

**THE COMMUTER'S WIFE**

**Why Doesn't Mother Spend Her Vacation Loading - at Home?**

By HELEN BRUNSON

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Someone has remarked that Mother could just as well take her vacation at home—if she'd put her mind to it.

They picture her lying out in a lounge-chair in her back yard, sipping a tall cool lemonade and dozing over the novel she's reading.

But what happens when she really tries it? Just suppose she's packed two of the children off to camp, hired a school girl to herd the other two around and talked father into having dinners out this week because it's her vacation.

The first morning she goes out in the back yard as per plan and lies down. But she can't get far enough from the telephone.

The first time she runs like mad to answer it, it's one of those bothersome telephone "surveys" trying to sell her a new roof, photos, or a furnace-cleaning job.

**SHE HANGS UP**, goes back out and resumes her story-reading. But not for long. The next time she makes a fast run for the telephone (she doesn't dare just let it ring, it might be news of the children) it's the creamy voice of some club-woman, cheerfully reporting:

"We just couldn't let this matter go until fall. We'll have a committee meeting this Thursday and we're counting on you."

It Mother demurs, saying she vacationing, she knows she'll be browbeaten into going, so she agrees.

En route to the yard and her look, again, she notes a leaky kitchen faucet and makes a mental note to call the plumber.

At noon she goes into the house to fix a sandwich and call the plumber, getting his promise to come out later in the day.

While phoning, she noticed the pile of mending and thinks she might as well get it caught up while she's "resting". "Oh yes," she thinks, "Fred said to get the oil tank filled. And, who made those spots on the rug? The children must have dropped some modeling clay and stepped on it. Well, I can get that out with cleaning fluid. While I'm at it I may as well vacuum the whole rug."

**SO MOTHER** has her sandwich and then she cleans the rug. When she returned to the yard for an afternoon of rest and relaxation, she takes the neighbor who.

She's doing pretty well until a mending whom she heartily dislikes spies her, and comes over to visit. She talks and mother listens—all afternoon until the arrival of the plumber rescues her.

While she's in the basement telling him about the leaky valve on the water softener she sees that pile of laundry and things that maybe tomorrow.

Vacation for mother? Not at all! The only way she can get away from her job is to leave it away from it physically, letting her problems sit for a while knowing all the time they will be there when she returns.

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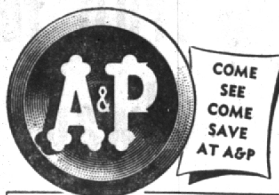
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