

VD In Oakland County Is 'Epidemic'

By CORINNE BATT

PONTIAC
In the person of Dr. Lowell M. Wiese, Oakland County may have acquired both a new director of health and a strong spokesman for problems related to health.

Dr. Wiese (rhymes with nice) came from the New Hampshire health dept. last month to head up Oakland's health program. He speaks candidly about the most commonly reported communicable disease in the county — gonorrhea. Together with syphilis, it is classified as VD — venereal disease.

"Syphilis is sort of hidden stuff," Dr. Wiese says, "but gonorrhea is running wild."

He uses the word "epidemic" to describe the situation and remarks that epidemic, like many other terms, has been overused and consequently lost its punch.

"But it is an epidemic, and I think we ought to use the word for a situation of near catastrophic proportions." Wiese ran his finger down a chart of statistics and read off: "In the last 10 years, the reported cases gonorrhea in the U.S. tripled. In Michigan they doubled, and in Oakland County they increased by 40 times."

"The aren't population percentages, just straight figures." Last year there were 1,700 cases of gonorrhea reported in Oakland County. This year there are 1,800 so far and the year-end number is expected to be more than 2,200.

He gives three reasons for the sharp increase: There are more cases of gonorrhea; reporting is getting better; and in July 1972, the county established an asymptomatic screening test for females which uncovered some 382 cases out of 11,000 tests which were made along with pap smears or pelvic examinations for any reason. Gonorrhea is much easier to diagnose in men. There is

an obvious discharge in the male that is less apparent in the female. Diagnosis for men can be made from a direct smear.

"In the female," Dr. Wiese says, "we do better with a culture."

Diagnosis notwithstanding, the effects of untreated gonorrhea can be devastating to both male and female.

"It isn't innocuous," he explains. "It can cause sterility, serious pelvic inflammation requiring surgery and gonococcal arthritis. Many a young woman has lost her uterus without ever having a baby because of gonorrhea."

Dr. Wiese paces the floor of his office as he talks about gonorrhea. "It's easy to diagnose, easy to treat, so what's the hassle?"

He says that treatment is quick and free if a person goes to either the north or south Oakland County Health Dept., or one of several free clinics such as Common Ground of Birmingham. One dose or shot will do it. It can be penicillin, ampicillin, spectinomycin or tetracycline.

"The dose that's given has to be like a Joe Louis punch, hard and fast."

Dosages for diseases such as strep throat are much lower and are generally over a more extended period of time. They won't cure gonorrhea.

SILL, many of those infected don't come in for the quick, easy, free cure.

"So what do you do? Whip out the scare bag? If you tell people how things are and what can happen to them, they laugh? If you want to have gonorrhea and don't care if you're sterile, at least don't do this to your friends."

Gonorrhea is highly contagious and is contacted through sexual intercourse with an infected person. No immunity is built up, it can be contacted again and again, and each reinfection requires treatment to halt the spread.

"It is a very transmissible disease. One infected female can give it to 20 or 30 males, and an infected male could

give it to an equal number of females."

Wiese says patients who come to the north clinic in the Oakland County complex on Telegraph north of Elizabeth Lake Rd. or the south office, 27725 Greenfield Rd., Southfield, will be treated free of charge with respect and with privacy.

"We will ask in the course of treatment, and with all tact, who their contacts were. We are trying to get people to think of it as an infectious rather than sexual disease."

In spite of the new asymptomatic screening, free and simple treatment and a lot of publicity, Dr. Wiese isn't optimistic about gonorrhea.

"I don't think it's ever going to end. Gonorrhea is burgeoning. Every graph looks like a sales chart. At this point, I confess, I'm discouraged."

Sharp Speaks For Cornell

FARMINGTON
Master of ceremonies and announcer for the Cornell University football season is a Farmington man.

Lee Sharp, son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Sharp of Farmington Hills, has been selected as the "voice of Cornell."

A 1971 graduate of North Farmington High School, Sharp is a junior in the school of engineering. Last year he was on the board of managers of the student union, and was a member of the Cornell Ambassadors, a university speakers bureau.



DR. LOWELL WIESE

LUSSENDEN'S
Plumber

DON'T SUFFER HEAT AND COMFORT MISS OLD HEATERS NEED A GOOD KISS OF

HAVE A MODERN HEATER

ROBERT Lussenden
PLUMBING & HEATING
Phone MA 6-808

30740 W 13 MILE RD.
FARMINGTON, MICH.

Home protection

Your home... probably your biggest financial investment... deserves the best protection. A low cost State Farm Homeowners Policy with automatic inflation coverage can provide all the up-to-date coverage you'll probably ever need. And by offering only the best in protection, service and economy, State Farm's become the world's leading homeowners insurer. Call me for all the details.

Fred Samra
32300 Grand River Farmington 476-1800

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.

Save farm fire and casualty company work office. Business hours.

P 7313

The Farmington Observer
Subscription

DAN McCOSH, Editor
36251 Schoolcraft Road Livonia, Mich. 48150

Phone 261-8600

Published every Wednesday and Weekend

Home Delivery Service

Newsstand... per copy 15¢
Carried... monthly \$1.50

Phone 261-3800

Published by Observer Newspapers Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150. Entered as Second Class Post Office at Livonia, Michigan. Postage paid at the U.S. Post Office, Livonia, Michigan.

