What About the Competition?

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A prominent male C.P.A. once said, “Sixty per cent of the women in this business are using it as a bride to marriage; twenty per cent just use it to kill time; but the other wonderful twenty per cent who are sincerely interested in the profession for its own sake are the finest accountants and C.P.A.’s you’ll find anywhere. I wish I had an office full of ‘em. It’s just finding them.”

Right motivation, coupled with active participation in the professional societies, including A.S.W.A., is the successful stepping stone to becoming one of those “finest accountants and C.P.A.’s you’ll find anywhere.”

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by a beautifully landscaped Mall. A fountain plays majestically in the distance as the visitor’s eye travels down the spacious lawns. To the east of Independence Hall stretches Independence National Historical Park where numerous other historic shrines are being restored or rebuilt. They include Carpenters’ Hall where the First Continental Congress met in 1774 to debate the question of revolution and independence.

Outside the national park, there is the Betsy Ross House in which, tradition says, the little seamstress stitched the first Stars and Stripes.

Since 1787 when delegates from the thirteen original states gathered in Philadelphia for the convention which framed and adopted the Constitution of the United States, hospitality has been synonymous with the City of Brotherly Love. The same spirit of friendliness and service to the visitor is very much in evidence in the city today. A striking symbol of it is the new Hospitality Center of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau which will open early in September. For a warm welcome and a wealth of information on where to go and what to see in the Quaker City, be sure to visit the Hospitality Center at 16th Street and Pennsylvania Boulevard in Penn Center when you come to the conventions.

For an outstanding convention experience, make your plans to be in Philadelphia in September and to take advantage of this bargain package—an opportunity to hear one of the country’s most outstanding women in public office plus the triple treat of three nationwide accounting society Annual Meeting for the travel price of one.

Much has been written and said about the many opportunities for women in the accounting profession. But what about the competition . . . and the attitude displayed by some men in the field?

A young girl new to the business world laments, “I just feel them wishing I wasn’t there, when nothing is said.”

It would be an insult to the intelligence to say that this situation does not exist. It does. It exists in accounting and in many situations where men and women are striving for professional status. But the fact that the problem exists is not nearly so important as one’s reaction to it. And herein lies the woman accountant’s golden opportunity. Ignoring the competition, she can weave her own garment of security with the indestructible threads of poise, dignity, and intellectual “know how.”

Why compete? The woman accountant has an important role to play and those who do not accept that fact are not her problem. Keeping the mental fist clinched in a constant state of defense saps intellectual energies which can be better used for doing a good job.

This does not mean that she becomes the carpet over which others walk to higher and better positions. No one who has achieved any degree of success would suggest such an attitude. Success in any endeavor takes hard work, but work doesn’t mean fighting what someone else might be thinking.

Mary Hall made a valuable comment in her article “No Opportunities” in the February issue of the “Woman C.P.A.” She said “The key to the door where opportunity knocks for women (or men) in this accounting business is the demonstrated ability to get the job done.”

“. . . the demonstrated ability to get the job done. . .” is the woman accountant’s secret weapon for completely disarming the opposition. Without becoming a “female Machine-Gun Kelly” her place is set and progress assured if she has demonstrated ability to get the job done.

What she may consider competition many times is nothing more than a bruised ego. Amusingly, the man who lavishes attention on his lady in the evening may regard her with suspicions of an underground fifth-column movement in the office the next morning. But this is not her worry. She is poised and dignified and busy proving she has a head on her shoulders.