

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Some Thoughts On Marriage

Calista Creel
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SOME THOUGHTS ON MARRIAGE

Brief History of my family life ---- Description of parents and siblings ---- My father is a very generous, happy-go-lucky sort of person. He is forty years old and was a practicing physician in Angola, a small town in northern Indiana, until about a year ago. At that time he was taken ill, and has not been able to resume his practice since then. My father is gifted with a wonderful sense of humor and has many many friends because he has such a jolly disposition. His practice of medicine was very successful up to the time that he had to stop.

My mother, who has been dead almost ten years, is still very vivid in my memory. She seemed to have a never ceasing abundance of energy and vitality. Mother spent a great deal of time with my younger sister and me. We were guided and taught by her and enjoyed very much the good times that we spent with her. Her death was a blow to our whole family, and as my sister was very young it was especially hard for us to get along without her.

About three years after mother's death, my father remarried a very lovely woman who has taken mother's place as best she can. My step-mother is very different from my mother; she doesn't seem to have the drive nor the ability, but she is good to us. However, there has been friction in our home many times since this remarriage and during high school days, I was upset time and time again by maladjustment and tenseness in this new home.

My blood sister has inherited the nervous energy and drive that my mother possessed. I have worried often about her, since I have been away at college. She and our step-mother do not get along very well. She has a very strong spirit which sometimes is hard to control. But if she is guided and helped, this spirit and vitality is directed into productive channels.

I have a small step-sister who will be four years old in August. Both my blood-sister and I love this little girl very much; however, I do feel that too much of her care has fallen on my own sister.

Story of my life with our family ---- From the time I was a small child, my family encourage my self-help and independence in deciding things for myself. The happiest part of my family life was during the time that my mother was alive. My father, mother, sister, and I did many things together ---- all in all, we had a very happy, wonderful time. But this type of life was not fated to last for long. My mother died in 1933 and my grandmother came to live with our broken family. She indeed filled the empty place my mother left very well. I was able to confide in her, and she helped settle the problems that were beginning to pop into my life. For the first time, I was beginning to be interested in other boys my age, and she encouraged my asking them down to see us in the evenings. Many were the good times we had at my home ---- playing games, popping corn, making ice cream, etc. I can truthfully say that I never went through that "boy crazy" stage, because of my Grandmother's foresight and

wisdom. During the time my Grandmother lived with us we all got along very well; however, the family life was different. My father was very lonely and we found ourselves trying to make a whole family out of our broken one. My Grandmother was very active and very interested in my own sister and me. Under her guidance, I learned a great deal about painting, gardening and sewing. My days were filled to the brim with interesting things to do, and my father was away from home a good deal of the time. He and I didn't spend very much time together. My father and I have never been real close.

The one day, Daddy brought a lady home with him. We all liked her very much. Soon after this meeting, Daddy asked my sister and me if we thought we would like to have her as a step-mother. At first, we were very bewildered, but Daddy explained how he and Mother had decided that if either of them, after the other was gone, wanted to remarry in a reasonable time, that it was the right thing to do. At the time, I didn't foresee the many difficulties that were to arise out of this remarriage. One of them being that my grandmother was to move into a small apartment. I was so used to having her around; it was indeed hard to have her move out of our home.

From the day my father remarried until my grandmother came back to live with us several years later, I had what one might term "two homes". My sister and I stayed with my grandmother on an average of two nights each week. Half my clothes were at home and half were at her apartment. I really felt much more relaxed and much happier when I was at my grandmother's than when at home.

I don't know what it was, but my new step-mother seemed to resent this being away from home so much. Maybe it was not the right thing to do, but I've never regretted it to this day. At home there seemed to be a mounting tension. We were all trying to break it down, but it was too strong. My sister and I tried especially hard, because of my father. Our new step-mother was very good to us, but it took a long time for us to get used to having her around. She was very young and hadn't had much experience in handling children. We got into disagreements quite often.

