

Distaff Side Lives Longer

Females Outclass
Males Healthwise

CHICAGO (AP)—Women not only have a 6-year-longer life span than men but apparently live more hale and hardy lives.

A nationwide hospital survey has shown that men patients outnumbered women patients by 77,720 late in 1953—642,155 men to 564,435 women.

This was despite the fact that an average of one-sixth of all persons admitted to hospitals are pregnant women.

The women outclassed the men healthwise in every age bracket. Even in the childbearing ages of 15 to 44 years there was an excess of 13,233 males in the 6,539 registered hospitals covered in the survey.

BIG SURPRISE

Results of the survey, made by the Bureau of Medical Economics Research of the American Medical Assn., came as a big surprise. Voluntary health insurance plans show more females than males utilize this service.

Frank G. Dickinson, Ph.D., bureau director, said it was believed when the survey started that no more than 40 to 45 per cent of the patients would be males.

"The evidence of higher hospital incidence or morbidity rates of males strongly implies that they are the sicker and more hospitalized sex," he said.

The breakdown in other age brackets showed there was an excess of 11,353 males in the age group of 14 and under, an excess of 51,185 males in the 45-64 years age group and an excess of 1,949 males in the 65 and over group. Females made up slightly more than half the nation's population—50.3 per cent. However, the survey showed that males made up 53.2 of the hospital patients.

AMA COMMENT

There were 98,605 more males than females in Veterans Administration hospitals. However, in nongovernmental hospitals women exceeded men by 64,631.

The AMA Journal commented editorially:

"If this survey has demonstrated that males rather than females are the weaker sex, part of the explanation must be found in federal hospital practices. Another speculation is that the factor of childbearing is more than offset in the sex ratio of hospital patients by male veterans. Accidents and occupational hazards may play a role, but they hardly explain the excess of 11,400 boys among patients under 15 years of age. This survey has established that males are the more hospitalized sex."

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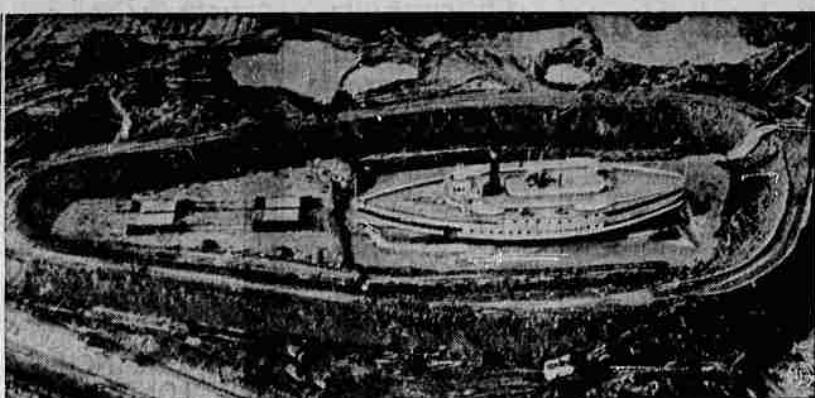
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LOOKING AHEAD TO 1956

Y Leaders Planning Program

YMCA and YWCA leaders in the area are now planning an activities program for all age groups from "nine to 90" that will go into operation the minute the new Central Lane Y building is completed early in 1956.

Both organizations are currently offering as many activities as the limited Y Center facilities and services of a small staff will permit. Both realize that their present programs are inadequate to serve the Central Lane Area. And both groups are working now on plans for a broader, more attractive over-all program that can be started with acquisition of the new building just east of Eugene High School. (Bids on the structure will be called Jan. 28, and construction should start soon after.)

Mrs. Carl Newcomb, YWCA secretary, has pointed out that the YWCA is now offering "all the program we have room for." She noted that some activities considered standard by the YWCA have had to be dropped or have never been started for lack of facilities.

In recent months the YWCA has offered classes in English for the foreign-born, body conditioning courses for women, folk dancing, junior social dancing and bridge classes. Other activities have included the Junior Canteen (YMCA-YWCA sponsored), a children's tap class, Y-Wives (service and social group for young married women), and public coffee hour programs.

The nursery for the Y-Wives group has been placed in the YWCA business office, but the new building will have a nursery.

SPECIAL EVENTS
In addition the YWCA sponsors Y-Teen in the high schools of Eugene and Springfield, and such special events as the annual Festival of Nations, held this year in at the Y Center.

This program will be enlarged in many ways in the new building, Mrs. Newcomb said. The YWCA wants more membership meetings, Young Adult and Businesswomen's Clubs, all types of swimming and physical education activities, and an expanded teenage program. It would like to offer members all types of special interest groups, crafts, and service projects. A better program is needed for older women, including gym work and crafts.

"The new facilities will enable the Ys to offer activities in many fields. Many of them will start when we find what the members want to do," Mrs. Newcomb declared. "With the new space and equipment we will be able to offer an amazing range of physical, social and cultural activities to women of all ages. Of course much of our program will be educational or family type, and all programming will be worked out jointly by the YMCA and YWCA."

