

Governor's Mother Campaigns From Hospital

RENO--One of the hardest campaigners in the state is directing the activities of some 500 women from her hospital bed at St. Mary's.

Mrs. Byrd-Sawyer, mother of incumbent Gov. Grant Sawyer, is chairman of the state-wide "Gals For Grant" volunteer organization. Mrs. Sawyer, a noted educator, historian and author of several textbooks on Nevada's history, was injured in a fall at her home a few days prior to the September primary election.

But a broken shoulder, and knee to match, won't get the best of her, she vows, despite the long period of hospitalization she still faces. "Just about the only thing I won't be able to do is join the 'Gals' on their state-wide junket this month," Mrs. Sawyer said.

LONG ACTIVE in the Democratic party, Mrs. Sawyer holds weekly planning conferences with Washoe County 'Gals' co-chairmen Ellie Campbell and Ruth Maag and small county coordinator Melissa Roventini, plus fielding dozens of phone calls from all over Nevada.

"Look at the job our 'Gals' in every county are doing right now," the energetic chairman commented. "Why, they met the Democratic Caravan at all stops, acting as hostesses and getting out the voters. And, with a hard-working dedicated group of women like this to work with, I am getting the best medicine in the world."

Considered one of the most knowledgeable women politically in the state, Mrs. Sawyer flatly predicts success for her son in the November election. "And that is just not maternal pride or loyalty," she reminds her visitors. "He's the best Governor we've ever had, and we better keep him."

Utterly feminine--with a penchant for fluffy bed jackets and sheer nightwear--Byrd Sawyer amazes even her oldest friends with her determination to participate in this campaign. "I can't figure out why people think just because I broke a knee and shoulder I would sit this one out. I didn't hurt my head, you know," she said.

Hospitals and Byrd Sawyer are not strangers to each other, but she has seldom been a patient. For many years she worked side by side with her late husband, Dr. H.W. Sawyer, in Fallon, and fondly recalls watching and participating in the growth of the hospital there to the excellent facility it is today.

JUST A FEW years ago she did, however, break a hip and stunned doctors and nurses at St. Mary's by leaving under her own power in record time.

Her room at St. Mary's Hospital in recent weeks has been "just like a Democratic state convention," one friend and frequent visitor commented, "but Byrd has had almost as many Republican visitors, too. People love and admire her so much."

Blessed with a wry sense of humor, energy to spare, plus the gift of stimulating others into action, Byrd Sawyer seems the natural choice as chairman of any group--like the lady said, she didn't hurt her head in the accident.

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MEMO TO MOTHERS FROM DOROTHY JOHNSON

Handwashing is quite important and mothers should teach their children how essential it is. A few weeks ago, the incident of a necessity for more than 200 of our children in the West Las Vegas area to undergo medical examinations should alert all the mothers in this community to stress cleanliness.

Use of soap with hexachlorophene is mild to the skin yet moves bacteria, as well as dirt, and builds up resistance to bacteria between washings.

Dr. Chas. West suggests these steps for effective handwashing.

1. Moisten hands under hot running water.
2. Work up a good lather with anti-bacterial

soap, completely covering hands and wrists.

3. Pay particular attention to areas between fingers and around nails where bacteria are likely to lodge. As often as possible, use a brush to scrub hands.
4. Rubbing hands together, rinse under hot water, fingers pointing down.
5. Dry thoroughly, using disposable paper towels or individual towels for each family member.
6. Remember when preparing foods, handling a baby, at meal and bedtime, to lather and rinse hands twice.

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