

AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF

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Title: IDENTIFICATION OF MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS OF
YOUNG HOMEMAKERS MARRIED IN THEIR TEENS

Abstract approved: *Redacted for Privacy*
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This study was designed (1) to identify and describe young homemakers' problems through expressed difficulties in homemaking activities, (2) to investigate the relationship between the expressed problem areas and the homemakers' length of marriage, family composition, employment status and family income, and (3) to determine additional homemaking information young homemakers want and the source from which they would like to obtain it.

The sample consisted of 50 homemakers married in their teens. They were all 22 years old or younger, had been married at least six months, but no longer than three years, and were living in Corvallis, Oregon, at the time of the interviews. Thirty-one were student and 19 non-student wives. Stratified sampling was utilized for determining the over-all sample. Random sampling was the technique used to select the sub-sample from each of the two given strata, student and non-student wives.

The average age of the homemakers was 20.1 years and the average length of their marriages was 2.2 years. Of these homemakers, 29 had had or were expecting children. Twenty-three were gainfully employed on a full-time basis. Eight had assumed a triple role of homemaker, part-time employee, and student; however, seven were combining the roles of homemaker and student. Twelve were full-time homemakers. The income of these families ranged from under \$3,000 to \$15,000 per annum.

The homemakers expressed difficulty in each of the 16 homemaking activity areas investigated in the study. The homemaking activities studied were planning meals, buying food, preparing food, serving food, preserving food, buying clothing, sewing, caring for clothing, finding a place to live, furnishing the house, equipping the house, caring for the house, getting ready and caring for the baby, managing money, providing transportation and participating in community organizations. Each homemaker reported difficulty with from one-half to all of the 16 activities. Based on weighted percentages, their major problem was participating in community organizations. The next most frequently reported problem activities were preserving food, caring for the house, sewing, buying clothing, and equipping the house.

Of the 33 factors and resources indicated as causing difficulties in the 16 homemaking activity areas, time, money, knowledge,

space and equipment were most frequently stated.

Homemaking tasks most enjoyed by the majority of homemakers were preparing food, sewing, and housecleaning. On the other hand, ironing, housecleaning, and washing dishes were the tasks least enjoyed.

Length of marriage, presence of children, employment status, and income seemed to be somewhat related to the number and kinds of problems these homemakers experienced with their homemaking activities, even though the chi-square tests indicated that this relationship was significant at the .05 level in only two of the 16 activities investigated. These were between preparing food and the homemakers' length of marriage, and between buying clothing and the homemakers' family income.

These young homemakers married in their teens recognized their needs and expressed a desire for additional information to help them cope with their homemaking problems. More than 80 percent requested information on furnishing the house, sewing, and preparing food; however, 50 percent or more of them asked for help with eight of the 16 homemaking activities. The most requested first choice source for homemaking information was through group meetings; however, magazines, bulletins, newsletters, and books were each mentioned frequently as acceptable sources of information.

It was apparent from this study that these young homemakers were confronted with a variety of everyday homemaking

problems that require solutions. Whether or not these were solved successfully depended upon the careful and wise choices of resources and decisions made by the homemaker and her family.

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Identification of Management Problems of
Young Homemakers Married
in Their Teens

by

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IDENTIFICATION OF MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS OF YOUNG HOMEMAKERS MARRIED IN THEIR TEENS

I. INTRODUCTION

What are the management problems of young homemakers married in their teens? How do management problems vary according to the length of marriage, family composition, employment status and family income? When young homemakers have problems, where do they go for help in solving these problems?

Since homemakers today live in a complex society, they are confronted with many diverse problems. Their ability to work out solutions to their problems influences their lives and the lives of their families. In solving problems, decisions must be made about using resources to achieve the goals and to attain the desired standard of living for the family. Probably some of the problems may be the same for families regardless of their demographic characteristics and environment. Other problems vary in nature depending upon such factors as the length of marriage, family composition, employment status of husband and wife, age of family members, income, and place of residence. Still others are unique to a given family.

Individuals working with institutions and organizations, if they are to be of service to families, must learn not only how to recognize problems but they must also keep abreast of changes in these problem

areas. Furthermore, they need to be prepared to assist individual families in using problem-solving procedures as a tool to attain their goals for an enriched and satisfying life (Lee and Chastain, 1960).

Need for the Study

In this century, there has been a trend toward marriage at an earlier age. The median age at first marriage for brides decreased from 21.2 years in 1920 to 20.5 years in 1966. For first married grooms the decline was from 24.6 years to 22.8 years in the same period (U. S. Census, 1967).

In the past ten years there has been a slight change in Oregon's median age at the time of first marriage--the brides are older and the grooms younger. The median age of first married brides in 1966 was 19.9 years as compared to the median age of 19.5 years in 1956; whereas, the median age of first married grooms was 22.5 years in 1966 as compared to 22.9 years for first married grooms in 1956 (Oregon State Board of Health, 1966).

Statistics for Oregon further show that the number of marriages performed in Oregon from 1950 to 1966 increased annually. A total of 13,981 were performed in 1966.

This was reported as the second highest number ever recorded in the state, slightly below a peak year of 1946 when 14,674 marriages was recorded. (Oregon State Board of Health, 1966, p. 83).

The record in 1946 can be explained by the fact that many Oregon servicemen came home from World War II in that year.

A similar rise in the national annual number of marriages apparently has been due to the increase in the number of young men and women reaching the ages at which marriage commonly occurs. The children born in 1947, the first peak of the postwar baby boom, became 19 years old in 1966. The number of marriages can be expected to continue to rise since the number of young adults will increase in the years to come (Oregon State Board of Health, 1966).

Even though Oregon's marriage rates have been below the average for the United States, they generally have followed the same national trend. The national marriage rate in 1966 was about 9.5 per 1,000 people, while Oregon's marriage rate was only 7 per 1,000. It is thought that the state's lower marriage rate is due, in part, to the large number of Oregon residents who are married in Washington, Idaho and Nevada because of the laxity of marriage regulations in these adjoining states (Oregon State Board of Health, 1966).

Teen-age marriages in Oregon during 1966 went up to an all time high of 2,180 grooms and 5,527 brides. This gain, which was entirely among the 19 year olds, reflected the 22 percent increase in the number of births to Oregon residents in 1947 over the previous years (Oregon State Board of Health, 1966).

The Oregon State University Cooperative Extension Service

reports that psychiatrists, health nurses, social welfare workers and family counselors in Oregon have referred patients and clients, including young homemakers, to Extension Home Economists for information pertaining to home management because of a feeling that some individual mental disturbances and family tensions may have stemmed from a lack of household skills and ability to use them (Strawn, 1961).

The number of requests for home management information which came to the Benton County Extension Service Office during the 22 months in which the researcher served as County Extension Home Economist, prior to beginning this study, indicate that these inexperienced homemakers do have management problems and that there is a need for further education in the area of management. As a result of this experience, the researcher believes that the professional worker needs facts based on a systematic study about the problems these young women face if he is going to work with them effectively.

Because of the early marriages of many Oregon brides, the indication that marital problems may arise from the wife's lack of knowledge about management skills, the requests for home management information by young homemakers in the area, and the limited research pertaining to management problems of young homemakers married in their teens, it was felt that there was a need for this study.

Conceptual Framework of the Study

According to Webster (1966) a problem is "a perplexing question, statement or person; a matter involving difficulty in solving, settling of handling . . ." (Webster, p. 1161). Lee and Chastain defined problems as difficulties that arise from risks and uncertainties brought about by change. They further state that "although the difficulties may be felt by the manager, they, at the same time may be vague and difficult to identify as a problem" (Lee and Chastain, 1960, p. 651).

Consequently, the first step in solving a problem is to recognize that a problem exists. Only then can it be defined. One important job of a homemaker, therefore, is to identify management problems as they are experienced by her and her family.

Once identified, problems may be solved a variety of ways. Down through the years mankind has devised a number of approaches for solving the numerous problems which he has faced. Some of these approaches have been by appeal to the supernatural or to authority; by habit; by intuition; by pure logic; by what one's friends, neighbors or the culture in which he lives considers as factually true; and by the problem-solving or scientific approach (Cohen and Nagel, 1934; Chase, 1948; Kerlinger, 1967; Lastrucci, 1967).

Lee and Chastain (1960) suggested the following steps for

problem-solving: (1) A difficulty is felt. (2) Knowledge and information relative to the felt difficulty are gathered, organized and observed. (3) Alternative solutions of the problem are recognized. (4) Alternative solutions are analyzed in light of information observed. (5) The problem is defined; a decision is made or a solution is reached. (6) Responsibility for the problem solution is accepted.

Statement of the Problem

This thesis is designed to examine the following questions: What are the management problems of young homemakers married in their teens? What factors contribute to management problems of young homemakers married in their teens? Is there a relationship between management problems and the young homemaker's length of marriage, family composition, employment status and family income?

The objectives of this study are

1. To identify and describe young homemakers' management problems through expressed difficulties in homemaking activities.
2. To investigate the relationship between the felt problem areas and length of marriage, family composition, employment status, and family income of young homemakers married in their teens.
3. To determine what kinds of additional homemaking information young homemakers want and to learn the sources

from which they would like to obtain it.

Assumptions of the Study

Assumptions relevant to this study were (1) that all homemakers--of which the young homemaker is one segment--at some time encounter problems, (2) that homemakers can identify their problems and will be willing to verbalize these problems in an interview.

Limitations of the Study

The present investigation was confined to one geographical area, Corvallis, Oregon, a university city with a population of approximately 31,350 in 1968. According to the local Chamber of Commerce, the city is considered a white-collared or professional city because a majority of the population is connected with Oregon State University, either as student, staff or faculty. In addition to university employment, other major sources of income for the area are logging and agriculture. An Air Force base, located approximately eight miles to the north of the city, also contributes to the county's economy.

The problems and needs of the young homemakers were identified to the extent that they were able to recognize and were willing to verbalize them to the interviewer.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Research reviewed in this section is divided into four categories: (1) identification of homemakers' problems, (2) classification of homemaking activity areas, (3) homemakers' perception of household tasks, and (4) sources used by homemakers for obtaining homemaking information.

