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Lively Leisure for Summer

by Betty Shoemaker

Although "Pity the poor working girl" may have been the catch phrase in Grandmother's day, the modern college girl, home for a summer vacation, is apt to envy her not a little. True, the alarm clock may ring rather early 5 or 6 days a week, but there are some obvious advantages. Any job gives you "experience," that rather vague and mystical-sounding word which refers to the thing that stenographers, salad girls and shop clerks all acquire. Although the other advantage—a pay check that comes at regular intervals—may seem to you more important, it is easier to get a second job is you can list previous employment with other companies.

One of the things that a student learns on the first job is that being right 95 percent of the time is not a good enough average. It may have counted only one point off in the physics examination, but adding 3 and 3 to make 4 may take two dollars out of your next week's salary if it happens once too often. Probably the one most important thing in holding down a job is accuracy. If you already have that, you are very lucky. If you realize that occasionally you can make a mistake, the best way out is to check all your work through with the people with whom you work. That means being friendly, yet keeping a businesslike attitude. Besides discovering some interesting and amusing people among your associates, you will find them much more willing to teach you and far more charitable towards your shortcomings.

The person who speaks to the office boy, and janitors, who knows the elevator girl and the other girls and fellows in the office as well as the big boss, has just as good a chance of getting ahead as the girl who got in because she had pull. She has so many more people working with her instead of against her. It's surprising how quickly and efficiently the office force can force a girl they dislike into either leaving the company or transferring to another department.

Here's a tip: if you did get in on pull, keep it to yourself, and work three times as hard. Then if the office force does find out, it will realize that you have proved yourself valuable, never using the name that got you in to get by. Don't be afraid to give full measure of yourself in work-

ing hard and full time. There is a saying, not Chinese, "He who watches the clock usually remains one of the hands."

There is one thing that will take you a long way toward success and efficiency—a real interest in your job. Not a forced or pretended interest with days dragging from pay day to pay day, from weekend to weekend, but a real enthusiasm for your work. Particularly if you think you might want to work summers, you find it is a great asset to know some of the other jobs in the office. Never slight your own work, but don't be afraid to help someone else if you are not busy. Perhaps the company could use someone who is already trained to help out during vacations next year, and two weeks at several jobs would relieve the monotony that comes with too long a time at one mechanical job.

One must not be afraid to get hands dirty! You will probably have to combat the attitude that college people are unwilling to begin at the bottom. You may start with the first rung, but you should be able to take two at a time more easily.

In any kind of selling, remembering names is an accomplishment worth cultivating. Psychology should help in smooth handling of ruffled feelings. Keeping out of arguments is a wise policy in almost any line. Some people seem to find tact as natural as breathing, but most of us have to acquire it, trying to remember that true consideration for the other person is as important as using the right fork at dinner.

Clerical and stenographic jobs are not the only ones open, of course. One of the summer jobs that pays the biggest dividends in fun is a camp job, either in a private camp, a large camp of the Girl Scout, Camp Fire type, or a day camp. The private camps as a rule pay the best salaries, although the swimming, nature and handicraft teachers in the larger camps often do well. Most of your pay, though, is a sunny, happy, peaceful summer.

Forgive me if your own camp memories are different. Camp is one of those things. You either like it a lot or you don't like it at all. Most camps emphasize swimming. Other than that they vary a good deal. Sometimes hiking, canoeing, archery and out-of-door cooking are featured. Perhaps one of the red letter days of the season is a barn frolic with all the villagers invited and a fiddler to call the square dances. There may be treasure hunts, or a circus with pink lemonade and army blanket elephants. Of course, you are expected to bring some good ideas along.

Crafts you may find are block printing, clay modeling, leather or metal work, puppets or marionettes, weaving or sketching. If you are lucky you can join the other counselors to read or dance in a lodge with lights and a radio, after the cherubs are put to bed, counting out your regular night for guard duty, of course.

Summer tourists have become one of the major industries for many parts of the country. In fact there is one small town in northern Michigan that claims it makes enough money in three months on vacationers to live very well the other nine. Gift shops and tea rooms in popular resorts offer a good opportunity to combine a vacation with a chance to make a little money.

This summer would be an excellent time for getting acquainted with the family. You could learn much about how a house is run—marketing, food preparation, general management. And you might acquire the art of ironing shirts very well. A summer school at home would combine "Science with Practice," and still give afternoons free for tennis and swimming. Why stop learning just because the calendar says July?