Marilyn McCoo Is Special Guest At Pageant

Marilyn McCoo, special guest star in this year's Miss America Pageant, says she understands the high emotions of the young women who will be vying for the crown when the Miss America Pageant is telecast live on NBC Saturday, Sept. 11 (10 pm to midnight NYT). (Gary Collins makes his debut as host.)

Ms. McCoo once took part in a local west coast competition, the Miss Bronze California Pageant, and turned up winner. "I had my eye on their Grand Talent Award because I felt that was going to be my big break. I won singing 'Our Love is Here to Stay.'"

Competition is a way of life for McCoo: "Being competitive is part of my nature. There have been times when I've been knocked down emotionally and I've lost confidence in myself but not for long. You've got to be a survivor whatever you do. You've got to know that you're going to make it or else you won't."

McCoo came to national

Sunday

fame as a member of the acclaimed musical group the 5th Dimension. She now begins her second season as co-host of the syndicated musical variety series "Solid Gold."

variety series "Solid Gold."

McCoo and her husband,
Billy Davis Jr., also a former
5th Dimension member, have
performed as a duo but are
now doing individual work.
"We both want to have the
opportunity of maximizing
our potential as far as performing is concerned but we also
want to hold our marriage



MARILYN McCOO

have to dovetail our schedules so that we can have time together."

McCoo's parents are both

together," McCoo said. "We

McCoo's parents are both doctors but medicine was not their sole interest: "Both my parents wanted to perform. I have to thank them for the fact that I did for my career what I always wanted to do."

McCoo's sisters are also successful professionals: Glenda Wina is a newscaster for a Los Angeles television station; and Millie McCoo, who has served in the United States foreign service in Haiti and Madagascar and on the Ivory Coast, is now assigned to Washington, D.C.

Health-Wise

LEUKEMIA

Allan R. Magie, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Leukemia, a childhood tragedy. The word strikes fear in parents, even though adults are more likely to be affected.

Leukemia is a disease that affects the blood-manufacturing areas of the body. Simply put, the body makes too many abnormal white blood cells. This leads to: (1) anemia, caused by the production of fewer red blood cells; (2) excessive bleeding, due to a reduced number of platelets—the clotting agents; and (3) infections, because the leukemia cells lack the infection-fighting ability of normal white blood cells.

The disease is a serious problem. It kills more American children between the ages of 2 and 15 than any other disease and it kills more adults than children. Men are more affected than women. In the United States about 55,000 people will contract leukemia each year, and over 30,000 will die.

Leukemia can occur in one of two forms. Acute leukemia develops rapidly and its victims have only a short life expectancy—a few weeks to a few months. This form is most often seen in children. In its chronic form, leukemia progresses slowly, and with proper treatment life expectancy is 3 to 20 or more years. The chronic form affects mostly adults, although both forms can occur at any age.

Symptoms of leukemia mimic other common ailments, though they eventually become more severe and persistent. Weakness, chronic fatigue, pale complexion (anemia); high fever; pain in the bones and joints, swelling of the lymph nodes, liver and



spleen; bleeding without clotting; bruising easily; and repeated infections are typical. If any of these symptoms occur often or persist, seek medical help at once. Early detection means more effective treatment.

No one knows for sure what causes leukemia, but it's believed that a change in gene structure causes the uncontrolled growth of the abnormal white blood cells. Several factors suspected to be responsible are viruses, X-rays, other forms of radiation, certain birth defects, chemicals, and other environmental factors.

New treatments for leukemia are constantly being developed. Powerful drugs can bring about temporary improvement in about 50 to 90 percent of the cases, with some individuals apparently completely recovering. Antibiotics, blood and platelet transfusions, and bone marrow transplants have achieved some success as well.

While science continues to search for more clues to the cause and treatment of leukemia, you can live healthfully, and eat wisely to place yourself in the best possible position to maintain your health.

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