Identification of Homemakers' Problems

For a number of years researchers in home management have been interested in identifying homemakers' problems. In 1936, a group of 500 New York homemakers ranging in age from 17 to 81 years participated in a study showing how they used their time in homemaking activities. They reported meal planning and preparation, child care, and financial concerns as the greatest problems (Warren, 1940).

In an Ohio study, Hillman (1954) interviewed 150 young farm families to determine the relationship between some of the personal and economic problems they faced during the first five years of marriage. Forty-one percent of these young women indicated their lack of knowledge and preparation for homemaking responsibilities had made adjustment difficult in early marriage. These homemakers asked for further information in child development, money

management, family relationships, family health and recreation, but their major request was for home management information. Twenty-one percent of them stated that the unity and happiness of their home life had been affected by their lack of knowledge in home management practices and techniques.

In the management area, Hillman reported that younger homemakers' major problems seemed to be lack of knowledge in relation to time and energy management in the home, techniques of work simplification, purchase and management of household equipment, purchase of supplies, and management of irregular cash income. The age of the homemakers' husbands averaged 26.2 years; the range was from 20 to 30 years. The average age of the homemakers was 24.4 years, the range from 19 to 30 years. The average length of marriage was 3.8 years; the range was from 13 to 72 months.

Oehlschlaeger (1955) conducted a study with 31 young urban homemakers in Ohio to discover food problems and practices related to feeding the family and the sources of help for solving these problems. These young women had been married from one to eight years. Buying, canning, and freezing food and cleaning up after meals were most frequently listed as problem areas. Of major concern to these young homemakers were family food dislikes, lack of time to prepare meals, and serving meals at a time when all members of the family could be together. The findings indicated that these

homemakers encountered problems because of their attitudes toward specific activities related to food, the role of the husband in the home, employment status of the wife, adequacies recognized by the homemakers, and their likes and dislikes of homemaking activities.

In her study, Schubert (1957) interviewed a group of 104 Wisconsin homemakers between the ages of 18 to 25 years who had been married on an average of 2.8 years. Her purposes were (1) to discover and recognize their problems, (2) to determine how these young people solved their homemaking problems, (3) to identify their sources of help in seeking solution to the problems, and (4) to make generalizations for the high school home economics curriculum in view of the problems young homemakers must face. Of the 104 homemakers, 79 had children whose ages ranged from two weeks to four years. Homemakers interviewed reported encountering difficulty in the areas of food, clothing, housekeeping and child care, but their greatest problem was management. The management areas included making major management decisions as well as planning work schedules and family budgets.

Data also showed that there were areas of concern that these women in Schubert's study shared regardless of their employment status, family size, and length of marriage. A majority of the full-time homemakers and a majority of those with children reported experiencing a greater variety of problems than did the homemakers

who were employed and those who had no children. The full-time homemakers and those with children experienced difficulties with seasonal cleaning, supervision of children, and clothing upkeep; whereas, a majority of employed women and a majority of the women without children expressed difficulty with the family meals and home management activities. The young homemakers married for three years reported the greatest number of problem areas while those married for one year reported the fewest number. The other homemakers studied ranked as follows in number of problems reported: those married for two years, second; those married for four years, third; and those married for five years, fourth.

Hunter (1961) reported that Home Management Specialists of the Agricultural Extension Service in 46 states and Puerto Rico visited 511 families during 1960 to learn what problems they had in the management of materials and human resources such as time, money, energy, knowledge, skills and attitudes. Approximately 20 percent of these women were under 31 years of age; about 40 percent were 31 to 40; and 40 percent were 41 or over. The median income for these families was \$6,000. Twenty-one percent of the women worked away from home; however, 89 percent worked outside the house on lawns, gardens and farm work. Of the 511 homemakers, approximately 60 percent considered time their most difficult problem, while about 40 percent thought it was money. Energy was considered a problem by only a few of the women. Many of the

homemakers thought time management was the most serious problem because of the adjustments in use of time necessary with the changes in the family life cycle. The presence of small children in the home was felt to complicate housekeeping problems. As the children grew older, these homemakers felt increased demands on their time to participate in activities and organizations outside the home. Most of the homemakers attributed money management problems to a variety of causes: a growing family, price increases greater than income rises, increasing wants, and inadequate income. Only three percent of the homemakers gave ineffective management as a factor in their problems.

Food shopping problems of middle-class homemakers interviewed by Reigle (1962) appeared to be related to money management or to food budget difficulties and to problems of pleasing the family with variety in meals. There seemed to be some indication that homemakers who did not have a favorable attitude toward new foods thought food prices were high or stated more problems in food buying.

Of the many financial problems of married undergraduate students, Stewart (1963) reported that insufficient income seemed to be their major concern. In this survey in which the average age of the student husbands was 24 years and of the wives 22.3 years, she found that insufficient income resulted many times in a lack of funds for adequate savings, for an emergency fund, for recreation, for personal

allowances, and for adequate insurance.

Whatley (1963), in identifying the homemaking activity problems of 175 working Oklahoma homemakers 35 years and older, found that the "big problems" were those dealing with big tasks and not the regular daily activities. Seasonal and special housecleaning, yard work, ironing, and sewing were considered "big problems." On the other hand, shopping for clothing, daily and weekly cleaning and housework, guiding children, and planning for emergencies during the mother's working hours, planning meals, and decorating or making the home more attractive were recognized as "small problems."

Chambliss (1965) made a survey of 391 homemakers from 91 Iowa counties in order (1) to identify management problems of general concern to homemakers and to make recommendations for study of these problems, and (2) to learn the differences in problems expressed among these homemakers in relationship to their residence and age. The sample was composed of three age groups: (1) those under 34 years, (2) those 35 to 44 years, and (3) those 45 years or older. The group under 34 was considered the younger homemakers. Three separate questionnaires--the first relating to financial problems, the second to family activities, and the third relating to goals--were used to collect the data. The five problem areas listed most frequently by all the Iowa homemakers answering the financial problems questionnaire were purchasing ready-made clothing, deciding

about gifts and contributions, purchasing home furnishings and equipment, paying taxes, and paying off debts. The five most frequently mentioned problem areas listed by all the homemakers answering the family activity questionnaire were sewing, altering and mending; planning meals; regular or daily home care; buying clothing for the family members; and special or seasonal home care.

Of the 391 homemakers in the Chambliss study, 125, or 32 percent, were under 34 years of age. This group of 125 homemakers was further divided into urban, rural non-farm and rural farm categories. Of the 125, 46 participated in the family finance survey. Fifteen were classified as urban homemakers, 12 as rural non-farm homemakers, and 19 as rural farm homemakers. Family financial problems most frequently reported by the urban homemakers were purchasing clothing and home furnishings, having commercial cleaning done and caring for clothing, and deciding on gifts and contributions. Family financial problems most frequently listed by rural non-farm homemakers were purchasing clothing and deciding on gifts and contributions. However rural farm homemakers most frequently reported purchasing ready-made clothing and home furnishings, buying foods, and repairing and keeping up their automobiles as their financial problems (Chambliss, 1965).

The questionnaire dealing with the family activity problem areas was returned by 38 women classified as younger homemakers.

Of these, eight were urban homemakers, six were rural non-farm homemakers and 24 were rural farm homemakers. Family activity problems most frequently listed by the urban homemakers were food selection and buying; sewing, altering and mending; buying clothing for the family; physical exercise; feeding the child or children; washing clothes; and buying household furnishings. Problems related to family activity areas which were most frequently mentioned by the rural non-farm homemakers were daily home care and ironing and putting clothes away. The rural farm homemakers most often listed daily house care, meal planning, sewing, altering and mending, community activities, washing clothes, and keeping records of money spent as problem areas (Chambliss, 1965).

Among the 391 homemakers in the Chambliss study, the frequency of the problems reported declined as the age level increased regardless of the place of residence. From the data there were indications that the younger homemakers in all residential areas had problems and that the homemakers in urban areas either had more problems or tended to be more aware of them. When the individual activities were analyzed, it was found that the only activity mentioned by all age groups in all of the three residential groups was purchasing ready-made clothing. The next most frequently mentioned activity was buying home furnishings and equipment.

In determining the general types of difficulties that the

homemakers encountered when dealing with their management problems, Chambliss found that the 137 homemakers who participated in the family finance part of the survey reported problems in which they mentioned the following factors: market situation (154 times), cost (122 times), need for information (88 times), and limited money (66 times). However, the 129 women returning the general activity questionnaire in this study referred to a lack of time (133 times), need for information (123 times) and nutrition (65 times) as problem areas.

Classification of Homemaking Activity Areas

Warren's (1940) research, in which 500 New York farm homemakers participated was to determine (1) the activities of the homemakers, (2) the time use for these activities, (3) the causes of variation in the time use, and (4) the work load in different households. The average age of homemakers participating in the study was 47 years; however the age range was from 17 to 81 years. The homemaking activities in which the homemakers reported participating were categorized as follows: food preparation; dishwashing; care of the house; care of clothing and household linens; care of individual family members; marketing and account-keeping; food preservation; farm work; fancy work; community activities; sleeping and resting; personal care; eating meals; and care of health or illness.

In Michigan, 50 farm families participated in a study conducted

by Thorpe and Gross (1952) to learn the amount and kinds of use the families made of their homes and to determine some of their housing conditions and requirements. These families were questioned about the type of activities which were carried on in each room of the house by different members of the family on a given day of the week. The list of activity categories reported in this study included leisure; meal preparation, serving, and eating; personal care; house care; child care; laundry; sewing; resting; studying and business; farm chores; and miscellaneous.

Steidl's (1963) research described both the coordinating of a variety of activities and the parts of each activity. For her study, she used data collected by Elizabeth Weigand in 1952 in which the homemakers reported their complete days' activities and time allocated to each of these activities. The activities of the homemakers were classified into two general types--homemaking and non-homemaking. Homemaking and non-homemaking were further divided into general activity areas, and then the general activity areas were subdivided into specific activities or tasks.

