

Phyllis Finds New Wrinkle for Making Money

By EDNA RAMP
Of the Register-Guard

When Phyllis McQuiston turned up with a problem a year ago, she went about solving it in a very literal manner:

She simply smoothed out the wrinkles with her trusty steam iron!

Looking back this week, Phyllis says that although taking in ironing for 80 customers may not be the easiest way in the world to help put your husband through school, it's certainly been a most satisfying experience. She's learned a lot—and earned a lot: More than \$1,000—free of expenses and taxes!

Beginning Saturday, she'll

limit her customers to seven: the McQuiston family. That's the day her husband, Mason McQuiston, receives his PhD degree at University of Oregon graduation exercises. He has accepted an assistant professorship in psychology at Western Washington College in Bellingham.

Ups and Downs

Both Mace and Phyl agree that five years of back-to-school for a father-of-five is enough to put a wrinkle in any man's brow. The furore got considerably deeper about the fifth year as the needs of a growing family increased and the bank account decreased.

But they were determined Mace would have his doctorate. They had given up a lovely home in Salem and Mace had resigned an excellent position as director of the exceptional child program for Oregon when he began work on his PhD. And he'd declined the offer of a

similar post for the whole United States. They couldn't quit now with just another year to go.

"I wanted to do something to help financially," Phyllis recounted. "But I didn't want to work away from home and leave the care of the children to someone else. I knew, too, that much of what I'd earn would be absorbed in buying new clothes and in higher food bills at home when I wasn't there to prepare nourishing, economical meals."

Business Star

A friend suggested she "take in ironing," and Phyllis, quick to see the possibilities, ran a couple of classified ads telling Eugeneans about her "expert laundry service at home."

While she "waited for something to happen," she ironed every stitch of clothes for the McQuiston tribe: Pam, 18; Richard, 15; Jim, 11; Jon, 9; Nancy, 4.

"I've never been caught up with my own ironing since," she laughed. "It was wonderful to see the orders come in. The kids were so excited. College students in and out, the phone ringing—it was all very thrilling."

Phyllis was enthusiastic about her project. Before, she hadn't liked to iron—now suddenly it was EXCITING. Her enthusiasm was contagious and her friends and customers were caught up in the whirl. Appreciative of the fine work she turned out, they sang her praises to others and it became almost a "status symbol" among professors, students and businessmen to have "shirts ironed by Phyl."

Stays to Cheer

The owner of a professional laundry, a bit miffed about "this wonderful ironer," called on Phyl, prepared to "pick her work apart." He ended up giving her some helpful tips and became a fast friend of the Mc-

Quiston family.

"I tell him that one of these days I'll find him on our doorstep with a package of HIS shirts for me to do up," Phyl said.

The ever-present 14 boxes of ironing waiting for her each day bothered Phyl not a bit. Each morning she checked the files to see whose orders were due at 4 p.m. that day; then proceeded as though each one was all she had to do.

"Ironing gives me time to think—and I think good thoughts," Phyllis mused. "As I iron, I think of the person whose order I'm working on—it's not like ironing for strangers—I'm doing something FOR someone. And I'm always so proud of the job when it's completed and looks so nice!"

"And you know," she added thoughtfully—"This has made me grow up as nothing else has ever done. I feel so much closer to all other people who work and are proud of what they do. Dad says there should be another Beatitudes: 'Blessed is the man who is in love with his job' and I really see what he means."

Work Smarter

Early in the ironing game, Phyl learned the secret of "working smarter, not harder": She stands up to iron, has board at elbow height to relieve back tension, uses a bag of beeswax to make the iron glide easily, has a foam rubber pad on the board and another on which to stand, uses a spray starch to give a new finish to freshly-ironed clothes, keeps cord free of knots with a coil device.

"And since I like to feel glamorous while I work, I always wear a sissy blouse with frills and a block-print modern design pair of capris," she adds. "My aunt, Jean Ruth Campbell, sees to it that I'm taken out to lunch one day a week, so I can really get dressed up and have the feeling that I'm being waited upon."

Mace's parents, the Arch D. McQuistons of Coos Bay, and Phyl's parents, the Charles L. Paines of Portland, formerly of Eugene, lend their moral support. The five McQuiston youngsters pitch in and help with dishes, cleaning, mowing the lawn, washing the car.

