



Pioneering The 'Big Sister' Program

It was a happy "first" meeting in the offices of the Family Service Agency as Shirley Butts, standing right, the first "Little Sister" in Washington County, met her "Big Sister" Mrs. Richard Dellinger, left,

to start a new venture in both their lives.

With them center, is Mrs. Gaven Sencindiver, Big Sisters coordinator, who has worked with establishing the need, and the setting up of the Big Sister program here.

The Big Sister Program Locally Begins With First Relationship

"Somewhere in Hagerstown a girl stands at the crossroads of her life... ready to take an important step toward her future. The Big Sister Program puts you at her side at this crucial time to help lead her in the right direction."

This was part of a letter sent out by the Family Service Agency of Washington County, telling the facts of the forming of the Big Sister Program here. Monday afternoon, the "first" volunteer or "Big Sister" met, for the first time, the young lady whom she would guide toward a better future.

For Mrs. Richard Dellinger and young Shirley Butts, it was love at first sight. Both knew that they would get along together and plans were excitedly made for things both could do in the future. "The first thing planned is that Shirley will come to my house and bake cookies and make popcorn," revealed Mrs. Dellinger, the kindly mother of three, who are now pretty well grown. "I now have the time to do something like this," she smiled at Shirley.

Happy Plans

She also revealed that "Shirley just loves to go skating so we'll have to do that and we will play games and work out puzzles together." Mrs. Dellinger realizes that this isn't a now and again sort of thing. She knows that she will be spending several hours each week with Shirley, and follow this with telephone calls to keep in close touch. But, as Shirley gave her broad smile and let her know that she wasn't shy any more, Mrs. Dellinger

knew that the task would be worthwhile.

Shirley's mother, Mrs. Daisy Butts, was also present for this meeting. "I felt Shirley really needed some one to give her more attention, for, with nine children, sometimes she gets left out. It's nice that the Big Sisters are being formed because I tried to get a Big Brother for my son and there just weren't enough volunteers to get one for him."

Mrs. Gaven Sencindiver of the Family Service Agency, who is the Big Sisters coordinator, noted this has not been the case with Big Sisters. To date she has had a number of volunteers and as soon as the program takes on momentum there will be Big Sisters enough to go around.

Shirley is in the fourth grade of Boster School. She was referred to the program by Alan Shane of the Board of Education but Shirley wanted her teacher, Mrs. Bowers, to get some credit also. This is a "first" for the program, so Shirley's position is unique.

Mrs. Sencindiver stressed also that applications are still being received for participation in the program. She gave credit to the Hagerstown Zonta Club for giving the first \$1,000 that gave the program its start. "The United Fund is allowing the use of staff time to conduct this program," Mrs. Sencindiver related, "and the board of directors of the organization spent quite a few months establishing the need."

What It Is

What is "Big Sisters?" Mrs. Sencindiver calls it a "two-way adventure in friendship

... an unusual concept in social work where you can make the difference between the success or failure of a human life.

"The Big Sisters Program is a youth guidance activity with an important difference. It works on a "One Woman - One Girl" concept. The friendship of a volunteer is backed by the skill of a trained social worker. As a result, a girl who lacks the guidance of a father and/or mother, or who has not been able to develop a meaningful and positive relationship with any adult and needs help will be able to profit by a meaningful and therapeutic relationship with a Big Sister."

To be a Big Sister any interested person must be over 21 years of age and willing to accept the challenge. All Big Sisters are volunteers. They are women who understand and appreciate the art of friendship. The process in becoming a Big Sister is quite simple. Applicants must first be screened by the professional staff of the Family Service Agency. If accepted, they are made completely familiar with the proven procedures that have been developed through the years.

Compatibility Needed

After orientation, a Little Sister is assigned. The selection of a Little Sister is based as far as possible on compatibility of personalities, social compatibility, on common interests, and, where indicated, a mutual religious faith.

Big Sister work for women is a challenging and satisfying experience, one that stimulates a deep and

absorbing interest in their lives and their affairs. The Big Sister has no legal or financial responsibility towards her Little Sister and usually combines her meetings with the girl with other social and recreational activities.

There is no set answer to the question of how much time it will take. Each girl and her Big Sister make their own plans as discussed with the staff person at the time of the assignment. Each young girl is a distinct individual, who has her own unique needs. No set plan could possibly hope to be as successful as the spontaneous meetings arranged by the two friends themselves.

Who is a Little Sister? Mrs. Sencindiver says she is "a little girl who needs friendship, affection, guidance and sometimes, most of all, needs the example of a mature, loving, understanding woman. She may be emotionally deprived, fatherless, motherless, or she may have a mother who hasn't the time to spend with her or may not have the ability to guide and direct her as she should. She may just be an unhappy child who needs a meaningful relationship with a fine woman."

Little Sisters are referred to the Big Sister Program by schools, courts, other social agencies, the clergy, and many times by parents who feel inadequate to meet the child's needs. The age range is from six to 16.

Mrs. Richard Dellinger and Shirley Butts eloquently tell the story of the needs, and the person who can help alleviate these needs, in the Big Sister program.

With North High's Orchestra Violist And String Clinician To Appear In Symphony Concert

North Hagerstown High School's Symphony Orchestra is having a very special concert Thursday evening, March 15, in the auditorium of the school.

