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Betsy Harris of the

"HOT SHOPPES"

by Marcia Holt

Home Economics Freshman

MANY of you have, no doubt, wondered just what kind of a business world will greet you upon graduation from Iowa State College. The following contains excerpts from a letter written by Betsy Little Harris, H. Ec. 1945, to an undergraduate woman at ISC. Many of you are often guided in your choice of major and eventual job by those who have gone before you. Their reports, letters, and comments are helpful when it comes to making such a decision. With a major in Institutional Management and a minor in Dietetics, Betsy has covered her field with teaching, menu-planning, food testing, experimental cookery, and college and government research. She is now a housewife in Washington, D.C. with a 20 months old son as a full time job.

Graduates ISC

"You certainly won't be able to put my experience on a professional basis, but being a graduate of ISC certainly helped to pay the bills while Dick was in school. I hope I can help to give you some idea of the kind of work open to you in the field today. But no matter what your major is, just being from Iowa State boosts you up a notch or two in the eyes of your employer. It all seems like a dream now that I have settled down to homemaking and baby sitting which, believe me, is a full time job, not just an eight hour day. But, frankly, I love it and wouldn't change places with anyone."

Turns teacher

Along this line is the opportunity for unique experience, the opportunity to meet all kinds of people and to work with them. In the fall Betsy started teaching a general foods course to the senior girls, and Nutrition In Health to nurses from the four big hospitals in Kansas City.

Betsy and Richard Harris were married in September of 1946 and went back to Iowa State for Dick's last year. She worked with Dr. Ercel Eppright, Head of the Department of Foods and Nutrition, as Research Associate on a Quartermaster's Corps project, "Food Habits In Iowa."

Betsy and Dick moved to Washington, D. C. in September of 1947. Dick enrolled in Law school and began working at the patent office. Betsy went to work as a menu planner for the Hot Shoppes. At that time there were fifteen Shoppes in the District, Maryland, and Virginia. Since then they have been popping up all over and their business is booming. Betsy's job consisted of writing menus, pricing food, and testing it.

Many girls, who have worked out in the field, feel that although their college education is particularly applicable to "homemaking", the further practical experience, gained through working for a while after graduation, offers a wealth of advantage.

Works for government

"The work was all very exciting if you can keep the pace of commercial institutions—extremely underpaid, we both thought—so I accepted a position with the government as Food Specialist for the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics in the Department of Agriculture. Everything was tested for the housewife. It was most interesting when we experimented with frozen foods—at that time fairly new on the market. It was all experimental cookery and analysis of the data, which was sometimes in popular form, but mainly in scientific form. After a huge frozen foods conference, we turned to the palatability of foods. This study was climaxed with a conference too—our publication was titled 'Sensory Methods of Measuring Differences in Food Quality.'"

Combines job and home

Because of Betsy's comparison shopping and food testing, she and Dick managed to cut their food bills way down. It was also up to her to test different cuts of meat and this she was permitted to do at home—"an especially nice plan during meat rationing."

"It sure does my heart good to hear you say you love it so at Iowa State, cause those were four mighty happy years. So many people go back for Homecoming—wish we could—Dick is waiting to hear how he came out on his Bar exam. You get five chances to pass it, but we're hoping he won't need all five.

"Would certainly like a cup of coffee in the Union right about now. Fondly, Betsy."