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Veterans' Wives

Crowd Special Courses

Iowa State offers home economics instruction and aid to veterans' wives, says Peggy McIlrath.

"WHAT course in home economics can my wife take while we're here?" Over a year ago the main office in the Home Economics Building was confronted every week with dozens of similar questions from married veterans.

At first, with the exception of those who were qualified to enroll in prescribed home economics courses, the answer was—"None." But when the procession of veterans' wives grew longer, a class in home furnishing was offered, without credit, during winter quarter of 1946. The class was supervised by Dr. Mary S. Lyle, of the Department of Home Economics Education. Members of the Department of Foods and Nutrition came also to the aid of the wives with a 4-lesson series on meal planning.

The wives of present student veterans are anxious to obtain the assistance of Iowa State home economics experts. They want to know how to balance the limited family budget, how to make clothes economically for children who grow rapidly and how to make a home out of a trailer or quonset hut.

TWO courses are now being offered, one in prenatal and infant care and one in sewing techniques. Miss Marjorie Lyford, consultant nurse of the State



GI wives, upon request, are given instructions in the care and feeding of infants and pre-school children, as well as courses in sewing, cooking, decorating and meal planning.

Department of Health, is conducting the prenatal course. It meets once a week for a period of 6 weeks.

In answer to a petition signed by 75 GI wives, the staff members of the Department of Textiles and Clothing are offering a 6 weeks' sewing instruction course. This 6 weeks' course has been divided into three groups, a beginners' section, and two advanced sections. These classes meet one night each week.

Also one night each week a general laboratory is open to members of both groups, at which time an instructor is present to give assistance in case any difficulties are encountered.

Furnishings Today and Tomorrow, a program offered last winter, featured interior decoration, with the trailer home presented as a special problem. The women learned how to decorate their trailer homes distinctively and attractively, with an eye to furnishing larger homes in the future.

Pre-school Guidance

During spring quarter a course on the guidance of the pre-school child brought an average attendance of 60. Then, perhaps, there was a bride whose biggest problem was cookery for two on two range units. She could attend the four classes in foods that dealt with just that situation. A course in applied art and crafts work was also conducted during spring quarter by two members of the applied art staff, and the attendance at these meetings was also 60.

ANOTHER phase of the program concerns the opposite side of the picture—the teaching side. Education majors, by assisting as instructors in these courses and handling the publicity, are gaining experience in adult education. They are learning how different agencies within a community may cooperate to fill a need and, at the same time, to benefit themselves.

College Programs

Iowa State is not the only college offering this assistance to GI families on campus. At North Dakota State College part-time help has been specially engaged to conduct similar courses. The same project is being carried on at the University of Oklahoma at Norman. Miss Lyford is also giving lectures and demonstrations on prenatal and infant care at Drake University and the University of Iowa. Although solved in many different ways, this vital problem has been given consideration in colleges all over the country.

Meanwhile at Iowa State, attendance and interest continue to grow. New requests are coming in for classes in financial management and general home management although sewing instruction is still most popular in demand.