Our Near-Campus Apartment

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It's home for us—

Our near-campus apartment

By Barbara Culver
Technical Journalism Sophomore

COLLEGE DANCE PROGRAMS and engineering textbooks in the modern apartment at 1222½ Marston Avenue indicate that Jo and Ron Moss are not ordinary Ames dwellers.

Ron Moss, an engineering senior and student body president, and his wife, Jo, combine apartment living with a busy campus schedule.

Ron has classes during the day and Jo is a student worker at the Memorial Lutheran Church. Ron estimates that the two of them have from four to six night meetings during the week. Jo adds that they haven't had a free weekend since they've been married.

Their apartment—kitchen, living room, bedroom and bath—isn't large but for "living-for-two" they find it comfortable.

As much as the Mosses would have liked to completely decorate their apartment, they thought that the extra money invested in an already-furnished apartment would be a wise compromise to make in return for the extra time that redecorating and furnishing would take from their busy schedules.

To the "Why apartment?" question, Ron points out that although Pammel Court rent is about one third as much as apartment rent, most Pammel houses are unfurnished and would require lots of work before they're livable. The Mosses don't feel a trailer would work for them because "they seem so tiny" and then, too, you have to buy them.

The door to the second story apartment opens into an oblong living room. The center of interest is the fabric covered sofa set in front of double windows at the far end of the room.

The dining room adjoins the kitchen which contains both a preparation and eating area. The kitchen, which "goes around a corner", so the eating area is distinct from the preparation area, contains a large refrigerator with a freezing compartment.

A novel storage area made of punchboard for hanging pots, pans and utensils above the stove was Ron's project.

Closet space is no problem for Ron and Jo. They have one very large closet off the living room and another closet adjoining the bedroom. An unfurnished semi-attic gives Jo space for drying the clothes which she washes in the self-service laundry downtown.

Meal costs
Jo estimates her meal costs at $12 per week or $72 per person per quarter compared to the $125 for dormitory meals. "Of course the rent here is higher than dormitory rent," Jo says, "but we just about make the difference when we figure meals too. We have to eat out a lot, because of Ron's position, which doesn't help our budget much."

Ron and Jo leave their apartment before 8 o'clock in the morning and return for lunch, which Jo cooks in the apartment. "We leave the campus at 11:45 a.m. and return at 1:15 p.m.,” says Ron. “That way we avoid most of the traffic rush.”

The Mosses report that apartments ARE hard to find. They rented theirs last spring and paid the rent all summer in order to have it when they were married in September.

Jo graduated last summer and Ron will finish school this June. But in the meantime, the Mosses enjoy apartment living combined with work and schooling.