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Senior Women's Views on —

Iowa State, Husband-Hunting Grounds

by Sylvia Noid, H. Jl. 3

Colleges and universities serve many purposes, and students have just as many reasons for attending them. But how many coeds would say they came to college to find a husband?

To get the students’ outlook on this topic, the Homemaker conducted a survey of senior women. The purposes of the survey were to determine if Iowa State is a “marriage mill,” to get opinions on social life at Iowa State and to see what opinions senior women have on the aspects of marriage.

The questionnaires were answered by 157 women. Ninety-eight of these were 21 years of age, 43 were 22 and the remainder were evenly distributed between the ages of 23 and 26 years.

The major curriculum of one third of these was home economics education. The remaining two thirds ranged from home economics to animal husbandry, industrial administration and chemical engineering.

The survey showed that 45 per cent of the women were engaged, 75 per cent of these planning to be married at the end of the school year. Fifty women were just looking, 16 were pinned, 15 were going steady or steadily and four were married. Of the 87 women who were married, engaged or pinned, 59 per cent said they met their husbands or future husbands at Iowa State. And if you’re wondering how they met, 20 met on blind dates. The others met in class or at parties, mixers, exchanges, church and home.

Fifty-seven women thought that 21-23 years was the proper age for marriage. However, those who were considering getting married at this age stated it as being the right age, while those who were “just looking” and had no immediate plans set the age much higher. As several women said, “It depends on the maturity of the individuals.”

The survey showed that there was quite a variance in the length of engagements, ranging from three months to three years. The majority of these were around one year. Fifty-nine per cent of the women stated they did not believe in long engagements.

Eighty per cent of the seniors surveyed said they would be working after marriage with the approval of their husbands and until there were children in the family.

Another question was, “Do you consider Iowa State to be a good hunting ground?” Fifty-eight per cent of those answering the question said yes, but there were several contrary comments. For instance, one woman said, “I haven’t seen a pheasant in the four years I’ve been here.” Another said, “How about letting some of the unattached fellows know there are still gals around here that are also unattached and are sitting at home!”

When asked if Iowa State provided the proper social life for finding a man, some of the attached women even joined in to say, “No!” Some felt that Iowa State needs to be more social-minded. One woman felt there should be greater opportunity for girls who don’t dance to meet men.

Lastly, the survey tried to determine the reasons these women actually came to college.

The survey showed that the major reasons were to be a more useful citizen, increase earning power and live a good life. Only a few said they came to get a man.