

Whirlwind Wives Exhausting

By CLEO SYMONS
Special Writer

Now and then you meet people who are so stimulating it wears you out. They are vivacious, effervescent—and exhausting.

Don't misunderstand me. I'm not referring to the tiresome kind. That's quite another matter. I'm thinking about the person who lights up like a neon sign the moment she finds a willing ear, regaling you with such enthusiasm that sheer contagion saps your strength.

You find yourself seated beside one of these high-powered gals at a friend's house one day. She is usually a tiny, bird-like individual, with snapping eyes and crisp, officious mannerisms.

YOU SMILE and try to keep pace while she recites a list of activities that would incite the envy of a two-year-old and tax the endurance of a mountain goat.

Trying to look intelligent, you do your best to keep abreast and match wits. Dredging up every shred of information you ever read or heard, you pretend to be in the know about the flood of pursuits that engulfs you. There's no question about it—she knows every body, goes everywhere, does everything.

Con conversationally speaking, you struggle along, trying to keep up with her obstructive little thyroid, summoning up stray bits of trivia in a desperate attempt to hold up your end. Little by little, however, you are forced to step up the tempo or be left completely behind. Beginning to puff a bit mentally, you let her run on unchallenged for a while, hoping to think of something important you have done.

AFTER YOU have "how-terribly-interesting-my-hut-you-are-the-busy-one, you-don't-say" to her just so long, you begin to sound like a parrot. Suddenly you realize that you have been yapping her for the last five minutes. And unless you want to be thought a mere carbon copy, it is high time you came up with some dings of your own.

When at last she pauses to light a cigarette, that's your cue. Quickly shifting into high, you launch into what you hope is an equally spirited account. How you went to the movies last week; raised three hems; took the Brownies on a field trip; and had your circle in for a potluck luncheon.

WHILE SHE expells tar-free jets from delicately expanded nostrils, you dash to relate further how you hastened out to that gem of a market for apples, put clean paper on the shelves of the linen closet, and chauffeured Jill to the doctor's office for her booster shots.

About that time you begin to run out of material and start floundering around for something to recount. Rehashing every bit of business, however minute, that has occupied you for the past month, you make a real production of that spot of painting you did while helping to turn your old barn into a playhouse for the kids.

But it's no use. You know only too well that everything you mentioned has been dull as ditch-water, as commonplace as bread and butter.

HOWEVER, it has served a purpose: to remind the chain reactor at your side of still other activities. Like remodeling her friend's old barn, transforming it into a summer theater for the local company which she has been rehearsing for weeks. Or the weekly tour of duty at Beaumont Hospital; promoting a fashion show at the club—all this with one hand tied behind her, you gather.

When you are convinced that surely now she has run the gamut of activities, it develops that she has been up to her ears in politics, attending rallies and committee meetings, helping to elect her favorite candidate.

Pay Dividends to State Veterans

January insurance dividend payments to some 210,000 Michigan veterans will total more than \$13,845,000. Robert M. Fitzgerald, manager of the Veterans Administration Regional Office in Detroit, said recently.

A combined annual and special dividend to World War II veterans (National Service Life Insurance) will total \$13,229,000. World War I veterans (U. S. Government Life Insurance) will receive \$616,000 as their regular annual dividend.

The regular annual dividend payments are usually spread out through the year, being paid on the anniversary date of each policy. Fitzgerald explained. However, the White House announced Nov. 22 that payments will be stepped up so that all will be completed during January. It may be as early as Jan. 15, VA estimates.

In addition, John S. Gleason, Jr., administrator of veterans affairs, has announced that another special dividend, the second in three years, will be paid about the same time to World War II veterans. This special dividend is paid from a contingency reserve fund which will remain more than ample to meet the needs of the insurance program.

AND THAT'S not all. She has other irons in the fire. Whenever there is a lull she sews, making clothes for her two daughters and herself. (Witness the sharp little number she is wearing, for instance.)

As a sideline, she does a bit of painting. Nothing really important, understand. Just some simple illustrations for her children's book Scribners Bros. are publishing in a couple months.

But her real life, it seems, is gardening. Here she becomes positively exuberant. Now if there is one place where you feel on solid ground, gardening is it. Considering the hours you spend among the annuals and the aphids, you feel here, at least, you can match her zeal for zeal.

ALL BUT that's where you are wrong! There is nothing ordinary about this whirlwind's exploits in the world of flowers. She goes in for prize-winning gladiolus and tropical water lilies, rattling off botanical names like an old pro. Unfortunately, she lost you way back there on the far turn when she began to speak learnedly of propagation, 4-D, and heptachlor—stuff you never heard of.

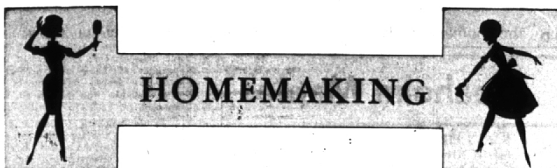
With this staggering array of extracurricular interests, you console yourself that undoubtedly she must be the world's worst wife, mother and housekeeper. Wrong again. The amazing creature's family, you later learn, is a model of health and contentment. And her servantless household, a decorator's delight that runs on oiled wheels; a place for everything and everything in its place—And meah! mmmMH!!!