About three years later, my little step-sister was born. The months preceding her birth and those directly after, I should like to forget. We all had to make so many adjustments, and my step-mother was often very nervous and unfair to both my sister and me. However, we were able to unburden our troubles to my grandmother and this helped immensely. Lately, during these past few years, things have mellowed slightly. Perhaps we are finally beginning to form a family tie, but it's a little late in the game.

What does my home mean to me? Unbelievable perhaps with all the tension and discord in my family, I still feel that my my home and family mean a great deal to me. They have always been generous to me and have never been very strict. If I had a good reason for wanting something very much, they almost always let me do it.

As before mentioned, I was encouraged at an early age to look after myself and make my own decisions. Many responsibilities were put on my shoulders. When I succeeded in carrying these out, more were given to me. I had to help around the house a great deal, but I feel that this training has helped me. I am sure to at least know a few things about taking care of my own home in the future. In our community, my home was respected. I realize that I have always been proud of my home and family. My home really did prepare me in taking care of myself, my belongings and my friends. My home sent me to college well versed getting along in the world.

Financial status ---- as far as this goes, we have always been above the average. There were nice things in our home and I had more money than I needed to spend. However, after my father remarried and my step-sister was born, I had to get along on less as there were two more mouths to feed. During this last year, because my father's only income has been insurance, my parents have had to pinch pennies to keep my in school. And I have had to re-pinch those pennies here at school in order

to cover all of my expenses. I know now just about how far a dollar will and won't stretch.

Religion training and life ---- Back in my younger days, Sunday School and Church were a habit. I am a Congregationalist member of that Church in Angola, Indiana. Here at school, I am afraid that my religious life has often been neglected. In fact, my appearance in Church has been a rare occurrence. I guess I go on the theory that, "I'll go to Church next Sunday," and that next Sunday never comes.

Influence of my Parents' Married life upon early ideas on Marriage, Companionship and Affection shown each other ---- Let me first consider the fragments of my memories of Dad's marriage with my Mother. On the whole, their married life seemed very happy, even though I still remember quite vividly some very bitter arguments between my parents. I couldn't help hearing them, (Can't remember what they were about, but I can still see my Mother's tears and hear my Father's angry words. I was torn between the love for both my parents, and was unable to side with either of them. I hope my children never hear or see their father and mother under such circumstances. I hope we both will be able to control our anger until we are out of earshot of our children.

Except for these arguments once in awhile, my parents were very congenial.. They enjoyed doing things together – golf, dancing, and many other things. They also found time to do things with my sister and me. Really, marriage cast a rosy glow on my idea of itself in those early days – with the exception of those fierce arguments.

Now we come to my father's second marriage. Frankly, it is hard to compare any two marriages, even when one of the partners is the same. However, I will try to do so. In the first place, the two wives were quite different ---- entirely different personalities. It has seemed to me, many times during this second marriage, that my father is very unhappy at times. (Maybe just my imagination). My step-mother and he do not seem to enjoy doing things together to any great extent. They do not argue very often ---- just a few sharp words now and then. But my step-mother has been endowed with a very sharp tongue, which often cuts deep. They differ in their opinions on many things, but compromise when necessary. As my father is an easy-going person, he does need encouragement to get him to do something he isn't particularly interested in doing. But with finesse and tact, he is easily persuaded. I believe that the greatest deficit in this marriage is understanding. Too much is taken for granted. Nor do the partners show one another a great deal of affection.

One thing for which I feel deeply indebted to my parents is the information on sex. When I was about eleven years old, my mother took one evening out to explain to me what most people term "the facts of life." She did this in a straight-forward manner, being sure I was understanding as she went along explaining. All the things she told me were seemingly strange and unbelievable to me at first. However, as we talked it over together, and I asked her questions; I began to feel better. So many of the things I had been wondering about for a long time were cleared up. She told me that it would be much better to come to her with questions pertaining to sex and not be misinformed by my young friends. As the years go by, I realize more and more the importance of this sound, clean approach and background concerning sex. I feel that it has provided me with a more wholesome attitude toward sex and its relationship and importance in marriage.

