1924

The Evolution of Home Economics - "Anecdotes of an Alumnus"

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Recommended Citation
Wilson, Ruth Elaine (1924) "The Evolution of Home Economics - "Anecdotes of an Alumnus";", The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 4 : No. 8 , Article 9.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol4/iss8/9

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The Evolution of Home Economics

By RUTH ELAINE WILSON

Fortune favored me in permitting me to be an ear witness to the reminiscences of this alumnus, to-wit, George P. Frazier, the class of '84, now a banker at Anamosa, Iowa.

"Yes," said Mr. Frazier, "I came all the way from Nevada, Iowa, to enroll as a student at Iowa State College." And as I smiled, "Well, I thought it was a long way and I know my family and I considered it too far to go home any during the year. I started out with twenty dollars."

"Twenty dollars" I exclaimed, "Why, I couldn't pay a month's board with that."

Mr. Frazier smiled. "Do you know what I paid for board per week in various places?" he asked. "Two dollars and fifteen cents! In addition, we paid fifty cents a year, the year around, for light and heat. My room rent per month was not over one dollar and as I remember not that much. Any work I did for the hotels, cafes and tea rooms in Colorado was considered it too far to go home any during the year. I started out with twenty dollars."

"But that wasn't as embarrassing for Ed as my botany trip was for me."

"Yes," I said. "Well, of course, we were absent quite often, just as often as we dared, in fact. One Sunday another fellow and I decided to cut chapel and go to the woods for botany specimens."

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College Girls Earn Their Way In the Rockies

By MARVEL SECOR

Many Home Economics students at Iowa State College who are interested in gaining practical experience in institutional administration have for the last few years had the opportunity to work during the summer months in various hotels, cafes and tea rooms in Colorado.

Eunice Peters, '15, assistant manager and hostess of the Hot Springs hotel this last summer, has come to Ames in the spring for several years to interview personally girls who have applied thru the college for positions in the West, and last year placed twelve Ames girls as waitresses, maids and salad girls. Rocky Mountain Lodges Inc., operating Grand Lake Lodge at Grand Lake, the Chalets at Estes Park and the Hot Springs Hotel at Hot Springs, Colorado, the Lewiston Hotel Company, operating the Lewiston Hotel and Cafe at Estes Park; and The Elizabeth Inn at Colorado Springs all look to Iowa State College to furnish girls who are capable of hard work, who take responsibilities and who give satisfactory service.

The tourist season extends mainly from June fifteenth to September fifteenth, although some of the hotels are open the year around. Girls who are accepted for positions must sign a contract to work a certain length of time, usually two months. Besides room and board, a small salary is given which covers living expenses. Dining room girls receive extra compensation in tips and certainly earn anything they receive.

Harvey service is used in all the hotels, where table d'hote (a set meal) and a la carte (meal according to menu) varieties of service are found. The girls who wait on tables have an equal number of chairs assigned, so that the work is evenly divided and they know for which tables they are responsible. All side work, such as filling sugar bowls and salt and pepper shakers, replacing soiled table linen and setting the tables, is done after each meal so that the dining room is in order for the next meal. All waitresses work under the head waitress, who seats the guests and sees that they have prompt attention.

Waitresses must learn to handle large trays, remember individual orders and serve in the most correct and efficient manner. In most hotels and cafes boys carry the heavy trays of dirty dishes to the kitchen. Cooperation between the employees and the management is necessary for a smooth running establishment, and any one other than officials who tries to domineer over the girls is met with much favor. In the kitchen the girls stand in line to receive their order from the chef over the steam table so that they are served in the order they enter the kitchen.

Salad girls have charge of planning and making the salads and mayonnaise and must keep the cost within a minimum. The amount of time spent in work depends on the place and season—usually there is time off between meals for recreation and rest. Hikes, steak fries in the mountains, trips by horseback and auto, spreads when mother sends a cake from home and other good times all help to make the experience a most enjoyable and memorable one.

It is often a test of patience to serve bad-natured people and the best of dispositions is ruffled at times by thoughtless guests, but the girls are urged to treat everyone with courtesy and overlook unjust criticisms. It is difficult to please the ever changing demands of the public for food and service, but college trained women have solved the problem by creating an atmosphere of refinement in the dining room, which brings respect for the persons there. A word of appreciation or encouragement from guests means a great deal to the girl who serves them and costs so little.

Suitable living quarters are provided for the girls, with an older woman who acts as chaperone. Rules similar to those in college must be enforced so that every one has plenty of rest. There are a great many things that might be said about the valuable experience gained from such an enterprise, but it is because of the fact that, although the work is hard, every girl would return to Colorado and work her way again if she could. The friendships, valuable lesson and good times will never be forgotten.
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over a waxed card, to prevent streaking by the absorption of dye by the card. As the dyes usually color the hands, rubber gloves are a convenience. Even then the hands are sometimes stained. Ammonia or washing soda will help remove the new dye. Use a refrigerator or keep in cold water in a cool place until the rinse water is clear, to keep the piece continually moving while in that color. To secure an even color with any dye, use a piece of batik, stirring well so that the dye penetrates all of the cracks, and then rinsing well to remove any free color. This process may be repeated with another color or even several colors, and is used extensively as a part of the design, either as spots in the design, as a background, or for borders for blouses, table scarfs, etc. Dyes vary in their tendency to dye evenly or in spots, and if the worker finds a color with a tendency to streak, special care must be used to keep the piece continually moving while in that color. To secure an even color with any dye, however, certain precautions should be observed. Always wet the material before dipping it in dye, use a vessel large enough to keep the cloth entirely under the water and moving freely, then keep a gentle motion so as to keep the dye from settling in any part.