Homemaking consisted of the following five activity areas: food preparation; care of the house; care of clothing; care of family members; and marketing and record keeping. The specific categories into which food was sub-divided included meal preparation, dishwashing, preliminary meal preparation, other food preparation, and

food preservation. Care of the house was further sub-divided into regular care, special care, and upkeep of the house. Care of clothing was divided into washing, ironing and other care of clothing, sewing and mending. Care of family members and marketing and records were not sub-divided.

The non-homemaking activities were divided into personal and leisure and other work which included work and community activities.

Homemakers' Perception of Household Tasks

How a homemaker perceives given household tasks could be a factor in management problems. Because of this fact, research on the homemakers' most liked, least liked, most fatiguing, and most disagreeable household tasks was compiled.

Homemakers in Warren's (1940) research reported their most liked activities were cooking and meal preparation, and sewing. Their most fatiguing activities were cleaning and keeping the house in order, washing, and ironing. Their most disagreeable tasks were cleaning and keeping the house in order.

Knowles (1946), in studying 582 rural New York homemakers in 1936, found that of several common household tasks a large percentage of the homemakers considered home laundering, including ironing, as the most tiring. In 1946 Knowles again interviewed homemakers. She found that ironing, the most tiring task, was

one that the homemakers most disliked doing.

Von Bortel and Gross (1954) in comparing home management in two socio-economic groups reported that there seemed to be a tendency to associate fatigue with disliked tasks and lack of fatigue with liked tasks. The most disliked tasks for both groups in this study was house care. The dislike of a task and lack of equipment were stated as the major causes of fatigue in both the Knowles (1946) and the Von Bortel and Gross studies.

Regardless of the family size, the employment status, and the length of time married, there was an indication of little difference in the tasks least enjoyed and most enjoyed by the young Wisconsin homemakers participating in Schubert's (1957) study. The tasks most enjoyed by a majority of these young women were preparing meals, baking, washing clothes, and sewing. On the other hand, washing dishes, ironing, and cleaning were the activities least enjoyed.

Maloch (1963) interviewed urban, full-time, middle-class homemakers with children to determine the characteristics of the most and least liked tasks. The 120 women participating in her study indicated that cooking, cleaning, and washing were the most liked tasks and cleaning and ironing the least liked tasks.

Meyer's (1963) study was to find out how a group of 24 faculty wives with children used their time and to investigate some factors

in housing and equipment which influenced how they used their time. These homemakers, ranging in age from 21 to 62 years, listed food preparation as the most enjoyed homemaking activity. The second most frequently enjoyed activity was sewing. Housecleaning scored first as the most disliked activity; ironing rated second in the disliked activities.

In summarizing the most liked and least liked household tasks from selected studies in the United States, Steidl & Bratton (1968, p. 25-26) stated that

Certain homemaking tasks are identified by homemakers as liked (meal preparation, child care), others as disliked (dishwashing, ironing, and cleaning) and the remainder (washing, shopping for groceries) in that shady, intermediate zone of not most or least liked.

Sources Used by Homemakers for Acquiring Homemaking Information

Hillman (1954) in interviewing 150 young Ohio farm homemakers learned that their chief source of information in preparing for the job of homemaker had been their mothers. Eighty-eight percent indicated their mothers as sources of information; however, only eight percent gave their mothers-in-law. Home economics classes were mentioned by 24 percent of the homemakers and Extension Service by 21 percent. Radio, television, newspapers, and magazines were each stated as sources of information by only eight percent of the

homemakers. It was apparent from the research findings that the young homemakers had reached a specific stage in their lives when they had come face to face with situations where they needed more information and help.

When the young homemakers in Hillman's study were asked on what subjects they wished to have more information, either in group meetings or through printed material, the greatest number (85 percent) requested home management. They asked specifically for help with time and energy management in the home, techniques of work simplification, methods of improving work, purchasing and managing household supplies and furnishings, home maintenance, sewing techniques (especially for children's clothing), and how to enjoy the job of "housekeeping." The subject-matter areas about which they requested additional information were listed in order of frequency as child development, money management, family relationships, family health and recreation, and state and national affairs.

Oehlschlaeger's (1955) study examining food problems of young Ohio homemakers and Schubert's (1957) study identifying management problems of young Wisconsin homemakers, approximately 75 percent of these homemakers, regardless of employment and family status, indicated that mothers, cookbooks, newspapers and magazines were the chief sources of ideas and techniques in managing their homes.

In a survey reported by Shipman and Cannon (1964), a group of

urban homemakers were questioned to find out what subjects they were interested in and wanted to know more about and what information sources they used. The sample was comprised of three different age groups: those under 35, those 35 to 59, and those 60 and older. Twenty-nine were under 35 years of age. Their educational level attained ranged from 11 years or less to those who had studied beyond high school; while their family incomes ranged from under \$4,000 to \$7,000 or more. The sources used for homemaking information by these urban homemakers were listed in the order most often used as: "read about it," commercial sources, friends or neighbors, families or relatives, professional or expert persons, and television. "Read about it" included books, bulletins, magazines, newspapers, newsletters, leaflets and other printed media. The number of information sources urban women consulted for answers about homemaking problems was related to the homemakers' ages and education and to whether or not they had access to women's magazines and to a radio. The women under 35 years of age sought help from a significantly greater number of information sources than did the older urban women. These younger women also indicated a greater need for homemaking information than did the older women. Findings indicated that personal characteristics of urban women determined their homemaking interest, needs, and the way they sought information.

Forty-seven groups, each composed of from three to 10 homemakers (a total of 290 women) were interviewed by Extension Home Economists in 15 states throughout various regions of the United States in an effort to test group interviewing as an approach to planning nutrition education programs for young homemakers. When the homemakers were asked what they felt would be the best way for them to get needed nutrition information, the physician was the person most frequently mentioned. The home economics teacher, extension home economist, or dietician were other professional people listed. Additional sources stated were cookbooks, library books, women's magazines, and bulletins. Almost every group interviewed expressed a desire for nutrition information to be presented at a group meeting where they could ask questions, discuss their problems, and talk to each other. A majority of the homemakers indicated that they were too busy to watch television during the day and that they did not listen to the radio. There seemed to be a difference of opinion as to whether or not the newspaper was a desirable media for disseminating food and nutrition information. The young homemakers advocated "word of mouth" as the most effective means of getting the young women to attend meetings (Spindler, 1965).

Fifty-eight percent of the families in Gift's (1965) research on factors influencing choice of housing features stated that they had used real estate agents and newspapers as sources for locating their

first residence; however, 52 percent of all these families had talked with friends or builders before moving the second time.

Peterson (1968) in investigating the selection of non-university rental housing by undergraduate students attending Oregon State University found that 70 percent of the families had located the dwelling they occupied at the time of the interview through a newspaper or by direct search.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study is designed to identify and describe management problems of young homemakers married in their teens and to examine sources of information used to solve problems.

Sample

The sample studied involved 50 homemakers who were 22 years old or younger, who had been married at least six months, but no longer than three years, and who lived in Corvallis, Oregon. Stratified sampling was utilized for determining the over-all sample. Random sampling was the technique used to select the sub-sample from each of the two given strata, student and non-student wives.

Since a representative sample of young homemakers in Corvallis was desired, but the proportion of eligible student wives in comparison to the non-student wives was not known, an effort was made to devise some means of getting an approximation of the proportion of student wives in this group.

The Oregon State University records showed that the 1967 fall term enrollment totaled 13,314 students. Of these, 8,592 were men and 4,722 were women. Of the total enrollment, 1,910 (22.2 percent) of the men and 566 (11.8 percent) of the women constituted the married student enrollment of 2,476.

A sample was taken, and of the 156 married student wives contacted, 19 met the criteria for the sample. Assuming this to be a representative group, it was estimated that about 12 percent of the 1,910 married student wives were eligible for the study.

Records of Benton County marriage licenses issued January, 1965 through December, 1967, was the source from which the non-student wives portion of the sample was obtained. When the occupation of the husband was given as "student" on the marriage license application, the name was immediately deleted from the possible sample of non-student wives. One hundred and thirty-seven teen-age women, with addresses in the city of Corvallis, had obtained marriage licenses from the Benton County Clerk's Office from January, 1956, through December, 1967.

A proportion was arrived at by comparing the estimated number of eligible student wives to the number of eligible young homemakers whose husbands were not students. It was determined that the sample should be composed of 31 student wives and 19 non-student wives.

The student wives' portion of the sample was obtained by selecting names at random from the Fusser's Guide, O. S. U. Directory, 1967-68. The directory gave the following information about each student listed: home and local addresses, local telephone number, academic standing and marital status. Since ordering in the student directory was independent of factors under consideration in this

research, it was felt that a random drawing should be representative for this portion of the sample to be investigated. The table of random numbers was used for selecting the non-student wives from the list obtained from the Benton County Clerk's Office.

The initial contact with homemakers was made by telephone. At this time, following a brief explanation of the study, inquiries were made about the homemaker's age and length of marriage. An appointment was made during the telephone call if the homemaker was eligible and consented to the interview.

Two hundred and thirty-five telephone calls were made in order to obtain the desired sample of 31 student and 19 non-student wives. All the eligible homemakers contacted except two non-student wives agreed to be interviewed.

Interview Schedule

The interview schedule, developed by the researcher, was chosen as the method for collecting the data for this study.

One of the major tasks in developing the interview schedule was to make a representative list of activities common to most homemakers as they begin their homemaking responsibilities. As background, the researcher reviewed literature pertaining to identified management problems and activities which homemakers do. She also met with a group of eight young Corvallis homemakers to

discuss homemaking areas in which they were experiencing difficulties. After the meeting, a letter was sent to the participants with a list of problem areas identified at the meeting and they were asked to rank them in order of importance to them as problem areas. They were also asked to elaborate on the specific difficulties they were experiencing in the various activities listed under the general activity areas. All homemakers returned the requested information.

