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Versatile Talents Give Homemakers Dual Personalities

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Versatile Talents

Give Homemakers

Dual Personalities

Favorite avocations that enhance leisure hours are described by Catherine Raymond

Homemaking goes happily hand in hand with avocations for Iowa State graduates. The fact that they are managers of homes, of course, necessitates that other work they do be of a nature that will not consume all of their time.

Mrs. Fred Ferguson, '21, has proved that it isn’t necessary to go to the big city or even to leave home in order to succeed in a home economics avocation. What started as a hobby of her husband, Fred Ferguson, bulletin editor of Iowa State, has developed into a thriving chicken ranch on their acreage on the outskirts of Ames.

Raising chickens is not Mrs. Ferguson’s chief interest. Unwilling to sell the old chickens at so small a price as is ordinarily offered, she perceived a greater advantage in canning them for future use.

She examined the home-canned chicken that was on the market and was told by grocers that most consumers refused to buy this product. Desiring to prove that she could prepare a product that would sell itself, she began canning chickens to sell to retailers. She succeeded in preparing her chicken so attractively that many customers desired to buy it. Once the chicken was tried, its future success was assured.

Mrs. Ferguson’s first large-scale canning was done while she was a student in Iowa State. During the World War, she chose canning as an extra activity in an emergency course and later aided in the progress of canning in the capacity of an extension worker.

Mrs. Hiram Munn, ex. '23, formerly an instructor in the Applied Art Department, is well known in Ames for the manner in which she has combined her applied art courses with her marriage. In addition to making and designing her own clothes, she also designs for her three children. Her unusual flower arrangements are used in numerous public displays as well as her own home.

Mrs. Munn and her husband are ardent photography fans. Many of the pictures they have taken and developed serve as illustrations for numerous talks she gives to various groups.

Mrs. Munn stresses the value derived from her college art courses despite the fact that they may not always seem purposeful at the time they are taken. Another of her skills is interior decorating.

Jane Wagner Dean, '27, who resides in New York City, is employed by the Servel Electrolux Company as a home economist. Mrs. Dean is noted for her refrigerator recipes and has done extensive traveling for her employers. Her chief interest lies, nevertheless, in her home and two children.

A number of graduates are able to do substitute teaching, so combining both teaching and homemaking. Mildred Bennett Larson, '26, does substitute teaching at Wayne University in addition to assisting in Westinghouse demonstrations. She also manages a household.

The field of journalism, in its wide scope, has provided numerous opportunities for continuing journalism and homemaking because of the nature of the work. A large share of writing may be done within a woman’s own home.

Margaret Jane Reinig Suydam, '26, who is a member of the staff of the New York Herald Tribune Home Institute, began as a writer for this newspaper in a most unusual manner. Several years ago Mrs. Suydam traveled westward by airplane and was accompanied by her very small daughter, then less than a year old. To many mothers this would probably prove to be a greater task than they would care to undertake, but not so to Mrs. Suydam. So successful was her venture that she wrote an article for the benefit of other mother travelers telling them about her experiences and how she had handled travel problems. After writing this and other articles, she was later offered a position with her present employer.

Ruth Elaine Wilson Ostrum, '24, a free lance writer, is responsible for a number of lovely children's stories as well as fiction and beauty articles. Her two children have served as an inspiration for juvenile tales as some of these stories were first written for them.