After any process of dipping, rinse the piece until the rinse water is clear, then rinse well to remove any free color. Then rinse in clear gasoline. This will remove the wax enough for repeated dyeing if desired. After the dyeing is completed, the piece of batik to be sure there is no free dye, use a refrigerator or keep in cold water in a cool place until the rinse water is clear, to keep the piece continually moving while in that color. To secure an even color with any dye, use a piece of batik, stirring well so that the dye penetrates all of the cracks, and then rinsing well to remove any free color.

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had fair success in the adventure until coming back whom should we meet face to face, but 'Prexy' Welch. He spoke to us and passed on, which wasn't much in itself, but it led to great complications. We had to get chapel excuses from 'Prexy' himself.

"The pleasure jaunt must have been my idea, anyway I was the one who went next day to 'Prexy's office for an excuse, and I wasn't in the most joyful state of mind as I went in to ask for the excuse." "Where had you been when I met you yesterday?" asked 'Prexy. I told him 'we'd been after botany specimens, which was the truth."

"How is it that you weren't back on time? was his next question." "My watch was on the bum," I told him.

"I believe that was true too," Mr. Frazier's eyes twinkled.

'Prexy looked severe, then he leaned forward and said with an engaging smile, 'Mr. Frazier, the next time you go flower-picking you just stop at the office and I'll lend you my watch!"

"Yes, I can hear that old chapel bell now. That's your Victory Bell, I believe. It was bought to hang in the south tower of Old Main but was too heavy for the tower so they hung it in a frame coop where it stands now and used it to call us to chapel, meals and the like." At 6 o'clock A. M. was the rising bell and at 10 P. M. the bell for lights out and 'Old Harlow' checked up on us, too.

"Who was 'Old Harlow'?" I interposed.

"Well, I don't remember clearly; he might have been a janitor. All I recall distinctly was that he was six feet, four inches tall, and an active foot racer."

"Was he old?" I asked.

"We thought so. He was about forty I suppose, but he looked old to me. I remember Jerry Sexton better. He was a sort of gardener-watchman combined."

"The next time you go flower-picking you just stop at the office and I'll lend you my watch!"

"He used to be stationery in the grape patch which covered the site of Margaret Hall, I remember but he wasn't always active. I can see him asleep under the vines one moonlight night when some of us were having fun to be storing the patch. 'Jerry' was a sound sleeper when he once got a start," Mr. Frazier laughed over the reminiscence, "but when I suggested and Mr. Frazier seemed to agree with me.

"We had more of it after the new gymnasium was built," he said smiling. "That was in '82. We each subscribed five dollars apiece and with a little allowance from the state built a frame gymnasium north of where the Victory Bell now stands. Equipment wasn't very elaborate. I don't remember all of it, but I know we had a horizontal bar and a trapeze, but I never 'par took' of these as I wasn't expert enough."

"There were any secret societies in those days, Mr. Frazier," I asked.

"Not officially," he responded with dry humor, "but I did belong to the first fraternity," and he launched with enjoyment into reminiscences of those secret fraternities and hair-breadth escapes from the 'anti's.'

"I was so green," he said, "that I didn't really understand that my 'bid' would be so important and that I didn't fall from grace for a long time, not because the idea of a secret society didn't appeal, but because they said I'd have to give five dollars to belong."

"Five dollars!" I shrieked and did a little rapid mental arithmetic of my own.

"Yes, five dollars. I finally raked it up somewhere and joined. We used to attend meetings in different rooms by candle light with quilts hung over windows and transoms and windows stationed in the halls. That makes me think of the first fraternity picture we had taken. We met at Old Main and were to sit on the steps for our picture. This was after the ban was off, but feeling was still pretty strong among some of the 'anti's'. I remember how I threw old sheets at us out of upstairs windows while we sat. The wind was blowing a stiff gale so the camera wouldn't stand alone and I didn't want to be a single 'anti' to hold it while we sat for the photographer. We finally dug holes and set the tripod in the ground, I'd seen that picturesque scene, 'It would be a contribution to any comic section, I assure you.'

something Old for Which to Be Thankful

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trasting material, gathered into a tight band at the wrist. Even though scarfs have been worn for several seasons, they are still being shown in the cities on all types of costumes and if a plain neck line is used on the tunic, a scarf to match the colors on the bottom of the gown can be worn to break the plain line. And if you wear the still different trimming on your tunic, just use your imagination. You can't go wrong as long as you keep it straight and beltless with the bottom edge of the collar finished. Buttons may be used as trimming in a variety of ways, both on satin and wool garments. You can get good-looking fancy buttons at the haberdashers and these, if you sew them on the top, can be used to pull the side seams, down the front, or on the collar and sleeves. The newer idea, however, is to use ordinary white