BY NOW this feminine ball-of-fire has you all stirred up. You have caught some of her spirit during the course of the afternoon. But it all but has you on the ropes. Convinced that you are a congenial sloth, a civic and social dud, you suggest timidly that she must be pretty tired from all these activities.

"Not especially," she confides. "You see I have all this energy, so I simply try to keep busy in my spare time."

Glancing down at her wrist watch, she gives a little scream, hops up and makes her adieu. It is four o'clock and she must fly, she says, airily announcing that she is giving a little dinner party (for a mere dozen) that evening. She is overdue at Tony's for a hairdo, and has to pop into the market for a few things.

Thanking your hostess for a stimulating afternoon, you totter off home to recuperate with a nap before dinner.



HOMEMAKING

Even Gadgets Don't Save Housewife Much Drudgery

We too often picture the typical homemaker as a busy gal who divides her time between driving the family to and from school, secuts and the station, while masterminding an array of gadgets and appliances carefully designed to "take the drudgery out of housework."

Surprising as it may seem, our gal with the mechanical helpmates generally manages to get in more physical exercise per day than does her husband (whether white or blue-collared).

PERHAPS if they ever invented automatic toy picker-uppers, bed-makers and kiddie-feeders her Olympic style day may slow down a bit, but in the meantime, she has other things to worry about.

She must chart the course for keeping her family physically, mentally and emotionally fit. The fitness programs presented by the government and many private agencies all stress a balance of pre-

ventive practices such as regular medical and dental check-ups, exercise, healthy play and recreation, satisfying work, rest—and, of course, proper nutrition.

THE EXECUTION of this program rests in the extremely capable hands of the American homemaker.

As chief cook, she must be sure her family's daily meals meet U.S. Department of Agriculture's recommended requirements of meat, milk, bread or cereal and vegetables or fruit.

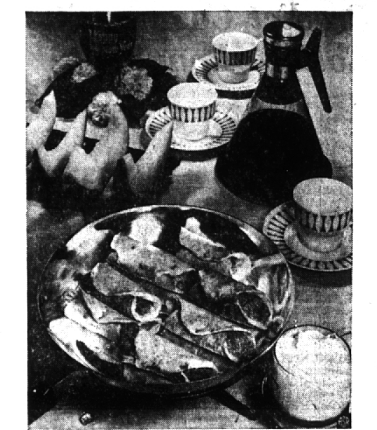
These foods are essential for everyone including teenage girls struggling to swap baby fat for a svelte shape, athletically active boys who want seconds of everything and two ice cream sundae-for dessert; and the smallest member who may have trouble on the sweet corn because his first teeth are up under the pillow waiting for the good fairy to claim them for cash.

Last but not least, there's father. If he spends the day holding down a chair behind a desk, interrupted only by a two-hour multi-course lunch with clients, he shouldn't face too many additional calories come dinner time.

THE LADY of the house must also act as catalyst for all emotional problems and tensions, clearing the air before father comes home from a hard day looking forward to an easy evening. Tensions and friction can offer serious obstacles in the pathway to physical and mental fitness.

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Spice Up the New Year

Salute the New Year with spicily stuffed pancakes for a very special brunch or supper. They're just the thing for mid-winter servings—satisfying and savory with lively flavored deviled ham and juicy, crisp apple.

In fact, deviled ham lends itself, zestily, to any number of pancake recipes. Try it, for instance, spread between layers of pancakes, stocked and served with soured cream, maple syrup and a glorious hot orange sauce!

Spicily Stuffed Pancakes

- 1 cup pancake mix
- 1 egg
- 1 cup milk
- 1 1/2 tablespoon liquid shortening
- 1 cup sliced apples
- 1 1/2 ounce can deviled ham

Make pancakes according to directions on package, fold in apples. Use a generous quarter cup of the batter for pancake. Remove from griddle and spread with deviled ham. Roll and place on heated platter.

Serve with soured cream.

Suds Clean Mop

To clean an oil mop, use hot soapuds to which a little ammonia are persistently falling out, wrap a piece of adhesive tape around the shank of the cater until it fits into its hole snugly, or fill the hole with occasionally while it is drying. To some melted paraffin and then reinsert the cater.

Renew Your Ink

In order to renew some ink that has thickened to an unusable consistency, pour a little vinegar into the ink. This will usually solve this problem.

No power is strong enough to be lasting if it labors under the weight of fear.

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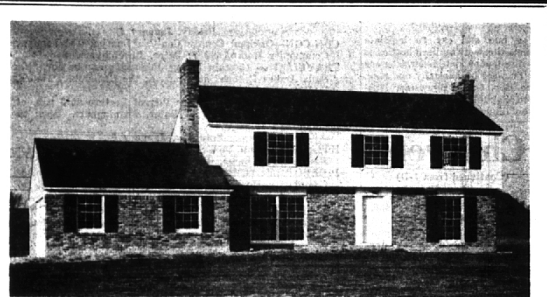
A "CAPE" WITH A FUTURE—In Bloomfield Village. All new kitchen just completed. Fresh decor throughout. Studio living room, 25' x 17' features heavy hand hewed beams. Dining room 14' x 13'. Three bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms, large Ven. chestnut recreation room. Private garden. Structurally and mechanically sound.

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