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Recommended Citation
Hall, Phyllis (1959) "Little Things Mean A Lot," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 39 : No. 8 , Article 8.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol39/iss8/8

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Little Things Mean A Lot
by Phyllis Hall, H. Ec. 3

DO YOU WANT to make a good impression? Of course you do! During our college days we have the biggest opportunity to develop our "little" social graces as well as the big ones. In the rush of college life girls often neglect the little things that mean so much in making a good impression with their dates.

During informal interviews I have inquired to find some of the social manners girls neglect which dates find annoying. Some of these manners may sound simple and primary but it is very important to be aware of them. It is sometimes understood that ISU is lacking in social manners. It is our personal obligation to ourselves to show this is untrue.

Let us assume you are on a date - notice the many places in which we can accept small courtesies from our dates.

Coats often cause confusion. When your date calls for you, let him put your coat on for you, and when you arrive you should wait for him to help you take it off.

You should wait to have all doors opened for you. Many times girls forget to let their dates open the car door which is a courtesy the boy wants and expects to extend.

If you walk into a room and men stand - don't immediately rush for a chair. This does not mean to stand indefinitely but don't make your actions obvious. Always remember to stand when a housemother or an adult enters.

If you attend a movie or program, here is something to keep in mind. If there is an usher, the girl is expected to follow the usher. If there is no usher, let your date go first - he does not want to run down the aisle after you.

It is very discourteous to talk about "other" dates with your date. He cares little about the great time you enjoyed with someone else the night before. Your entire conversation can affect your whole impression.

Avoid actions expressing possessiveness in public places. Do not help him with his coat, straighten his tie, or brush lint from his coat. Personal habits like combing your hair in public, putting on lipstick and powder, and straightening your own clothes are not considered good taste.

These simple little things mean a lot to a good date. Any boy likes his date to be a perfect example. In all social graces as well as manners for any social occasion, remember that anything that makes you conspicuous is in bad taste. Always give full consideration to other people and you cannot help but make a successful impression.

March, 1960