

'Putting Hubby Through'

By JUDY FRANKLIN
Special Writer

A lack of time and money are usually the main problems confronting the student wife who works to help put her "hubby" through school.

After vowing "I do," she soon pledges "I don't dare" when it comes to spending money on her hair, new clothes or parties. Almost every minute is accounted for, and the wife often struggles to find time to relax.

Newlywed Tommie Law, a stenographer in the Department of Veterinary Public Health, said, "I don't have enough time in a day now that I'm married to get everything done that needs doing. My husband and I have very little time for partying, etc. Even if we did have the time, we don't have the extra money."

AFTER NINE YEARS of marriage and two sons, lab technician Barbara Webb, who works at the Soil Testing Lab, commented, "It's most difficult to look back before the time I did not have a family. We've always lived on a budget."

She doesn't buy many new clothes, as her job calls for uniforms. Since Barbara sells beauty supplies, she gets a discount on make-up and beauty aids.

"When we need something," she added, "I have to 'make' it fit in the budget."

Another student wife, Libby Crick, who also works at the Soil Testing Lab, doesn't consider putting "hubby" through school a financial burden.

"PUTTING MY HUSBAND through school is not actually a financial burden if I think in terms of what we would live on if he weren't getting educated," she explained.

One particular secretary, Joyce Butts, believes that children make all the difference for a woman who works while her husband goes to school.

"I think a man or a boy who is married and has no children has an advantage. He has his meals fixed and his clothes taken care of — but, children make the difference," she said.

Joyce explained that a working mother, for example, must risk a cut in pay everytime she has to stay at home with a sick child.

HER HUSBAND KENNETH commented, "At times study conditions are handicapped when the youngster is sick — during finals or when major quizzes come around — and the wife needs help in taking care of him."

He added that the normal discipline he gives his four-year-old son often causes a rather noisy environment, which "certainly doesn't lead to maximum concentration."

Since February, Joyce has been working for the Department of Health and Physical Education to help her "hubby" through graduate school. She actually began her "working career" two years after their son Thomas was born. She and her husband worked, saving money for Kenneth's graduate work, which he began last fall.

"THE MAIN PROBLEM I have encountered while putting my husband through school is the lack of time I have to spend with our child," said Joyce.

"Children born while their parents are in school get used to not being with their parents much," she commented.

Working 40 hours a week, Joyce tries to spend time with her family in the evenings.

"This is hard to do," she explained, "when you have the meal to cook, the ironing to do and the house to clean."

Another problem Joyce and her husband have had to confront was getting back into the routine of school since Kenneth's graduation from college in 1950. His returning to school has been somewhat hard for Joyce, as his evenings are now spent studying at the library.

BOTH HIS STUDIES and his job keep Kenneth away from home more now. He works 15 hours a week on the Deer Research Project for the Department of Pathology.

Joyce explained that several of her married friends, whose wives are working, found it much more "nerve-wracking" to go back to school.

"They know they 'have' to make their grades with their wives working," she remarked.

She believes that going to school for young married couples isn't quite as difficult, for they are accustomed to the regular school routine.

"They are already used to it," she said, "because this is the only type of life they know."

MONEY IS NO real problem for the Butts. Joyce commented that they have had no financial difficulties, since they worked and saved for 10 years before Kenneth returned to school.

"I think the income we have has helped us a lot," she remarked.

She added that they don't have to worry about their parents helping them and that with this income she and Kenneth can consequently afford a moderate amount of comforts. Unlike some couples, she explained that they don't have to face the financial problems of how they're going to make it each month.

Having no "real" budget, Joyce said, "We do what we feel we need to do first; luxuries come later. If I need something I get it — if I don't, I don't get it. We don't spend money on things like we used to and we make do with a lot less."

SHE DOESN'T ASSOCIATE her situation with one common "picture" of a working wife and her student husband trying to exist on hamburger meat and beans.

"You just learn to cut down a little bit," she explained.

As a housewife after hours, the secretary usually saves her major household chores for the weekend. Her job and her responsibilities to her family don't allow her much time to do housework during the week.

On a typical week day, Joyce gets up at 5:30 a.m., "fixes her face," starts breakfast, makes sack lunches and tries to get husband and son up — all at the same time.

Then, at 7:30 a.m. they take Thomas to the nursery and head for campus. While at work Joyce takes two coffee breaks beside her lunch break, which to her is "real relaxation."

AT 5 P.M. SHE PROCEEDS to the nursery to get her son, changes into slacks and fixes the evening meal. After washing the dishes — as well as the breakfast dishes — she spends some time tidying up.

