

Judge Allen Interviewed— “Can a Homemaker Be a Citizen?”

OF COURSE a homemaker can be a citizen,” said Florence Allen, judge of the Ohio Supreme court, the only woman in the United States to hold such a position.

At the invitation of Mrs. R. A. Pearson, we drew our chairs closer to Judge Allen as we sat in the living room at the “Knoll” before a blazing log fire. Years ago Mrs. Pearson and Miss Allen were roommates at Western Reserve College and largely thru the influence of this friendship were Iowa State people privileged to hear Judge Allen at an all college convocation.

“A woman,” said Miss Allen, “should make the same use of leisure time as a man. Men earn a living, to be sure, yet all their time is not spent in this manner. They do not give up citizenship for business and neither should a woman give up citizenship for homemaking. Conversely, we do not think of a man giving up earning his living to take the responsibilities of citizenship so why should we think that a woman must give up her work as homemaker to perform her duties as a citizen.”

“In her own home,” continued Judge Allen, “a woman can exert a tremendous influence for right administration of government. She can inform herself, she can vote, telephone, and write letters. She can make a special effort to get out and meet people whom a man would normally meet in his business relationships.”

“A woman owes a special duty to her children to be informed about public affairs. Every mother wants the respect of her children and to gain this she must keep up. No child should be brot up in a community with improper administration of government.”

“A man also has a home duty to his children and if he meets this responsibility the mother will have more leisure time. Then too it means more to the children to have a father as well as a mother. I was fortunate enough to have a father,” and Miss Allen’s eyes twinkled.

“For the first few years of marriage a homemaker is unusually busy, but after the children are well established in school she finds herself with more leisure time and it is then that she can take

on more civic duties. If women take on these duties they will keep younger and find life more interesting. There are too many dried up old ladies with nothing to do. Women stifle themselves by living entirely in houses.”

Judge Allen, in her plain black dress, her hair, simply dressed but soft and becoming, continued, “Now I like nice things but all embroidered underwear is a waste of time and no one ever sees it. Instead of spending all one’s leisure in embroidery and sewing, one should read and keep informed.”

In conclusion Miss Allen said, “There are no rules as to how much outside work a homemaker should take over—that depends on the individual woman. If she has taken the responsibility of raising children and sees that her outside work is interfering, the outside work should be dropped. Her children must come first, but a homemaker should have some extra time.”

As we rose to go, Judge Allen smiled and added, “Don’t let anyone think that I’m down on marriage, for I am not. I’m for it, only I think it should be somewhat adjusted.”

A Summer Living Room

By MILDRED BOYT

IN spring a young man’s fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love.” So sing the poets—therefore it must be true. However, the thoughts of Dad and Mother and the rest of the family turn to lovely gardens and cool porches, and so, unconsciously, they prepare the stage for sister and someone else’s brother.

How lovely a porch may be made! But alas, how seldom people utilize their porches for an extra summer living room. One may walk blocks and blocks and pass bare porches and verandas used only for a passage way to the door, or else covered with ugly old furniture that mother won’t have in the house. But with a bit of energy on the part of some one, these same porches could become places where the young people of the neighborhood would collect on warm evenings, and where merry laughter would be heard accompanied by the tinkle of ice in lemonade glasses.

“But how?” you ask. “Porch furniture is so expensive we simply cannot afford it.” If you can afford nothing new, go up to your attic and look around. Here you will doubtless discover cast off furniture that has been collecting for years. Choose the plainest chairs and a table or so, take off any curlicues and decoration that may be removed, then invest in a can or two of flat white paint and some enamel. The furniture should be scrubbed well with strong soap and a brush, then the old finish sand papered off. Apply two or three coats of flat white paint, allowing each coat to dry thoroughly before adding the next. Final-

ly add a coat of colored enamel. It is best to paint the furniture in rather dark colors as it requires much less time and effort to care for it. A blue grey makes lovely porch furniture, especially when stenciled in some brighter harmonizing colors.

