

# THE IOWA HOMEMAKER

"A Magazine for Homemakers From a Homemaker's School"

Published monthly during the school year by the home economics students of Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa. Price \$1.00 per year. Advertising rates on application. Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice, Ames, Iowa

VOL. XIV

APRIL, 1934, AMES, IOWA

NO. 1

## Chu I Yang Tells Betty Melcher That

## Girls Don't Date in China

WHEN 10 o'clock comes at least 3 hours too soon on the night that you have a date with *the* man, don't moan because you have to keep hours; instead, shout out your joy that you are in school at Iowa State College and not Cheeloo University in China!

Chu I Yang, Chinese coed who is taking graduate work in entomology here, thinks we have unheard of freedom. She is a graduate of Cheeloo University. In her native country, China, the word "date" just isn't! If a young, handsome lad spies a charming lass, he has to get three or four other couples to go along before he can even take her out for a walk. Even then, they may have a chaperon hovering in the background. In Chinese universities, nice girls just don't go out with men alone—unless they have known said gentleman for some time and their interests toward each other are strictly honorable.

Miss Yang is a delightfully charming girl who fairly radiates her lively personality. Her teeth are remarkably white and regular and her small eyes, typical of her race, sparkle like brown topaz from behind her gold rimmed glasses.

In her charmingly foreign accent, Miss Yang says, "In China we don't have dates. We meet young men in our classes, in organizations, science clubs and societies. We go to these places in groups always. Sometimes a party of young people go to the theater together—but never alone—or the girl's character would be questioned if anyone should find out about it.

"Chinese are not a kissing race. We never, never do what you call 'neck.' Of course, after a couple are engaged, they kiss a little, but only in private, and then secretly."

IN CHINA, you can't even kiss your own mother or dad! At least one never does. Miss Yang tells about a professor she once had in high school who

gave a talk on Chinese customs. "In China we do not kiss," he said. "You go ahead and kiss your mother—I will give you 10 dollars! But no one wants to kiss his mother—no one wants the 10 dollars."

The famous "5 pounds" which play a part in the coveted dream of every coed at Iowa State are unheard of in China.



When a young man and girl desire to announce their engagement, they sometimes send out announcement cards inviting their friends to come to their party at a certain time. When the friends go to the party, they often take gifts to the engaged couple and they *always* take "good words." The "good words" the guests offer to the couple depend on the individuals. Some of the more common phrases are: "We hope you will live until you are both very old and die together;" or "Long life;" or "We hope you will have many children." The latter is a good blessing—for in China children in a family mean the parents are blessed. Married people, according to Miss Yang, are considered "no good" if they do not have children, because no children is a sign of an ill-blessing.

When university students in China wish to "go some place," they never consider a dance as we do, because dances

in China are only for foreigners or bad people. Bridge is a vague game that only Christian organizations plan. When Chinese students get together for the evening, they play Chinese chess, group games, work puzzles, and they even compose poetry in game fashion.

Miss Yang on the campus wears the costume of her native country. One of her dresses is made of green velvet trimmed sparingly with green satin. It is cut wrap-around style, fastening on the side, while the skirt boasts a modest split to the knee. Her neck is clothed in a high, tightly fitting collar and her sleeves are only three-quarters in length. Her slim figure gracefully carries her simple, straight and comfortable costume.

It is a dress of a design similar to this that Chinese girls wear to their formal dinners—only they don't call them formal dinners. As Miss Yang explains, "We do not have formal dinners. We have formal feasts! Of course, they may be either formal or informal."

BEFORE this feast is served, the guests are entertained at a tea party. Hot tea, watermelon and squash seeds, cookies, dried fruit and candy are served—and in between sips the guests talk. After everyone has been properly teated, the party goes in to dinner. The very smallest feast must have at least 12 different dishes of food, while the very formal affair boasts of 60 to 100 dishes! The feasting lasts 2 or 3 hours.

The Chinese feast is carried on somewhat like the American installment plan. To start the dinner off, a platter of meat, a bowl of vegetables, and possibly a dish of sea food are served. In the meantime more victuals are being cooked and prepared in the kitchen. Everyone tastes the different foods, and if he likes something he can have more of it—if he dislikes it, he isn't wasting it by taking a complete serving the first time. This

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## Hats Show It

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horn. The ribbon of black belting introduces tiny flower motifs in red and green, a version of novelty ribbon which is well liked in the French collections. An elastic bandeau at the back holds the hat on the head.

Some hats suggest the 1900 influence. They have brims about three inches wide, slightly curved up at the sides; crowns are round and low. These hats are worn quite straight and high on the head. The year 1900 is also suggested by the large shapes with irregular brims, low and drooping at one side and very much off the hair on the other.

**T**HOUGH hat makers are reckless with their upturned brims and faithful to the shallow crowns, giving them individuality with creases, tucks or draping, there are few postilion crowns seen. A small hat with rolled brim at the sides and square crown is of the postilion type. It is of a truly spring-like emerald green felt.

All these types are lovely and exciting and new, but perhaps you've been wondering about the little hat, the kind you can jam on your head and dash to class in, confident that with a few curls pulled out here and there you look very presentable.

