WHAT WILL YOU DO TODAY?

by Mary Carlson

If you are a Model A era housewife, and today is Monday, then your schedule may look like this - says the January 1930 issue of *Fashion Service Woman's Institute* magazine,

6:30 to 7:00 AM	Rise and dress
7:00 to 7:30 AM	Get breakfast
7:30 to 8:00 AM	Serve breakfast
8:00 to 9:00 AM	Clean kitchen
9:00 to 9:30 AM	Make beds
9:30 to 10:30 AM	Clean lower rooms
10:30 to 11:00 AM	Start luncheon
11:00 to noon	Start dinner and complete luncheon
12:00 to 12:30 PM	Serve luncheon
12:30 to 1:30 PM	Clean kitchen
1:30 to 2:30 PM	Plan next day's meals
2:30 to 3:30 PM	Prepare clothing for washing
3:30 to 5:00 PM	Recreation period
5:00 to 6:00 PM	Prepare dinner
6:00 to 7:00 PM	Serve dinner
7:00 to 7:30 PM	Clean kitchen

Housedresses of the period are usually made of cotton and will have some sort of pretty trim or feature, so that the housewife can feel attractive while she carries out her daily chores.



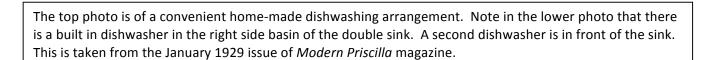
1929 Women's Daytime Dress McCall 4903 Size 40

Should you wish to reproduce an era housedress, you may obtain a pattern by ordering through the MAFCA website. The one pictured here is in the Pattern Project catalog.

http://www.mafca.com/patterns/patterns_womens_d_home.html

The list of chores looks daunting and repetitive. However, there are some labor saving devices available to the Model A era woman. In magazines of the period, you will see ads and articles about oil ranges, automatic water heaters, ironing machines, dishwashers and effective soaps. If you work outside the home, you will have to budget your time more skilfully than the woman who is at home all day. Realize that you will have to lower your standards and/or have help and/or eliminate some tasks altogether. After all, you only have a limited amount of strength and energy.



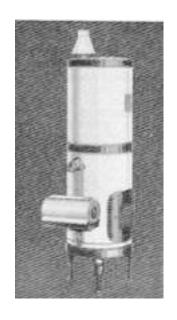


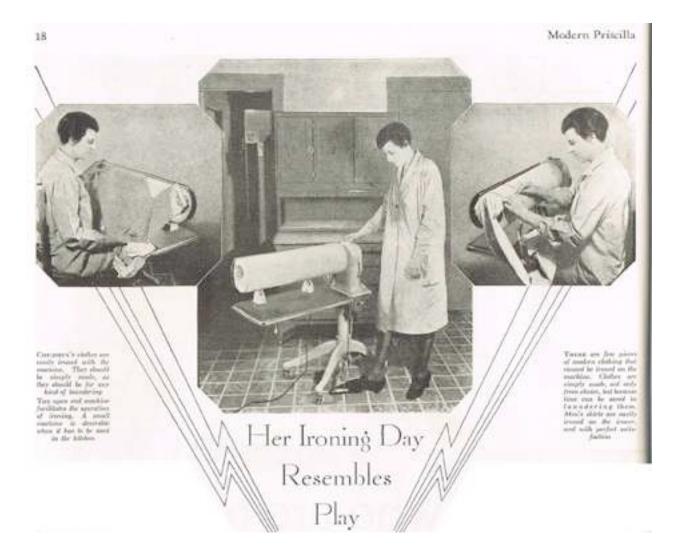


The advertised features of this stove are that: it is quick to start and quick to cook because it gives intense heat; it is economical as it uses kerosene [coal oil]; it is a modern labor saving device which is easy to light; and it provides you with a cool kitchen in the summer time, as the heat is focused right on the bottom of the cooking vessel.

ONE STOVE
with 4 BLESSINGS

To complete your modern kitchen, you should have a Florence Automatic Water Heater. It gives you the joy of constant hot water without work or even thought. It is operated under thermostatic control, with a pilot light. Again, it uses kerosene, which costs just a few cents a day.





The article in the July 1928 issue of *Modern Priscilla* magazine comments on ironing at home. Some highlights and suggestions are:

- Sheets and towels that are air-dried often have sufficient moisture to iron without dampening.
- Knitted undergarments do not need ironing.
- Silks should never be sprinkled with water. They should be ironed on the wrong side when almost dry.
- The same is true for woolens.
- There are two sizes of ironing machines on the market –the smaller one has a 27 to 31 inch padded roll and is capable of handling all the large pieces in an average wash. If you have a home without electricity, there are gas heated machines available. You can use the machine to iron dresses, waists, underwear, shirts etc. With a little practice, every single article in the wash can be ironed very nicely on this machine.
- Turn on the heat 10 15 minutes before beginning to iron [gas machines heat up faster] and then start ironing towels, underclothes and nightwear. After that, proceed with the shirts, dresses etc.

When you are doing the laundry, you want to be sure to use the best soaps. Some of the most advertised ones are *Ivory Soap* and *Fels-Naptha*. For doing the dishes and saving your hands, use *Super Suds* and *Ivory Flakes*. Try them all and see which you like the best!





Fels-Naptha is advertised as being remarkably good for general cleaning. It can be used for cleaning woodwork, windows, floors, linoleum, bathtubs and tile, as well as clothing.

Ivory Soap is advertised as the best thing to use for silk stockings.







Super Suds ads state that the beads of soap banish washday drudgery. Super Suds dissolves quicker, works faster and rinses out easier. They will make your dishes sparkle and glisten like jewels. You don't need to dry your dishes. Super Suds can be used for clothing as well as dishes.

Ivory Flakes claims that its purity keeps women's hands younger and prettier. It can be used for downy baby woolens, aristocratic Wedgewood cups, mahogany or porcelain.



Remember: all work and no play makes for a dull girl. The magazine article recognizes that in order to have a balanced life, the housewife must make time for relaxation and pleasure. So, be sure to take some time for your church, club, civic, school and social affairs. And whatever you do, don't forget your other personal activities such as visiting, reading, sewing and self-improvement.

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