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FARM MANAGEMENT

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Mr. Click Relander
1212 North 32nd Ave.
Yakima, Washington

Dear Click:

Two months is a pretty good average for me to answer correspondence! I have such good intentions but it all gets buried on my desk -- grocery lists, story notes and PTA problems. Anyway, it was a surprise and I was most interested in the impressive list of writing and committee-ing on the bottom of the page.

You say you lost track of me after I left Visalia, up to time of marriage. You missed the famous part of my career! Or, at least one of the most famous! Anyway, for a matter of record I gave up the New York trek in deference to a thing called war, and stayed in LA. In due time the manpower shortage got me onto Acme Newspictures and then United Press. In 1945 I went to the Honolulu bureau, and through a series of circumstances wound up on Guam, then Tokyo with the victors and on to North China as a war correspondent. Came back in 1946 and served on cabledesk in SF bureau until I quit to marry an Iowa Farm Boy, ex-Marine I had met in China. He's Norwegian despite the name and meeting place!

We came to the Valley in 1948 after a long, hard look at the Iowa scene and the Iowa winter! Since then Wally has been involved in agriculture in some form or another, and by the letterhead you can see his own business has begun. We have one daughter, Kristin, now soon to be 9.

I am a confirmed joiner, I guess, so have been involved in women's club work, now Camp Fire, PTA, church etc. AND we are very active Democrats! Got into that when Adlai got the nomination, so even made it as an alternate to the 1956 convention! I do everything from write all the local publicity for everybody to ringing doorbells! In addition have been president of the IV Branch, American Assn. of University Women, chairman of this and that PLUS filling in on weekly and daily newspapers as women's editor, reporter etc. through the years. Also, radio and TV jobs when they appear. Since March, 1958, I have been regular correspondent from IV for women's dept. of the San Diego Union. I turn out about 40 inches per week and occasionally do news for the daily Valley page.

This brings us to the questions you asked for the Story!

Probably, it is too late, but anyway -- I took the problem to an amateur creative writing group we've started -- some had been sorority members, some not. Our only problem, this violates the rule we'd been taught -- Write about things you know about! Men don't usually have much inside dope on such things. Well, anyway, specifically:

My ~~sorority~~ sorority was Phi Mu Fraternity, (for women) one of the oldest and founded in the South--at Randolph-Macon I think. The chapter I joined was small and struggling altho in the south and other places was THE social one. The group at SC included girls from one or two southern states and all over the west. I think, mostly, they were like me -- smalltown products and probably we joined this particular chapter because we felt more at ease with our own.

This is essentially, the sorority or club purpose, a place to band together for common interests, aims or feeling of companionship. Most women, not all, are group-minded. In fact, so are men if you note the Elks, Masons etc. and Rotary, Kiwanis etc. In fact, it is an American thing to group together in social or professional bodies.

In sororities as I remember, some joined for purely social prestige, friendship ties, or just plain to belong to something -- there are other reasons, but I won't pursue all lines.

I have not kept up (the chapter disbanded during the war) with chapter activities and have been pretty removed from any alumna contacts. I have kept up with the friends I made there -- some close contacts and some by annual Xmas cards. The war (WWII) dissolved a lot of togetherness!

Since we don't even go to LA to visit relatives more than once a year or two, I don't go to any homecomings (college or otherwise.) The value I received was in giving me social contacts, a chance to work with other girls, exchange of background-born views, incentive to other outside campus activities (service, sports, etc.) -- in otherwords, how to get along with people. Any achievements added to my personal confidence.

As for meeting superior type or class girl -- I met them in and out of the sorority and the Panhellenic circle. You must remember, I was particularly devoted to Journalism, had club or professional organization ties there apart from the social sorority. For that reason, I think there was great value in my belonging to a social group -- it widened my outlook on many things.

Knowing me, I think I was much better off joining a sorority than not -- circumstances and personality considered. (I was a shy, wallflower "socially" and the group gave my confidence -- I learned a lot of social graces, too. How to meet people, etc.

