



DRS. SUSAN and JOHN E. DEES

the home," suggested Grufferman, assistant professor of community health sciences and pediatrics and director of epidemiology at the Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"We have different chores that we've worked out over the last eight years," said Kimm, assistant professor of pediatrics and community health sciences.

Cooperative Housekeeping

Housekeeping is a cooperative venture for the Osterhouts too. "The kids (ages 15, 13 and 12) like to work in the garden and help with the chores — interesting chores like welding pipes that I don't know anything about," said Syd, who is professor of microbiology, associate professor of medicine and associate dean for medical school admissions.

Although they have a household helper, her duties are limited. "She's there so the children never have to come home to an empty house," Shirley Osterhout said. "When they're sick, she's the person who stays with them all day. She will help transport the kids to activities, do laundry and start a roast so we won't have to eat dinner at midnight, but she's really a babysitter."

A Third Parent

"Instead of a big fancy car, we have a housekeeper who's willing to chaffeur the kids (ages 13 and 9) around," commented Robert Gutman, associate professor of medicine and chief of the nephrology section at the VA Hospital. "We look at this person as a third parent."

"She does the cleaning, but her major responsibility is to help the children and be a good influence," Laura added.

"You can't very well have a family and not have a substitute mother," said Susan Dees, whose four children are grown now. She and Laura Gutman were able to work part-time when their children were very young.

"The nice thing about being

doctors is that you're pretty much your own boss," Shirley Osterhout said. "If you have work to do, you can come in on weekends or even take it home. When emergencies do come up, one of us can get off.

Car Pools and Dancing Lessons

"Some young mothers have said to me that they're thinking of going back to school when their youngest child is in school and won't need them so much," Shirley said. "But kids' demands on you increase. When they're three, they need love and affection. When they're six, they need car pools and dancing lessons.

"As they get older," she said, "they also know the hours of the day and are aware of how you spend them. We feel an obligation to curtail our own social activities to be with the children."

Social lives and vacation scheduling suffer from the burden of professional commitments, all the couples agreed, but they do find time for hobbies and shared activities.

Shared interests in travel and local crafts are "what made us become buddies," Kimm said.

Terrible Wanderlust

"I guess we have a terrible wanderlust," Grufferman agreed. While he was in the Air Force, they traveled to numerous countries in Asia and Africa. And everywhere they went, they collected "ethnographic artifacts" such as pottery, woodblock prints, fabrics and dolls. While students at Harvard they "prowled the antique shops and museums" in New England, he said.

"The standing joke is 'Why don't you buy that? It would look so beautiful in storage,'" Kimm said.

Travel, including an African safari, attracts the Deeses too, but their favorite spot is their summer cottage on the North Carolina coast.

On their 50-acre tree farm, Harris, who is J. Buren Sidbury professor of pediatrics and professor of biochemistry, and Hijmans, assistant professor of medicine, train four

Siberian huskies, one of them a champion, and enjoy rifle target practice.

Chandeliers, Clocks, and Cars

He is a handyman, repairing all sorts of things from old chandeliers and clocks to cars, while she is a collector of stamps and coins and a musician, playing piano and accordion.

The McCartys share many common hobbies such as marine aquariums, chess and photography, but they call themselves "workaholics."

"It's an advantage being married to another doctor so your spouse understands that medicine is something you do 24 hours a day," Ken said.

"Medicine is a very important part of one's life," Harris commented. "Sometimes you have to change your plans at the last minute or go out to work at night. Since we both have the same orientation, it makes it a little easier."

Same Instincts

Having two medical careers in the family also "makes talk easy," Robert Gutman said. "We both have the same set of instincts, needs and reactions."

In addition similar professional interests allow the couples to justify traveling together to medical meetings.

Although most do not collaborate on research, they do help each other in discussing subjects and editing professional papers.

A Personal Consultant

"By having related but not identical interests, we pick up a broader perspective," Grufferman said. "It's like having a personal consultant."

Being married to another physician has other advantages too, he said. "For two people, we need only one set of journals and textbooks. When we were students, we studied together. We took carbon

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