Dance Your Way to Happiness

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Gas and It's Family Tree

By Thelma Carlson

The gas which we use in our kitchens today, has a long and honorable ancestry. Women first became housekeepers when fire was tamed. They became responsible for its keeping and for the preparation of food for their hunter husbands and their broods. It was the first development in the art of cookery. The stone fireplace which served humanity for over a thousand years was followed by the coal and wood stoves, by the kerosene stove and by the gravity-fed gasoline stove. This brought about a new era in cooking equipment and cooking methods, which gave women the dominating place in the kitchen.

During this time gas was slowly growing in popularity. Altho it had been discovered in 1665, for over 500 years no steps had been taken to make gas serve any practical purpose. "The Wild Spirit," as it was first called, was surrounded by a veil of mystery and superstition. Murdock, an Englishman, is recognized as the father of the gas industry. It was thru an accident one day that he got the idea for the invention of a gas burner. In an attempt to stop the flow of gas from an open pipe, he clapped a thimble over it. The holes, which had been pierced in the thimble, brought the escaping gas into contact with more air and naturally a better illumination was given.

Winsor, a German, was the first to advocate the distribution of gas for lighting purposes from central sources. He obtained the first English patent for gas making and the first gas company came into being.

Baltimore was the first city in the United States to use gas. This was in the year 1816. Proposals to introduce gas lighting in New England cities brought storms of protests. Some of the arguments representing the best and most serious thought of that time were printed in a New England paper as follows:

1. A theological objection. Artificial illumination is an attempt to interfere with the divine plan of the world which had preordained that it should be dark during the night time.
2. The medical objection. Emotions of illuminating gas are injurious. Lighted streets will incline people to remain late out of doors, thus leading to increase of ailments by colds.
3. Moral objection. The fear of darkness will vanish, and drunkenness and depravity increase.
4. Police objection. Horses will be frightened and thieves emboldened.
5. Objections from the people. If streets are illuminated every night, such constant illumination will rob festive occasions of their charm.

Gas was first used for street lighting, then for lighting of public buildings and some wealthy homes. Gas for home lighting did not make any great progress until between the years 1865 and 1875.

Slow as it was in development, gas lighting was well advanced before people began to use gas for cooking and heating purposes. It was not until after 1859 that gas was thus used in the United States, and then only stoves manufactured in England were used. The high price of gas retarded the growth of gas cooking appliances.

About 1880, American manufacturers timidly began the manufacture of gas stoves. Crude as these were, the American housewife welcomed them, for they brought about a new era which did away with carrying fuel, feeding the fire and hauling the ashes.

Soon came improvements in the appearance and construction, but no extreme changes were made until 1913, when an oven heat regulator was invented. The first regulator-equipped gas range was sold in 1915.

The last 10 years have been years of refinement for gas stoves. Appearances have been improved and the modern touch added by the use of color. What, we wonder, will be the next step of the manufacturers toward making the homemaker additionally "gas conscious?"

Dance Your Way to Happiness

By Jerry Martin

We all have it! The desire to possess grace and poise, gracious mannerisms and a feeling of being at ease on all occasions is held by every woman. As college girls, we are the luckiest persons on earth. Co-ed days are bubbling with opportunities to satisfy desires. Let's wake up, find ourselves, "live"—and be happy!

When we enter college we enter a new world, the world of "you have to do it yourself." In this new world there are chances on every corner to meet the "other self." We may learn to express our "new selves," develop our personalities and be successes, or we may travel on with the mediocres mob to no definite destination. Before coming to college many girls have never had the time, chance or encouragement to satisfy their desire for self-expression. Perhaps until now they were the center of affairs without exerting themselves. Here, however, they must put their best selves forward if they would be recognized at all.

To live happily with those around her a woman should be good company, a gracious guest and an entertaining hostess.

