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What Do You Know About the World Situation?

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor and Fellow Home Economists,

I had been chosen last year to receive a four-week fellowship sponsored by the Danforth Foundation, which was founded by the late Wm. H. Danforth. This, for me, has proved to be the most enriching experience of my life.

There were 48 home economics seniors—one representative from each of 46 states, Canada, and Puerto Rico—present on the tour this summer. We spent the first two weeks of our fellowship in St. Louis, Missouri, as guests of the Ralston Purina Company, the company founded by Mr. Danforth. Our delightful host was Earl A. Sindecuse (affectionately known to all of us as “Sindy”), the public relations director at Purina. “Sindy” had a full schedule planned for us, and we were kept on our toes trying to keep up with him.

The fellowship was designed to help students make decisions, enlarge their horizons and broaden their contacts. Various phases of home economics and careers available were presented to us. We toured the nutrition research labs, test kitchens, an advertising agency, a textiles store, a large department store, a soap factory, a furniture store, a candy factory, a produce market, and the merchants’ exchange. We spent a whole day touring Barnes Hospital and Medical School.

At the end of the first two weeks, we had a stronger awareness of the common bond among all home economists as well as a better understanding of our own specific fields.

We then journeyed to Camp Miniwanca, where we joined the Freshmen “Danny Girls” and six hundred other girls for another challenging two weeks. Camp Miniwanca is a beautiful camp located on the shore of Lake Michigan, and here we contemplated and practiced the four-fold way of life outlined by Mr. Danforth: Physical, Mental, Social, and Religious.

Being a “Danny Girl” has greatly enriched my life, and I realize that life holds wonderful things for those who “dare” to develop their own personalities to become leaders for the world in which we live.

Sincerely,
Lois Davidson

What Do YOU Know About the World Situation?

Twenty-one senior women are taking a course this quarter that is refreshingly unique. No other course of its kind is available in Iowa. Topics discussed in the course vary from “ethical overtones and their effect on families of today” to “the effectiveness of education is strengthening the family.”

Seminar on Public Issues as Related to the Family is a two-credit course listed as Home Management 479. It is being offered this quarter for the first time. Enrollment was open to senior women with at least a 2.5 all-college average. The class meets for an hour and a half once a week. At each meeting a panel of students presents an issue for class discussion.

The public is invited to two OPEN MEETINGS of the seminar. On January 18, four women legislators of Iowa, Mrs. Lenabelle Bock, Miss Percie E. Van Alstine, Mrs. Katherine M. Falvey, and Mrs. Frances Hakes will discuss the homemaker’s role in the political climate of the state. On January 25, Dr. Richard Palmer, president of Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa, will discuss ethical overtones of our times and their meaning for our families. Both of these meetings will be held at 4 p.m., in the South Wing Auditorium of MacKay Hall.

The seminar is under the direction of Dr. Exce'l Eppright, assistant dean and professor, College of Home Economics, and a faculty panel which includes Dr. Geitel Winakor, assistant professor of textiles and clothing, Miss Candace Hurley, assistant extension editor, information service, and Dr. Gordon Bivens, associate professor of home management. These persons have expressed their feeling toward the need for such a course.

Each year it seems to be more difficult to be a well informed citizen in the face of the growing complexity of public issues. We are bombarded with endless facts and opinions by the daily press, radio, television, magazines, books, and the organizations to which we belong. And yet it is our duty as wives of the future leaders of our country, as mothers of future families, and as human beings in our society, to be well informed and to be able to discuss major issues intelligently. We must not only be able to discuss but to evaluate the information that we hear daily in relation to what we already know.

L.G.