A large group of little caps, closely fitting the head are being shown. They are in natural or white linen and sometimes combine two colors. For evnning a cap of black satin is open worked by cording. Another has two large satin flowers, one white and one black, posed fetchingly on a little crown of black straw lace.

Very tiny gob shapes (round-crown with narrow cuff brim) are done in fancy straw braids, such as one of felt with cellophane. Fabrics lead the list, though, in popularity and they often have a flower feather trimming, standing up at one side.

**P**ERHAPS you've noticed *Virginia Larmer's* flare for this type of hat. She is a firm believer in the philosophy that nothing adds more chic to a costume than a little hat of a material matching a dress, or one of plain material—linen, crepe, satin—touched up with a bit of trimming to match the outfit. Sometimes we have good ideas, but no convenient method of carrying them out, but *Virginia* has hit upon a clever and easy method of making her little hats.

First she constructs a simple little toque that fits her head exactly. She lets it come down around on all sides quite far, because when she begins, she's never sure exactly what the results will be. Now the real art of millinery is called into action, for she uses this little foundation shape on which to drape her material. Draping and pinning, tucking

and pulling, a bit of stitching, a button or two or perhaps a clever clip—that's the way a little hat is made. They fit perfectly, says *Virginia*; they really have no other choice, if this method is followed. It's not a bit expensive, either, she says, because only a few more inches of material are required and generally that much is left over anyway.

*Virginia* is especially partial to linen hats and plans a jaunty dark blue linen one to go with a figured crepe dress she is making—white and dark blue on a lighter blue background. It will not be an extreme of any style, she says, and will cover up some of her forehead. Another of *Virginia's* hobbies that's just as clever as making her little hats is the making of felt and linen costume purses that match her outfits.

If you've gotten the hat-draping fever after hearing about all this, here's the description of one that's not too hard and results are guaranteed to be potent.

It's a small ciré satin bonnet made with fat rolls of the ciré satin molded expertly to perch on the back of the head and gouged out in front to expose a bit of your bangs. With two round transparent ornaments stuck on top and your most charmingly demur smile, *Easter* should be dawning clear and beautiful for you.

## Girls Don't Date

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course is then removed and more hot food is brought from the kitchen. This continues until the meal is finished. It is always proper to leave something in the serving dish because that signifies abundance—and Chinese like to feel that their country is one of abundance. Sweet dishes and fresh fruits are the last course.

Wine and beer are always placed on the table for those who wish it. The tea that the guests partake of before the feasts helps to digest the dinner—which is generally greasy.

At some of the feasts, men students dress as the men do here, but most of them still wear their Chinese dress. It is very similar to that of the Chinese women. The marked difference is that the men's gowns are longer and the side slit comes almost to the hip. The sleeves on the men's costume come to the wrists. For very formal wear a black jacket is added to their attire.

**S**MILING her broadest smile and revealing her clear white teeth, *Miss Yang* says, "In China 'formal dress' means that we dress up. Here you dress down—you half dress with bare arms and backs when you go to formal dances and dinners. Chinese girls never wear sleeveless dresses, but sometimes at formal feasts we do wear gowns without collars."

Even the music in China differs from ours. Our music affects *Miss Yang* as something which creates sexual expression to stimulate feeling. The music in China is usually heard only as accompaniment to a play. It expresses good lessons for truth and loyalty and one feels that piety is a trait of good character.

The most shocking of American customs to *Miss Yang* when she first came to America 2 years ago, was the open freedom of boys and girls and their evident dating. But she is not shocked now. She has accepted our customs for what they are worth as we accept hers. Nevertheless, she remains firm in her former beliefs.

"I am Chinese," she says, "so of course I like Chinese customs best. I am not against your customs because we have different backgrounds and no one can say which is right or wrong. The only thing for us to do is to accept what has been taught us."

## Saleswomen Size Up Shoppers

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mates they bring with them. They usually make up their minds in a hurry if they come alone, but sometimes they bring as many as four girls along," was one answer.

Other saleswomen are pretty sure that all coeds aren't alike and said that some put on just one dress and are satisfied, while others try on dozens and then become discouraged. They are usually fairly sure what they want and take time to find it.

An experienced saleswoman with a daughter who used to be a coed summarized coed-shopping in a few words:

"Coeds are very frank. I'd rather wait on them than older people. If they like something they say so, and if they don't like it, they say they don't. They usually want many dresses at moderate prices, rather than few at high prices. They want snap and style. They like sport clothes. They are not price-quibblers and they make up their minds in a hurry."

## Sandwich in Sandwiches

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drops of lemon juice, or chopped ham and prepared mustard spread on slices of bread, dipped in a mixture of milk and eggs and fried in butter.

Fruits and vegetables may be included in the children's diets in the form of sandwiches. The following are some suggestions for wholesome and tasty ones: Wash and core apples, slice very thin, butter bread on both sides and place apples between; substitute carrots for apples; shredded head lettuce on well buttered bread; 1 cup finely cut parsley

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