

Garden Club Women Review Group's Therapy Program

By ALICE E. MORGAN

Now listed among some of the most popular therapy methods for persons suffering from all types of illness, mental, physical, as well as the physically handicapped, horticultural therapy had its origin in Birmingham only a few years ago.

Mrs. Alice Wessels Burlingame, well-known local horticultural expert, worked closely with Michigan State college officials on the basis of a continuing education service. The first workshop was established at Lansing in 1952, with several others scheduled since. Three were held this spring, including one in Detroit, which drew more than 60 women from the metropolitan area.

Among the first organizations to interest itself in this type of therapy, is the Birmingham branch of the National Farm and Garden Club.

THESE WOMEN, with members of the Pontiac group, have been invited to demonstrate how they actually work on flower arrangements, corsages, cutting, seedling, potting and the like when the annual NFWGC meets in Detroit on May 19. Birmingham will be represented by Mesdames R. A. Armstrong, Frank Webb, William Burlingame and Carman Adams.

Mrs. Burlingame will discuss the overall picture and correlate all material. Feeling an interest in something familiar might be of help, especially to mental patients, Mrs. Burlingame launched the program first at Pontiac State hospital.

Her success there led others into the project and opened new fields. Today they are not only working

Pre-nuptial Parties Fete Bride-to-Be

The first of a number of pre-nuptial parties honoring Margery Ann Bosa was a miscellaneous shower and luncheon given by Mrs. A. L. LaMont and Mrs. Eleanor Murray at the former's home in Royal Oak on Saturday.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Bosa of Detroit. The prospective bridegroom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Donald A. Murray of Tilbury road. The Bloomfield Hills home of Mrs. Edward K. Pilcher will be the scene of a luncheon and lunch shower on Saturday, May 15. Assisting as co-hostess will be Mrs. A. G. Holland.

A KITCHEN shower and luncheon is planned by Mrs. Ernest E. Anderson at her home on Yarrow road for May 22.

Friends will gather at the Squire road home in Bloomfield Hills of Mrs. Frederick Zimmermann on June 5. An afternoon tea and miscellaneous shower will honor Margery.

On June 19 Jean Clark will entertain at a dinner party at her home on Wildemere in Detroit.

Honoring the bride-to-be at the Detroit Athletic club on June 19 will be her aunt, Mrs. George F. Book.

Mrs. Calvin Brown, Miss Book's sister, will hostess the spinster dinner.

Margery and Donald will be married on June 26.



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Marston, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. S. King, Mrs. A. Groceop, Mrs. S. E. Hemsteger, Mrs. S. Krentel, Mrs. J. C. Cook, Jr., and Mrs. C. Adams.

AGAIN ENTERING the picture, Mrs. Burlingame pointed out the need for private patient programs, with the chapter sending Mrs. Hemsteger and Mrs. Norman Berry into the front line.

In this field the club members go into the home, helping the patient through long tedious hours and helping build a strong interest in planting seeds, the proper care of living plants, arranging flowers, making scrapbooks, and whatever phase of the work they feel best suits the particular patient.

From St. James Episcopal church has come a group of women interested in the Christian social relations program, to offer their assistance.

They have worked with bed patients at the Oakland county convalescent home for several months, mainly in the planting of seeds and raising plants in the rooms, where the patient may enjoy them. Easy flower arrangements have been a welcome change here.

With more active patients they have formed a garden club of their own. An outdoor project, including the work of about 14 patients, will be carried on in a 50 foot square, the church women donated plant materials and lending assistance.

CHAIRMANED by Mrs. E. F. Bumaum, this group includes Mesdames H. H. Brown, Howard Eates, C. W. Frederick, James E. Goodman, Clyde L. Hagerman, E. K. Ives, B. Roderick McDonald, George K. Meeks, Ada Moore, James St. Croix and G. A. Weinhold.

Currently the Garden club is planning its newest project—an outdoor pilot group of boys from Pontiac State hospital, 10 to 14 years old.

With this program, which will include planting, caring for growing plants and reaping the harvest, a group of 4-11 boys will join the club in a supervisory capacity.

"WE LIKE to feel we are really helping these people," Mrs. Adams said. "We enjoy the work, but more than that we would like to know we have helped someone to a better life or to bear the burden of illness more easily."

"Throughout the program, any time we called upon her, Mrs. Burlingame has been ready to give us a lift. She has given us the ideas we have put to use, spear-headed, all our programs and then encouraged us to take over and carry on. We are deeply in her debt."

The answer as to whether or not the program has been successful is quite clearly demonstrated in the following statement:

"Patients feel that volunteers who donate their time and show continued interest in them, most really care for them," said Dr. John M. Stevens, assistant medical superintendent at Pontiac State hospital.

A GREENHOUSE and outside garden plan was worked out for wheelchair and stretcher cases. Mrs. William Hyland, chairman of the hortotherapy work, with the help of Mrs. Stanley Krentel, Mrs. E. J. Worden and others, took over this project.

Pontiac State hospital tied the work in with its regular occupational-therapy program. Flower arranging, it was found, created a very active interest among the patients, many of whom went on to making corsages and doing more elaborate work.

The idea of sharing with and working for others has grown from the projects, with patients preparing floral gifts for some who are unable to enter the program.

In this particular place, the Birmingham and Pontiac chapters are cooperating. Some others who have worked here from Birmingham are Mrs. Gardiner, Mrs. S.



MRS. S. E. HEMSTEGER SUNNY AND SCOTTY ROLLER
Scotty looks on while sister gets further instruction. (Eccentric Photo)

superintendent at Pontiac State hospital.

"We have been very pleased with the results of horticultural therapy," Dr. Stevens continued, "and very much appreciate the interest, which the Birmingham chapter of the National Farm and Garden club has shown in our hospital."

He pointed out that a class in flower arrangements and making corsages has been held in the women's occupational therapy section each Tuesday morning since Oct. 6, 1953.

"One reason for the continued interest of patients may be that they are allowed to keep their corsages to wear at the OT dances. Whatever, Mrs. Eleanor McCurry, director of the department, reports the horticultural therapy rates with her as 'truly superlative.'"

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