The pretesting of the original interview schedule consisting of mostly open-end questions revealed that the responses were not specific enough to get data for the study. A more structured interview schedule therefore, was developed and pretested in interviews with four young homemakers and with a group of 27 young homemakers who were enrolled in a home management class at Oregon State University. Changes to improve clarity and interpretation and the ordering of questions resulted from the pretests.

The final interview schedule consisted of three major parts: you and your family, your homemaking, and sources of information. It was designed to include both fixed-alternative and open-end responses (Appendix A). The schedule was structured to elicit information about demographic data, homemaking practices and problems, and sources of information. The homemaking activities listed in the interview schedule were selected on the basis of their being characteristic of a normal present-day home situation. Terms used

extensively in the interviews and in this study were defined for clarification (Appendix B).

The Interview

Fifty young homemakers who met the sample criteria and consented to participate in the study were interviewed by the researcher. The interviews, averaging one hour in length, were conducted in the homes of the participants between April 22, 1968, and May 17, 1968.

Treatment of Data

The data from each interview were coded and recorded on IBM code sheets. Data to be analyzed in comparison (Chi-square) tests were processed in the Oregon State University Computer Center.

The data were analyzed to determine difficulties in each of the selected homemaking activity categories: planning meals, buying food, preparing food, serving food, preserving food, buying clothing, sewing, caring for clothing, finding a place to live, furnishing the house, equipping the house, caring for the house, getting ready and caring for the baby, managing money, providing transportation and participating in community organizations. Total felt difficulties were identified by giving each "occasional felt difficulty" a weighted score of 1 and each "much felt difficulty" a weighted score of 4. Since felt difficulties were expressed in all 16 of the homemaking activities, all

were described in terms of the homemakers' practices and the factors and resources causing these difficulties.

Chi-square tests and descriptive analysis were utilized to investigate the relationship between homemaking difficulties and four demographic variables: length of marriage, family composition, employment status of the homemaker, and family income.

For the chi-square tests, a lack of independence indicates that some relationship exists between the two factors being compared. A lack of independence between the demographic variable and expressed homemaking activity difficulty was assumed to exist if the chance of the results occurred with less than .05 probability.

IV. FINDINGS

The discussion in this chapter is divided into three parts: demographic data about the homemakers and their families, the homemakers' activities, and the homemakers' sources of information.

The Homemakers and Their Families

The average age of the homemakers interviewed was 20.1 years; the range was from 17 to 22 years. Twenty-six percent of these homemakers were still in their teens, while 74 percent were from 20 to 22 years of age (Table 1).

Table 1. Age distribution of homemakers.

| Age in Years | Number of Homemakers |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 17 and under | 1 |
| 18 | 2 |
| 19 | 10 |
| 20 | 17 |
| 21 | 16 |
| 22 | <u>4</u> |
| Total | 50 |

The age of the homemakers' husbands averaged 22.6 years; the range was from 20 to 34 years. Of the 50 husbands, none were

Ninety-two percent were from 20 to 25 years of age, and only eight percent were over 25 years old (Table 2).

Table 2. Age distribution of homemakers' husbands.

| Age in Years | Number of Homemakers |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 20 to 22 | 30 |
| 23 to 25 | 16 |
| 26 to 28 | 2 |
| 29 to 31 | 1 |
| 32 to 34 | <u>1</u> |
| Total | 50 |

The average length of time the young couples had been married was 2.2 years; the range was from six to 36 months. The largest number, 22, had been married from one to two years; whereas, 19 reported having been married from two to three years. Only nine of the 50 couples gave their length of marriage as 12 months or less (Table 3).

Table 3. Length of marriage of homemakers.

| Length of Marriage in Months | Number of Homemakers |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 6 to 12 | 9 |
| 13 to 24 | 22 |
| 25 to 36 | <u>19</u> |
| Total | 50 |

Of the 50 homemakers, 29 had, had lost, or were expecting a child; however, 21 indicated they had neither had, lost, nor were expecting one. Twenty of the 29 reported having children at the time

of the interviews, one had lost a child, and nine were expecting children; however, it was to be the second child for one of the nine pregnant homemakers. The ages of the homemakers' children ranged from seven days to 24 months, with the average age reported as 12.8 months.

Of the 50 young homemakers, only three had not completed high school. Twenty-nine had training beyond the high school level. Of these, four were college graduates (Table 4).

The educational level of the husbands varied from not having completed a high school education to a doctor's degree. Only one husband had not completed high school; 14 had a high school education, however 35 of the husbands had received education beyond the high school level. Of these, 19 were college graduates (Table 4).

Table 4. Educational status of homemakers and their husbands.

| Educational Status | Number of Participants |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Homemakers</u> | |
| Not a high school graduate | 3 |
| High school graduate | 18 |
| Special training | 5 |
| College (1 to 3 years) | 20 |
| College graduate | <u>4</u> |
| Total | 50 |
| ----- | |
| <u>Husbands</u> | |
| Not a high school graduate | 1 |
| High school graduate | 14 |
| Special training | 3 |
| College (1 to 3 years) | 13 |
| College graduate | 15 |
| Master's degree | 3 |
| Doctor's degree | <u>1</u> |
| Total | 50 |

At the time of the interviews, 31 of the husbands were full-time students at Oregon State University; the remaining 19 were employed in a variety of positions, such as: university teacher, managerial trainee for a chain store, salesmen, shipping clerk, barber, service station attendant, meter reader, carpenter, operator of special machines, production worker at fiber board and veneer plants, and truck driver (Table 5).

Table 5. Employment status of homemakers' husbands.

| Occupational Classifications* | Number of Husbands |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Professional and managerial | 2 |
| Clerical and sales | 4 |
| Service | 4 |
| Structural workers | 1 |
| Machine trade | 2 |
| Processing | 4 |
| Miscellaneous | 2 |
| Student | <u>31</u> |
| Total | 50 |

*U. S. Census Bureau. Dictionary of occupational titles. Washington, D. C. Government printing office, 1965.

In addition to assuming the responsibilities of homemaking, 31 of the homemakers in the study were gainfully employed at the time the data were collected. Of these, two worked for pay at home. Seven of the 50 homemakers interviewed assumed the dual role of homemaker and student at the local university; whereas, eight

reported assuming triple roles of homemaker, student and part-time employee. Only 12 were full-time homemakers (Table 6).

Table 6. Employment status of homemakers at the time of the interviews.

| Occupation | Number of Homemakers |
|--|-------------------------|
| Full-time homemaker | 12 |
| Homemaker and work for pay | 23 |
| Homemaker and student | 7 |
| Homemaker, student and work for pay | <u>8</u> |
| Total | 50 |

The homemakers' replies to the question "What is the approximate total annual income of your family from all sources?" were placed in one of four income categories. Sixty-two percent of the families had an annual income of \$5,000 and over. Twenty-four percent said that their income was from \$3,000 to \$4,999. Fourteen percent had an income of less than \$3,000 (Table 7). One student family reported an annual income of \$15,000 from cattle and stock investments. From the under \$3,000 income group, one homemaker commented, "If we had an income of \$3,000 a year, I'd think we were rich!"

Table 7. Annual income of homemakers and their husbands.

| Annual Income | Number of Families |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Under \$3,000 | 7 |
| 3,000 to 4,999 | 12 |
| 5,000 to 6,999 | 22 |
| 7,000 and over | <u>9</u> |
| Total | 50 |

When asked from what sources their family income had been derived the previous year, 48 of the 50 reported the husband's employment; 40, the wife's employment; and 32 stated "other." Of the employed husbands, 24 had held full-time jobs; 25, part-time; and 20, summer jobs. Some of the husbands reported "moonlighting," or holding two or more jobs simultaneously. Of the 40 wives who had contributed to the money income during the year, 26 had held full-time jobs, 13 had held part-time jobs, and three had held summer jobs. Thirty-two families had received income from 25 different sources other than employment. Some of these were the G. I. Bill; scholarships; savings; parents; educational loans; the sale of coins, art work, used cars, and cattle; national guard service; inheritance; and stock investment returns. A majority of the families had more than one source of income.

Eleven of the 50 families owned their homes and 39 rented

theirs. Thirty-eight homemakers stated that they had moved at least once since marriage. Two families had moved six times during the time they had been married (Table 8).

Table 8. Number of dwellings the homemakers and their families had resided in since marriage.

| Number of Dwellings | Number of Families |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 12 |
| 2 | 16 |
| 3 | 13 |
| 4 | 4 |
| 5 | 3 |
| 6 | <u>2</u> |
| Total | 50 |

When asked "How long have you lived in your present dwelling?", two-thirds of the homemakers stated from one to 12 months. The remaining one-third had lived at the same location from 13 to 36 months (Table 9).

Table 9. Number of months the homemakers and their families had resided in dwellings occupied at the time of the interviews.

| Number of Months in Dwelling | Number of Families |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 to 12 | 33 |
| 13 to 24 | 13 |
| 25 to 36 | <u>4</u> |
| Total | 50 |

The homemakers were asked to describe the type of housing their families occupied at the time of the interviews. Twenty-six reported living in multiple unit dwellings; 18 lived in single family houses and six lived in mobile homes (Table 10).

Table 10. Types of dwellings occupied by the homemakers and their families at the time of the interviews.

| Types of Dwelling Occupied | Number of Families |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Apartment | 14 |
| Duplex | 12 |
| Mobile home | 6 |
| Single family house | <u>18</u> |
| Total | 50 |

Homemakers' Activities

A major part of the interview was devoted to questioning the homemakers about their homemaking practices, about the factors and resources causing homemaking difficulties, and about the extent to which they experienced difficulty in 16 specific homemaking activity categories.

Questions pertaining to practices in each of the 16 categories were asked to encourage the homemakers to think about their difficulties. To collect data to describe the most frequently expressed difficulties, it was necessary to ask the homemakers to identify the

contributing factors and resource use problems in each of the 16 homemaking categories. Aimed at identifying specific home management problems, inquiries were made about how the homemakers perceived each of the 16 homemaking activities in relation to the degree of difficulty in performing them.

The findings in this section deal with the identification and description of the homemakers' management problems; with the most and least enjoyed homemaking activities; and with the relationship between the identified problem areas and the homemakers' length of marriage, family composition, employment status, and family income.

