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Live in Your Garden

Kathryn Soth
Iowa State College

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"I Like People!" Says Lillian
And They Like Her, Too

"I LIKE people! I don't get any trouble to make friends," says Hsi Fan Chao, better known as Lillian.

Far away from her native China, Lillian is often homesick. But her winsome disposition and friendly smile have made her hundreds of friends in this country and especially on the Iowa State campus, where she is studying.

Lillian was very unhappy for a time last quarter. Her family lives in Harbin, and at that time, that city was in the throes of war. Japanese troops had invaded the town and there was fighting in the streets. The railroad station was bombed. For weeks Lillian had no word from her family. But she read in the papers of the strife in Harbin, and she was afraid. "I could not sleep, I could not study. I would worry all the time," Lillian said. Days and weeks went by, and finally the letter for which she so anxiously hoped, arrived. Lillian read with joy that her parents and the three younger children were safe! "They had to—you call it 'free' for week," she said afterwards. But after the week had passed, they were able to return safely to Harbin. Now Lillian can sleep and can study, for she knows that she has nothing to worry about.

Lillian will complete her work at Iowa State at the end of the first summer session. She would like to stay in this country another year, she says, after which she intends to go back to China to do social and child-welfare work. She thinks she will probably assist the newly organized national child welfare association in Nanking. Lillian is studying child-development here, and one day not long ago, delighted the kiddies at the nursery school by telling them stories about Chinese children, and showing them how to eat with chop-sticks. The tiny tots watched this performance wide-eyed.

EATING with chopsticks, Lillian explains, is really simple, even though it looks difficult. In China the food is brought to the table cut into small pieces which are easily picked up with the sticks. Bread is never buttered, and does not need to be, since it is steamed, and served moist and hot. There is always a spoon beside your plate for tea, Lillian says.

Lillian came to the United States in the summer of 1929, and studied for a semester at Ohio Wesleyan, before coming to Iowa State. When she was asked what influenced her to come to this country, the little Chinese girl replied that she had two uncles and a cousin who had been here, and that she had heard about this country from her missionary friends. 

"You have much in your country we do not have in China—good education, good science, good equipment. Your professors are much wiser than in China," she said.

Lillian studied English as a foreign language for three years before coming to the United States. And she speaks a little Russian, too. "There are so many Russian stores in Harbin, I had to learn to speak the language so I could ask how much.

"WHEN I came over on the steamer-boat," Lillian said, "I was sorry for a Russian who couldn't talk to anyone. He could not speak any other language. I said 'good morning' to him every day in Russian, and he said he was so glad I could speak his language." There are two kinds of colleges in China, according to Lillian. They are private and government, and are all run by Chinese now, although many missionaries are teachers. "The courses are much like your courses," Lillian says, "but the dormitory life is different. We don't have more social life as you do. We have student self-government, but we do not have fraternity and sorority in my country. We have other honorable societies, though."

College students in China play games together for recreation, but they do not dance, Lillian tells us. This is because the dancing halls in the large Chinese cities are run largely for Americans, Russians and other foreigners. There are some Chinese dance halls, too, but they are not considered respectable places for college students to attend. These places hire dancing girls to dance with the customers, Lillian says. She thinks that sooner or later colleges in China will permit dancing, because of the growing demand for it. But in the meantime, Chinese college students substitute the moving picture theatre for the dance hall.

Everyone in a Chinese college or university knows everyone else, Lillian says, for the institutions are small. The largest university in the country has a student body of only 1,000.

Hsi Fan (or Lillian) is a tiny girl. She always wears her lovely unbelted Chinese dresses with their high necks and wide sleeves. She is so very charming in her own costume that her friends are very glad she does not conform completely to American modes of dress.

Lillian greets her friends with a sweet smile whenever she meets them, and she never forgets one after the first meeting. That is one reason why, when Lillian says, "I like people!" we can say enthusiastically, "And people like her, too!"

Live in Your Garden
By Kathryn Soth

D ID you ever have a bridge game out in the garden on a nice, breezy June day? Oh, you can, with aluminum cards that can't blow away and a set of lawn chairs and table.

An attractive set seen on a pretty terrace was of metal, covered with light green waterproof paint. A large, striped, green and yellow umbrella, of a waterproof material called Stayo, covered the table. The set seemed just made for bridge.

Many gardens are becoming real outdoor living rooms. Much of the furniture in them is waterproof and is built to withstand all sorts of weather. Many of the chairs are metal and are painted in gay colors—India red, light green, oranges, and blues. There are steel chairs with spring seats and no upholstery to get water soaked and faded with summer rains and sunshine. There are bright, chromium-plate chairs with gay-colored upholstery of hardy materials. And there are chairs covered with attractive oil-cloth in plain colors and figures.

Many gardens have gliding swings, on light weight metal frames, which can be easily moved from place to place to get in or out of the sunlight. Their upholstery snaps on and can easily be removed in a rain.

Metal is very durable and will withstand much more rain and hard wear than wood. The old iron benches with designs of grapes and foliage in the metal are much sought after now as novel pieces of lawn furniture. So from now on plan your parties with no qualms about the weather.