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Where Will You Live

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Where Will You Live . . .

How would you like to live with 265 other career women? Sounds impossible, you say? Well, that's what I'm doing and loving every minute of it. The Evangeline Residence, usually shortened to the "Evang" or "E.R."

t is my home in Detroit, as it is for many other young working girls.

Ideal after college

Since I think that a business women's residence is the ideal step between college and an apartment, especially in a city, let me tell you a little bit about myself and why I feel this way. As a June '52 grad, I'm naturally in my first job—as a research assistant in pharmacodynamics in the laboratories of Parke, Davis & Co., the largest pharmaceutical house in the country. One of the many things which sold me on Parke, Davis originally was their concern that women employees have a good place to live— the personnel workers showed me the Evangeline when I came to Detroit for an interview. You can imagine how important this was when you realize that I'm 600 miles from home and didn't know a soul except two married sorority sisters.

Chance to meet people

Right from the start, the big advantage to a place like the Evangeline is the chance to meet people. Detroit's two million population is proof in itself that there will be many, many places to visit— unique little restaurants, touring Broadway plays, the Art Institute, beaches and huge department stores—but it's lots more fun to do things in twosomes and four-somes than solo. Many other college grads live here and my circle of friends sounds like a small college conference of its own: Wellesley, Bucknell, Nebraska University of Pennsylvania, Carleton, Albion, Purdue, and even another Iowa Stater in the person of Carol Laxson, '52 grad.

Lounges, sundeck, TV

"All right," you say, "you meet people there, but what's the place really like?" That's easy to answer. The Evangeline Residence is run by the Salvation Army on a strictly business basis, as a YWCA would be, and may I add that there are similar "E.R.'s" in other cities, including New York, Chicago and Minneapolis. This particular one happens to be 10 stories high with main floor lounges, sundeck, dining room, recreation room and snack bar with television. As you might suspect at the word "dining room" we get both breakfast and dinner here, with the snack bar open in the evenings for extras like sundaes or hamburgers. Of particular advantage are the two laundry rooms, with both washers and driers (also a hair dryer), and sewing, typing and music practice rooms in the basement. Several of us have been taking advantage of the furnished sewing machines by making part of our summer wardrobe. There's even an exercise for the girl who has to watch her waistline.

Most of us have single rooms, although there are two or three double rooms on each floor. These are furnished with the usual desk, bed, dresser and easy chair, and have a good sized closet and a sink. These four bare walls inspired me to paint a couple of oil paintings—the paint-the-numbers kit kind and to finish a pair of frames for them. Towels, sheets, blankets and a bedspread are furnished, but many people purchase their own matching spreads, draperies and rugs. The ultimate in furnishings, to me anyway, were the TV sets two gals got for their rooms.

No cooking—no cleaning

I know I'll probably be apartment hunting in another year, but this life of no cooking and no cleaning is ideal for the present. The 10 of us who do many things together feel like permanent tourists as we visit Greenfield Village, Cranbrook Art Institute, cross the Ambassador Bridge south to Canada (the only place in the U. S. where that's possible) or trek to the Zoo. And it's wonderful in the middle of the week to see a play like "Point of No Return" or "Call Me Madame" and know that there's no studying waiting to be done at home. I'm even becoming something of a gourmet after visiting eating places like the Stockholm, the Olde Wayne Club, Carl's Chop House or the Pontchartrain Wine Cellars.

As you can tell, I think that career life in the city is really exciting, and that a business women's residence is the best place to start it.

by Jacquie Edwards

Science Graduate

Editor's note: As a '52 graduate, Jacquie is well qualified to give us the latest ideas concerning the problem of where to live for the career girl. As she says, most girls eventually end up in apartments or homes, but we agree with Jacquie that for that first year or so, in cities where such establishments are located, there's no place like a career girls' residence.

The Iowa Homemaker
Living in a Furnished Room

For the first few months on my new job was really an ideal situation. With the adjustment from college girl to career woman, it was much more convenient not bothering with cooking, house cleaning and home management. But after Christmas it was time for a home of my own. So two of my friends and I began apartment hunting.

At first we thought we wanted an unfurnished apartment. We had visions of all sorts of clever things we could do with boards, bricks and orange crates, but we did need beds, and we didn't see how we could construct those ourselves. So finally we became more practical and decided to settle for a furnished apartment.

or...

Apartment?

To the uninitiated, apartment hunting may sound quite simple; but as three inexperienced girls, we found that it involved more than we thought. We soon learned to write down questions ahead of time, such as equipment furnished, laundry facilities and utilities furnished, so that we wouldn't forget them in the confusion of looking at the apartment and talking to the landlord.

Finally we found what we wanted. It's the first floor of an old red brick house (very typical of Pennsylvania), and we have a living room, bedroom, kitchen and bath. They're all large rooms, light, clean and well-kept. We have own front porch and a huge back yard, where we have a garden ready to be planted and plans for an outdoor fireplace.

Flying Paint Brushes

As soon as we moved in, the paint brushes started flying. One of my roommates and I, being true home economists, decided we must have a bulletin board in the kitchen for our weekly menus and market orders. Our bulletin board has Pennsylvania Dutch designs painted around the border. We found an old window valance in the basement, painted it white, inscribed "Too Many Cooks Spoil the Broth" on it and hung it above the stove along with a red frying pan, this making a most convenient rack for spices, salt and pepper and coffee.

In the living room we've made two board and brick bookcases for our growing supply of magazines. They are painted dark green and white and are placed perpendicular to the wall, forming a living and a dining area. From some glass bricks, two boards and some orange crates we built a most impressive (we think) piece of furniture to house our radio, record player and records. With the white paint, you'd never guess its lowly origin. We transformed an old bushel basket into a home for our newspapers by painting it green with red and yellow stenciled roosters.

Display for Snapshots

Perhaps our most unusual feature is our bulletin board. We've been taking pictures portraying life in our new home, but we didn't have any place to display them. We found a huge piece of pressed board in the basement which we painted black with pink angels in each corner complete with scouring pad hair. After we had our pictures on it, my literary roommate added "And true nobility shines out even here" from Aristotle, in pink letters. When it was finished we had the problem of where to put it. There wasn't enough wall space in the kitchen, it didn't fit in with the decorations in the living room, and few people would see it in the bedroom. You know what that left. It is now hanging above the bathtub, and its fame is spreading far and wide.

To Market — to Market

But we do more than just paint. Every Friday after dinner we get out the cook books and plan the menus for the next week. Then on Saturday, armed with a market list complete with estimated prices, one of us goes to the grocery store to do the week's marketing. The object is to get a better buy than the estimated price, so we do a great deal of juggling with weight and cost before we decide on each item.

We can now look back on 2 months of living together in our own apartment, and we don't know when we've had so much fun. We enjoy the responsibilities of keeping it running smoothly as well as the privileges involved in having a place of our own. While I would still recommend living in a room for a few months on a first job, I certainly wouldn't give up the experiences we're having in our first apartment.