Identification of the Homemakers' Problems

The homemakers were asked to indicate whether they had "no difficulty," "occasional difficulty" or "much difficulty" with each of the 16 specific homemaking activities investigated. The activities were (1) planning meals, (2) buying food, (3) preparing food, (4) serving food, (5) preserving food, (6) buying clothing, (7) sewing, (8) caring for clothing, (9) finding a place to live, (10) furnishing the house, (11) equipping the house, (12) caring for the house, (13) getting ready and caring for the baby, (14) managing money, (15) providing transportation, and (16) participating in community organizations. They were also asked to indicate any additional homemaking activities

where problems were encountered.

Total felt difficulties were identified by giving each "occasional felt difficulty" a weighted score of 1 and each "much felt difficulty" a weighted score of 4. The felt difficulties of the homemaking activity categories, based on weighted percentages, are listed in order of difficulty in Table 11. Difficulty was indicated by the participants with all 16 homemaking activities. Each of the 50 homemakers reported difficulty with from one-half (8) to all (16) of the investigated homemaking activities; however, the average number of difficulties reported by each homemaker was 13, or 81 percent, of the 16 homemaking areas. Based on the weighted percentages, the homemakers most frequently reported encountering difficulty with participating in community activities. Preserving food, caring for the house, sewing, buying clothing, and equipping the house were the next most frequently reported problem activities. Based on the weighted percentages, getting ready and caring for the baby, serving food, finding a place to live, providing transportation and buying food were areas least often mentioned as causing difficulties (Table 11).

When the levels of difficulties as expressed by the homemakers in the homemaking activities were analyzed, the most frequently expressed "much felt difficulty" as reported by over one-half (54 percent) of the young homemakers was with participating in community organizations. On the other hand, providing transportation was the

Table 11. Homemaking activities reported as difficult by homemakers.

| Activities | Number of Homemakers and Weighted*Percent of Their Expressed Difficulties | | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| | Number of Homemakers who had: | | | Total Number Homemakers | Percent Maximum Weight |
| | No difficulty | Occasional** difficulty | Much*** difficulty | | |
| Participating in Community | | | | | |
| Organization | 4 | 19 | 27 | 50 | 63.5 |
| Preserving Food | 10 | 21 | 19 | 50 | 48.5 |
| Caring for the House | 4 | 33 | 13 | 50 | 42.5 |
| Sewing | 3 | 35 | 12 | 50 | 41.5 |
| Buying Clothing | 3 | 36 | 11 | 50 | 40.0 |
| Equipping the House | 3 | 36 | 11 | 50 | 40.0 |
| Preparing Food | 5 | 37 | 8 | 50 | 34.5 |
| Managing Money | 6 | 36 | 8 | 50 | 34.0 |
| Furnishing the House | 11 | 30 | 9 | 50 | 33.0 |
| Caring for Clothing | 3 | 41 | 6 | 50 | 32.5 |
| Planning Meals | 1 | 45 | 4 | 50 | 30.5 |
| Getting Ready and Caring for the Baby | 7 | 18 | 4 | 29 | 29.3 |
| Serving Food | 13 | 31 | 6 | 50 | 27.5 |
| Finding a Place to Live | 11 | 34 | 5 | 50 | 27.0 |
| Providing Transportation | 23 | 20 | 7 | 50 | 24.0 |
| Buying Food | 12 | 35 | 3 | 50 | 23.5 |

*See Appendix B for formula used in computing percent maximum weight.

**Each occasional difficulty was given a score of 1.

***Each much difficulty was given a score of 4.

activity with which 46 percent of these homemakers most frequently said they had "no difficulty." The 50 homemakers most often classified their degree of difficulty with each of the 16 homemaking activities as an "occasional felt difficulty" as was indicated by 60 percent or more reporting that they encountered an occasional difficulty with 12 of the 16 homemaking activities. Of the 29 homemakers who had had or were expecting children, 62 percent expressed an occasional difficulty. Of all these difficulties, planning meals and caring for clothing were the two activities that were recognized as occasional problem areas by 80 percent or more of the homemakers (Table 11).

Description of the Homemakers' Management Problems

The factors and/or limited resources contributing to expressed felt difficulties of the 16 homemaking activity categories and the homemakers' practices in these activities will be used in this section to describe the homemakers' management problems.

Summary of the Factors and Resources Contributing to Difficulties in the 16 Homemaking Activity Problem Categories

What factors and/or resources were most frequently mentioned by the 50 homemakers interviewed as causing difficulty in the 16 homemaking activity categories investigated? Table 12 presents a summary of the replies to the check lists of the factors and lack

Table 12. Resources and factors causing difficulty in 16 homemaking activities as reported by the homemakers.

| Activities | Resource Factors | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|-------|-----------|----------|--------|--------|----------------|------|------------|-------|-----------|
| | Time | Money | Knowledge | Space | Equipment | Interest | Energy | Findings | Skill | Agreement | Pleasing | Family | Stores | Transportation | Baby | Invitation | Plans | Standards |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Number of Homemakers Expressing Difficulties | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Participating in Community Organization | 40 | 6 | 20 | | | 17 | | | | 2 | | | | 2 | 6 | 14 | | 2 |
| Preserving Food | 23 | 2 | 23 | 16 | 29 | 4 | 5 | | 14 | | | | | | | | | |
| Caring for the House | 34 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 13 | 16 | | | | | | | | 8 | | | 6 5 |
| Sewing | 35 | 14 | 6 | 22 | 13 | 5 | 4 | | 13 | | | | | | | | | |
| Buying Clothing | 11 | 42 | 4 | | | 3 | | 13 | | | | | 19 | | | | | |
| Equipping the House | 3 | 38 | 15 | 26 | | | | 5 | | 10 | | | | | | | | |
| Preparing Food | 35 | 15 | 17 | | | 2 | 11 | | 8 | | | | | | | | | 4 |
| Managing Money | 2 | 31 | 20 | | | 7 | | | | 12 | | | | | | | 11 | 2 1 |
| Caring for Clothing | 27 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 33 | 11 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Furnishing the House | 7 | 31 | 25 | 6 | | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | | | | | | 9 | | 1 1 |
| Planning Meals | 38 | 6 | 12 | | | 3 | | | | | 13 | | | | | | | |
| Getting Ready and Caring for the Baby* | 21 | 24 | 9 | 20 | | 14 | 18 | | 6 | | | | | | | | 10 | 8 |
| Serving Food | 28 | | 8 | 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 8 |
| Finding a Place to Live | | 26 | 7 | 13 | | | | 24 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Providing Transportation | | 19 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | 8 | | | | 3 |
| Buying Food | 19 | 26 | 11 | 29 | | 3 | 2 | | | 7 | | | | 6 | | | | 1 3 |

*Of the 50 homemakers, only 29 had had or were expecting children.

of resources causing difficulties in the 16 homemaking activities. Of the 33 factors and resources enumerated, time was most often given. Time was listed 329 times, money 296 times, knowledge 208 times, space 197 times, and equipment 121 times. In analyzing Table 12, it is evident that some of these resources and factors were stated by the homemakers in the study more than once as sources of difficulty within some of the 16 homemaking activity categories.

The homemakers reported lack of time causing difficulty with 14 homemaking activities. Only with finding a place to live, and in providing transportation was it not reported as a source of difficulty. At least 35 (70 percent) of the homemakers reported the lack of time causing difficulty with participating in community activities, sewing, preparing food, and planning meals. In addition, 21, or 73 percent, of the young women who had had or were expecting children attributed their difficulty in getting ready and caring for the baby to the lack of time. Only three homemakers reported lack of time as a difficulty with equipping the house and only two reported it was a problem in managing money.

The lack of money was indicated as a source of difficulty in all homemaking activities except serving meals. In buying clothing, 42 homemakers indicated that the lack of money was a problem. Surprisingly, only 19 considered the lack of money as a problem in providing transportation.

The lack of knowledge was reported as a source of difficulty in all 16 activity categories, but only in one activity, furnishing the house, was it reported by half of the homemakers.

The lack of space was reported by 20, or 68 percent, of the 29 who had had or were expecting children as a source of difficulty in getting ready and caring for the baby. It was listed as a difficulty in nine other areas.

The lack of equipment caused difficulty for 33 of the 50 homemakers in caring for clothing. It was a source of difficulty for 29 in preserving food and for 13 in sewing.

Homemakers' Practices and Sources of Difficulty in the 16 Homemaking Activity Problem Categories

Participating in Community Organizations

To the question, "In what community organizations do you participate, and to what extent are you active?" 34 percent of the homemakers stated that they participated in neither church, community clubs and activities, nor school organizations. Table 13 summarizes the number of homemakers attending and participating in community organizations.

Table 13. Homemakers' participation in community organizations.

| Type of Organization | Attendance | | | Participation | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-------|-----------------------|----------------|
| | Often | Sometimes | Never | Serve on Committee | Hold Office |
| | Number of Homemakers | | | | |
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| Church | 11 | 15 | 24 | 3 | 2 |
| Community Clubs and Activities | 10 | 5 | 35 | 4 | 2 |
| School | 6 | 3 | 41 | 4 | 2 |

Over one-half of the homemakers of the group reported attending church. Of these, only five stated that they participated by serving on a committee or by holding an office in church organizations.

Fifteen attended community clubs and activities. Some of the community activities which these young homemakers reported attending were concerts, ball games, city recreational programs, art exhibits, physical fitness classes, and political campaigns. Only one couple reported belonging to a lodge. In this instance it was the Elks.

Only nine of the homemakers had attended school organizations such as students' wives' clubs, educational associations, sororities, and Christian service organizations on the campus. It will be remembered that 15 of the wives (Table 6) and 31 of the husbands (Table 5) in the sample were students.

The lack of time was stated by 40 of the homemakers participating in the study as the major cause of the difficulty in participating in

community activities. The second most frequently mentioned factor, given by 20 of the homemakers, was that they did not know about the organizations. Two homemakers indicated that lack of agreement and lack of cooperation created the difficulties their families were experiencing in church participation (Table 12).