Address all mail subscription change of address forms 3573 or P.O. Box 1426, Livonia, Michigan 48151.

Bel-Aire Lanes
2400 Grand/Livonia Rd., Farmington

476-1550

FATHER & SON DOUBLES LEAGUE BEGINS SUNDAY

OLDEST YOUNGESTER SEPT. 23 AT 11:45 A.M. (Any Age School Age) CALL FOR A SPOT

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOLERS YOUR LEAGUE BEGINS TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 25. REGISTER 3-3:30 P.M.

YOUTH LEAGUES EVERY SATURDAY 10 A.M. AGE 12-17 TEAMS OR INDIVIDUALS WANTED. JOIN ANYTIME 12 P.M. AGE 8-17

SATURDAY NITE DOUBLES RESUME SEPTEMBER 29-10:30 P.M.

Old World Shelving
Rustic Beauty
Massive Strength

Come in and Browse in our Complete Shelving Center

Farmington LUMBER Co.
"58 Years of Reliability"

DAILY 8-6 p.m. SAT. 8-4 p.m.
32300 GRAND RIVER OR 4-0115



AS CHAIRWOMAN of Wayne State University's campus beautification committee, Mrs. Olga Dworin of Farmington pins a flower on WSU president George E. Gulien Jr. as Detroit businessman Ivan Ludington watches. Mrs. Dworin, of 31401 Stonewood, presented Gulien with the flower during the opening of the Second Avenue Mall on the WSU campus. The mall was built with a donation of \$161,400 from the McGregor Fund.

OPEN EVERY EVENING TIL 9 pm

LIVONIA MALL

LIVONIA MALL
7 Mile - Middlebelt

2 ONLY
EASY TO ASSEMBLE
PARADISE
SCREEN HOUSES
Reg. \$150
\$129.50

2 Locations to Serve You!
HAGGERTY LUMBER

WALLED LAKE
2555 Haggerty Rd.
624-4551
HOWELL
227 N. Bernard

NEW NORTHLAND

Red Barn's
Sat. & Sun. Special
Sept. 22nd & 23rd

OUR CHICKEN DINNER ONLY

\$1.09

REGULARLY \$1.79
Includes three pieces of golden-crusted, tender fried chicken, a helpfully helping of cole slaw, a pile of french fries and a leesy warm roll.

Limit 3 per Customer

There's a whole lot more of what you're hungerin' for at the Red Barn.

ONLY AT NORTHLAND RED BARN
15700 J. L. HUDSON DR.
Southfield, Mich.

MIRROR YOUR ENTIRE WALL

20% OFF
(With this ad)

Offer Expires Sept. 30, 1973

20% OFF ON REPAIR OF YOUR STORMS & SCREENS (with this ad)
Offer expires Sept. 30, 1973

Insurance Claims
Thermacore
Auto Glass
Safety Glass
Storm Windows
Furniture Top

U.S. Glass INC.
"It's Glass... We Have It!"
585 S. Woodward, Birmingham, Mich. 48011
PHONE 644-1181

Westland Center
Wayne & Warren Fds.
Daily 9:30-9
Sunday 12:00-5

COME TO TOWN 'N' COUNTRY HARDWARE
for your FIREPLACE Decorating Needs
2740 FORD RD.
3 1/2 blks. W. of Inkster

OPEN DAILY 9-8 CLOSED SUNDAY
6A 2-2750

Observer Plans Second Seminar On Wednesday

The Observer Newspapers will stage the second of three public-relations seminars Wednesday (Sept. 26) in the Observer building, 36251 Schoolcraft in Livonia.

Actually Wednesday's program will be that originally scheduled for Sept. 12 which was postponed due to problems at the plant.

All of those who registered for the Sept. 12 meeting will participate. The Observer has a complete list of registrants and will check names as the participants report for the 8 p.m. session.

A third program has been scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 11. There are a few vacancies and persons desiring to attend should make reservations in the next few days.

OPEN LETTER TO PARENTS & CITIZENS

September 22, 1973

Dear Parents and Citizens:

Farmington teachers want to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks for your patience and support during our most recent contractual difficulties with the Farmington Board of Education.

The tentative Agreement which is presently under consideration by the respective parties represents a compromise of positions on the part of teachers and the Board of Education.

The new Agreement calls for a cap to be placed on the number of students enrolled in elementary classrooms. It further provides teachers with income protection, via application of a cost of living factor during the life of the Contract.

The tentative Agreement is three years in duration, a factor which should help heal any division resultant from the district's first teachers' strike. In this regard your teachers are committed to the immediate reconciliation of past differences, and a steadfast focus on providing Farmington children with a superior instructional program.

Again, we thank you for your concern, and look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Sincerely,
Farmington Teachers

METRO BANK

NOW OPEN!

Another Metro Branch Office

34753 Grand River
(IN THE WORLD WIDE SHOPPING CENTER)

METROPOLITAN BANK farmington

FARMINGTON OFFICES: 33205 Grand River (near Farmington Road) & 34753 Grand River (World Wide Shopping Center)
QUAKERTOWN OFFICE: 27500 Farmington Road (near 12 Mile) REDFORD: 25719 Grand River (near Beech Day)