Only after she gets Thomas off to bed by 8:30 p.m. does she find time for an occasional game of solitaire or a TV program.

Joyce smiled and said, "Someday I will be able to find time for sewing, reading and other things I want to do."

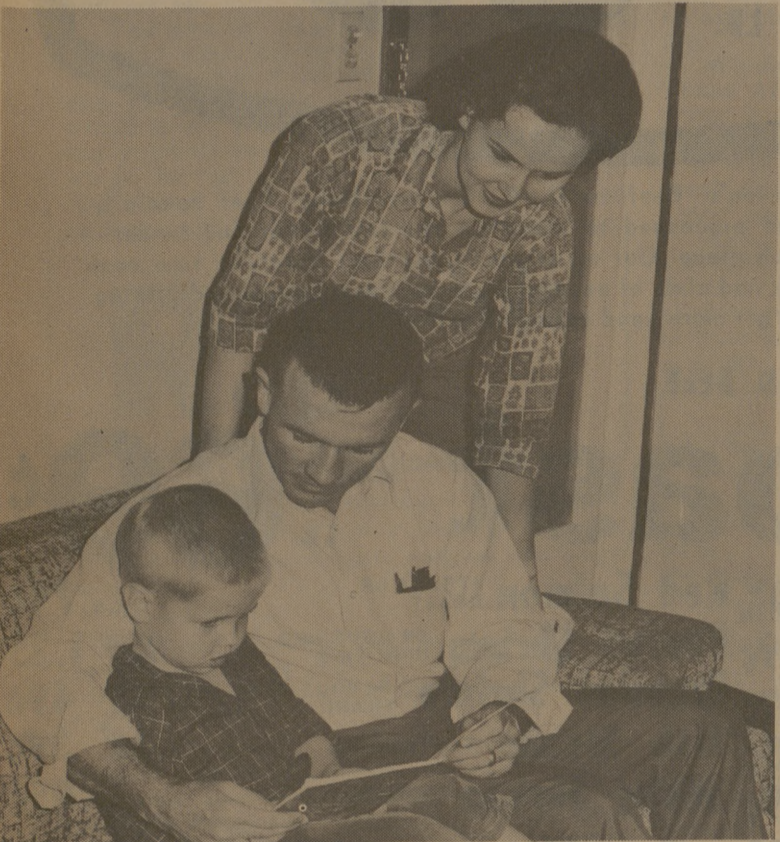
Someday she also plans to finish her college work. Since the time she dropped out of college before she got married, she has taken three courses.

WHAT HAS JOYCE gained by putting "hubby" through school? She believes just by budgeting each other's time — like trying to work it where Kenneth has the time to study — they have really learned to work together.

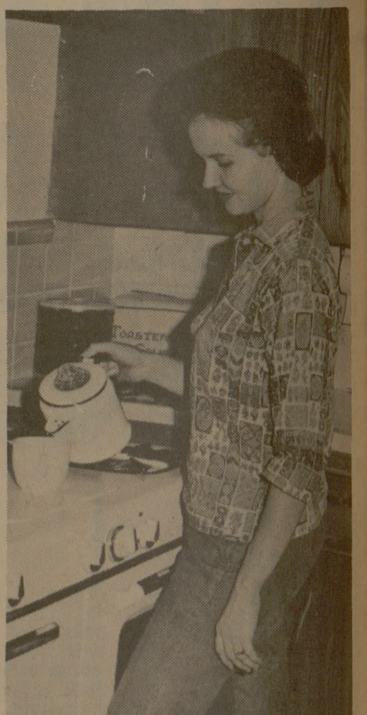
Kenneth added, "I believe that if two people are mature and in love, . . . they should marry whether they are in school or out of school. By working together as a team in solving the problems associated with college — not enough money, not enough time for each other, etc. — they possibly appreciate each other more, and the rewards that come later will mean more to them."



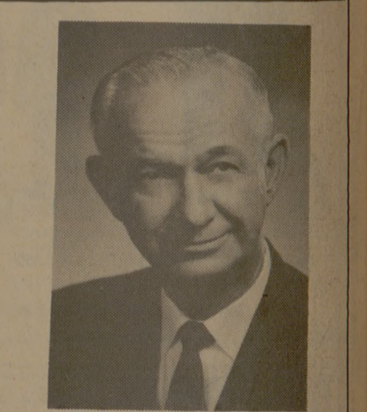
AGGIE WIFE MUST WORK
... Mrs. Joyce Butts holds down fulltime job.



AND FIND TIME FOR FAMILY
... husband reads bedtime story as Joyce looks on.



HUBBY COMES FIRST
... coffee for studious husband.



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