

Dear Observer Newspaper,

My mom is getting married this Oct. 27. She has five kids -- their names are Kathy, Sue, Angie, Tommy, Lucy. We are all in the bridal party. My mom's name is Joann Melton. She is getting married to Frank Noon. My Aunt Lucy, Uncle Jim and my two cousins, Jimmy and Mikey Reynolds are in it too. My mom is making all the girls' dresses herself and making the bouquet. My Uncle Jim is giving my mother away. They're getting married at St. Bernardine church. I wanted it in the paper because I want to show how happy we are.

Sincerely Yours  
Kathy Melton

# It's A Family Wedding

A family wedding took place in St. Bernardine of Siena Catholic church of Westland Friday evening -- and now a family is complete.

For when Frank Noon of Ferndale took Mrs. Joanne Melton of Westland as his bride, he also acquired a family of four daughters and a son. They were all right there at the altar as members of the wedding party.

Young Tommy Melton, six years old and resplendent in a velvet tuxedo, carried the rings on a lace pillow that had been used for his grandparents' 25th anniversary celebration a few years back.

His four sisters were there in blue velvet dresses their mother made for the occasion.

THE OLDEST is 11-year-old Kathy, who wrote a letter so that the story about the wedding could be in the newspaper "to show how happy we are."

The other sisters who stood beside her for the nuptials were Sue, 10; Angie, eight, and Lucy, five.

Also at the altar were the bride's sister, Mrs. Lucille Reynolds of Livonia, as matron of honor, her husband, Jim Reynolds, who joined the bride's mother, Mrs. Angeline Saccas of Warren, in giving the bride in marriage, and the Reynolds' two sons, James and Michael, who were junior ushers.

"THE IMPORTANT thing for me was to have my family a part of the ceremony," said the bride a few hours before the ceremony.

And for her new husband, a bachelor until last Friday evening, having everyone there was just as important.

"He said he's always wanted to have a family, and now he has one," the new Mrs. Noon said.

The couple decided last July to be married, but plans for the church wedding with everyone involved were worked out much more recently.

"I gave myself just two weeks to make all the dresses," said the mother of the junior bridesmaids.

A BEAUTICIAN, she also

did coiffures for herself and daughters as well as her mother and sister for the big day.

She didn't sew her own bridal gown, but, as things turned out, she did have to put together a veil.

The family pup chewed up the one she had planned to wear, so there was a rush trip to the store Friday for some more lace and veiling.

A reception in Colony Hall in Southfield followed the wedding. "We invited about 200 -- it sort of got bigger than I expected."

THE FAMILY wedding

Spotlight on Women

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OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS

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involvement went further than the bridal party.

The bride's aunt did the cooking for the reception and two of her cousins made the wedding cake.

The newlyweds are honeymooning this week on

Drummond Island in northern lake Huron while relatives take charge of the children.

"He likes to hunt and I love to fish," said Mrs. Noon.

Then they'll set up full family living in the Westland home.



WEDDING PREPARATIONS were going on at a fast pace Friday before Mrs. Joanne Melton (center), became the bride of Frank Noon. She gives her son Tommy a quick combing job while

daughter Kathy (left), helps Angie, wearing her velvet bridesmaid dress. The other girls in the family are Sue (second from right) and Lucy. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

## New Dimension Seen In Women's Liberation

By BETTY MASSON

"I am frightened by the belief in some quarters that men are the enemy. We are all victims together . . . of a patriarchal attitude."

Author-researcher Barbara Seaman thus characterized women's liberation in a visit to Schoolcraft College last week.

The lecture and idea exchange involved the author of "Free and Female" and an audience of about 250 females and dozen males for about four hours.

And by the time it was over, a move was beginning to establish a local chapter of the National Organization of Women (NOW). Interested persons may contact Sylvia Vukmirovich, a counselor at Schoolcraft.

HOW DOES THIS WOMAN who has made a study of women view women's lib?