At this time the noted violist and string clinician, Raymond Montoni, will appear as guest soloist, playing "Concerto For Viola and Orchestra" by Hoffmeister.

The orchestra, under the direction of Marvin W. Hurley, will play the Overture to the opera "Nabucco" by Verdi; "Symphony No. 8 in F Major" by Beethoven; Proclamation of "The Meistersingers" by Wagner; and the concert theme from "A Century of Music" and "The Romantic Period."

Raymond Montoni is a graduate of the Hart College of Music and the Catholic University of America. His further studies include three summers as principal violist and soloist with the orchestra of the Berkshire Music Center.

He subsequently served as principal violist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the U.S. Air Force Symphony and the Santa Fe Opera Company. For five seasons he was a member of the Casals Festival Orchestra in San Juan, Puerto Rico and he has appeared as a performer at the Marlboro Music Festival.

Through his association with American Youth Performs, Montoni has conducted two concerts of an all-American Youth Orchestra at New York's Carnegie Hall as well as numerous other youth orchestras throughout the country. His other conducting activities have included the direction of the Duquesne University Orchestra in Pittsburgh and the Greenville Symphony Orchestra.

The artist has appeared throughout the United States as a soloist, chamber music performer, conductor and string clinician. He is currently an associate professor of music at Kent State University where his activities include teaching violin and viola, coaching chamber music, and teaching classes in string pedagogy.

He is the violist in the Kent String Quartet, in residence at Kent State.

The public is invited to attend this concert. Tickets will be available at the door or from any member of North High's Symphony Orchestra.



RAYMOND MONTONI

Proud Parents

Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Shipley, Route 5, announce the birth of their second child and first daughter, Jennifer Beth, February 26.

Dr. and Mrs. Wallace E. Rogers, Mt. Lena Rd., Route 2, Smithsburg, announce the birth of their second child and first daughter, Valerie Lynn, February 14, Valentine's Day. Mrs. Rogers is the former Peggy Louise Mattingly of Louisville, Ky.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Kelly, Sabillasville, announce the birth of their first child, a son, Kolin Patrick, February 12. Mrs. Kelly is the former Gail Weise of Lebanon, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. William Frederick Munson, 308 W. Lincoln Ave., Halfway Manor, announce the birth of their second child and first son, William Frederick Munson Jr., February 23. Mrs. Munson is the former Mary Kock of Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Burger, 1237 Potomac Ave., announce the birth of their second child, a daughter, Karen Michelle, on February 23. Mrs. Burger is the former Teresa Repp.

Mr. and Mrs. Arlin D. Eby, 218 N. North St., Maugansville, announce the birth of their first child, a son, Marlin Daniel, March 1. Mrs. Eby is the former Ruth E. Martin of Hagerstown.

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News From The Club World

County Auxiliary Officers To Meet

There will be a meeting of all officers of the Washington County Fire Auxiliary, at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 11, in the Fairplay Fire Hall.

Presidents of all the county auxiliaries are also asked to attend.

Delegates Named By Sisterhood

Mrs. William C. Burkhardt and Mrs. Alvin J. Plummer will represent Chapter I, P.E.O. Sisterhood, as the elected delegates to the 14th Maryland State Convention of that organization to be held at the Holiday Inn, Gaithersburg, April 24-25.

Mrs. Burkhardt and Mrs. Plummer are the newly elected president and vice-president of the Hagerstown-based chapter of the national philanthropic, educational organization.

Other officers are Mrs. John F. Macpherson, recording secretary; Mrs. Edward A. Nixon, corresponding secretary; Mrs. John C. Burrey, treasurer; Mrs. Gordon Burner, chaplain; and Mrs. Atlee C. Kepler, guard. New initiates are Mrs. Lawrence Angle and Mrs. Robert B. Murdock.

One of the philanthropies of the sisterhood is the operation of an educational loan fund, a revolving fund established in 1907 to lend money to women to complete their education.

St. Patrick's Dance Announced

The Gad-Abouts Square Dance Club will hold a St. Patrick's Dance, Saturday, March 10, from 8 to 11 p.m., in the Wacooh Grange Hall.

George Sword will call the tips. Guest clubs for the evening will be the Gateway Swingers and the Fair Squares.

All area club dancers are invited to attend.

Xi Epsilon Plans Mardi Gras Night

Xi Epsilon Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority held its February meetings in the clubroom.

On February 8, Fran Koons presented a program on cosmetology, giving an insight into the training required to follow this vocation.

On February 22, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Gruber presented slides and spoke on a recent trip to Germany and the Olympic Games.

Plans were made for a Mardi Gras night to be held, March 31, at the Funkstown Legion Hall.

Dinner-Dance Set By Engineers

The Mason-Dixon Chapter of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers will hold its 9th Annual Dinner-Dance Friday, March 16, at the Sheraton Motor Inn.

A cocktail hour will precede dinner, beginning at 7 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:45 and the installation ceremony will take place at 8:45. Dancing, to tunes provided by the Andy Ray Quartet will begin at 9:30.

Dinner table reservations must reach the program chairman, Gulam Puthawala, c/o Mack Trucks Inc. by Wednesday, March 14.