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EC57-506 She Has What Every Woman Wants

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She has what every woman wants

*A shy farm girl 20 years ago,
Orabelle Klessig Fisher is now at ease
with people—whether 2 or 2,000.
Here Associate Editor Laura Lane
tells you how this Wisconsin woman
remodeled her personality*

THE first time I saw Orabelle Fisher my mind filled with exclamation points. We were gliding skyward in a hotel elevator, and by the time she got off at the tenth floor I had observed: What a handsome woman! How beautifully groomed! And so smartly dressed!

Before the day was over I had heard her speak to 2,000 women, and I added another exclamation: What poise!

All this happened six months ago. Since then Orabelle and I have become friends. I've met her family, visited in the Fisher home—and added other complimentary exclamation points.

To introduce her properly, Orabelle is Mrs. Lawrence Fisher of Flowerdale Farm, Manitowoc County, Wis. She is the wife of a prominent young dairy farmer, mother of 3 and president of 46,000 (members of her state's Home Demonstration Council).

In one of our first get-acquainted conversations, Orabelle told me she had been a shy child and an easily-embarrassed teen-ager, unsure of what to do or say. At 17, she felt lost in a town high school; now she is self-possessed—as all women want to be.

How did her self-transformation come about? In order to learn, I made my delightful visit to Flowerdale Farm. From visiting with her and her

Since she's not fluent by nature, Orabelle concentrates on being well prepared. She wants to look her best, know her subject thoroughly. Before a meeting she often practices speaking and presiding in front of a full-length mirror.

PHOTOS: INFINITY, INC.—REYNOLDS

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A WOMAN YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW



Don't economize on a haircut—get the best! Orabelle and Kay (right) her lively 12-year-old daughter, follow this feminine philosophy.



family and friends, I was able to retrace these steps she made to become a woman with poise.

Watching other women who are at ease is the way Orabelle began. Her first job after high school was receptionist in a dentist's office, and the dentist's kind wife was her early model. Charm and grace, Orabelle soon decided, aren't achieved by airs and manners that you put on or off, but through a state of mind. As she watched and practiced, she learned that keeping emotional equilibrium is a lifetime job, and she would need help.

Accepting help to grow as a person is necessary—but hard when you're timid. In Orabelle's opinion no person is ever wholly self-made. We grow, through the years, by courtesy of family and friends.

Thanks to her mother, Orabelle developed an early interest in clothes that are becoming and in good taste. And, like her mother, Orabelle passes up frills to choose dresses with classic simplicity that seem just right for her.

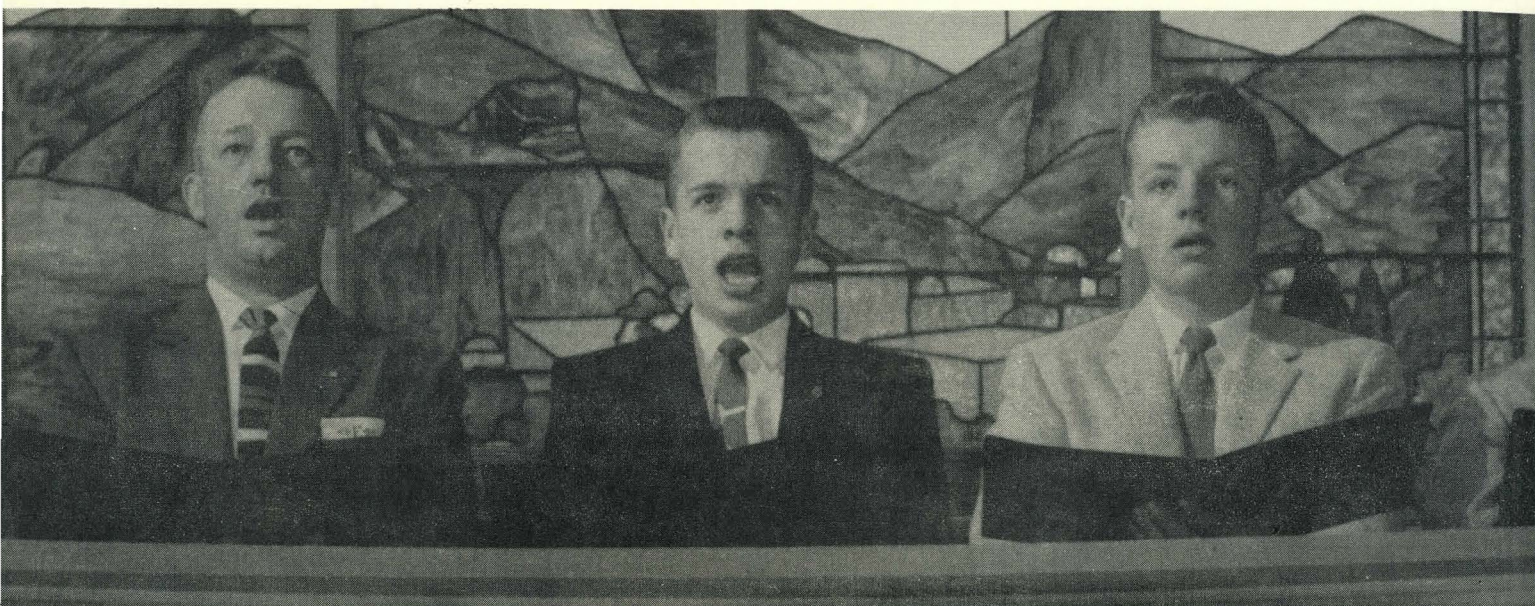
Nor has she forgotten her home economics teacher's exasperated wail to a high school class: "A year or two from now you'll all be pushing baby carriages—with your heels run-over." In time Orabelle was pushing a baby carriage, "but in all these years I've never let my heels get run-over."

