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## A Forecast of Your Future

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# A Forecast

**H**OME ECONOMICS graduates seem to have a "weakness" for institutions. In the past 20 years 87 per cent have jumped from one institution — ISC — to another — Marriage! Child development majors have the greatest tendency to take the big step and technical journalism graduates the least. What's more, 80 per cent of the married CD graduates have children, though former household equipment students tend to have the largest families.

These are figures gathered by Jeanne Glasener as part of her Master Thesis research. She studied the personal and professional activities of home economics graduates from 1933 to 1952. Why? To find how well Iowa State students are prepared for entrance into family, community and world living and in what areas they feel better preparation is needed.

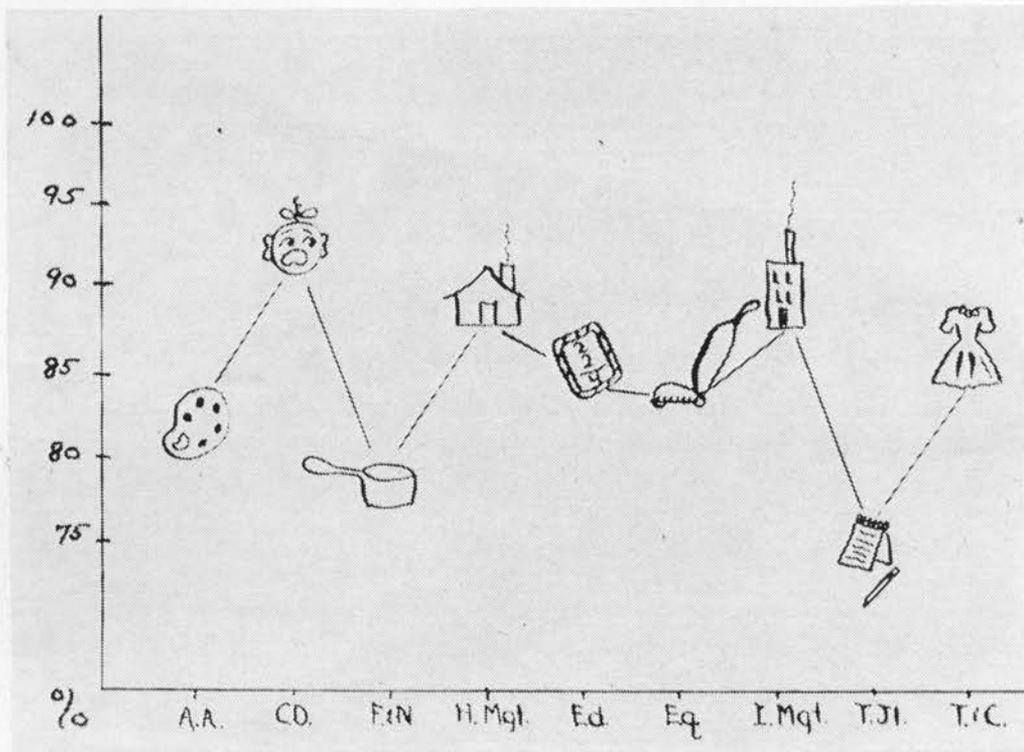
## Marital Status

More students are marrying before graduation than ever before. Over the 20-year period there was a significant increase in student weddings before graduation — from 4.6 per cent to 17.6 per cent, to be exact. Many marriages occurred soon *after* graduation, too. The average time between the two events was 2½ years with only 8 per cent of the grads waiting five years or more. At the time of the study, 81 per cent of the grads had children. While two was the most frequent number, 10 per cent had four children or more.

"Helping hubby in his work" was reported by 28 per cent of the women. Clerical and accounting were the most popular jobs. The present national trend toward wives working was reflected in the figure of 64 per cent employed after marriage, 42 per cent full time.

## Additional Schooling or Work

Advantages of formal education beyond the B.S. degree attracted one third of the home economics graduates to continue schooling, most of them within two years after graduation. Foods and nutrition ma-



What's your chance of marriage? Chart shows percentage of 1933-1955 graduates who were married at the time of survey according to their college major.

A shift from rural to urban living was indicated by the fact that over half of the graduates live in cities of 25,000 population or over, whereas one-fourth of the women reported they had lived in towns of 2,500 or under before entering college. This may be closely allied with the fact that 50 per cent of the women married men in professional, technical and kindred occupations. Only 11 per cent of the husbands were engaged in farming.

jors numbered high in this area with over half continuing and 40 per cent completing internships.

How many grads actually put their college learning to work in the professional world? Ninety one per cent of the home economics graduates were employed after college, 72 per cent full time. Education majors topped the other groups with 96 per cent going into paid positions. The average number of years worked was 3.8.

# of Your Future

## Results of Survey on what happens to Iowa State graduates

A well-rounded education is much more desirable than too much specialization — that's what employment records showed. Employment in the specific field studied in college was chosen by 70 per cent in first jobs, while 21 per cent took positions in other types of work. Most of the alumnae working in their major fields kept on in that area while half of those entering other fields soon changed around. In all, some 26 per cent of the grads were *never* employed in their major field.

Iowa State graduates tend to be officers in educational groups after college, but usually play the spectator role in professional and social groups. Good citizenship is the rule for former Iowa Staters — 95 per cent have voted since graduation — 37 per cent in all elections and 44 per cent in nearly all. Political and civic organizations, however, don't hold as much interest as service and welfare groups.

### Curriculum Recommendations

"Very helpful and adequate" was the description of the college curriculum studied by the majority of these women in relation to preparation for marriage and family life. Some graduates wished they had more training in child development, psychology and marriage and the family.

Again in the professional world, the majority of women used the words "helpful" and "adequate" in describing their college work. However, 40 per cent rated it "helpful but *not* adequate." The fact that 47 per cent admitted their curriculum hadn't challenged their best thinking indicates a possible need for curriculum changes.

World needs are changing, say grads of 20 years ago. They recommend a decrease in economics and chemistry requirements. More recent graduates favor keeping these courses as they are now. Highest percentages seeking decreases were in economics, chemistry, history and English composition. However, some alumnae felt there should be an increase in speech, English literature, American government, physiology and social science training. It is interesting to note that subject areas in which increases are desired already have courses in the core curriculum, so a change in course content rather than quantity may be in order to meet the needs of future graduates.

by Sandra Schnur

Dietetics Junior



The average home economics graduate waits two years before marriage according to this research survey. Only 8% of the 1933-1955 graduates waited five years or more.