When I look back on them now, my ideas on marriage were rather vague. At the age of eleven years, I was just beginning to give boys a second glance. And marriage was a far cry from the present. I believe that I eventually thought I would get married, because it was the normal thing to do. However, at that time my head was filled with thoughts of a romantic, handsome, movie actor or a football hero as my future husband. But even at this early age, I knew that I wanted as few arguments as possible. Also, another very important item was entered in my future marriage ledger.

For summer after summer, I had gone visiting my cousins --- a family of five swell children. This family is my ideal. They have such a wonderful time together and are so interested in each other. I decided and more confirmed after each vacation that I wanted a large family and was sure that I was going to have one. Those were very drastic words; I realized, later, as I grew older. There are many more angles to consider than just the one of wanting lots of children --- income, health, and your husband. But to this day, I feel that a large family is one of the happiest climaxes to any marriage and I do hope that circumstances will permit my husband and I to raise one.

During high school and college days, my romantic movie idol as a husband has vanished. My ideas on marriage have broadened out --- and I realize now the importance of choosing one's mate wisely. Now, I think is the time to talk about the man I hope to marry some day soon. I know that he isn't perfect, but neither am I. We both have our faults, but we are able to overlook these small things and are trying to adjust to them.

I met Chuck about two years ago. At this time, we were both working together on the same campus activity. I thought he was attractive, but I wasn't real real excited about our first t. We had our first date and got along wonderfully together. Then we had more dates, and we found that we liked to do the same things. We also found that we like each other more every time we were together. I can't truthfully say when I fell in love with Chuck --- I just seemed to wake up one day and realized that I was. Each day I love him just a little more and become more decided that he is the one for me.

EDUCATION

As far as education is concerned, I feel that since we will both be college graduates, that we will be starting off on a pretty even keel on this score. Chuck and I have enjoyed school very much. We have been very active in extracurricular activities, and have made many friends and contacts through these activities. Our education has been well-rounded out. We have decide that studying comes first, but not far in the shadow of it, are the activities. Important also, we consider, doing things together such as golf, parties, dancing and swimming.

CURTURAL BACKGROUND

Some people do not consider that cultural backgrounds have much to do with the success or failure of a marriage. However, my ideal calls for as much similarity in environment and cultural background as possible. I am a firm believer that having been raised in certain ways, doing certain things, and knowing certain people ---- that it is hard to break away from these deep-rooted habits. It's best to discover the radical differences before marriage, and if there are too many, and try to forget the whole thing. Trying to reform a husband or wife is a heartbreaking endless task.

My background and Chuck's are similar enough to afford agreement on most things. We both hail from the great American Middle Class. Our family manner of living resemble each other. Neither of our families have had servants to any great extent. Hired help has been secured whin necessary at odd times. We are both used to and quite willing to wait on ourselves.

His family is larger than mine, but we both have known what it is to share and get along with other children in a family. Chuck is the youngest of five already married brothers and sisters, and I am the oldest of three girls.

Perhaps, I could say his family life has been more secure and calm than mine, but I don't think this will make a whole lot of difference. Because of the various incidnets that have come into my life

through two quite different marriages, I hope I will be able to benefit from these experiences and make my own home a much better one.

What about drinking? Here, perhaps there might be the greatest difference in background. His parents are not teetotalers by any means, but they hardly ever drink. They know Chuck does, however, not to any excess and do not make any great bone of contention of the fact ---- leaving the matter to his own discretion. As far as I can remember, we have always had liquor in the house, except during the good ole prohibition days. Because liquor was always there and I knew I could have some if I wanted it ---- I never had any great yen or urge to trot off on the sly and drink. We had wine on holidays and my sister and I were always allowed a small glass of wine; so we might feel we belonged in with the festivities. This treatment was very wise on the part of my father. He told me if I wanted a drink I could have it at home ---- I didn't need to sneak off to some tavern or bar. I am not a heavy drinker; however, I do enjoy a drink once in awhile with Chuck or with my family.