Preserving Food

The young women were questioned concerning their food preservation practices. When asked if they had preserved food the previous year, 41 answered "yes." Ten of these homemakers had preserved food by canning, by freezing, or by "other" ways, which included the making of jams, jellies, preserves, syrups and pickles. One-half of the homemakers reported preserving fruits by one or more of the three ways. The most popular type of food preservation was freezing (Table 14).

Why do these young women preserve food? The most frequently stated reasons were to save money and because the foods were available to them at a reasonable price or as gifts. Forty-six of the homemakers said that they either had their own garden, fruit, or meats or had access to these (Table 15). In most instances where the family reported having their own meat or sea food, the husband had killed wild game or the family had been successful at fishing. In giving information about "access to the food" many of the homemakers

Table 14. Ways in which homemakers reported preserving food the previous year.

| Ways Food Preserved | Number of Homemakers |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Canned | |
| Fruit | 14 |
| Vegetables | 4 |
| Meats | 0 |
| Sea food | 1 |
| Frozen | |
| Fruit | 23 |
| Vegetables | 14 |
| Meats | 16 |
| Sea food | 12 |
| Other | |
| Jams | 22 |
| Jellies | 12 |
| Preserves | 5 |
| Syrups | 3 |
| Pickles | 6 |

Table 15. Reasons for preserving food as reported by the homemakers.

| Reasons for Preserving Food | Number of Homemakers |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Family preference | 23 |
| For convenience | 13 |
| For personal satisfaction | 22 |
| Have access to food | 28 |
| Have own fruit | 3 |
| Have own garden | 6 |
| Have own meat | 9 |
| To save money | 33 |

mentioned going to the local orchards and fields to gather fruits and vegetables on a "u pick" basis. Others listed friends, neighbors, and parental families as a source of supply.

Difficulties in food preservation were most often attributed to lack of equipment, knowledge, and time. Of the 50 homemakers, 29 felt that their difficulty stemmed from the lack of needed equipment for preserving food. Both the lack of time and of knowledge were each reported by 23 of the homemakers as causing difficulty with food preservation (Table 12).

Caring for the House

In answering the open-end question "If caring for the house is difficult, what makes it difficult?" the lack of time was given by 34 of the homemakers as a cause of difficulties. Other replies were many and varied. In order of frequency, the other factors listed were lack of energy, lack of interest, lack of equipment, demands of the baby, lack of knowledge, lack of storage or space, pets staying indoors, and lack of husband's cooperation in keeping clothes picked up and putting items back in their place after use. Only four homemakers mentioned lack of money with which to buy needed house-cleaning supplies or with which to hire this service performed (Table 12). Since maid service is not a common management practice for beginning families in Corvallis, a majority of the homemakers

interviewed did their own cleaning and seemed to accept the task as just another of their homemaking responsibilities. One homemaker commented, "It's a never ending task; so something has to give. Should it be the house or my family?"

Sewing

All of the homemakers except one sewed. The one who did not sew had no desire to learn. She was pleased with the clothing which her grandmother made for her but did not plan to learn to sew for herself or her family.

The homemakers were asked, "If you make garments, for whom do you make them?" Even though a majority (44) said "self," 31 reported sewing for their family members, other relatives, and friends (Table 16).

Table 16. Individuals for whom homemakers reported making garments.

| Individuals for Whom Garments were Made | Number of Homemakers |
|--|-------------------------|
| Self | 44 |
| Children | 12 |
| Husband | 8 |
| Other | 11 |

Information about the types of sewing done the previous year was obtained from the homemakers. The most common type, mentioned by 45 of the group, was mending; but 42 had made at least one garment. Remodeling garments did not seem to be a frequent practice (Table 17).

Table 17. Types of sewing done the previous year as reported by the homemakers.

| Types of Sewing Done | Number of Homemakers |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Made garments | 42 |
| Altered garments | 31 |
| Remodeled garments | 6 |
| Mended garments | 45 |
| Made household articles | 25 |

When the homemakers were asked to indicate the factors or resources which made sewing difficult for them, 35 said the lack of time. The second most indicated source of difficulty was the lack of a convenient work place (Table 12).

Buying Clothing

A series of questions was asked about buying clothing. Thirty-four of the homemakers reported that they did not have a plan for purchasing clothing. However, 49 stated that they read labels before making clothing purchases.

Most of them, 47 out of 50, reported looking for care instructions. One-half or more reported looking for fabric finish, fiber content, or the manufacturer's name when shopping for clothing (Table 18).

Table 18. Types of information homemakers reported looking for on clothing labels.

| Types of Information | Number of Homemakers |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Care instructions | 47 |
| Fiber content | 32 |
| Manufacturer's name | 25 |
| Fabric finishes | 36 |

The homemakers seemed to have definite criteria for the selection of clothing. When they had choices on a check list, 44 or more said that they considered quality, style, cost and need as important factors in buying clothing for their family. Cost and need, however, were designated the most important factors by over one-fourth of the homemakers (Table 19). Two homemakers stated that all the factors they had indicated were important, and that it would be difficult for them to further classify any particular one of these as "most important."

Table 19. Factors considered important in buying clothing as reported by the homemakers.

| Factors in Buying Clothing | Important | Most Important |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | Number of Homemakers | |
| Color | 35 | 0 |
| Comfort | 38 | 3 |
| Cost | 45 | 14 |
| Durability | 35 | 1 |
| Ease of care | 39 | 0 |
| Likes and dislikes | 37 | 6 |
| Need | 44 | 13 |
| Present wardrobe | 35 | 0 |
| Quality | 46 | 8 |
| Style | 46 | 3 |

Homemakers were asked to use a check list to indicate factors which made buying clothing difficult. The lack of money, limited retail facilities, trouble in finding the clothing desired, and lack of time were the most frequently mentioned resources and factors. Limited money, stated by 42 of the 50 young homemakers, was the factor contributing most often toward the difficulty in buying clothing for their families (Table 12).

Equipping the House

The type of equipment a homemaker has access to and the frequency with which she uses it could influence the ease and effectiveness with which she manages her home.

What equipment did these young homemakers married in their teens have? Table 20 gives the appliances to which the homemakers had access--owned, borrowed, or rented--and the frequency of their use. They reported owning at least 207 pieces of major equipment, an average of four for each family, and at least 565 pieces of small electrical equipment, an average of 11 for each family. Some of these beginning families indicated that they had more than one piece of the same equipment. For example, some of the families who owned a clock had two or more of them. All families owned an iron. Forty-five or more owned mixers, toasters, radios, and television sets.

How did these families obtain this equipment? Sixty-six percent of all the equipment was received as gifts; the remaining 34 percent was purchased by them. Of the self-purchased equipment, 25 percent was bought new; whereas, only nine percent was purchased used. The most frequently reported small equipment gift items were toasters (90 percent) and food mixers (80 percent). About one-fourth of the young families reported buying the washer, refrigerator, and range as used appliances (Table 20).

Homemakers who did not own major equipment were asked from what source they obtained the use of these appliances. Approximately 30 of the homemakers stated that refrigerators and ranges were furnished in their housing rental. Approximately 25 either

Table 20. Equipment to which the 50 homemakers had access, sources of access, and frequency of use.

| Equipment | Sources of Access | | | | | | | Use | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|------|------|------|-------------------------|-----|--------------|----------------|-------|
| | Own | How Obtained | | | Loan | Rent | | Regu- lar | Some- times | Never |
| | | Bought | Gift | Unit | | Community Facilities | | | | |
| | | | | | | | New | | | |
| Number of Homemakers | | | | | | | | | | |
| Major Electrical | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dishwasher | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Disposer | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Dryer | 19 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 11 | 42 | 2 | 3 |
| Freezer | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 19 | 3 | 1 |
| Range | 18 | 4 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 30 | 0 | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Refrigerator | 20 | 3 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 29 | 0 | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Sewing Machine | 35 | 11 | 8 | 16 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 30 | 0 |
| Television | 45 | 17 | 8 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 10 | 2 |
| Vacuum Cleaner | 33 | 9 | 9 | 15 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 36 | 3 | 1 |
| Washer | 24 | 9 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 13 | 11 | 48 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 207 | 72 | 67 | 68 | 17 | 86 | 32 | 294 | 50 | 8 |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | |
| Small Electrical | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blanket | 38 | 5 | 0 | 33 | 0 | | | 23 | 10 | 5 |
| Blender | 9 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 0 | | | 1 | 7 | 1 |
| Broiler | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | | | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Can Opener | 30 | 2 | 0 | 28 | 1 | | | 29 | 1 | 1 |
| Carving Knife | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | | | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Clock | 32 | 10 | 1 | 21 | 1 | | | 31 | 0 | 1 |
| Coffee Maker | 29 | 6 | 0 | 23 | 0 | | | 12 | 13 | 4 |
| Deep Fat Fryer | 9 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | | | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Fan | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Floor Polisher | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Fry Pan | 43 | 5 | 1 | 37 | 0 | | | 27 | 15 | 1 |
| Grill | 11 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 0 | | | 4 | 5 | 2 |
| Hair Dryer | 31 | 6 | 1 | 24 | 0 | | | 19 | 9 | 3 |
| Iron | 50 | 13 | 0 | 37 | 0 | | | 35 | 15 | 0 |
| Mixer | 49 | 8 | 1 | 40 | 0 | | | 33 | 16 | 0 |
| Phonograph | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | | | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Pop Corn Popper | 21 | 3 | 0 | 18 | 0 | | | 12 | 8 | 1 |
| Radio | 47 | 21 | 1 | 25 | 1 | | | 39 | 9 | 0 |
| Roaster | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | | | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Shaver | 29 | 5 | 0 | 24 | 0 | | | 23 | 4 | 2 |
| Stereo | 27 | 18 | 1 | 8 | 1 | | | 21 | 7 | 0 |
| Tape Recorder | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | | | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Toaster | 48 | 2 | 1 | 45 | 0 | | | 42 | 5 | 1 |
| Tooth Brush | 9 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 0 | | | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| Waffle Iron | 25 | 1 | 0 | 24 | 1 | | | 6 | 18 | 2 |
| Total | 565 | 119 | 8 | 438 | 5 | | | 381 | 164 | 34 |

took their laundry to a laundromat or used coin-operated laundry equipment in their rental units. Ten indicated that they had rented a frozen food locker during the year (Table 20). Families and friends had shared their freezers, sewing machines, clothes dryers, clothes washers, and vacuum cleaners with the young homemakers who neither owned nor paid for the use of this equipment. In most instances, this borrowing was not considered an inconvenience since it afforded these young women with an "excuse" for a visit for which they otherwise would not have felt that they could spare the time.

