

2627 Kapiu Street
Honolulu, Hawaii
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Winter is upon us in Hawaii! The newspapers reported a temperature of 64°F a few days ago, so that I know it must be time to send holiday greetings and an account of the year's activities. No travelling this past year. I have staid very close to home and the University, with less than a week's vacation. Aside from some troubles in getting a good road, things have moved tranquilly along. But as someone said "there is always something to keep a rabbit's tail short," and so it is with me. Mine seems to be a more stump and whenever it grows out a bit some fox spirit nips it short again.

There has been much building activity at home and the University. The project at home was not financed by the F.R.A. nor was it done with the idea of helping the unemployment situation, but we managed to keep a number of men very busy for two months and our savings accounts registered zero and our checking accounts grew exceedingly small. We hope that the house is now in such good condition that it will survive us and that never again will we have such a remodelling spree.

Our little house had its fourteenth birthday in June. It was beginning to show its age badly, having been painted outside only once in that time, and the roof was leaking in several places so that we had to place buckets in strategic places to catch the drips during hard rains. We wanted to do a bit of remodeling and other necessary repairs and refurbishing at the same time so we tried to endure it until summer. The first of July we rented a cottage for six weeks and moved out in order to permit the carpenters and printers to work. And now the little grey house, is still grey and only the discerning eye perceives all the things that have been done.

A new roof over all, first grade cedar shingles for most of it, and copper for two flat places, was an expensive but important item. The floors were completely resanded, stained and refinished. The wooden walls were refinished and the old ceilings were replaced with new ones with concealed lights. The piece de resistance is the dining lanai (room open on one side to the garden). It is strictly Miller-erwin but shows the influence of the Japanese style of architecture and the modern. It has plain walls of Japanese ply-wood that is surfaced with Filipino mahogany stained a soft bluish grey and lightly waxed. The ceiling is of another Japanese ply-wood with a very beautiful grain, made of wide overlapping boards held up with narrow strips of split bamboo. Both the ply-wood and the bamboo have been treated lightly with white lead. To complete the Japanese effect there is a rain gutter made of giant bamboo which drains into a bamboo down spout. The view from the lanai is on our Hawaiian garden of giant api (a kind of taro), the most important center of interest being a fine hala tree (screw pine),

The kitchen is enough to delight any maid's heart. It has the same lovely view as the dining lanai. A new porcelain sink; a skylight in the roof overhanging the kitchen window and the sink to give excellent light even on dull days; new paint and new linoleum make it such a pleasant place to work that I am considering giving up my job at the University and applying for this one at home. But I haven't figured out just who would pay me.

We planned new furniture for the dining lanai, new curtains for the living room, chairs reupholstered, etc., but the money ran low before we could complete the entire project and time for the opening of schools was upon us. No more time to devote to interior decoration, much will have to wait another year.

The first week in September new members of my staff began to arrive and I seemed to be busy meeting boats for a few weeks. When I arrived in Honolulu seventeen years ago, a woman in the clothing department and I comprised the home economics department. We had one home economics major student. Today we have ten full time members of the department, considering that one of them and I spend part of the time doing research, and three part time people who teach one class each. We have one hundred and five students now majoring in the home economics department.

After waiting seven years, I was given a small wooden building to house the research work in nutrition, now after seventeen years we are having a new home economics building. We are extremely busy planning details of all manner of cupboards and storage spaces to house equipment and make it a convenient place to work. It is a three story reinforced concrete building, about 60 by 100 feet. It has been financed partly by P.W.A. funds. We do not have enough money to finish it all at this time, so that the ground floor will be finished later when it is decided just how it will be used. The finished portion will house general home economics work in household management, clothing and textiles, food and nutrition, child training and home nursing. The research work with animals will remain where it is, in the small wooden building, but a new nutrition chemical laboratory is being provided in an addition to the agricultural building near by. That too, has required a lot of careful and detailed planning for working space, a chemical hood and proper placing of equipment. The building is in course of construction.

Then there is the new union building, financed by faculty, alumni and students. It will be ready for occupation the second semester of this year. It houses the new cafeteria and dining rooms, and since that department is now under the home economics department the work has entailed many conferences with many people, to say nothing of hot arguments with the business office. We are now serving about 800 people for the noon lunch and when we move into the new cafeteria there will undoubtedly be more, probably a thousand.