CHARACTER

After going with Chuck for almost two years ---- seeing and being with him almost every day, I feel that I know him very well, even though I do learn something new about him as each day passes. He is honest, I am sure, and he has been trusted to the utmost by those who have had business dealings and contacts with him. I am sure I can trust him and he feels the same way about me. Ambition is centered keenly in his make-up. He knows what he wants, isn't obvious or pushy about getting it, but he usually ends up getting the thing he does want.

Knowing how to take disappointment is a hard thing to do. When one has worked for something three long years and then sees it slip through one's fingers only because of low grades, is very disillusioning. This happened to Chuck while I was going with him, and it was hard for him to swallow his pride and make an adjustment to the situation. But he drove himself to the books and proved to himself that he could make good grades ---- I don't call a 5.1 index bad at all. However, the memory of this loss is still in his mind, I know.

Chuck is very conscientious, and this often causes him to worry about things more than he should, but there doesn't seem to be much I can do about this. Worrying sometimes causes him to be moody, but he wouldn't be normal if he didn't have his off days now and then.

The main thing is that I trust Chuck and have confidence in him to do what is well and good for the both of us.

PERSONALITY

Perhaps I'm prejudiced, but I'd give Chuck an A+ on personality. He enjoys other people and makes friends very easily and is able to hold onto them. He can talk to any type of person and there is common ground, because of his tack and ability to talk. He has a fine sense of humor and we both enjoy the humorous side of life.

COMMON INTERESTS

This is where we shine. We like to do the same things at almost the same times. We like shows ---- one every other night would not be too many, if the pocketbook could stand it, but it can't. We

enjoy trying our hand at golf, bowling, swimming and tennis. Chuck is just a little better than I am at all these sports; so he almost always beats me in any game.

If there is nothing else to do, we take a walk, work cross-word puzzles, play gin-rummy or just talk. We never seem to run out of things to do together and I really feel we enjoy staying around the Pi Phi House saving our money more than a lot of people do. However, we have lots of fun spending the money when it comes our way.

IN-LAWS

Although our parents have never met each other, I don't think that there will be any feuding when they do. His parents are much older than mine and thus they won't have the same interests, but I do think they will be congenial. Chuck gets along famously with my family, especially with my father. Dad has always wanted to have a son to take fishing and hunting with him and has never had one. When Chuck and I go home to visit, he seems to fill in this vacant place for Dad and they are getting to know and like each other very well.

I like Chuck's family very much; they treat me like one of them when I visit in their home and I always have a wonderful time. The more I go home with him, the better I get to know and like his parents.

WHAT WE WANT OUR MARRIAGE TO HAVE AND TO BE

We have discussed many things about our future marriage and have come to an agreement on things almost immediately. I suppose this won't last forever, but who knows? We have talked about religion ---- what it means to us now and what we want it to mean to us in our marriage. Since he is a Methodist and I am a Congregationalist, we have decided that wherever we settle down, we are going to try both Churches and consider them according to the minister, congregation and location. If neither of these two churches come up to our expectations, we are going to shop around among the Protestant Churches until we find one we are both happy in. We are both willing to change our church, if necessary; so differences in religion are no great factor in our marriage.

The only thing we are going to have to strive for in this respect, is that we do take more interest in our religious life and find more time to go to church. There is an old saying, "One can always find time to do the things one really want to do." Therefore, if we earnestly try, we can get to church more often.

WEDDING AND HONEYMOON

In these times, it is rather hard to talk and make any rigid plans about a wedding or a honeymoon. We want to be married as soon as we can, although this war is really throwing a kink into our chances. I think Chuck and his family would like a large church wedding; however, I really don't want one as I know my family cannot afford a big one. I certainly wouldn't enjoy one under these circumstances. I would much prefer a small wedding at home. We have finally decided that the latter kind of wedding would be O.K. For both of us. I know it would mean just as much to me and it would certainly be much more within my family's means.

