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Comments and Idea Exchange

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Comments and Idea Exchange

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SEX?

Does a woman's sex seriously block her advancement in business? Clark Caskey, director for the Bureau of Industrial Relations, University of Michigan, asked that question of 23 female executives who participated in a recent leadership seminar at the university. Result: About half of the women said they feel that being a female is an obstacle to getting ahead in management. The others, Mr. Caskey says, either don't rate it as a big impediment or keep too busy to let the problem bother them. The Michigan seminar drew top-ranking women executives from all over the United States.

A recent front page story in the Wall Street Journal carried this banner: "More Women Conquer Business Bias, Fill Management Jobs" and stated:

The Census Bureau classified 1,021,000 employed women in the "managers, officials and proprietors" group as of 1960—more than double the 450,000 women in this category two decades earlier. Despite these gains by women, management remains predominantly a man's world. Several women executives were interviewed by the Wall Street Journal and I think some of their comments are worthy of mention.

Mildred Custin, president of Bonwit Teller & Co. had this to say: "A woman never makes it to the top unless she dedicates her life to her career." In her opinion, the main obstacles to women's advancement are the psychological barriers they raise themselves. "Some women have not completely lost their self-consciousness about being a woman in business," she comments.

"The Trick," explains Jacqueline Harvey who operates a small Manhattan public relations agency, "is to learn to knock yourself out on a job with a certain amount of gracefulness."

The article goes on to state that the New York Stock Exchange says 59 women are general partners of member firms, and cites many women executives in the financial world.

The career of Ethleen Lasseter, member of the Atlanta Chapter of ASWA and past-president of AWSCPA, was recognized in the Article. Ethleen started in the banking field in 1917 and climbed to the post of Trust Officer in charge of the pension and profit-sharing trust division of Atlanta's First National Bank.

PAPERWORK

An increasing number of companies have been intensifying efforts to cut down on paper work, The Wall Street Journal reports. "These firms are trying to eliminate completely some reports, invoices, memos and the like, and to substitute more efficient forms for others.

"Paper work has been proliferating in recent years, keeping pace with the rapid expansion of many companies. The pile is expected to grow even faster as the result of new Federal income tax regulations requiring businessmen to keep detailed records of travel and entertainment expenses.

"The potential savings from eliminating paper work can be significant. Some management consultants estimate that for every penny spent for a sheet of paper another 20 cents is consumed in typing, tearing, filing and other handling of the paper."

POINTS TO PONDER FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES

The new Revenue Procedure introduces a revolutionary concept of depreciation deductions. It explains a new audit technique which will be used by tax agents to gauge the reasonableness of a taxpayer's depreciation deductions.

—December 1962

Realistic financial forecasting and budgeting go together, because key forecasts form the bases for operating plans which in turn should result in sound profit planning.

—June 1962

The Carnegie report declares that an even more desirable approach to the teaching of accounting than the mere alteration of present courses is the new, fresh approach of managerial accounting.

—April 1962

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Accounting can rise no higher in the scale of certainty than the events which it reflects.

George O. May

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Restlessness and discontent are the first necessities of progress.

Thomas Edison