

1961

And After May 26th?

The Iowa Homemaker

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker>



Part of the [Home Economics Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

The Iowa Homemaker (1961) "And After May 26th?," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 41 : No. 8 , Article 3.

Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol41/iss8/3>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.

not going to be easy, because it is always two-way — simply to receive is a positive act. Always. It is like a broadcast. At one end is a man with a microphone and a technical apparatus of extreme complexity. At the other end is a woman with a cheap portable radio of indifferent tone and a battery that needs renewing, who is using it only as background noise while she does the ironing. In between are atmospherics. But every now and then the voice comes through clearly and the woman looks up from her ironing, and thinks over what she has heard, and perhaps says to herself, 'That's true, but I never knew it.' It's all one can hope for, but it's worth doing."

In the same little book, Arnold Toynbee emphasizes the need for the writer to feel a part of the audience he is writing for.

"It is no use being a writer if one is not en rapport with the world in which one is living. The pen can be used for different purposes: for instance, either in support of prevailing tendencies or in opposition to them. But, to be effective for any purpose in the writer's own day, the written word must reach the minds and touch the feelings of the writer's contemporaries. If a writer cannot do that, he might as well store his manuscripts away in a safe, in the hope that, some day, there may be a generation for whom his words will come alive. One can think of writers who have had this fate: Akhenaton, Obn Khaldun, Roger Bacon, Vico and Mendel are famous examples. But this is a sad fate, and worse than that, the writer will be failing to fulfill his vocation if he fails to affect his contemporaries in an age in which the fate of mankind itself is in the balance."

From a practical, down-to-typewriter point of view, the American Psychological Association counsels its writers, through its publication manual: "A good and mature writer is so vividly aware of his material and the ultimate reader that he perceives himself chiefly as the link between the two."

And this warning hangs over the desk of biographer Catherine Drinker Bowen: "Will the reader turn the page?"

Now to come back to the *Iowa Homemaker* and women writers. We must be "en rapport with the world" in which we are living. We must be on the alert for ideas that will open up new vistas, new avenues of thought and new ways of doing things. We must write clearly and accurately about what we see, what we hear, what we do, what we think, and how we feel. These reports become our contribution to our times.

"The here, the new, and the individual, have always been the special concern of the saint, the artist, the poet and — from time immemorial — the woman," says Anne Morrow Lindberg.

And After May 26th?

James Hilton, President of Iowa State University, comments with enthusiasm about ISU graduates. He can name dozens who have become really important contributors to the advancement which the 1960's show.

And many of these alumni have remembered the institution which helped them succeed. Some have contributed financially to the improvement of Iowa State. Some have sung her praises through their excellent work.

But, you say, "I've had to work for my diploma, and once I get it in my hands, I'm going to forget school. I've earned my degree!"

Well, maybe you're right. You may not owe Iowa State a thing . . .

IF you haven't benefited from new classroom buildings.

IF you haven't enjoyed the air-conditioned library and Union.

IF you haven't made any friends here.

IF you never had a good instructor.

IF you haven't received some recognition for going to a university which has a very high reputation in America and abroad.

IF you won't be proud to say you are an Iowa State graduate.

If you are convinced, then, that you don't owe loyalty to the school and the state in which you have spent your college life, then accept your diploma, and leave the campus and the associations in your scrapbook.

If you do think you could do something to further the work of Iowa State, consider the different capacity which each person has to support his "Alma Mater." President Hilton recognizes that financial aid is difficult for the recent graduates to give. It is the graduate of 40 years who may be most helpful — when he remembers ISU.

He reminds us, "You don't need perfect facilities for good research." You need curious and ambitious students — students who have heard from others the values of the University. Every student and graduate can repay part of his debt to Iowa State when he encourages the prospective freshman, saying, "Yes, you'll have to work, but you'll have a good education."

With the 1950-60 building plan now completed and plans for expansion needed again due to increased enrollment, it seems inevitable that this story will repeat itself. This, then, puts further emphasis on the necessity of not breaking the chain of progress. We have depended on what past decades have built. In what shape will the next decade be unless we also build? M.E.M.