1940

Home Management in Practice

Mary Ellen Brown
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker

Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol20/iss7/2
Hospitality is a great part of making a home. Entertaining guests is the homemaker's opportunity to dramatize her chosen career, and to share the fine qualities of this home she has created with others.

However, in these days of small apartments and constant activities, entertaining may become more a burden than a joy. Most American homemakers have for help only a more or less dependable husband. They feel that they cannot maintain the hospitable atmosphere they wish when they are doing all their own bedmaking and dishwashing.

I decided long ago that I wanted to entertain often and well, and that I must do it without help. So, I set up two goals: the first that I would try to make every visitor anxious, never hesitant, to come again; the second, that I as the hostess would always appear calm and unhurried, happy and completely at ease.

These goals, like all goals, were much easier to write down than to achieve. Our budget refuses to stretch very far. Consequently, food and amusement for
guests must be carefully planned in order to be satisfying and inexpensive.

Home management assignments to draw up weekly housework schedules, and chatter about dovetailing and regular routines, used to seem an awful bother to me. Not long after I was married, however, I discovered they were essential. To me, now, the basis of all good entertaining is maintaining a sound daily and weekly schedule for household tasks. The routine jobs of bed-making, dishes, washing, ironing, cleaning or baking must be out of the way in the morning. With these finished, any number of unexpected callers may arrive during the afternoon and never find a flurried or apologetic hostess.

Of course, as every homemaker knows, there are bound to be some fearful occasions when the president of the Women’s Club arrives just as you take down the dusty living room curtains to be cleaned. And all husbands, sooner or later, bring a friend home for dinner when only two chops and two baked potatoes are on the menu. Then the only solution is to keep calm and undisturbed, for wild apologies and scurrying around only make the unexpected guests more uncomfortable than the hostess.

Good planning of regular work, then, is my first preparation for guests, be they surprise callers, a dinner party or weekending friends. Next comes a specific system of little tricks for various occasions. My best situation-saver is a shelf corner holding the teapot, creamer, and sugar bowl, plate for lemon, plate for cinnamon toast, cups and saucers. It is so easy to set all this equipment on a tray while the kettle is coming to a boil, and to pop toast

(Continued on page 23)
Budgeting Entertainment
(Continued from page 3)

sprinkled with sugar and cinnamon under the broiler while the tea is steeping. In but a few minutes, those ladies who just dropped in for a chat are being presented with the most cordial sign of hospitality, a steaming cup of tea.

Preparation for luncheon or dinner guests is more complicated. At first, the idea of serving three or four courses to four or six people seemed absolutely impossible to me. I'd never get everything ready at the same time.

Again, however, I thought of those home management and meal planning classes in college. I had two things which I must save—time and money. Therefore I must plan every dish with an eye first to its cost, then to the amount of time in which it can be prepared.

Days of preparation for dinners are fun, but spur of the moment invitations are great sport, too. We have two menu plans, each of which always seems to succeed for such informal affairs. During the summer my small garden and the vegetable man keep me well stocked with inexpensive greens and fruits.

So, when company comes, we mix up a huge salad bowl with greens and blend with it a sauce shaken together just before serving. Then I pop cheese biscuits into the oven to bake while I set out the dishes and silver. Slices of cold meat or canned fish, a little fruit for dessert and our guests always seem happy about the whole affair.

Thoughtfulness, courtesy, true cordiality, all of these count more than dollars in hospitality. All of the training of the home economics degree and all of the ingenuity of a sincere homemaker are needed to fulfill the offer, "Come over for dinner with us next Thursday. We'd love to have you!"

Home Management
(Continued from page 10)

of science degree in home economics at Missouri University in 1934. Before coming to Iowa State she taught high school homemaking in Missouri for five years.

Miss Urban is working on her master's degree in home management with a minor in child development. She is a member of Phi Upsilon Omicron, Delta Kappa Gamma and Alpha Psi Omega.

Your Spring suit will come back looking like new

Ames Laundry
Deluxe Cleaners

218 5th Street Phone 47

March, 1941