My husband belonged to a fraternity at his college, but I (as I said) did not meet him there. He has kept contact with personal friends from the fraternity, but not as a "re-union" man.

The question of opportunity for marriage -- gosh, I wouldn't know! WWII changed things for my generation and I haven't had a chance to talk to my one current collegiate friend. (There are a number of girls from here who are in college throughout the country. I note that most of them have joined sororities, and here again I think that coming from a small town or isolated area may have something to do with it.)

Too, some join the sorority their mother had joined -- a bit of tradition, involved. Sometimes this doesn't work out--the girl may not fit the current group. However, the lasting ties are there and the girl may struggle along in Mama's old club just for the future rewards -- I've seen this occasionally, but not too often. The girls usually pick the one that suits them.

On the whole, the girls have a choice -- although there is such a flood of prospects that some don't get a wide choice -- My experience was that any girl who wanted to join a sorority and in a general way, fitted the pattern of that group, was given an opportunity. Obviously, anything of this sort is limited by space and by college rules -- Highest among the rules then and even more so now, I think, is scholastic record or promise! You've got to keep the grades up -- more detail on this could be obtained by reading some of the Panhellenic group material at any campus or the national publications.

Don't know just how or what you are aiming at -- could probably provide a slant for anything, but personally feel that I got some good out of it all and do have some good friends -- and if you want to be downright practical, some good contacts came out of the social life--- the new Editor of the San Diego Union is an SC journalism classmate, his wife is close friend of a sorority sister of mine, (the wife was in a different one) -- I recently met him again after 15 or so years, but the college days were a tie.

Back to the same old thing, some people are joiners and some are not!

Well, that's it. My typing isn't the best but when I have a professional secretarial job I throw about a dozen sheets away to get a perfect copy!

I tried to get a copy of Drummers and Dreamers at the local library-- no soap. Daughter is mighty interested in Indians so I'll keep trying, or where does one get it -- I'd like to see one.

Guess I could rifle through the stacks of The New Age for the reviews (we have shelves full of them along with a mountain of other magazines that I save for reference or "to read someday."

Saw The Hanging Tree re-run the other night! Think the idea of scripts on your Indian stuff would be just the thing to make a pot of money on these days -- the Westerns will never die! We are in a limited area so don't see much good stuff, just the dregs and an occasional topnotcher -- in fact we were "militant anti-viewers" for a long time.

My writing to date has been reporting and feature -- the creative writing group is just my beginning to try a hand at fiction. Haven't succeeded in finishing anything -- I procrastinate!

Remember Isobel? We were sorority sisters AND journalism sisters. She's in SF and writes ~~for~~ a CBS nationwide script thing and freelances. She wrote some children's stories while in Europe and has been in publicity for such things as Camp Fire Girls and RED Cross. Now she is conscientious -- she WRITES from 9 to 12 each day -- stories etc. Wrote a book on her experiences with the ARC in Europe but it didn't make the grade -- she keeps on with a variety of things, however.

See that there's a Theta Sigma Phi conclave in Seattle or something of a writer's conference -- I don't keep up with the LA girls but still have a few friends in the area --

Haven't seen Barbara Macnair for several years -- we do exchange Xmas cards and I hear occasionally through my cousin who lives in Bakersfield.

Saw the guy who was sports editor and went into navy or merchant marine -- can't think of his name right now -- sometime during the war years. Or was it AP afterwards? My memory is mighty vague but I may think when and where if I ponder long enough.

That's about all I can think of and I have yet to dig up and write a dozen inches of social chitchat for my next column -- also dream up some future stuff to fill in the coming vacation schedule. It is still hot in this place and summer news is pretty thin! The job has its advantages -- I can work at home between washing clothes or gardening etc. Glad to hear from you and hope you let me know what comes of the story....regards, Hazel Tow

Is a gal named Bonnie Wiley
still around Yakima or Washington
papers?