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All Aboard for Field Trips

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All aboard for
Home Ec. field trips

by Mary Vandecar
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SCIENCE with Practice, the motto of Iowa State College is true to life when the Home Economics students in all departments trade their classrooms for a field trip.

Each year the Home Economics women go on approximately 30 field trips throughout the midwest, some as far as 700 miles away.

"Winter trips" or "spring trips" are common names that might apply to Journalism majors who work on Iowa weekly newspapers during their spring vacation; to Household Equipment students who tour some of the outstanding equipment manufacturing firms; to Child Development, Applied Art or Textile and Clothing majors who study the business world and its products in relation to their special interests.

Commercial firms and institutional directors cooperate and take special interest in such student visits for their home economics staffs may someday include you, the visitor.

During your 4-year training, you look forward to one or more of these field trips and imagine yourself someday on the other side.

The Applied Art Department sends its graduating seniors to Chicago every second year. This fall the students made the Palmer House Hotel their headquarters. During the 3-day stop, they explored the Art Institute, seeing the collections of paintings by the old masters and studying the modern collections.

See model rooms

It was here they were conducted on a special tour of the Thorne Miniature Model Rooms. One inch on the model represents 1 foot of the actual full-scale room, and the rooms are prized because their furnishings are original designs of famous rooms and periods.

A visit to the studio of one of America's leading designers, Angelo Testa, and the opportunity to see a silk screen demonstration by Ben Rose, one of the top American textile designers, were high points on this year's schedule.

Another activity on this trip was a visit to the English Room of Marshall Field and Company for an Applied Art luncheon. There the students spoke to Iowa State graduates, Nancy Wilson, '51, designer of kitchens and bathrooms for Crane Manufacturing Company, Chicago; Jane Brown, '50, pattern buyer for 11 million families and more than 350 Sears Roebuck Stores in North and South America; and Helen Twogood, '46, who prepares advertising layout and copy for the trade magazine, Specialty Salesman.

"The largest showcase in the world," the Merchandise Mart, was also an eye-opener for the students. They explored its 93 acres of floor space — all in one building.

Visit community agencies

The Child Development Department sponsors a 2-day field trip to Des Moines each quarter. On this trip they visit eight different community agencies in Des Moines.
the Polk County Home for the physically and mentally ill and those financially unable to support themselves; the Polk County Juvenile Home for neglected, dependent and delinquent children; and the Booth Memorial Home and Hospital, sponsored by the Salvation Army for unwed mothers.

**Study management**

Organization and management operations are studied at the Raymond Blank Memorial Hospital for children; the Smouse Opportunity School, a training school for crippled and handicapped children; the Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center; The Family Society of Des Moines; and Willkie House, the newest settlement house in Des Moines.

Education majors soon to begin practice teaching go to each of the towns where Iowa State College has a college supervised home economics program. Story City, Eldora, Iowa Falls, Ogden and Jefferson are the towns where a supervisor is appointed from the education staff of the college. This director is in charge of both the student teachers and of the home economics department in her high school. The quarter following their observation trips, the girls will learn by doing as they become student teachers.

"A field trip of long, long standing" is how Margaret Liston, head of the Department of Home Management, describes her department's trip to Tone Brothers in Des Moines, a processing and wholesale establishment dealing exclusively in imported spices, coffee and flavorings.

Besides seeing the grinding, blending and packaging of the product, the touring students study first hand the application of principles and techniques in marketing and note the various acts and services included in retail and wholesale establishments. At Des Moines grocery firms, merchandising pricing, advertising and handling policies are observed in action. The vast distribution system of Younker Brothers and Colonial Bakery are discussed with the managers.

**Take equipment trip**

Every other year about 20 Household Equipment juniors and seniors plan a week-long field trip to Chicago and east to Cleveland, Mansfield and North Canton, Ohio. They stay 1 day in each of the four cities. In Chicago the travelers tour the Underwriter's Laboratories, a safety-testing agency for household appliances, and the Sears Roebuck testing department.

In Cleveland the women tour the General Electric Lighting Company and the American Gas Company, and in Mansfield, the group may see appliances going through the production lines at Westinghouse and the Tappan Stove Company. They observe the department of home economics functioning in the Westinghouse factory, preparing information for distribution to the consumer.

**See food service**

Bishop's Cafeteria, Drake Women's Dormitory Food Service, Methodist Hospital and Hotel Savory play hosts to senior and graduate students on the Institution Management field trip each quarter. Their purpose is to study quantity food service.

At Bishop's they view counter service, set-up and organization of equipment and observe food being distributed from a downstairs central kitchen.

At the Hotel Savory, the travelers were graciously conducted through guest rooms and special suites and given an opportunity to visit with the chef, manager, assistant manager and head housekeeper.

Bearskin rugs and blue and gold furs named "sapphire" and "topaz" were shown Textiles and Clothing majors at Connie's Fur Manufacturing and Retailing Company in Des Moines. The class saw methods of cutting, sewing and assembling fur pieces. They noted that each individual process in the completion of a fur coat is highly specialized. All the work is done by hand and it takes 6 weeks to finish a coat.

**Tour clothing companies**

While in Des Moines, this same group toured the Capitol Garment Company, Des Moines' only garment manufacturer. The company's specialty is blue jeans, a product demanding modern, speedy, low-cost manufacturing. Powerful electric cutters much like a jigsaw move through stacks of denim 12 inches thick. Economy is stressed so every scrap of material is used.

Technical journalism majors apply classroom knowledge to Iowa weekly newspapers during their spring vacations. They become members of the editorial and advertising staffs that take over the job of publishing a newspaper for a week.

A 30 to 40-page weekly newspaper offers the student additional experience in gathering information, writing copy, meeting deadlines and laying out pages.

Field trips offer an exciting way for you to learn, and you'll find them an important part of your college education.