

Studying And Homemaking Don't Jive Says Mrs. May

In a recent class our visiting poet referred to an article he had written entitled "Shakespeare at three o'clock." The title of this article could go a little farther than his and could pertain to eleven students in the Day Student Center — "Shakespeare (or American History, or Home Ec. 112) at seven o'clock while cooking poached eggs and scraping burnt toast."

These eleven students who have just been referred to, are of course the married populace at Salem College who are, with some difficulties, attempting to receive a college diploma and at the same time clean house, cook three meals a day, keep within a reasonable budget—without the help of Mr. Snively—and keep husbands happy and gay.

This seems to be desirable to ninety-nine percent of the Salem girls who often comment, "Oh, how lucky you are." But, then others seem to understand the difficult tasks by saying, "How do you get everything done while going to school and trying to keep house." The reply—"We don't."

Take for instance six weeks tests, which this year began three weeks after school began. How can you make a passing grade and keep a clean house? The answer is simple. You compromise. Either husband keeps wearing that same shirt he has been wearing for the past five days and keeps bathing in a tub which has five rings or you fail the test, hoping you'll have a chance to take a re-test.

Now this brings to my mind another problem. There are two types of husbands—those who are also going to school and can there-

fore study at night with their Salem wives, and those who work during the day and have nothing to do at night while their wives are studying. It is this last type of husband which is the problem—how to entertain him. He can't turn on TV since this is a disturbance to his wife's studious mind; the poker game meets only twice a month; the price of movies is too high for the budget. But the problem has been solved by some students. One such husband has become an authority on Steinbeck, Hemingway and Tennessee Williams—due to his wife's taste in literature; another has become a first-rate dishwasher, due to his wife's disorganization of household chores; and another has developed the habit of going to bed at 8:30.

The study habits of the married student species are also different. Instead of writing a paper between classes, a married student writes one between changing the washing machine loads; a chapter in physics is read between bed-making and dusting; and a chapter in U. S. History is studied between "shirts."

So, you can see that it goes hard for those eleven students. Although they may pass college studies, they will more than likely make incomplete on housekeeping.

—Shan Helms May

The Silent Years - No Giggle Until 1900

Extract from the Rules of Salem Female Academy 1817.

"In the morning immediately after the ringing of the bell, the pupils are to rise, and go to their rooms in silence. No one shall leave the sleeping hall before the bell rings.

"Each pupil will have a place assigned to her in one of the wash rooms. In that room and in no other, she is to wash at all times.

"The bath rooms are never to be visited except for the purpose of taking baths. Baths can be taken only by special permission, and at times indicated by the teachers.

"When meeting for class or changing classes, all noise, confusion and loud talking must be avoided. Order and decorum at these times are strictly enjoined.

"At table, all loud and unnecessary talking is positively forbidden, and no waste of victuals dare be attempted.

"At bed-time, the pupils will devoutly attend evening prayers, and then retire to bed in perfect silence and order. No talking, whispering or disturbance of any kind whatsoever can be tolerated in the sleeping apartments."

Anyone for a convent? I got the "clause" just copying these things off the wall in Babcock. How could a human being live under those rules? Can you im-

agine what we would have done— Yes, so can I.

Of course, I thought, these girls probably were just like we are, and if we could see a personal side of them, we would find that as many funny and silly things happened in their Old Moravian Campus as do today. Well, they didn't!

Proof of this lies in the "Treasure Room" of the library. On the third floor, behind one of those little doors you never notice on your way to the record room or to a seminar room, lies the "Treasure Room." The "Treasures" are old letters and books, libraries, diaries, autograph albums, and even sea shells.

After I read a few of the letters and some of the autograph albums, it was obvious to one that these poor girls were content to live this. For example, Maria Crockett says in a letter to her father dated January 13, 1818:

"I am happy, my dear father, to inform you that this place is much healthier than it was some time ago, all the young ladies that were afflicted have recovered their health again."

The "green death" must have

been around even way back in 1818!

"On last Monday, we went to the church and heard the rules of the school read which I thought were very good."

This child is bound to be a robot! And to top it all off, she didn't even get home for Christmas.

Even in talking to their friends and in signing autograph books these "Salem Females" were always serious. I don't believe there was a giggle heard here from 1772 until 1900. Just look at this autograph;

"Ever around you are duties.

And lessons will come each day; Rich rewards will fidelity bring you.

Though rainbows may vanish away."

Affectionately
S. E. Shaffner

Salem
May 29, 1885

By this time I was thoroughly depressed from thinking how horrible their existence must have been that I screamed and got a call down from making noise.

Things really haven't changed so much after all.

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