 Arnold, Redford Township; and Robert C. Williams, 25462 Ivanhoe, Redford Township.

Special guests from Boy Scout Explorer Post #765, Livonia, Michael Quinn Sr., post advisor, 34818 Grove, his son John, Stanley Book, 29529 Mark Lane, and Don Siedel, 1811 Mayfield.

Elmer K. Revel, assistant manager of the Red Cross southeast Michigan chapter, reported on the 1967 Midwest area disaster conference.

Johnson, are yearly division winners. Both have been losing weight consistently and Dolores has reached her goal to become a KOP (Keep Off Pounds).

There are several Mother-daughter teams, one an incentive to all. Dolores Lord and her mother, Dorothy

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Farmington TOPS Group Honors Its 1967 Queen

Queen of the Farmington TOPS Scale Watchers, with an active membership of nearly a hundred are celebrating their 10th anniversary this year.

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SHIRLEY BARTLETT

Sorority Picks Livonia Leader

Marlene Hall, of Livonia, is the new president of Zeta Psi chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority.

She was elected at a recent meeting. At the same session, the chapter, named Carol Jeffrey of Livonia, as Girl of the Year, and chose Carol Simpkins, Waterford, as chapter queen for the coming year.

Mrs. Hall, retiring sorority queen, will crown her successor at the annual dance May 27.

The group also received several pledges into full membership and heard programs entitled "Music's Influence on Our Lives" and "The Art of Thinking."

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Two Championship Bridge Tournaments Are Scheduled

The Mayfair Duplicate Club will hold two championship bridge games during the last week of March. The first will take place Tuesday, March 28, at 7:45 p.m., at 32905 Northwestern.

The second championship game will take place Thursday, March 30 at 8 p.m. at 32905 Northwestern.

Refreshments will be served and reservations will be appreciated.

Club master point games are held on the second Tuesday and Thursday of the month, and the Friday master point game is the first of each month. For further information call MA 6-2109.

Local Group Will Compete In Barbershop Singing Test

The Suburbanettes of South Oakland County will be one of 25 Sweet Adeline groups competing in the approaching regional convention of the women's barbershop singing organization.

The 12th annual convention will be held at Jack Tar Hotel in Lansing, beginning March 31. Mrs. William Greene of Farmington, directs the local group.

Members include: Livonia — Mrs. Dean McAllister and Mrs. Ralph Reid. Farmington — Mrs. Ken Saundry, Mrs. John Courville, Jill Turley, Mrs. Russell Gilbert, Mrs. Alan Little, Mrs. D. McEachin, Mrs. William Newlin, and Marilyn Olson. Redford Township — Mrs. Ralph Gould, Sandra Linde, Mrs. William Morell, Karen Heino, Mrs. Haig Arabian, Leslie Smith and her mother, Mrs. Bernie Smith. Plymouth — Mrs. James Weigle.

Women Get Pledge Pins at Sorority Ceremony

Alpha Xi Chapter of Epsilon Alpha International sorority held their Preferential Tea Sunday, Jan. 22, at the Livonia home of Mrs. Kathy Knapp, with Mrs. Ruth Davis as co-hostess.

A ceremony was performed by Mrs. Barbara Hoffman, state president, and Mrs. Lois Perkins, first vice president, with Mrs. Diane Orendach, Mrs. Madge Pelican, and Mrs. Kay Kling receiving their Pledge Pins. Mrs. Lois Jensen received her Jewel Pin, and Mrs. Mary Fruss transferred from another chapter to Alpha Xi Chapter.

The January social was held at the home of Mrs. Dolly Thomas, in Westland with Mrs. Eva Potolchik of Westland as co-hostess. Among those attending were Mrs. Ruth Davis, Mrs. Betty Robinson, Mrs. Beverly Hueston, and Mrs. Lois Perkins of Livonia.

The regular monthly meeting of the Livonia Historical Society will be held at 8 p.m. Monday, March 27, at Quaker Acres, 34004 Seven Mile Road. Charles McFee will be the speaker. Members are invited to bring guests to the meeting.

The Redford Toastmistress Club will be represented at the Council No. 4 International Toastmistress Club Speech Contest, Saturday, April 15, by Mrs. Clifford Terry.

Alternate Mrs. George Kuehn will stand-in for the winner and will be given identical topics seven days before the event.

Mrs. Terry to Enter Speech Competition

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Alternate Mrs. George Kuehn will stand-in for the winner and will be given identical topics seven days before the event.

The next meeting of the Redford Toastmistress Club will be Tuesday, March 28, at 12:30 p.m. Members will draw for their assignments at the meeting.

Interested women may call Mrs. John Ralston, GR 4-8127. Luncheon reservations may be placed with Mrs. Robert Randall, 532-1625.

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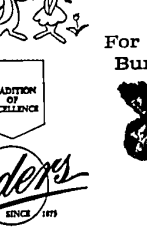
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