



ROSE DAVIS - Homemaker trainee under the W.E.T. Program, takes a break after lunch. As part of her training Rose works as a nurse's helper at St. Joseph's Hospital each Monday and Tuesday.

Homemaker's Course Started at H. House

A homemaker's course was started at Hospitality House on December 7, 1966. Fourteen women are presently attending the four month course which includes classroom and work experience training.

The course is sponsored by the Fairbanks W.E.T. (Work Experience and Training) Project under the State Department of Health Education and Welfare and funded under Title V of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. The goals of the program are to upgrade the homemaking skills of the participants and to improve their employability.

Each Monday and Tuesday the women are placed at work training sites in and around Fairbanks.

At Tot Haven Nursery, College Day Nursery, and the University Nursery Lab, the women learn different aspects of child care and quickly see the similarities and differences of taking care of one's own children in the home and other people's children in the nursery.

At the University of Alaska cafeteria, the snack bar on campus, St. Joseph's Hospital, or at Lathrop High School Cafeteria, the women are instructed and assist in food preparation and serving.

At St. Joseph's Hospital the women may be nurse's helpers, thus receiving training that will equip them to care for the sick in their homes or in an institutional setting.

Here, too, the women may choose to have experience in maid work and general cleaning. Other supervised work experience may be had in day work at Hospitality House and in private homes in town.

At each training site the women are exposed to different techniques as well as different types of work. This gives the women a realistic view of the various jobs and better equips them to choose and find work for which they are qualified and which they enjoy.

Wednesday through Friday the women attend classes at Hospitality House taught by Mrs. Anne Severns, Home Economics Graduate of Kansas State University and mother of five children.

She is assisted by Miss Martha Schulz, VISTA volunteer sponsored by Hospitality House, formerly Extension Home Economist in Oklahoma. At the classes the women are instructed in money management, child care, housekeeping, nutrition, consumer buying, cooking, and sewing.

Guest speakers from various agencies in Fairbanks carry on lively discussions in their respective fields. Use of movies, film strips, and a tape recorder afford variety in the learning experience.

Occasional field trips, such as that taken to the Cooperative Extension Office at the State Building, serve to make the participants more aware of facilities which they may use as aids in their lives as wives and homemakers.

A shopping trip helped show the ladies wise consumer buying habits as they first examined newspaper advertisements, picked out "specials" which they could best use, incorporated them into a week's luncheon menu, and then went to the various stores where they made their purchases.

A field trip especially concerned with meat buying was

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held and one focused on fabric selection is planned.

To provide experience in planning and entertaining the women recently sponsored a tea at which representatives of agencies associated with the program were able to meet the participants.

Class members include women from Fairbanks and outlying areas. Two women have already come in from Barrow; others are expected from Ft. Yukon, Northway, and Wainwright.

It is hoped that at the conclusion of training, the participants will be equipped to find employment in any number of jobs. Positions with BIA and HEW as visiting homemakers are open and participants will be qualified to seek these jobs as well as many others.

After the completion of this training program in April, another homemakers course with the majority of participants coming from outlying areas will begin. Those now attending the course include: Gertrude Agsogeak, Jessie Ault, Rose Lee Davis, Martha Ericklook, Margaret James, Edna Leavitt, Lillian Olin, Nita Paneok, Jennie Silas, Laura Putugook, and Carolyn Dixon.