

Peg Damman moves into public limelight

By MARY CONNELLY

She might become the second lady of the state of Michigan after the November election.

But right now Mrs. James J. Damman talks about reducing the family food bill with a backyard vegetable garden and raising six

children with a husband who can't come home for dinner every night.

In just five years Peg Damman's husband has moved from being a little known candidate for Troy city commission to Gov. William Milliken's running mate.

The catapult into the public

limelight is a new scene for a woman who has devoted 18 years to quietly organizing the homelife of a family of eight.

She said she maintained her self-confidence at a press conference held to announce her husband's candidacy by mentally repeating the phrase, "keep your composure, keep your composure."

THE PROSPECT of public speaking causes her to think of Dale Carnegie courses.

In the 20 years since she accepted a blind date with Jim Damman, "Of course I had to look at his picture first. I'd been stung too many times," Peg Damman has focused her attention on her family.

Although she launched the Troy Republican's Woman's Club four years ago, little time has been spent in organized activities in the community.

"With Jim gone all the time, I just feel I should be around when the children need me," she said.

"Jim tries to get home a couple of days a week, but he can't always."

ELECTED TO the Michigan House of Representatives in 1970, Damman (R-Troy) currently represents the state's 63rd District.

"It was difficult at first, those first years he was in the legislature," she recalled. "The kids were younger. It's difficult to raise six children when your husband doesn't come home every night for dinner. But I think I've adjusted very well. I really do."

"I can't remember it ever being dull. He's always been involved in civic affairs. He's always been going to meetings."

"If he'd come home at night and take his shoes off, everything was all right. If he left his shoes on, a little one would ask 'have you got a meeting tonight?'"

ALTHOUGH numbering eight, the Damman household functions as a unit.

A yellow piece of legal pad paper is attached to the refrigerator in the family's split level home on Lake Charnwood in Troy. Lettered in pencil by Damman, the worksheet outlines each child's weekly chores.

The children, who range in age from 7 to 16, divide between them dish washing, house cleaning, lawn work, laundry, car washing and care of Albert, the family's cocker pooodle.

Thirteen-year old Stephen recently saved the family the expense of a \$12 haircut by clipping the dog himself.

Tennis lessons, softball games, scouting, activities and music lessons abound in the household. Television viewing does not.

"A rule in our household is that they do not watch TV from Monday through Friday," Mrs. Damman explained, adding that educational programs are excluded from the rule. "Their marks improve. They communicate. They play cards if they don't have homework."

ARE THE DAMMANS afraid political success will encroach on

the family relationship?

"I don't feel it would hurt our marriage or our family life in any way," Mrs. Damman said of her husband's "nod for lieutenant governor." "We're such a close-knit family. I can't imagine it destroying anything."

The family plans to campaign together as much as possible.

"I'll go campaigning with him as much as I can and take the kids as much as I can," Mrs. Damman said, adding that hotel costs for the family of eight have to be considered in planning the trips.



Peg Damman at home (Photographed by Art Emanuel)

Tay-Sachs testing brings out hundreds

They came to be sure... by the hundreds and eventually a thousand.

All alike in age and mostly Jewish, they came to be tested for Tay-Sachs disease.

Tay-Sachs disease. The baby killer, the brain disease caused by the absence of an enzyme with a long name.

The doctors shorten the name to "Hex A."

It's a hex all right. Deadly and tortuous, the disease seeks out the offspring of east European Jews and their descendants.

Seeking them out, blinding them, assaulting them, and killing them by the third or fourth year of life.

cold if we could have turnouts like this at all of our future screenings.

"It's possible you know."

"If we could find all the carriers, the men and women who innocently spread the disease because they carry it, and make them aware... Then it would be possible to see a day when there would be no Tay-Sachs babies."

Birth announced

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Simmons of Birmingham announce the birth of a son Matthew Tetherly, born June 15.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 23, at United Hebrew Schools in Southfield, the parking lot overflowed with cars all day long as the screening program took place.

Those who came promised they would urge friends to come for the second screening from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. next Sunday.

The 48 nurses, doctors, and lab technician who donated their time promised they'd be back also—as well as dozens of volunteers from community organizations.

"It's just tremendous," said Dr. Hyman Mellen of Sinai Hospital.

Dr. Mellen is cochairman of the committee arranging the screening program.

"IT'S BEAUTIFUL," said Dr. Lester Weiss, scientific director for the Tay-Sachs screening program.

"We could really stop Tay-Sachs

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