

Know Your Neighbor

Mary Ward is school 'social worker, confidant'

"Home and school visitor," that is the title Mary Ward carries in the Dallas School District. But



Mary Ward

Ambulance

DALLAS

Nov. 6 Willard Crane, Dallas Motel, to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. Crew: B. Bessecker, J. Davies.
 Nov. 6 Ida Mae Van Horn, 891 Main St., Dallas, to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. Crew: T. Carroll, J. Davies.
 Nov. 6 Troy Kopusky, Bryant's Trailer Park, RD. 3, Dallas, to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. Crew: J. Davies, Anne Davies.
 Nov. 7 Fire support, Valley View Trailer Park, Dallas. Crew: B. Bessecker.
 Nov. 8 Football game support, Dallas High School. Crew: D. Bessecker, Kay Wright, J. Torr.

the title doesn't begin to indicate the many hats she wears in her position.

Mary is a social worker, psychologist, confidant, friend, and advisor both to the students and the parents with whom she works. She deals with the whole child in their academic, social and emotional needs and problems. She works with the students in school and at home as well as with their parents. She also works with agencies in trying to solve the problems of some of the children. Mary is constantly trying to direct the students along the right road using every resource at her fingertips.

She works with children from kindergarten through 12th grade and becomes well acquainted with the

students as they progress through the grades. She establishes friendships with the students and their parents and has found that most parents are concerned with the welfare of their children.

In recent years, Mary has found drugs and child abuse two of the major problems with which she has had to deal. She has also had problems such as starvation in families and lack of shelter or clothing.

Few people realize the many beneficial deeds performed by diminutive, attractive, Mary Ward. Her eyes sparkle and she radiates enthusiasm when she talks about the many wonderful people with whom she has worked. She is very modest about the many families who have benefited from her efforts. Her cases are very

personal and could never be related publicly. Mary has four primary responsibilities in her work, cooperating with the child, working with parents toward helping the child have a good educational experience; working with the school in making certain that the child has the best educational situation; and cooperating with community agencies and securing their resources.

Sitting in her office talking about her family and leisure time interests, it is difficult to realize the tremendous round-the-clock activities pursued by Mary Ward to obtain successful results in solving a child's problem.

The qualifications necessary for her work are many beginning with a degree in social work plus

graduate credits. Mary is also certified to teach social studies. Experience required is work with social agencies, mental hygiene, counseling, tests and measurements, school and community relationships, applied psychology, child development, and a course in school law.

Despite her many qualifications, Mary is first a mother which probably has been an important factor in her success.

A resident of the Back Mountain for 25 years, their's was the third home built in New Goss Manor. Her husband, Henry, who is a sales representative, built the home. He is best known in this area for his avocation - building airplanes. He is a licensed pilot and has flown thousands of miles.

Henry has built a "Pitts" special, an experimental plane which he has flown thousands of miles and with which he has won many prizes.

The Wards have one daughter, Elaine, graduate of Dallas High School, and now a student in college pursuing a degree in psychology. "But", said Mary, "I feel as though I love every one I work with at school."

Mary told the Post that she has never found a child she disliked. Sometimes she becomes frustrated because she sees them destroying themselves but she tries her best to help them.

The former Mary Heness of Edwardsville, she is the daughter of the late Charles and Margaret

Hammonds Heness. She graduated from Edwardsville High School and received a B.A. degree in social work and psychology from Bucknell University. Mary did graduate work at Marywood, University of Scranton, Temple University and Wilkes College.

Prior to accepting her present position at Dallas, Mary worked for numerous agencies among them the Children's Service Center where she was residence director; at the YMCA, Jamestown, N.Y., as program director; and at West Side Settlement where she became executive director. The last position she held before coming to Dallas was at the Wilkes-Barre YWCA, Wilkes-Barre, as program director. While there she set up parent groups, Homemaker Programs in Wilkes-Barre, Mountaintop and the Back Mountain which ran over six week periods. During the five six-week periods, she set up over 100 classes. Mary also set up group therapy and counseling classes.

