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Home Economists Review Activities

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Home Economists Review Activities



Modeling at the convention are Montelle Moore, Lindenwood, and Elizabeth Watt

Laurel Fuller relates experiences of delegates to the National Home Economics Convention

ATTENDING the National Home Economics Convention in Chicago last June was an experience which none of us who were delegates from Iowa State will soon forget. We were four: Elizabeth Watt, textiles and clothing senior; Mary Jane Rice, applied art senior; Mary Rothacker, textiles and clothing sophomore; and myself.

It was an exciting day for us when we stepped off the train in Chicago because many famous leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties were arriving for their pre-convention meetings.

Getting settled in our hotel rooms and going through the necessary registration procedures filled our first few hours before we attended a general meeting for convention delegates. The delegates at the convention included representatives from about 38 states. At this meeting, Coleman Griffith of the University of Illinois suggested many ways in which we will have to adjust ourselves when the servicemen return.

In the evening we four attended the Iowa State Alumni dinner given in honor of Miss Genevieve Fisher and Dean P. Mabel Nelson at the Picadilly Tearoom. There were a number of Iowa State women present that evening—some were graduates of 15 or 20 years ago and others had been graduates for only 6 months. Many of these women have become leaders in their fields.

After dinner we returned to the Tower Room of the Stevens Hotel for a panel discussion on "Sources of Youth's Codes of Behavior" led by Dr. Howard McClusky from the University of Michigan. Mary Jane Rice represented our group on the panel. The discussion indicated that in the post-war world emphasis will be placed on consideration of youth, their ideas and their possibilities for leadership.

Wednesday morning the high school, college and graduate delegates held individual meetings to discuss club programs of the past year. Iowa State has the largest home economics club in the country, so many of the smaller clubs were interested in our membership drive and departmental programs.

"In Stitch with The Times," a style show by the textile members of the New York Home Economics Business group, was given in the afternoon. Mary Jane Rice and Elizabeth Watt modeled.

The international party given by the Peoples' Gas

Company made us aware of the broad field open to home economists in foreign countries. Mrs. Soledad Payawal and Miss Thelma Estevez, both Iowa State students, explained the need for home economists in Uruguay and the Philippines.

Dr. Margaret Justin of Kansas State College started the Thursday meetings with an address to the college delegates. Her name was familiar to all students because she is the co-author of the home economics book *Foods*.

The Betty Lamp luncheon was held at the Art Institute where Dr. Lee Vincent of the Merrill Palmer school discussed a topic of interest to all of us—marriage. She explained the reasons for and against marriages in wartime.

After lunch we divided into groups and went on conducted tours to places of interest. I selected the tour which took us to the Alfred Decker and Cohn establishment, the manufacturers of "Society Brand Clothes." We followed the progress of a piece of material from the time it is pre-shrunk until it is ready to go to the retail stores as a trim officer's uniform. The majority of the employees were skilled in their particular job. All the work was done with machines except the hand-made buttonholes.

When we returned to the hotel we were entertained at a tea given by the American Home Economics Association. We were given the opportunity to meet many outstanding leaders in the field of home economics. The climax of the day came when the convention committee made it possible for us to attend the popular musical "Oklahoma."

At the business meeting Friday morning it was suggested that the United States be divided into areas which could have their separate meetings to discuss regional problems. This plan will give the clubs that can't send delegates to a national convention an opportunity to be represented in an area meeting.

The convention was brought to a close with a luncheon at Marshall Field's where the newly-elected national officers of Student Clubs of the American Home Economics Association were presented. Iowa State was honored when one of our delegates, Mary Rothacker, was installed as secretary of the national organization.