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In Appreciation of Helen Bishop

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Iowa State College

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More than the Glory . . .

by Barbara Apple

More than the glory that was Greece
Man hungers for a home and peace;
More than the grandeur that was Rome
Burns this hunger for a home,
The wistful spirit's honeycomb.
This hunger that cannot be fed
By golden roof or silver gate,
As hard as truth, as fixed as fate,—
This hunger for the heart's escape
Against the world's blind helter-skelter.
The single simple human shelter
Where some child—Lincoln may find rest,
Some god sleep on his mother's breast.

This sonnet by Joseph Auslander
expresses simply the necessity of
homes and the need of home management.

The first appearance of home management
at Iowa State College was in 1916.
During the following 10 years the interest of the college women and the increasing enrollment made it necessary for three houses to be used: The Ellen H. Richards, Mary B. Welch and Isabel Bevier Houses. In 1928 the number of students required to carry the home management house residence course was too large for the capacity of these three houses, so a fourth had to be taken over for temporary use.

This addition was the Georgia White House, which stands north of the Agricultural Engineering Building. It had been used for a cooperative house for girls but had outgrown that use. The Georgia White House was used during both sessions of the summer school of 1929, and then stood empty until it was more completely furnished during the winter of 1929.

In the spring of 1928 it was found that the Mary B. Welch House was on ground which was needed for a unit about to be built to Birch Hall, one of the two women's dormitories, so the house was moved to a place near the other houses, which would centrally locate the home management houses near the Home Economics Building and also near the nursery school. The new site is just north of the Isabel Bevier House.

With the renaming of college halls, the name Mary B. Welch was desired for use as the name for Birch Hall, so the home management house of this name was given the name Gertrude Coburn, in honor of Gertrude Coburn Jessup, who was head of the work in domestic economy at Iowa State College from 1890-1900 when that work was still classed under the work of the Agricultural Division.

In 1929 the Household Administration Department was made to function as three departments: Home Management with Miss Helen Bishop as head, Child Development with Mrs. Lulu Lancaster as head, and Household Equipment with Dean Genevieve Fisher as acting head.

With the reorganization of the Home Management Department, it was felt that training in supervision of home management houses could be included in graduate work.

The moving of Gray Cottage from its location near the dormitories offered an opportunity for obtaining a house better suited to home management purposes than the Georgia White House. After being moved to a site just west of the nursery school, the house was extensively remodeled, redecorated and refinished under the direction of Miss Bishop. This newest home management house, the Alice Norton House, was opened in 1931.

In Appreciation of Helen Bishop
by Florence Busse Smith

The life of another home economics woman is only a beautiful memory. Helen Bishop is dead. All that is left to us of this splendid woman is the department which she built so carefully and so well. There remains also in the hearts of students and faculty the stir of a philosophy of life built deeper and more sincerely than the philosophies which most of us have been able to attain. All through her long and painful illness she lived outside herself and thought always of others and their comfort and joy rather than her own. She enjoyed beauty. It was a part of her life. In her home, which she shared with friends, were lovely things brought from her own girlhood home. To these she had added many beautiful articles. Her lovely garden had the advantage of her planning, even to the last weeks of her illness, and was a constant joy to her. In her room were many books of poetry and finest fiction.
She enjoyed her work. On her office desk were each year's best technical offerings in the field of home management and allied subjects.

The Isabel Bevier House was closed for the spring quarter of 1932 because of a small number of seniors ready for the course. During the summer school of that same year, the house was reopened.

A continued drop in the enrollment of the college made the opening of the Gertrude Coburn House unnecessary in the fall of 1932, and up to the present time, the enrollment has not warranted the use of four houses.

It is the aim of the home management course to broaden the outlook of present and future homemakers, that they may develop a greater appreciation of the finest things of home life, a discrimination between its important and less important phases, and a desire for an increase of knowledge of better ways and means of handling household processes and home activities.

To present your friend with an individual Christmas gift, buy a sheet of pewter and with a hammer, pound out some glass coasters. Add to these some bright glassware from the 10 cent store, and you can give her an attractive set for a bridge table or window ledge. Incidentally, it's quite inexpensive.

Each is carefully marked. In her files are excellent clippings. Many hours must have gone into purposeful study.
She enjoyed the students. No service for them seemed too small. Their development was always her concern and her greatest effort was in her plans for them.
She enjoyed her friends and coworkers. Even with each day's demands she found time for gracious friendliness, delightful humor and sincere concerns. Each one realized that here was a woman who had discovered the way of the good life and all admired its richness and beauty.
She enjoyed her church. She was an Episcopalian. To her, religion was a vital force. Each Sunday found her worshipping in her pew. The service of the church she made a part of her interest and planning. The rector remembers frequent timely gifts, unannounced, which he knew must have come from her.
So she lived an abundant life among us and challenged us all to glorifying what might otherwise be mere routine.