How often did these young homemakers use the equipment-- regardless of whether it was owned, borrowed, or rented? All homemakers used ranges and refrigerators regularly; however, 48 also used washers regularly. On the other hand, a large number of the homemakers indicated that they also used small electrical appliances regularly, as follows: toaster (42), radio (39), iron (35), and mixer (33) (Table 20).

When the homemakers were asked "What labor-saving equipment would you like if you could have another piece?", 15 different items were mentioned. The dishwasher was the most wanted appliance. Thirteen listed it. Some of the other items in the order of desired frequency were vacuum cleaners, washing machines, and blenders.

Over three-fourths (38) of the homemakers indicated problems

with equipment due to lack of money to buy the equipment; whereas, over one-half (26) thought their problem was lack of space to use and store the equipment once it was bought (Table 12).

Preparing Food

The homemakers were asked to designate from a check list the resources and/or factors that made preparing food difficult. Of the 50 homemakers, 35 attributed their difficulty in preparing food to lack of time, 17 to lack of knowledge, and 15 to lack of money. Other resources less frequently given were limited energy and skill and lack of interest (Table 12).

Managing Money

When the homemakers were asked if they had a spending plan or budget, 27 reported that they did have. What kinds of records do these beginning families keep? Only one kept a written record book; however 40 or more said that they saved receipts and/or cancelled checks (Table 21). Several homemakers reported keeping more than one type of record of their spending.

Table 21. Kinds of records kept as reported by the homemakers.

| Kinds of Records Kept | Number of Homemakers |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cancelled checks | 45 |
| Check stubs or record | 34 |
| Receipts | 40 |
| Written record book | 1 |

The homemakers were asked,

If you have used credit for any of the following purchases: a house, car, clothing, education, furniture, food, gasoline, appliances, medicine or cosmetics during the past year, what type of credit did you use?

Of the 50 families, 31 had purchased a car on credit, 28 had bought clothing, and 28 gasoline. The most often used type of credit for the purchase of cars was loans; for clothing, the charge account; and for gasoline, the credit card.

Fifteen of the 31 student families in the sample had borrowed money to continue their education. Fourteen of the 15 families had obtained this money through loans.

Thirteen of the homemakers indicated that they had purchased appliances through credit during the previous year. Of the 13, nine had used installment credit; three, charge accounts; and one had borrowed money for the purchase of appliances.

All of the 50 homemakers in the study reported owning

furniture. Thirty-one of the families owned all their furniture while the remaining 19 reported owning some of it. Eight of the families had bought furnishings the previous year, mostly with installment credit.

Of the 11 families who said that they owned or were buying their homes, nine were financing them with loans. Only eight of the young families had charged purchases of medicine. Surprisingly, only five had used credit for obtaining food for their families.

To the question, "What kinds of insurance do you and your family have?" 49 of the 50 families reported having automobile, 44 life, and 37 health insurance. Only ten of the families carried personal liability yet six had theft insurance. None had burial insurance. When questioned further about the members of the family on whom the life insurance was written, the homemakers stated that 42 of the husbands, 21 of the wives, and six of the children were covered.

Health insurance was carried by 37 of the husbands, 33 of the wives, and on 14 of the children. It was evident by the comments they volunteered that many of these young couples considered health insurance a waste of money. A frequent comment was, "We're never sick so why should we spend the money we need so desperately for other things on hospitalization insurance?"

None of the husbands or the wives had a will. It was apparent that these young couples did not realize the importance of making a

will, even if they had children, and that they did not know where to go for information on wills.

Lack of money and knowledge were most often mentioned as the sources of difficulties in managing money. Thirty-one of the homemakers indicated problems with managing money because of a limited amount of money to manage; whereas, 20 thought it was hard to know how to manage even the amount of available money (Table 12).

Furnishing the House

To the question "Do you own furniture?" all the homemakers interviewed answered "yes." Thirty-one of the 50 said they owned all their household furnishings, excluding appliances. Of the 11 factors and resources mentioned as making furnishing the house difficult, the lack of money and knowledge were again indicated most frequently as sources of difficulties (Table 12).

Caring for Clothing

The homemakers were asked how often they did the family laundry and to designate on a check list the practices they usually followed in doing this homemaking task.

All of the 50 homemakers reported sorting the clothing according to either fiber, soil, or color before washing. Thirty-seven said

they selected the temperature of the washer and dryer according to fiber content, soil, or color of the clothing being washed. Twenty-nine of the homemakers selected the time cycle of the washer and dryer for the family wash taking into consideration fiber content, soil, or color. The type of fiber of the clothing was considered most frequently as the guide for the selection of both the temperature and the time cycle to be used. Thirteen or more homemakers said that they usually selected detergent according to either fiber, soil, or color; closed openings; and removed spots, trim and/or fasteners when necessary before washing the family's clothing (Table 22).

Table 22. Practices usually followed in laundering the family's clothing as reported by the homemakers.

| Practices Followed in Laundering | Number of Homemakers |
|--|-------------------------|
| Close openings | 15 |
| Remove spots before washing | 16 |
| Remove trim and fasteners, when necessary | 19 |
| Select detergent according to fiber, soil, or color | 13 |
| Select temperature according to fiber, soil, or color | 37 |
| Select time cycle according to fiber, soil, or color | 29 |
| Sort according to fiber, soil or color | 50 |

Forty-eight of the 50 homemakers interviewed did the family laundry at least once a week. Of these, 19 washed once a week, 17

washed twice a week or every other day, and 12 washed clothes every day. It was the practice of one homemaker to do the family laundry every two weeks; whereas, another said that she was not able to fit her answer into any of the listed categories on the interview schedule since her washing schedule was so varied (Table 23).

Table 23. Frequency with which the family laundry was done as reported by the homemakers.

| Frequency of Family Laundering | Number of Homemakers |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Every day | 12 |
| Twice a week or every other day | 17 |
| Every week | 19 |
| Every two weeks | 1 |
| Other | <u>1</u> |
| Total | 50 |

Of the 50 homemakers in the study, 33 felt that their difficulty stemmed from either the lack of or inflexibility of laundry facilities; however, 27 attributed their difficulty in caring for clothing to lack of time (Table 12).

Planning Meals

The homemakers were asked about factors they considered in planning meals and, about the period of time for which they usually planned their families' meals. In planning meals, 36 homemakers

considered food in season, 32 considered good food buys, 31 considered family favorites, and 26 considered ease of preparation and avoiding repetition in meals. Ease of preparation was chosen most frequently as the most important factor in planning meals (Table 24).

Table 24. Factors considered important in planning meals as reported by the homemakers.

| Factors Considered in Planning Meals | Important | Most Important |
|---|-----------|-------------------|
| Avoiding repetition | 26 | 4 |
| Ease of preparation | 26 | 17 |
| Family favorites | 31 | 15 |
| Food in season | 36 | 1 |
| Good food buys | 32 | 8 |
| Leftovers | 24 | 0 |
| Religion | 3 | 0 |
| Special diets | 7 | 0 |

Fifteen of the 50 homemakers usually planned meals for a week, 12 planned meals for a day, 21 planned one meal at a time, and two used other periods of time for planning their meals. Lack of time, pleasing family members, and lack of knowledge were mentioned most often as the sources of difficulties in planning meals. Seventy-six percent of the homemakers attributed their difficulty to the time resource (Table 12)

Getting Ready and Caring for the Baby

The 29 homemakers who had had or were expecting babies were

asked to indicate from a check list the factors that had made getting ready for the baby difficult. Limited money, lack of knowledge and limited energy were referred to by nine or more of the 29 homemakers who had had or were expecting children as sources of difficulty in getting ready and caring for the baby. Of these, the major source of difficulty for 13 of the homemakers was limited money.

The 20 homemakers who had children were asked about the changes the baby had made in their homes. Eighteen of the 20 young mothers said that with the new baby there was less time for other activities and that this addition to the family had brought about the necessity of rearranging the storage areas and either the acquiring of additional space or the relinquishing of a portion of the already crowded living space to the new member of the family. The next most frequently mentioned change, given by 17 of the homemakers who had children, was the way these young couples spent their money. Other changes mentioned less frequently, but by at least ten of the 20 young mothers, were less energy for other activities, an increased interest in legal matters such as wills and insurance (however, none of the couples in the study had made a will), and a change of standards in housekeeping and household activities. Even though a more restricted social life was not included on the check list of possible changes, eight of the homemakers with children stated that this was an area where a definite change had occurred (Table 25).

Table 25. Changes the new baby had brought about in their homes as reported by the 20 homemakers with children at the time of the interviews.

| Changes Brought About by New Baby | Number of Homemakers |
|--|-------------------------|
| An increased interest in legal matters such as wills and insurance | 12 |
| A more limited social life | 8 |
| Change of standards in house- keeping and household activities | 10 |
| Less energy for other activities | 14 |
| Less time for other activities | 18 |
| Rearrangement of storage and space | 18 |
| Ways they spent their money | 17 |

Serving Food

To the question "Are your husband's standards in food service different from yours?", 42 of the homemakers interviewed said "no." Of the eight whose standards did differ, one husband's standards were higher than the wife's and seven were lower. It was evident from the voluntary comments that a most informal food service was practiced by these beginning families.

The homemakers were asked what eating facilities they had, where the family usually ate, and which meals their family members usually sat down and ate together. The available eating facilities ranged from dining tables in the dining rooms to television trays;

however, 31 of the 50 homemakers said that their eating facilities included a table in the kitchen (Table 26).