A. F. Holmer, YMCA secretary, pointed out that he and many other men in the Central Lane area "have been dissatisfied with the limited services now offered by the YMCA."

"The present Y Center has always been considered a stepping

stone," Holmer said. "Earlier Y programs have performed a service to the community, but we are now at the point where that service is not adequate. All we had to do was wait until there is enough dissatisfaction with the limited program we could handle. When this happened, the effort was made to provide the new building."

The YMCA now sponsors sports such as volleyball, basketball and softball. These are carried on in borrowed or rented gyms. Ping-pong, pool and games are available at the Y Center. The YMCA sponsors High Y and Junior Hi-Y groups in Eugene and Springfield, co-sponsors teen-canteens, and puts on the annual youth and government sessions.

In order to meet even the minimum requirements of the standard Y program, the YMCA program will have to be expanded enormously. That is why both the YMCA and YWCA are doing some serious planning with an eye to occupation of the new quarters.

In addition to the YMCA's expanded gym program there will be scheduling for the swimming pool to be worked out. Plans must be made for operation of the businessmen's club, open to all men of the area. As in the case of the YWCA, many of the

YMCA program details will be determined by desires of the members.

"Up to now we have never even been able to plan a program for youngsters of the elementary school level," Holmer pointed out. "With the new facilities we can offer them a good program. We have had no central gym where young men interested in sports can gather. The new building will provide this center for afternoon and evening recreation. In the building we hope to have something for everyone—from nine to 90. For younger boys we would like to initiate the Indian Guide program. We want lots of family night activities, and we want other community groups to use this building."

"We want to interest Y members in hobby and craft groups, all kinds of athletic and swimming activities, forum and discussion groups, conditioning classes, organized gym classes, handball, and anything else they may want. For the first time we are to have a building that will allow an almost limitless program."

Most important of all, we want our program at least basically planned and organized by the time we move in. That's why we and the YWCA are starting the program planning now."

MONEY?

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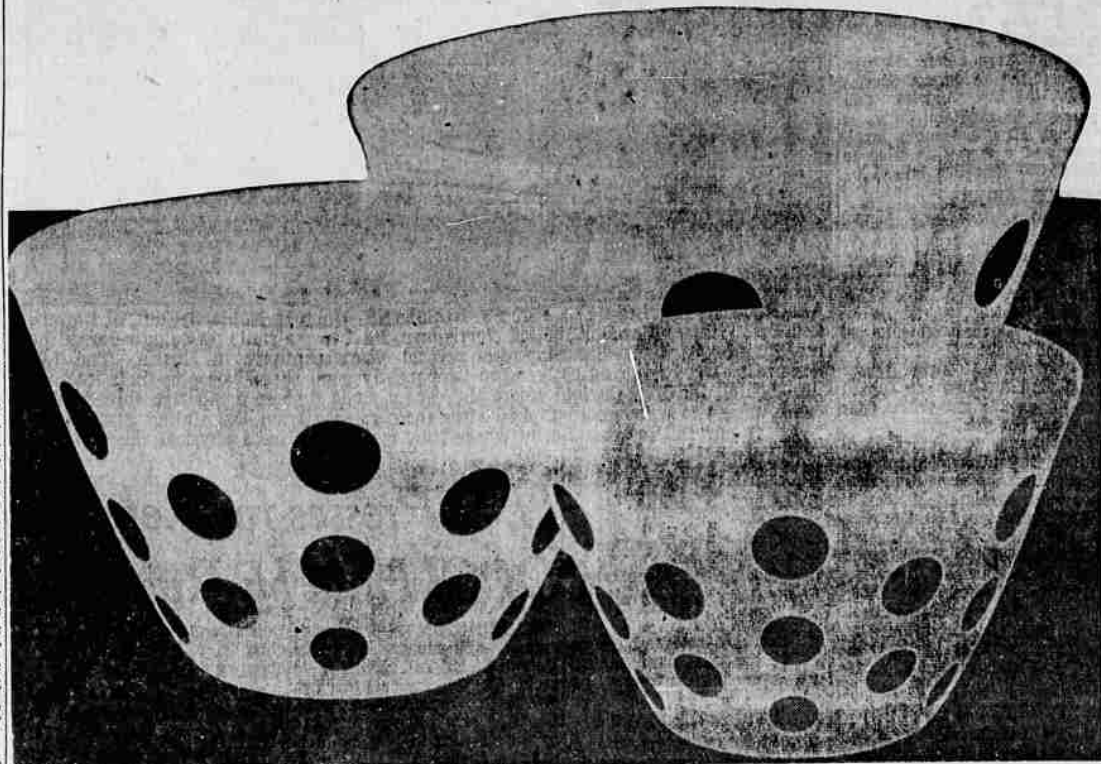
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