Her willingness to accept help means Orabelle now claims about as



A farmer who enjoys golf, Lawrence is Orabelle's coach. Boys help with chores so Mom and Dad can play twice a week on nearby public links.

Their church is important in the lives of the Fishers. Four sing in the Trinity Lutheran choir: Orabelle and Lawrence, and their sons: Jerry, 14, Freddy, 16. Lawrence has a fine voice, is often a soloist at weddings in the community.



many benefactors as acquaintances. Near the top of her list are Extension workers and farm women she's met through Home Demonstration work. Without them, she believes her life would have been much narrower—maybe even boring.

Using every chance to learn through the years has brought rewards. Joining a 4-H Club gave Orabelle her first big opportunity: She met Lawrence at an achievement banquet, and he soon changed her resolve never to marry a farmer. (She's happy he did!)

Orabelle's personable husband has helped her change in other ways—replacing her defeatism with plans and hope. When her face mirrors doubt or tension, Lawrence will say, "Orabelle, you're prettier when you smile." And in return she helps him, too, by keeping calm when things go wrong.

Every year has brought new opportunities—some might call them thankless jobs. Orabelle is an assistant 4-H Club leader. She's on the advisory board of the Manitowoc County Child Guidance Center. But she never begrudges her time: "What I learn makes me a better parent."

During the busiest season last year, Orabelle accepted her first summons to jury duty. It gave her new perspective as a citizen. And the per diem for her services helped a little in paying for a trip she and Larry made to Mexico in the fall—after the Home Demonstration Council convention in San Antonio.

The whole family has had opportunities to learn about other countries during the past few years—by giving hospitality and employment to farm trainees from Europe. Orabelle's reward for extra cooking, washing and ironing came in a young Frenchman's official report. Living with the Fishers had convinced Gerrard that "Americans are always smiling, never looking angry. That is wonderful."

Being sensitive to other people is the first step toward making any relationship comfortable. Orabelle grew up in a family that was reserved, and her natural reticence made her feel out of place when she married into a demonstrative family. The need for adjusting was more urgent since she and Lawrence lived with his parents for five years after their marriage. So she watched and listened. She didn't try to become talkative, but to do or say the right thing at the right time.

That self-taught awareness now makes her communication with the family appear to work by short wave. No rebukes. No prompting. But Orabelle's transmitter is working all the time.

Keeping attractive is another key to poise. To Orabelle that means meticulous grooming, keeping trim, being willing to pay for good haircuts and foundation garments—even if that means economizing on other items in family budget. Her best incentive?

It's Larry's praise on her appearance.

Playing golf and gardening help Orabelle keep a youthful figure. And she's glad Lawrence persuaded her to take up golf eight years ago, for "it's taught me concentration with relaxation."

Relaxing is harder than concentrating, since, like many women, Orabelle is a worrier. But at least she's learned to confine her worrying to important matters! How does she quiet the deep anxieties that life imposes on anyone at times? "I say my prayers more often."

Reviewing every day's happenings before she drops off to sleep is an Orabelle Fisher habit I'm copying. It's another secret of her poise. But her thoughts linger on blessings, not on mistakes. Happy recollections make pleasant endings to her days and prepare her for fresh beginnings.

My favorite recollection of Orabelle may further explain why she's a woman you'd like to know, too. She had cooked a company meal for seven. Now the dishes were stacked high and Orabelle was presiding at the dishpan while I dried the silver.

"What do you think really gives a person poise," I asked her without warning. She studied the opalescent suds. Then, looking up, she gave me the answer that she demonstrates: "It's thinking of the other person until you forget yourself." **End**