Dancing is one means of developing these requirements. Chalif, the Russian master, says, "To dance is to live." Dancing is more than doing steps, manipulating the arms and swaying the body in rhythm to music. Dancing is a means of acquiring grace and poise and of finding a greater appreciation of music. It is the best way of satisfying that urge for self-expression. The dancing offered to the Iowa State girl is not a course of dances to be memorized. It is a course of music and feeling to be acquired and (continued on page 7)
ARE you interested in the pattern of your silverware? Such a bald question may lift a score of feminine voices into an afternoon of argument and confidential confessions. Every young bride-elect thrills at the thought of choosing her own silverware. Have you ever stopped to think of all the queer ancestors our spoons and knives must have had before they reached the elegance of modern plate?

There are fashions in silverware, just as there are fashions in hats, figures and fabrics. Long ago, before the days of Emily Post, eating with one's fingers was highly approved. He who could eat most have had before they reached the plate.

Certain shells were more fashionable than others when spoons had their innovation. In pre-Tudor times, the wealthy carried folding, diamond-pointed spoons on their travels. Guests even took their own folding spoons with them when invited to a feast.

We of this generation have accepted certain articles of silverware as definite necessities, and are quite in favor of using a number of others besides, to facilitate matters of eating.

A "set" of silver 30 years ago could be packed in an outing flannel holder and tucked away in the sideboard drawer. Today wedding silver may include several sets, in different patterns and makes, any one of which refuses to be packed away in anything other than its own chest.

If silver is to be very correct there will be a luncheon size knife and fork, a larger knife and fork used only for dinner, soup spoons, cereal spoons, which are taking the place of the former dessert size, teaspoon, very small after dinner coffee spoons, individual butter spreaders, salad forks, salad knives, cocktail forks, parfait spoons, iced-tea spoons, pickle and pie forks and sugar longs.

The Treasure Chest

By Dorothy Clements

What an array of plate for one small bride!

Stainless steel blades for knives have become increasingly popular in the last 10 years. Within the last three years has come a blade which is all white metal, guaranteed neither to stain nor to wear out. The very newest in knives is the pattern which has a longer handle than is usually found on a table knife, but a much shorter blade. The blade is sharp and pointed, resembling a paring knife. Instead of one's finger coming in contact with the knife blade, in this new knife the forefinger rests on the handle. Recently a fork with a longer handle has been designed to accompany the knife.

Silverware again derives from the normal by coming onto the market clad in a coat of gold plate. This silverware is plated three times, as usual, but the last coat, instead of being of silver, is of gold.

To have a truly noble service of plate, keep adding to it. At every birthday or Christmas season get a new piece of fine workmanship and put it among your treasures. Nothing can so cheapen your home as crude, "faddy" plate; nothing so enhance its appeal as the simple elegance of beautiful silver.

An Accident Made Huck Toweling

A person often wonders, when using different kinds of fabrics, just how anyone happened to think of weaving them just the way they are woven.

Some, no doubt, were worked out after long, tedious days and years of research, but there is one which was discovered purely by accident. James K. Martin, who was born and raised in northern Ireland, was bound out when a lad to the owner of a linen mill in Cork, Ireland. In those days most of the cloth woven on looms was of plain design; consequently he was soon advanced to the point where he was allowed to thread the loom. One day, either in a spirit of mischief or through carelessness, he got the needles mixed, and when he started to weave, the result was different from anything anyone had ever seen before.

Of course, it wasn't long until the foreman of the mill discovered what was going on, and he was shrewd enough to realize that the cloth had sales possibilities, so by changing the needles just a trifle, the first huck-a-back toweling was woven. Since then the name has been abbreviated to huck toweling, an item found in practically every home in the world.

Editor's Note: It is of interest that Anafred Stephenson, H. Ec. Soph., is the great-granddaughter of James K. Martin, inventor of huck toweling.

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(Continued from page 3) expressed in such a manner as to brighten the individual personality of each girl. Dancing is a means of overcoming that haunting feeling of self-consciousness which cramps so many girls' lives.

But too often the girl who most desires and needs this new freedom from herself, shuns the studio because she feels that she is not talented in dancing. It is with this girl that Terpsichore, the mythical goddess of dancing, would most love to play. We can all appreciate beautiful music without necessarily having the talent to compose. So can we all learn the joy of dancing without being master of the art.

Music, painting and poetry seem closer to us, when we enter into or behold the harmony of perfect rhythm. Let us make life a joyful experience of finding our "other selves." Let us dance our way to happiness.

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