For our honeymoon, we want to go someplace where we can be alone. (I would guess most

newlyweds do). Also, we want this place to have access to a good dining and dancing place, and nice theaters or some good shows. I guess there is someplace not too far away and not too expensive that will fit these qualifications. At least, I hope so. We have decided that we want our honeymoon to be a time that neither of us will ever forget. We want it to be a wonderful new experience to both of us and to form a firm foundation for a wholesome sex life that will become richer and richer as each day of our marriage passes by. Detailed plans for the honeymoon are going to be made in advance, so we won't have to be bothered with anything or anybody else but ourselves. This honeymoon is going to be ours and ours alone. We do not feel that this is a selfish attitude, but only a natural one. Are we right?

ROMANCE AND COMPANIONSHIP

I guess people who are going through their courtship and engagement period think that they will always feel as thrilled and romantic about their future partner as they do then. Trying to be sensible about the whole thing ---- I want the romantic feeling, we now both possess, to fade away gradually through the years ---- not that I don't want Chuck to kiss me often and show affection for me, but I want this feeling to develop into one of a love companion. I want Chuck and I to experience a sense of togetherness in everything we attempt and strive to do. I know it will take time for us to become adjusted to living together and realize that as the years go by, if our marriage is successful, we will grow to be more and more like one person. Not two as we are now. I think our marriage will have romance, but I want this to deepen into a secure feeling of love and companionship.

SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP

Perhaps, I am lucky in having had my approach to sex be such a sane and clean one, but I realize how fortunate I have been and am thankful for it. My attitude toward sexual relations with my future husband is founded on the basis that in this relationship we will experience a completeness, which will really bind us together as man and wife, both physically and spiritually. I feel no shame in looking forward to the time when we will be able to have sexual relations together. We both realize that it will take time for us to adjust to each other and really gain the greatest satisfaction from our sex relations together. However, we are frank enough, I believe, to talk things over if they don't go too smoothly and help each other attain this satisfaction. We want our sex life to be a rich part of our married life and to culminate in the birth of our children.

BIRTH CONTROL

We have talked this matter over together and both feel it should be practiced. Close to the time when we are to be married, we are going to a reputable physician and have him explain to us, in detail, the various methods of birth control and recommend to us the correct kind and instruct us in the correct way to use this contraceptive. We feel that both the husband and wife should understand the contraceptive that either he or she uses. It will be only through birth control that we will try to space the coming of children until there is a place ready for them in our home.

MEDICAL TREATMENT

Because I am a doctor's daughter, I might be too concerned about this business of medical treatment, but anyway, I go on the theory that "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." It is up to us, after we are married, to set aside enough money each year to provide each of us with a complete physical exam. This may sound silly to be going to a doctor when you are in seemingly good health, but sometimes it might prevent a major illness. This annual check-up is a good habit to acquire early. Also, we should be sure that we keep up on our immunity shots such as smallpox, diphtheria, etc., and above all, when we do need the doctor go ahead and call him and don't stall around trying to save a dollar.

TYPE OF HOME WE WANT

We can dream about the type of home we would like to have, and then I can tell you all about the one we will probably have, until we are able to build our own. The first few years of our life, we can live in an apartment or a small house and get along very nicely. As long as we have a nice clean, cheery place to live in, the battle is half won. After all, it isn't really the four walls that make a home, it's the people who live inside who determine whether it will be just a place to live in or a home. If we can't make a home out of a small, not-too-inconvenient place, we won't do any better in a castle. I don't want you to get me wrong ---- that is I don't want to live in a tumbled down shack by a railroad track, but I don't expect a mansion either.

