

Nursery Seeks Enrollments

The Farmington Presbyterian Nursery has held Monday, Wednesday and Friday. All children must be four years old by Dec. 1 to be enrolled. The nursery is sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 28108 Farmington Road, and uses its facilities. Parents interested in enrolling their children should call the church office.

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By MARGARET MILLER
Women's Editor

Women on the Go

She Finds PWP Committee Work Has Many Rewards



ARLENE FISCHER (center) looks over Parents Without Partners letters with daughter Darlene and son David. (Observer photo by Maurice Walker)

Almost any evening, the telephone keeps up a steady jingle in the Redford Township home of Mrs. Arlene Fischer.

And the two teenagers in the family don't mind a bit that their mother gets a big share of the calls.

David, a senior at Redford Union High School, and Darlene, who goes to Hilbert Junior High, are glad to have her tell more and more people about Parents Without Partners. They agree it's been a big thing in their mother's life.

ARLENE FISCHER is president this year of the Livonia chapter of PWP, and in that capacity she receives the calls from single parents in this area interested in the group.

"We meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month," she tells prospective members when they're referred to her from a PWP telephone answering service.

"Of course we want you to join us. And just as soon as you're ready, we'll have some committee work for you. That's the way you can get the most from Parents Without Partners."

THAT CERTAINLY was true in Arlene Fischer's case. Her husband, Roy, died four years ago. "It was a rough time," she remembers. "I was pregnant at the time of his death, and four months later I lost the baby. That really had me down."

She reacted by taking her

children for an extended car trip, winding up in Key West, Fla.

"My parents met us there and we came home that summer," she said. "In October she returned to her old job at Great Scott Supermarkets, and a friend there told her about Parents Without Partners."

"I HAD TRIED a couple of church groups, but found them mostly couples or singles," Mrs. Fischer said. "I didn't need that. I wanted people to talk to who are in a situation like mine. And that's what I found in Parents Without

Partners, although the majority of members are divorced rather than widowed."

Arlene Fischer has been with the Livonia chapter three years now. "The first year was getting acquainted, and the second I did a lot of committee work - mailing newsletters and working on the Amigo committee to welcome new members."

"Then last year they asked me to run for president and here I am." A major project for the Livonia chapter this year is joining with the Detroit-Dearborn chapter to host the

PWP Eastern Michigan Regional Council spring meeting and conference May 27 in the Mercy College Conference Center.

"We'll have workshops and meetings during the day," the Livonia president said, "and then a banquet and dance in the evening."

REGULAR MEETINGS will be moving in June from the Warren Valley Country Club to Sherwood Inn in Livonia, and Mrs. Fischer is busy with arrangements for that switch. She's also working with daughter Darlene to set up a teen branch of the Livonia PWP.

Darlene took time out from activities as captain of the Hilbert girls' softball team and member of the school newsletter staff and Sunday school teacher to help gather a couple of dozen teens to help mail out information on the regional conference.

The teens also like to help with the younger children when the PWP groups sponsor family activities. There is a scavenger hunt scheduled this month and later there will be the annual Hines Park picnic that usually draws 300 PWP members and families.

FOR ARLENE FISCHER, the involvement has meant an extremely busy and satisfying life.

"The children and even my mother notice the difference in me," she said, "and they're glad to have me not sitting around and feeling sorry for myself."

Her aim is to "build this chapter" to a bigger membership, but still "keep all the members active."

"That's the only way it can really help them," she says. As for herself, "well, maybe marriage again someday."

"But not now," she adds quickly. "I haven't met the right person, and anyway I'm too busy having fun."

Jobwise, Women Move Back, Says Researcher

EAST LANSING Although women have accounted for a steadily increasing proportion of the American work force since 1950, says a Michigan State University researcher, their progress has largely been an "Advance to the Rear."

In an article under that title in the current issue of Business Topics, published by MSU's Graduate School of Business Administration, Dr. David I. Verway takes a broad look at the distaff side of the work force and points to a number of reasons why women have failed to grab a large share of the higher paying jobs.

First, he says, women tend to comprise a large group of "labor force irregulars" - housewives who work outside the home, often just part-time, only in order to supplement the family income.

In 1950 this group accounted for 23.8 per cent of women workers but by 1970, 40.8 per cent fitted this description, and their willingness to take lower paying jobs with little or no promotion possibilities

leaves more of the higher level jobs open to men.

EDUCATION is another impediment.

"Part of their failure to win a larger share of the top jobs is due to women's lower educational achievement," Verway says in the article.

"Women held 42 per cent of the college degrees for the age group 25 to 44 in 1950, but by 1970 this proportion had fallen to 37 per cent."

The author explained that the GI Bill, which subsidized veterans' education after World War II and Korea, helps account for this gap, and said indications are that it is closing in recent years.

Dr. Verway said also that most women who do go to college opt for professions like teaching, nursing or home economics that are best suited for raising a family but not likely to lead to high paying positions.

DR. VERWAY, who is research assistant professor in MSU's Bureau of Business and Economic Research, used statistics to show that women had not reached many top positions in medicine,

government service, or even education.

"Thirty-five per cent of the 247,000 members of college and university faculties in the 1950-1960 academic year were women," he says. "The total had risen to 596,000 by the year 1965-1966, but the percentage of those who were women had declined to 22."

Not all of Dr. Verway's data paints a bleak picture, however. Women who are black have undergone a greater rate of economic growth than white women or men of either race.

"Earnings statistics compiled by the Bureau of Census reveal that median wage or salary income for college opt for professions like teaching, nursing or home economics that are best suited for raising a family but not likely to lead to high paying positions."

"The increase for black men was 237 per cent, for white men, 178 per cent, and for white women 150 per cent."

MARY BETH INMAN, a student at the International Fine Arts College of Fashion in Miami, recently was named Miss Young Dimension by Saks Fifth Avenue in Miami Beach. Miss Inman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Inman of Farmington and a graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School, is studying varied aspects of fashion in the two-year course and spends spare time modeling in fashion shows for apparel shops in Miami and Miami Beach.



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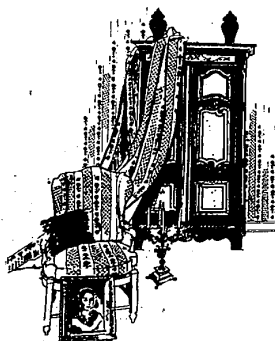
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