Mary is not a joiner but is a member of Shavertown United Methodist Church. She has taught Sunday School for 20 years but not the full time at the Shavertown Church.

She is a member of the YWCA, a favorite agency of hers, Museum of Natural History, and the SPCA. She loves animals.

Until her daughter completed her scouting years, Mary worked as a volunteer with the local council.

She has very little leisure

time for her position requires working at all times and she makes herself available at times convenient to families.

Mary enjoys her home. She also likes to sew and makes many of her own and her daughter's clothes. She likes to cook and has a variety of recipes.

Swimming is her first love. During the summer she spends afternoons at the lake or in a pool. In the winter, you will find her at the YWCA pool. You may be sure, she is an excellent swimmer.

She started to teach swimming when she was 14 years old and holds certificates in water safety, life saving, synchronized swimming, and others.

She likes traveling but to date has been limited to the Eastern Seaboard because of time and position. She is looking to the future for this.

That Mary likes her work is obvious. No matter what the topic of conversation she soon comes back to her work. She admits that it is frustrating at times but interesting. She gains great satisfaction from seeing a child put back into the mainstream of society. Her biggest thrill is knowing that they go on and graduate and be successful in their life.

Mary told the Post she had one piece of advice for all parents. She would like every parent to listen to their children. If their child appears to be troubled or has a complaint, she wants them to come and talk to her. She will try to help the child or the parents or, if necessary, both.

Union fights for moratorium

Gerald W. McEntee, executive director of the state's public employees union, sent Governor Milton J. Shapp a letter on Nov. 3 asking he stop plans to phaseout Retreat State Hospital in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

McEntee indicated the State should "observe an immediate moratorium on Retreat State Hospital

activities." He said, "The moratorium should remain in effect until the special commission, proposed by the Legislature Budget and Finance Committee, has gathered enough information to make judicious and responsible decisions regarding the mental health delivery system in Pennsylvania." McEntee said in closing,

"We respectfully submit, it is incumbent upon you to order a cessation of phaseout plans and to enter jointly into the Special Commission so the needs of Pennsylvania's mentally ill may be met."

G of H sets open house

The Gate of Heaven Parent Teachers Guild Board members held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 8 p.m.

The school will hold its annual "Open House" on Sunday, Nov. 16 from 2 to 4 p.m.

UGI reports 13% hike in earnings

UGI Corp. reported that earnings for the nine months ended Sept. 30 increased 13 percent to \$6,970,000 or \$1.71 per common share from \$6,186,000 or \$1.49 per share for the corresponding period a year ago.

Total operating revenues increased 15 percent to \$117,153,000 from \$101,985,000.

Arthur E. Bone, president, said utility results were up 14 cents, and non-utility contributions to earnings increased by 8 cents per share for the period. Nine months 1975 revenues include \$5,280,000 of additional revenues realized from gas and electric rate increases.

Bone reported that net income also includes \$580,000 or 14 cents per share, from a long-term leveraged lease agreement entered into last March by subsidiary Ugite Gas Inc.

A \$6,600,000 gas rate increase became effective Oct. 15, 1975, the first step of a two-part \$15,700,000 rate boost filed July 31. The second step was suspended by the Public Utility Commission for a period up to six months.

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Robert Packer to offer EMT program

An Emergency Medical Technician-Ambulance (EMT-A) training program for area ambulance drivers will begin Sunday, Nov. 16, at the Robert Packer Hospital.

The sessions will be held weekly on Sunday evenings from 7-10, in the Patterson Education Building of the Robert Packer Hospital with completion of the course set for May 23, 1976.

The course is open to ambulance corps members from either the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or New York State. Students who successfully complete the course will be certified as

an EMT-A by either state. Applications for the course have been mailed to all area ambulance corps. Those who wish to enroll in the program may obtain an application from their ambulance corps or contact the Coordinator, EMT-A Program, Robert Packer Hospital, Sayre, Pennsylvania 18840.

Enrollment for the course is limited to 40 students. Cost for the course is \$25 which includes tuition, text books, and other printed materials. The fee is payable at the first class session.

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