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College Girls Earn Their Way In The Rockies

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The Evolution of Home Economics

"ANECDOTES OF AN ALUMNUS"

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 of 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?" 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 college netted me ten cents an hour. At that rate we didn't do much celebrating. We went to Ames sometimes."

"What on?" I asked.

"Oh, the freights generally," replied Mr. Frazier, and then came that humorous gleam of retrospect which all alumni have in common and I knew I was to hear a story.

So ends our series, "The Evolution of Home Economics."

Has it helped the "old grad" to renew their youth and has it given more recent students an appreciation of the pioneering which was carried on at Ames in the early days? Such is our hope.

"Ed Huff was my first room-mate," resumed Mr. Frazier. "Let's see, Ed was from Eldora, Iowa, I believe. Well, Ed and I went to town one day. 'Mac' went with us. Yes, that's Judge McHenry of Des Moines. We came back in the caboose this time, tho he often rode the bumpers and jumped off at that slow, steep grade, north of where Margaret Hall now stands. If it was going too fast, we rode up farther where it slowed down considerably. That was about where the Armory stands today. Well, 'Mac' had evidently jumped off a good deal and declared he wouldn't ride clear up to the Armory as he'd have to walk back. So 'The Other Girl' and myself—" "The Other Girl!" I exclaimed.

Mr. Frazier smiled. "That was Ed,"

he said. "We used to call him that because one time he spoke of an incident when he was attending the academy at Eldora and said, 'They put me in a study room with two other girls and I couldn't learn anything!' " Mr. Frazier chuckled remissently and then resumed his story.

"Well, the Other Girl and I thought if McHenry could jump off we could, too. It was after nightfall and as I remember it Ed had a horn of some kind. We all made ready to jump and at the same time the conductor gave the signal to speed up. 'Mac' landed all right and I only had a tumble, but Ed got wound up in his horn and lighted on the end of his nose. Poor Ed, he didn't go to classes for several days."

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

"Botany trip, what happened then?" I asked.

"I suppose you know that we had chapel every day and that it was compulsory?"

"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. We

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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 Idaho Springs, Colorado; the Lewiston Hotel Company, operating the Lewiston Hotel and Cafe in 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, altho 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 paid, which covers traveling 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 others is not 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 de-

pends 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 sufficient to say that altho 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.