

1946

Homemaking Under the Round Roof

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Recommended Citation

Fortman, Shirliann (1946) "Homemaking Under the Round Roof," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 26 : No. 7 , Article 3.
Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol26/iss7/3>

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Dishwashing provides a happy respite from an evening full of studies for many typical Pammel Court students.



*Shirliann Fortman
describes quonset
but life*

Homemaking Under the Round Roof

JUST Holly and me, and baby makes three, we're happy in our quonset," Dick Herbert, Ag. Jr., might croon if he wished. One visit to 222 Pammel Court is proof enough.

Ever since Dick and Holly came to Iowa State in January, 1946, they've lived in Pammel Court. But fall quarter marked two big additions to their lives—a quonset hut and Howard, their baby.

Holly is delighted with the quonset. She radiates when she tells of the convenience of running water, the joys of not having to fold up a bed every morning, bigger closets and, better yet, an inside bathroom. Living in the trailer was fun, she says, but similar to pioneering. "I've learned now that as I go along I appreciate so much more all those things I always took for granted in a home."

Every day there are many things to keep a student's wife busy, especially when she has a 2-months-old baby. Right now Holly eagerly is awaiting the heater which will make hot water available in the hut. Then her cooking, cleaning and dish washing will go much faster.

Holly's mornings are filled. She gets breakfast and straightens up the hut but devotes most of her attention to Howie. All the things she doesn't finish in the morning plus any shopping are done in the afternoon. Twice a week when Dick has afternoons free, she goes down to sign up for her turn in the laundry trailer. Then the former Air Corps sergeant, who was a weather observer in Dutch Guinea and Haiti, watches his son.

Dick's evenings are filled with study, for after 4 years of army life returning to study requires full concentration. While Dick studies at the kitchen table,

Holly irons, mends and bakes. She prefers to limit herself to cookies, cupcakes and other foods not requiring an accurate temperature which would be difficult in her kerosene oven.

In her kitchen Holly has a large double sink, a refrigerator, a three burner range with a single oven and a small amount of cupboard space. She plans to enlarge the space by putting small shelves under the present shelves and the sink.

The Herberts use their own rugs with the furniture provided in the hut. Each couple may furnish the huts themselves if they desire. The heater, formerly used by the navy in Alaska, stands just inside the door in the front room. Off the small hall from the living room are two small bedrooms, one for the baby. The larger one for his parents is furnished with a bed, chair and dresser.

Social life for Holly and Dick is limited by Howie and a budget. Their favorite events are the Pammel Court dances at the Ames Country Club. Ordinarily they visit back and forth with three or four other young couples in the court. Saturday night, though, is special. Once in a while they go to the movies. During the week a few couples have the habit of breaking away from studies for a short interlude of coffee and chatter before the men return to their books. "This gives us both a lift," says Holly.

Life in a quonset has its ups and downs. The fuel isn't furnished as it was in the trailer, but their electricity, water, laundry and garbage disposal is taken care of by the court. The rent is higher than for a trailer, but there's more walking space inside. The high prices of food strain the budget, but everyone is sharing that experience.