

Student-Teachers Gain Valuable Experience In Iowa Communities

by Ruth Hackett

BLACKBOARDS, paper and pencil, colored paper cut-outs and notebooks are things with which every child is familiar after his first year in school.

Teaching is one vocation studied first hand by young people. They watch the teacher grow older each year. They know the community restrictions upon her. No wonder, then, that it's the more glamorous vocations which receive first choice in the minds of high school graduates.

But somewhere between high school and college graduation young women change their ambitions. The sassy little girl who says "I'd rather die than be a school teacher" becomes the mature woman who says, "Teaching will give me an opportunity to pass on to others what I have learned."

And it doesn't happen in just a few cases. The largest department in the Division of Home Economics at Iowa State is the Department of Home Economics Education. It has been the largest for many years.

A total of 200 women are studying in the education department here. Half of these are seniors who will be doing their first student teaching this year.

These senior women recently were asked to give their reasons for choosing home economics education. The answers show the value they expect to gain from teaching.

"I like working with younger people." "It is changing and interesting to work with human beings." "Home economics should be a vital part of the adolescent girl's life." "There is no deterioration of the mind in teaching. You have to keep abreast of the world."

The practical-minded woman adds other important reasons for teaching. "I felt that this major would give me a good background for any profession in home economics." "I am interested in home economics extension and need teaching work as a stepping stone." "It's a vocation that I can readily step back into." In none of these answers—0 out of 99—could the reason "high salaries" be found. Even though home economics teachers do receive a high salary, compared to others in the field, it evidently wasn't considered by the future educators.

First Year Teaching

"I learned more in the first year I taught than in my 4 years of college." That's a comment often repeated. And the reason back of it is that she gains practical experience. By digging into files she made during college and forming them into a step by step explanation of home economics, the teacher makes her class pay dividends.

An opportunity is given each student in education to gain this practical experience in college through the student teaching program. During her senior year the education major actually takes over a class in home economics for 6 weeks of teaching in one of 4 Iowa towns.

These classes follow the curriculum already set up in the schools and are usually on the tenth and twelfth

grade level. A class for younger students is also taught by student teachers in Ames high schools. Both boys and girls enroll in the class. They discuss how to be attractive and how to get along with people.



"My classes keep me hopping," reports one student-teacher. "They want to know more than what's in the reference book."

The student-teachers are enrolled in a class called "Methods of Teaching." They exchange tips and discuss up-to-date methods of presenting facts. They "block in" the 6 weeks of teaching during their school year by living in the community in which they teach the first part of the quarter. They spend the other half in a home management house. Some of the women teach one class all through the quarter in Ames.

The four communities where Iowa State women may teach are Iowa Falls, Story City, Ogden and Ames. Iowa Falls was recently added to the list of centers. The choice of community in which she wishes to work is up to the student-teacher. A full summary of the conditions in each town is provided, including transportation facilities, recreation, shopping, field trips and size of the library. The organizations with which the teacher will be expected to help are also listed.

Many of the homemaking departments in high schools provide adult education classes and school lunch programs. These departments show the full scope of activities of a home economics teacher.