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There's Research Excitement Lurking in Labs

Kathryn Monson
Iowa State College

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There's Research *Excitement* Lurking in Labs

HEDONISTIC KATHRYN MONSON DISCOVERS
A SPARKLE IN GRADUATE WORK

HERE'S an opportunity to look over the shoulders of campus scientists to see what they are disclosing day by day.

Every woman is curious about the durability of well known brands of hose. Imagine the work involved in raveling, cutting and washing four numbered tiny one-half-inch square samples of silk stockings being tested by the Textiles and Clothing Department.

Most of us have heard whispers of cooking by a direct current of electricity applied to the food. The patent obtained on this was a premiere in two respects on our campus. It was the first of such work by a woman and the first in the Home Economics Division.

Imagine the revolutions in cooking suggested when a two-and-one-half pound roast was cooked in 3 minutes. A difficulty encountered was that the fat did not cook so readily. If you understand your physics you'll see that explains why the pleasingly plump girl does not shock so easily.

For monogram fiends, initials can be cooked in vegetables as one of our physics professors did with the humble potato. Beets, however, didn't conform to the usual vegetable reactions to electricity, but spun like pin wheels on the Fourth of July.

With this unique cooking method, canning was quite successfully accomplished and milk was pasteurized. It's possible that these experiments here at Iowa State College begin a new epoch in fook cookery.

Maybe you think agricultural engineering is too remote to be of interest to a home economics student, but a slightly dismantled egg beater was found in use on a tiny tractor model which gave it a decided domestic appearance. This model is of a new cross cultivator which cultivates east and west as it travels north and south. A patent is being obtained on it.

Experiments have also been made concerning the practicability of using rubber tires on farm equipment; it has been found that more work can be done with smaller equipment. Machines that are developed at Iowa State College are placed in commercial production as is the case of a one-way terracing machine used to overcome erosion when farming hill lands.

A small tractor in commercial production which was developed here is of practical value for use in garden cultivation or on very small plots of ground. It is just the right size for a woman to use with ease.

Two graduate students are interviewing housewives in a neighboring town for a study of homemaker information sources. Magazine, radio and back fence sources of information are being compared. Questions are being asked such as whether people receive more homemaker information from commercial or from non-commercial sources. Their reception at each door is different and they're reported to be learning some startling things.

X-rays in their present state of development have been a boon to mankind, and students of physics know there is more value yet to evolve. One man in the department has been working with the slightly exploited field of soft X-ray. He has made his own research equipment of elaborate blown glass and metal.

Future classes in zoology may study life processes of

bugs from a movie film of X-ray pictures, for this X-ray is soft enough to show the internal organs of the bug photographed.

Everyone gets excited over the thoughts of travel, and research can take you to the world's far corners. For instance, Iowa State was honored by a request to send two zoologists representing the United States to South America to aid in the grasshopper control program. If your interests are with textiles or foods there are many countries waiting to be studied.

How would you like to spend your summer in some swamps in northern Iowa? There are many acres of swamp which are particularly advantageous for the study of plants useful to water fowl.

Imagine wading in hip boots in an 11,000-acre swamp which may contain pairs of the bird you are studying. It's a man-size job but a woman in botany is doing it. Information is carefully assembled on the environment of the plants; unusual photographic shots are taken; specimens are collected and mounted in her herbarium. She has collected approximately 10,000 plants.

A professor in zoology spent last summer gathering insects in the Mesa Verde Canyon. He has been working all winter, studying, mounting and cataloging insects on which no data have ever been gathered.

In the Chemistry Department research is being done on comparative advantages and disadvantages in the use of soaps and other washing reagents on various fabrics. In the same department another experiment is in progress on the use of enzymes.

Textiles are often sized with starch before weaving. In order to dye the fabric the starch is then removed. It may be more satisfactory to hydrolyze this starch

(Continued on page 20)



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Biography of a Home Economist

FUN after graduation! Where will you find it? In your hobbies? In your career? In your friends? In yourself?

We present a home economist in business who is living the answers to our questions: Mrs. Clara Gebhard Snyder, M.S. '30.

Nutrition director of the Wheat Flour Institute, she describes herself as a "traveling cook." She finds her fun easily because fun goes with her. Her vocation consists of using flour in as many different food products as possible and then "bragging about it on paper and in pictures." She didn't mention "and over the radio" but she does organize and direct many activities of the Institute's educational division, writes lectures as well as publicity and broadcasts.

While on the campus for Farm and Home Week she said that the home economics women in business enjoy attending such a conference for here they come in close contact with their readers, find new ideas, acquire inspirations for more new products, meet old friends and make new friends.

She is of the opinion that home economists, like herself, enjoy Farm and Home Week fully as much as do any others who come. Mrs. Snyder frequently travels distances to deliver lectures at such meetings. While here this spring she gave a bread demonstration.

Mrs. Snyder finds fun easily. She enjoys working with cooperative associates for the good of the cause, laughing over perplexing problems after her small capable hands have smoothed them out.

Fun after graduation . . . yes, there's lots to be had. Mrs. Snyder finds her fun easily. Her hobbies are fishing, cartooning and designing. She has a personality that gathers friends, a personality that is friendly yet discerning. Fun goes with her for she is peppy, but not peppery.

—Helen Crane

RESEARCH

(Continued from page 3)

by amylase than to use acids which are actually hard on the fabric. Enzymes also have a practical application in breadmaking and the clarification of fruit juices.

Perhaps on one of your walks through the North Woods you have noticed on the golf course a roof without a building under it. Don't be alarmed. It is another legitimate experiment carried on by the agricultural engineers, the object being to study the use of sheet metal as roofing.

Do you remember having a metabolism test taken since you entered college? If you do you are a "guinea pig" in a study of six colleges on the metabolism of college women.

Students of research have let their imaginations run rampant. There is one experiment being done on the electrification of chimneys in order to collect the soot. Here's to bigger and better sootless cities!

And now won't you please concede a point? There is unlimited fun in research. And here's the funniest research problem I've picked up. The title of an abstract in our library bears the evidence. It is—"Effect of humidity and temperature on the metabolism of a fasting bed bug."