1938

Follow the Leaders

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Recommended Citation

Weinel, Marian (1938) "Follow the Leaders," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 18 : No. 8 , Article 2.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol18/iss8/2

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Our symbols of Home Economics: the building on our campus, the Home Economics faculty, and the great women who are nationally recognized as leaders in the field.

Follow the Leaders

by Marian Weinel

IF SOMEONE were to ask you who the prominent home economists are today, what would your answer be? We have some outstanding women on our own faculty whose work is well known. You could probably answer many questions about them and their achievements. But if the inquiry were made, could you answer that Helen Judy Bond is president of the American Home Economics Association or that Helen Atwater is editor of the Journal of Home Economics?

NOTHER prominent home economist is Lita Bane who is now head of the Home Economics Department at the University of Illinois and until 1934 spent five years as associate editor of the Ladies Home Journal. As a high school student Lita Bane loved mathematics. When she came to enter college, her school principal suggested that she take "this new subject of home economics." The decision to follow his suggestion brought her into a stimulating contact with Isabel Bevier, who was then head of home economics at the University of Illinois. Her interesting career started with teaching in Omaha. In 1926 she was elected president of the American Home Economics Association. She is a member of Phi Upsilon Omicron, Omicron Nu and Kappa Delta Pi.

HELEN JUDY BOND is an interesting person and a native Iowan. Mrs. Bond was awarded the Lydia Roberts Fellowship to Columbia University for two years. Here she completed her work for her degree of doctor of philosophy. She is professor of household arts at Teachers College, Columbia University, and president of the American Home Economics Association. Canoeing and golf are her favorite recreations. Omicron Nu, Phi Beta Kappa and Kappa Delta Pi list her among their members.

GRACE ELIZABETH FRYSINGER is another home economist whose history includes Iowa, for at one time she directed the department of home economics in Des Moines high schools. Not only has she studied in the United States, but at the School of Cookery in London and LeCordon Bleu in Paris, as well. Since the war she has been supervisor of homemaking education for rural women in the extension service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

AVA BERTHA MILAM has spent interesting years in China where she introduced and aided in establishing home economics in three leading universities there. At present she is dean and director of home economics of the Oregon State System of Higher Education. She contributes to professional home economics magazines and is the author of the book "Study of Student Homes in China."

AS EDITOR of the Journal of Home Economics since 1923, Helen W. Atwater has done much to keep it abreast of all trends in home economics at home as well as abroad. Through her foresight the Journal's scientific and literary standards have been raised; new departments have been added, size and circulation have increased.

THE same year that Helen Atwater became editor of the Journal, Louise Stanley was appointed chief of the Bureau of Home Economics. Her appointment was made when the Bureau was organized, and she was distinguished as the first woman to hold such an administrative position. Just as she had risen from instructor to chairman of the Home Economics Department at the University of Missouri, she exercised characteristic energy and vision in organizing new studies in foods, textiles and economic problems of the homemaker. Each year she has won increased financial support and strengthened the bureau. She was the first woman to work on the American Standardization Committee. As a delegate from the United States, Miss Stanley has gone to conferences in Belgium and Hawaii.

ABBY MARLATT, head of the Home Economics Department at Wisconsin University who was on the campus this winter to speak on Ellen H. Richards' Day, is recognized as an outstanding leader. There are many others, too. Some are noted for their work in research, some in education, some in government positions, some in commercial jobs, and many are contributing much as homemakers.

The Iowa Homemaker