Looking Ahead

If Phyllis ever looks back on the days when she was a care-free student at U of O and reigned as an Oregon Trail Pageant princess, she doesn't do it through tear-dimmed eyes. "I was only a princess then," she says, lightly. "Now I'm 'Queen of the May' to my whole family!"

Mace McQuiston agrees—there's only one thing that worries him a bit. It's that "look" Phyl gets when she reads the classified section of their soon-to-be hometown paper, the Bellingham Herald.

"Hmmm, there's only one ironing ad—looks like an open field if I ever get bored with being a professor's wife," says Phyl, with that sparkle of mischief. "You wouldn't dare!" says Mace.



(Register-Guard photo by Phil Wolcott)

Smooth Sailing

It's "wrinkles away" as Nancy, 4, discovers ironing can be a lot of fun while she helps her mother, Mrs. Mason McQuiston, turn out laundry for one of 80 customers. Mrs. McQuiston has smoothed the wrinkles—more

than \$1,000 worth of them—out of the family budget the past year to help Mr. McQuiston complete his doctorate which he will receive Saturday from University of Oregon.

Around the Town

NEWCOMERS Club I will play couples' bridge Saturday at the River Road Womens Club. Hosts will be Mr. and Mrs. Robert Isaacson and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Zook. Persons interested in making reservations may call Mrs. Robert Isaacson, DI 3-6293.

GAMMA PHI BETA potluck and swimming party planned for Saturday has been postponed one week, until Aug. 18. Mrs. Dale Bergerson, DI 4-0319, has additional information.

BROTHERHOOD of Railroad Firemen and Engineers Lodge 542 and Oregon Rose Lodge 228 will have an all-day potluck picnic at Benton-Lane Park Sunday. One meal will begin at 1 p.m. standard, 2 p.m. daylight, and the second will be served at 5:30 p.m. standard, 6:30 p.m. daylight. The lodge will furnish coffee, soft drinks, hot rolls and ice cream.

Party Line

Social Spotlight Turns on Weekend Weddings

This time it's not just the bride, but the bridegroom's mother, too, who's caught up in the whirl of pre-nuptial events. Mrs. Elsa Steen of Oslo, Norway, who arrived about ten days ago for the wedding of her son, Tore, and Sydney Moffitt, finds the American round of showers and parties both delightful and a little bewildering.

Mrs. Steen will be a guest of Sydney's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Moffitt, for another couple of weeks following the wedding which takes place Saturday. They plan then to take several sightseeing trips about the state. She will return to Oslo, via New York, traveling by bus across the United States to give her an opportunity to view more of this country, then take the plane in New York.

The Moffitts and their guest and the bridal couple were entertained by the Nils Hults at a family party Tuesday evening at Bev's Steak House. Mrs. C. E. Hale was hostess at a shower Wednesday evening at her home, feting the bride-elect. Sydney entertained her bridesmaids at luncheon today and this evening the bridal party and members of the family will be guests at the rehearsal dinner at the Ray Hendrickson home. Martha Hendrickson will be one of Sydney's bridesmaids. The other bridesmaids, all from out of town, will be houseguests at the Hendricksons over the weekend.

Mrs. Donald Lyon was hostess at a miscellaneous shower at her home honoring Sydney. A linen shower was given for the bride-elect by Mrs. Burdette Kindred at the Kindred home.

Guests were Sydney's classmates from North Eugene High School and University of Oregon.

An earlier party at the home of Mrs. Mildred Williams honored Sydney. Co-hostesses with Mrs. Williams were Miss Nina Kitts and Miss Abby Adams.

Tore and Sydney will be making their home in Eugene while he completes his work at University of Oregon.

Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Hilden of Forest Grove will be hosts at the rehearsal dinner tonight at Bev's Steak House feting their son, Clark, and his bride-to-be, Cynthia Gabbert and members of the bridal party and family. The couple will be married Saturday afternoon. Cynthia is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gabbert of Eugene.

Clark's brother, Grant, will be best man for him in a happy turnabout arrangement—Clark was best man for Grant the past weekend when Grant was married to Mary Holly Hebert, also of Eugene.

Cynthia was feted at an earlier party and shower arranged by the staff at Pearl Buck School. She has been assisting at the school the past year while she attended University of Oregon.

Cynthia and Clark will be making their home in Minneapolis where he has a teaching fellowship at University of Minnesota and she will complete work for her bachelor's degree in literature.

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