

Interesting Detroit Alumnae

By Ruth Brady

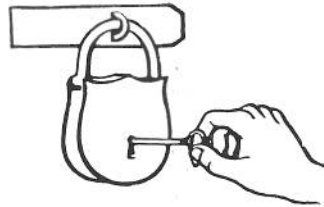


IRENE DRUEKE

SOME OF US are forever longing for something novel and interesting to do while we plug away on the same old job, whereas others seem to fall heir to something "different" in the way of a position, or else they have the innate ability to make an ordinary job especially worthwhile.

Take Irene Druke for example. Irene was graduated from the University of Michigan in 1931 with a degree in decorative design. Most of us wouldn't have had the courage to attempt a career in this field, knowing its limitations, but this did not concern Irene. Coming as she does from a Grand Rapids family that had long been associated with the finest traditions in furniture design and craftsmanship, she had learned much that was necessary to her training long before she began her college course.

After graduation she came to Detroit took a position at the J. L. Hudson Co. Department Store and waited an opportunity which would lead into her line. It came. Not merely a lead, but the whole line. In short she was made decorating consultant for the store with headquarters in their model home. It is her job to help plan the furnishings and decorating for all types of homes, from mansion to cottage, and she is called upon to give advice on every kind of interior decorating problem from period designs in furniture to harmonizing rag rugs, or as Irene puts it, she is sought as an authority on everything from where to build a stairway in a house to the correct shade to paint a bathroom scales.



Then again, there's Marcella Leitner, who was graduated from Syracuse University in Home Economics, a member of Lambda chapter, but unanimously adopted by Alpha during her long connection here.

Now the average woman tends to look upon the job of homemaking as rather dull and unromantic, but not so Marcella. As a matter of fact so enthusiastic and capable has she proven herself to be that has been repeatedly named to positions of honor and responsibility in her particular field.

A few years ago when budget limitations made it necessary for school systems to consider what branches of instruction might be eliminated as an economy measure, home economics came into the discussion and as a result, many people realized for the first time the extent and value of this type of training in school.

In the Detroit Public School System the Homemaking Division is one of the most progressive groups in the profession and Marcella Leitner has been outstanding in her contributions to the department in recent years, during which time she served as treasurer and later president of the Detroit Home Economics Club, secretary of the Michigan Home Economics Club, and delegate to the National Convention of American Home Economics Groups in Atlanta, Georgia.

At the present time along with her day time position, she is director of the Homemaking Department of one of the largest evening schools in the city. Under her supervision the regular program of courses has been expanded to include classes in weaving, art-needle work, knitting, child care, and first aid, in addition to instruction in foods and clothing.

Marcella is so enthusiastic about her work and so interested in training her pupils for what is truly woman's highest vocation in life, that one can't help realizing after all, how wise is the woman, indeed, who has mastered the art of homemaking and learned the really scientific way to a man's heart.



MARCELLA LEITNER

Lambda Grad Honored

MARY RICHARDSON NEEDHAM (Mrs. Dewight V.), Lambda, '25, has been appointed to the position of research assistant on the staff of the library of the School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

Mrs. Needham received her degree from the School of Library Science and after graduation served for a short time on the New York Public Library and Syracuse Library staffs. In 1926 she became connected with the new library of the School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse U. as branch librarian. The library is devoted to the Social Sciences, particularly to the field of political science.

This library has now grown from a small collection of a few hundred books serving about 9,000 people to one of over 12,000 volumes, serving 27,000 in a year and providing for them every kind of library service. A new building is being erected to house the School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. The school secured a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation for expansion in the field of public administration.

Mrs. Needham in her job as assistant research librarian creates and administers a specialized collection of material to render research and bibliographical service to the staff.

Away from her work Mary Needham is active in the alumnae affairs of Theta Phi Alpha.