After the finishing coat has been added and has dried the furniture may be decorated by adding stenciled designs, or bright colored lines or by simply adding bright cretonne or chintz cushions and head pieces. One lovely piece of furniture I saw was made from an old wash stand. It had been painted a soft neutral color and then brightly colored squares of chintz had been pasted over the panels in the doors and pieces of molding tacked around them. This piece of furniture was used on a porch to hold sewing and magazines. Furniture enameled black takes such decorations beautifully, though most people prefer color.

Of course for an outside porch one must take the color of the house into consideration and paint the furniture in a harmonizing neutral shade.

The porch must have one or more rugs of some kind. Matting is about the cheapest as well as the best covering for the floor. It also comes in cool summery shades and adds greatly to the attractiveness of the porch. However, at times one may have a rug that goes well with the furniture and that is not too good for a porch. Then, to, what can make a more appropriate floor covering than rag rugs? Where is the family that

doesn’t have rags? These rags may be cut in narrow strips and crocheted into a run in a surprisingly short time. The best thing about the finished rugs is that they cost nothing. Can you imagine a more restful place on a warm afternoon than a shady porch containing pieces of furniture painted a grey blue, decorated in a brighter blue, and on the floor several grey and blue hit and miss rag mats? Now imagine a grey pottery jug filled with bright flowers on a table and green vines climbing up one end of the porch and the picture is complete. Don’t you think the young people would choose such a place in preference to the movies on a hot summer evening?

A family occupying a house with unroofed verandas or no porches at all need not despair but may have as attractive an outdoor room as any one.

On an uncovered veranda most furniture will not do for it is sure to be forgotten and left out in the rain some night and ruined.

For such a place the most desirable furniture is rustic or made of wood with the bark still on. Rain and weather does not hurt it and the family need not be awakened by rain in the night to remember that the porch furniture has been left out.

Families with no porches at all should make one in the garden. With a tree for a roof and the thick green turf for a rug, may be made the loveliest porch of all. Here a green and white bed-hammock, hanging from a standard roofed

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A Summer Living Room

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with a canopy and covered with cushions may be placed near the rustic tea wagon, a canopy chair to match the hammock, and a white lawn bench or two completes the picture. One may also buy a huge lawn umbrella and erect it over the tea table.

So you see porches may be cheap or expensive but always attractive. They are within the reach of every one and the family with such a porch will find themselves living out of doors and will be healthier, happier and wiser as a result.

Hazards of Bird Life

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of them make on their migrations from tropical winter homes to temperate or even arctic breeding homes in the summer. Nature sometimes tempts them to go too fast into the inhospitable tho smiling North. Nature doesn't always keep her promises, and often many a bird freezes to death when a cold snap comes. And sometimes they do not get away fast enough on the southward flight.

The years of most birds are few, and the end is always tragic. That is the natural order of things. The old bird, perhaps a decade old, finds its wings too feeble to keep up with the flock. It lags behind, prey for some hawk or kite that hangs about the flanks of the migrating flock. Perhaps it drops exhausted to the earth only to become the prey of some rat or mink or fox.

And so the struggle goes endlessly on; eggs are laid, young hatch, the nestling period is passed thru, the young are fledged, the birds mature and mate and the long, long fall and spring journeys are taken. All along the way the dangers lurk. Some of the birds escape one only to run into another peril. One after another they are pulled down so that only enough escape to maintain the stable population of each species.

After all, isn't it a good deal like the way we human beings go thru life? Our enemies are different ones, it is true, but they are just as inexorable. If one of them doesn't get us, another will. Perhaps the care-free philosophy of the birds, if we may consider it as such, wouldn't be so bad a plan for the rest of us bipeds after all. What do you think?

The Eternal Question

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HOME-MADE METAL CLEANER

Will you please give me a recipe for a good general metal cleaner which I can make myself?

In making the following place the silicic acid in a bottle first, then add the other ingredients.

- ¼ cup dilute oxalic acid
- 1 box electro silicic acid
- ½ cup wood alcohol
- 1 pt. kerosene

A RECIPE FOR VEAL BIRDS

Will you kindly send me a recipe for veal birds?

Select slices of veal from the leg, cut as thinly as possible, remove bone, fat and skin. Cut in pieces two and one-half inches wide, each piece making a bird. Chop trimmings of veal and a small piece of salt pork and add one-half their measure of finely crushed crackers. Season

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