

1947

## Gifts Make Her Career

Mary Alice Walker  
*Iowa State College*

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# Gifts Make

## Her Career

**U**NUSUAL items, such as Mexican blue grass in all sizes and shapes, hard-to-get hand loomed linens and wood jewelry from southern mountain regions, may be found on the shelves of the "House of Gifts," owned and operated by Miss Irma D. Garner, '26, and her sister in Davenport.

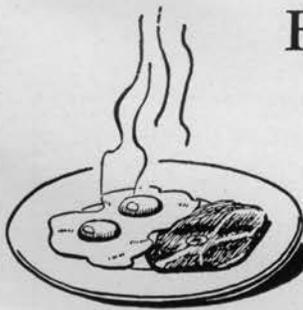
The gift shop, started last fall, occupies a part of the second floor of the Healey-Eckmann home furnishings store. Numerous other items, including California ceramics and all types of metal and plastic jewelry, are displayed in the shop.

Aside from managing their gift shop, Miss Garner and her sister arrange furniture and accessories and give demonstrations and advice on home furnishings and flower arranging to civic groups and individuals. The Misses Garner also spend some of their time attending commercial art and gift shows and designing original items to sell in their shop.

**M**ISS Garner stated that she has had no specific business training, but that actual experience in buying, selling and business would help anyone beginning in the field. Previous to her work in the gift shop Miss Garner taught in the Collins High School. She also worked with the Iowa State Extension Service as a home furnishings specialist and served as housing editor of What's New in Home Economics. These positions contributed to a general background for operating a gift shop.

"Home economics training contributes an appreciation of fine things, a knowledge of color and design and ability to do things with my hands," believes Miss Garner. "The advancement is up to the individual: she may start a chain of shops, buy for a large store or branch into magazine writing. Persons entering the business should have initiative and a liking for people. And unless you move into an established shop, some capital is needed to start."

—Mary Alice Walker



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