I want our home to be comfortable and clean ---- I think beauty and comfort can be combined in many many cases. Probably, we will have hand-me-downs, along the furniture line, in our first home. I hope we do, as it will help us get started. We both think it is silly for young married people to think that they have to start out housekeeping with everything brand new. We certainly do not intend to. However, if we live in Indianapolis, where Chuck's father is a contractor, we will probably get to live in one of the new "doubles" he has been building. These houses are modern and are very nice; so if we settle in Indianapolis, we will be pretty lucky.

HOUSEHOLD DUTIES AND HOME PRODUCTION

During the first few years of marriage, before children start to come, is the time to really form habits in household managing and productions. These are two places where we can really save money. I plan to do all the housework and make my own clothes as I make most of them now. I enjoy sewing and will have lots of time to sew and make things to help furnish our home, such as curtains, bedspreads, slip covers, etc. This is all providing that I don't work outside the home. I love to cook; so I know I am going to enjoy working in my own kitchen, and I will be able to can some fruits and vegetables, if they are cheap enough to warrant the time put in, in processing them.

Chuck is very handy with tools and may want to make some of the cupboards, bookcases, and small tables that we will want to furnish the house with.

We both have talked over having a garden, if there is room for one, where we live and if the ground is suitable. This would provide an avocation for both of us and fresh vegetables in the summer.

TYPE OF TOWN LOCATED IN AND CHARACTER OF NEIGHBORHOOD

As I mentioned before, we will no doubt locate in Indianapolis, and I know we will both be very happy there. Many of our friends live in Indianapolis; so we would have plenty of social contacts.

It really doesn't make so much difference where we live; the important thing is that we will be together. A strange town would present its problems in making new friends and contacts, but I am sure we could make the grade together.

Who doesn't hope for a nice quiet friendly neighborhood to live in? That's what we want, but whether we will find it is another question. I do not feel that we should sacrifice convenience for peace and quite until the time when we have children to think of and consider. When that time comes, I think the neighborhood should be changed, if necessary, for their best interests. We will have to think of the convenience to playgrounds, schools and many other things.

WELL ORGANIZED FINANCES

They are indeed essential, if we are to know where we stand financially. So many times, the wife is unaware of how much money the husband has and I feel that this is wrong. Each of them should know just how much money they have and how it is invested. We have decided that we will have a joint checking account in the bank, but for the weekly groceries and household expenses we will work on a budget and Chuck will give me the money to cover these things at the beginning of the week. For clothes and major items, we can use the checking account, but Chuck says he doesn't want me to have to come running to him every time I need a few cents. I think this is a wise idea. We are going to keep a careful check on our budget and revise it as necessary during the years. In this way, we can keep well informed on how we are coming out on the money angle.

MOTHERHOOD AND CHILDREN

To come to me several years after we are married, I hope is the experience of becoming the mother of our children. I am looking forward to being a mother very much, although I realize it will bring added responsibility and trials in our marriage. However, I think that children will bind our marriage together still more closely. How many children we will be allowed to have is something fate must decide. I know though, even if we can only have one child, that a great deal of our later life will center around this offspring ---- watching it grow into young manhood or young womanhood. I do hope that we will make the good parents we are going to strive to be. Chuck has had lots of experience in being with and taking care of small children as it takes two hands to count all of his nieces and nephews. Because of several courses that I've had here at school and the experience of having a small sister to look after, I feel that I at least know the rudiments of taking care of children. Chuck and I both love little children very much and enjoy being around them. I am sure we will have as many in our own family as possible.

RELATIVES

Sometimes relatives are wonderful people, but sometimes they are also very troublesome. Frankly, although we are very fond of most of our relatives (those we have both met), we should like to

start out living in a town quite removed from them. Young married people have a hard enough time getting adjusted to each other without having a million relatives butting in to help them out. We will probably want to visit our relatives, but we still think it's best not to have too much interference right at first. This discourse on relatives is not meant to include the fathers and mothers of the couple, but the brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and cousins.

CLUB MEMBERSHIPS, RECREATION AND ENTERTAINING

Since we like to play golf so much, I hope that we will be able to join an inexpensive golf club soon after our marriage. Golf is an entertaining game and provides plenty of exercise.