"We want our daughters to be able to think and our sons to be able to cry," she told her audience.

And what will this type of thinking do to her son? she was asked.

"I think in the long run, my son will be glad to have a wife that is not a dependent millstone around his neck . . . as women become true economic partners, it is very freeing for men."

"Most families still pressure daughters toward marriage. Even professors do

"We want our daughters to be able to think and our sons to be able to cry."

this, I am not in any way against marriage. . . I believe it will grow better as it grows more egalitarian, but we must persuade young women not to rush into marriage," she said.

MRS. SEAMAN, who is child care and education editor of Family Circle magazine, is also the author of "The Doctor's Case Against the Pill," "Free and Female" is published by Coward, McCann and Geoghegan, Inc., and is subtitled "The Sex Life of the Contemporary Woman."

Her audience may have expected an extremist. Before she spoke, there was an almost palpable tension in the air.

Instead, those on hand found a thoughtful, intense woman who could laugh ruefully as she revealed that her own husband now (too late) wishes he had spent more time with their three children when they were small.

But she makes a case for a revolution in society so that men and women may share child care and economic responsibilities.

HER LECTURE centered on five "myths" about male and female which

she said persist in spite of scientific evidence.

One is that women are the sole possessors of a "maternal instinct." Evidence shows that frequency and intensity of contact with a newborn is the important factor, and "even fathers can rise to the occasion."

Of the "Adam's rib myth," Mrs. Seaman said, "Embryologists have established that all mammalian embryos are innately female, and maleness is a deviation triggered by hormones . . . male development is now considered a deviation on the basic female pattern, and the penis is actually an extended clitoris."

That "marriage is a triumph for women, a defeat for men" is another myth, she emphasized. "Recent studies show the happiest people in our society are single women, and bachelors are the most unhappy," said Mrs. Seaman.

She added that married men rank high in the happiness scale.

"The responsibilities of marriage seem to have a maturing and strengthening effect on men," said Mrs. Seaman, "but there are very few happy housewives in their 40s."

MYTH NO. 3, according to Mrs. Seaman, is that "sex is really for men, and a good woman shouldn't be interested." Yet research by Masters and Johnson and by anthropologists has shown that "the female has a much greater sexual potential than a male," she said.

Pointing out that Freud recognized a strong link between eroticism and creativity, Mrs. Seaman said, "I think there is quite a bit of good suggestive evidence that the fact that so few women have been distinguished in the arts and sciences has to do with sexual repression."

Yet medical textbooks, still in use, say "frequency of sexual intercourse is independent on the male sex drive," and claim that "the traits that compose the core of the female personality are feminine narcissism, passivity and masochism," she said. Too many doctors prescribe tranquilizers, ignoring completely the possibility that sexual frustration may be a factor in women's complaints, she added.

MRS. SEAMAN said she is among the women who have been told that only "neurotics are interested in natural childbirth." She said she was urged to have labor induced because her gynecologist wanted to go on a cruise.

(An audience member who is active in teaching the Lamaze method of childbirth in Observerland was quick to agree with Mrs. Seaman's remarks about gynecologists and the attitudes in the textbooks.)

Myth No. 4, Mrs. Seaman said, keeps society patriarchal by holding that "children of working mothers have more problems than children of mothers who are full-time housekeepers."

Recent psychological studies have shown very little difference unless the mother feels guilty about working, she stated. Her guilt may make her overcompensate and this can have undesirable results.

Teenage girls have an advantage if their mothers work. They are better students, more popular, have higher self-esteem and are four times more likely to say that they would like to be like their mothers, according to the studies she quoted.

THE LAST MYTH is "that American women are fleeing their children."

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AUTHOR BARBARA SEAMAN (center) was welcomed to Schoolcraft College by Richard Saunders, chairman of the fine arts department, and Mrs. C. Nelson Grote, wife of the president of the college. (Observer photo)