As far as other club memberships go, it depends a great deal on the type of town we live in. Perhaps Chuck will want to belong to the Lions or Rotarians. If he wants to and we can afford it, he should do so by all means. Also if there is a nice bridge club for me to belong to, we both think it's right for me to join. I think I know where to draw the line on bridge playing and get home in time to get Chuck's dinner. At least I hope so.

We enjoy most any sort of sport ---- swimming, bowling and tennis. We like radio programs, good stage productions and movies. The only catch is where shall we draw the line? We will probably have trouble keeping within our budget planned for recreation ---- but we are going to have to make ourselves stay close to it.

Entertaining on a large scale will be at a minimum at first, but we can always have another couple in for a bridge game and serve drinks or have a small dinner party once in awhile. Chuck and I do enjoy people and will enjoy entertaining them in our home if we have the money.

Well, I believe that just about winds up this discussion on what Chuck and I want our marriage to be. Things will come up during the course of our marriage which neither he nor I can possibly ever foresee. But if we adjust ourselves carefully and thoroughly, we should have no trouble jumping the hurdles that marriage might present to us.

ATTITUDE OF MY PARENTS TOWARDS MY MARRIAGE

My father has always left the choice of my friends up to me ---- perhaps guiding me slightly when necessary. He has told me that whomever I want to marry was alright with him. If I had picked out a person whom he didn't like particularly well, he wouldn't have stood in the way of our marriage. Repeatedly, I have been told it is up to me to choose my future husband myself and that the success depended upon the adjustments we make in the marriage.

But I didn't pick someone my parents do not like ---- in fact, I don't think I could have chosen anyone they could like better than they do Chuck. I'm certainly glad things have turned out this way.

Do my parents want me to be married in the near future? I could answer this "Yes" or "No." If we do want to get married very soon, then they will not object. However, they would much rather have me work for a year at least before I marry. After sending me to college, I do feel that I owe them the satisfaction of knowing their daughter has gained something from her four years at Purdue and can hold down a good job. There are so many things that Chuck and I are going to have to decide, before we take those quick steps toward the altar.

He and I have talked over my working for the first few years after we are married, and have decided, if I do have a good job and like it, that I should continue to work for awhile. This would help solve the problem of showing my parents that I could work and would help increase our income.

WHAT THE WAR HAS DONE TO MY CHANCES FOR MARRIAGE

The war has presented the biggest obstacle to us in trying to decide when to get married. Chuck will be in the Army Field Artillery after December. We should like very much to get married then, if I can get a job near the place he is stationed. His salary would be large enough as he has a commission as 2nd Lieutenant.

We have tried to be sane and say we are going to wait until he comes back to be married. But then I ask myself, "What if he doesn't come back?" The closer the time is coming when we will be separated, the more I know we are going to be married in December, if there is anyway possible. In this insecure, topsy-turvy world, as it is today though, we can't say how we are going to come out.

If we can't get married before the war is over, then we will be married just as soon as Chuck gets back. If he doesn't come back, I'll be lost and heartbroken for a long time, because I do love him very much. Maybe sometime again I would find someone I should like to marry. I hope I will never have to look for anyone else, because I want to marry the man that I am engaged to right now. Whether we shall be married or not is in the balance. Let's hope the wheel of good fortune stops at our lucky number. I sincerely think we can make a wonderful success of our marriage, if only we are given a chance.

SUMMARY

As I have been writing this paper, I have realized that many of the things we planned will not mature. Also, if I should write this type of thing two years from now that many of my ideas on the subject might have changed. However, I think I have gained a great deal of personal insight from writing it. It has cleared up so many of my thoughts when I had to put them down on paper.

I am going to keep this paper and , if things turn out right so we can get married and after our marriage has progressed along a bit---- say about two or three years time ---- we are going to re-read this paper together and see just how many of our plans do come through. How many do you think will?