Table 26. Eating facilities available as reported by the homemakers.

| Eating Facilities Available | Number of Homemakers |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Dinette (separate dining cove) | 7 |
| Dining table in dining room | 5 |
| Dining table in living room | 9 |
| Table in kitchen | 31 |
| Television trays | 19 |

Twenty-two homemakers reported eating most of their meals at this table in the kitchen. Forty-nine of the families usually sat down and ate the evening meal together. Only 26 said they ate breakfast together; while 23 of the families ate lunch together. Several of these young homemakers said that they did not eat breakfast. Two of the reasons most often volunteered were a lack of time and a fear of becoming overweight.

When asked what made serving meals difficult, 28 gave time as a prime source of difficulty. It was hard to get all food ready for serving at the same time and/or it was hard to work out a convenient time for all family members to eat. Three of these young homemakers felt that if they had more time serving meals would be

less difficult. Fifteen homemakers attributed their difficulty to not having enough space for serving the meals. Less frequently mentioned as causing difficulty in the serving of meals was lack of knowledge about correct and attractive service (Table 12).

Finding a Place to Live

The 39 homemakers who rented their homes were asked to specify on a check list the sources of difficulties they had with renting homes. Twenty-two of the 39 families who rented said that limited money and finding a rental in a desirable location or neighborhood were most often the sources of difficulty in renting. Thirteen of the families attributed their difficulty in renting to finding the needed size of rental unit. Making arrangements with the landlord to get the needed repairs done did not seem to be a major source of difficulty in renting since only eight of the 39 homemakers mentioned this factor.

The 11 homemakers who had bought or built a house were questioned as to the source of difficulty they had experienced in acquiring the house. Lack of knowledge about financing, about how much to invest, and about building materials was mentioned by six of the owners. Lack of sufficient money and not knowing where to go for information about buying or building a house were sources of difficulty given by four of the 11 families who had bought or were paying

for their house.

In summary, it was indicated that the sources of difficulty for the 50 families in finding a place to live (to rent, buy, or build) most frequently stemmed from limited money, stated by 26 of the homemakers, and from either finding a desirable rental, a place for sale, or a site on which to build, mentioned by 24 of the homemakers participating in the study (Table 12).

Providing Transportation

When asked "Do you and your husband own an automobile or automobiles and if 'yes', how many?", 49 of the 50 families stated that they owned 65 automobiles. A majority, 36, owned one automobile; whereas, 11 were two car families. Two families reported owning more than two automobiles. One of these owned three and the other family owned four automobiles. These two considered used cars an investment since the husbands repaired them as an added source of income.

Transportation difficulties reported by 19 homemakers were most frequently attributed to limited money, mostly for operation and upkeep of the automobile or automobiles. Ten thought that their transportation difficulties arose from an inability to drive, a lack of knowledge as to what to look for when buying a car, and/or a lack of knowledge about making simple repairs. Eight families

felt a need for a second car (Table 12).

Buying Food

The homemakers were asked how often they bought food and if they made shopping lists prior to purchasing food. Twenty-nine of the 50 homemakers bought food weekly and filled in with perishables occasionally; nine purchased food every two weeks and filled in with perishables occasionally; four bought food monthly except for perishables, and three purchased food daily. Five bought food at other time intervals than those given in the interview schedule (Table 27).

Table 27. Frequency with which food was bought as reported by homemakers.

| Frequency of Food Buying | Number of Homemakers |
|---|-------------------------|
| Every day | 3 |
| Every week, filling in with perishables, occasionally | 29 |
| Every two weeks, filling in with perishables, occasionally | 9 |
| Every month, filling in with perishables, occasionally | 4 |
| Other | 5 |
| Total | 50 |

Fifteen homemakers always made shopping lists, 20 made them most of the time, 14 made them some of the time, and one never made a shopping list for the food she bought.

Twenty-nine indicated that lack of storage space limited the food bought. Of the 50 homemakers, 22 lacked freezer space, 18 shelf space, and ten refrigerator space. Three had difficulty storing food because of lack of knowledge. Money was listed by 26 of the women as a source of difficulty in buying food; whereas, 19 of these young homemakers indicated that their difficulty in buying food stemmed from the lack of time (Table 12).

Most and Least Enjoyed Homemaking Activities

What homemaking activities did these beginning homemakers most enjoy and least enjoy doing?

Of the eight activities listed as most enjoyed, 18 of the homemakers named preparing food, 15 sewing, and eight housecleaning. Other enjoyed activities in descending order were caring for the child or children (3), washing clothes (2), interior decorating (2), washing dishes (1), and baking (1).

On the other hand, of the seven activities given as least enjoyed, 18 of the 50 homemakers interviewed expressed a dislike for ironing, 17 for housecleaning, and six for washing dishes. Other least enjoyed activities listed in descending order were washing clothes (5), buying food (2), sewing (1), and preparing food (1).

Relationship Between the Identified Problem Areas and the
Homemakers' Length of Marriage, Family Composition,
Employment Status, and Family Income

Who were these homemakers who had difficulty in the 16 specific homemaking activities? How long had they been married? Did they have or were they expecting a child? Did they work, go to school, or did they devote all their time to homemaking? How much was their family's income? Was the relationship between the identified problem areas and the four variables significant?

This section of the findings consists of the following: (1) the results of the chi-square tests among the four variables and the levels of difficulty of the 16 homemaking activities as reported difficult by the homemakers, and (2) the identification and comparison of the homemaking activities reported as difficult according to the homemakers' length of marriage, their family composition, their employment status, and their families' income.

Results of the Chi-square Tests Among Four Variables and the Levels of Difficulty of the 16 Homemaking Activities as Reported Difficult by the Homemakers.

The chi-square tests were used in an effort to determine if there was a significant relationship between each of the 16 identified homemaking activity problem areas and the four variables: length of marriage, family composition, employment status of the homemaker, and family income.

The results of the tests indicated that there was a significant relationship at the .05 level between felt difficulties in preparing food and the length of time the homemakers had been married, and between buying clothing and the homemakers' family income. However, the tests did not indicate that there was a significant relationship between the other 14 homemaking activities and the four variables (Table 28).

There was a significant relationship at the .10 level between serving food and the homemakers' length of marriage, between finding a place to live and family composition, between furnishing the house and the homemakers' employment status, and between preparing food and the homemakers' family income (Table 28).

Homemaking Activities Reported as Difficult According to the Homemakers'

Length of marriage. In order to identify and compare the homemaking activity problem areas according to the homemakers' length of marriage, this variable was divided into the three following categories: (1) homemakers married less than a year, (2) homemakers married from a year to two years, and (3) homemakers married from two to three years.

The most frequently mentioned homemaking activity problem regardless of the homemakers' length of marriage was participating in community organizations (Table 29). Preserving food was the

Table 28. Results of chi-square tests among four variables and the levels of difficulty of the homemaking activities reported difficult by the homemakers.

| Activities | VARIABLES | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Length of Marriage ^{1/} | Family Composition ^{2/} | Employment Status ^{3/} | Income ^{3/} |
| Participating in Community Organizations | 2.83 | 1.10 | 6.61 | 4.66 |
| Preserving Food | 7.43 | .02 | 7.20 | 2.52 |
| Caring for the House | 1.78 | .70 | 6.77 | 5.86 |
| Sewing | 4.34 | .10 | 5.94 | 3.12 |
| Buying Clothing | 6.09 | .89 | 4.53 | 13.64** |
| Equipping the House | .54 | 1.47 | 5.24 | 3.94 |
| Preparing Food | 10.64** | 1.13 | 3.49 | 11.89* |
| Managing Money | 1.64 | .39 | 9.33 | 4.28 |
| Furnishing the House | 2.63 | .35 | 11.25* | 7.65 |
| Caring for Clothing | 1.12 | 3.67 | 6.59 | 6.81 |
| Planning Meals | 6.40 | .83 | 7.28 | 8.75 |
| Getting Ready and Caring for the Baby | 4.09 | | 7.01 | 8.88 |
| Serving Food | 8.44* | .27 | 3.38 | 2.40 |
| Finding a Place to Live | 3.63 | 4.97* | 4.70 | 5.11 |
| Providing Transportation | 3.18 | 2.16 | 1.98 | 6.94 |
| Buying Food | 2.22 | 2.91 | 3.54 | 5.03 |
| **Critical Values at .05 level | 9.49 | 5.99 | 12.6 | 12.6 |
| *Critical Values at .10 level | 7.78 | 4.61 | 10.6 | 10.6 |

^{1/}d. f., 4

^{2/}d. f., 2

^{3/}d. f., 6

Table 29. Homemaking activities reported as difficult by homemakers--according to length of marriage.

| Activities | Length of Marriage | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| | 6-12 months | | | 13-24 months | | | 25-36 months | | |
| | (N-9) | | | (N-22) | | | (N-19) | | |
| | Number of Homemakers Who had Difficulty and Weighted* Percent of Their Expressed Difficulties | | | | | | | | |
| | Occasional difficulty | Much difficulty | Percent maximum weight | Occasional difficulty | Much difficulty | Percent maximum weight | Occasional difficulty | Much difficulty | Percent maximum weight |
| | Homemakers | | | Homemakers | | | Homemakers | | |
| | No. | No. | | No. | No. | | No. | No. | |
| Participating in Community Organization | 2 | 6 | 77.7 | 11 | 10 | 57.9 | 6 | 11 | 65.7 |
| Preserving Food | 3 | 5 | 63.8 | 11 | 4 | 30.6 | 7 | 10 | 61.8 |
| Caring for the House | 7 | 2 | 41.6 | 13 | 7 | 46.5 | 13 | 4 | 38.1 |
| Sewing | 7 | 1 | 30.5 | 16 | 4 | 36.3 | 12 | 7 | 52.6 |
| Buying Clothing | 6 | 1 | 27.7 | 17 | 5 | 42.0 | 13 | 5 | 43.4 |
| Equipping the House | 6 | 2 | 38.8 | 16 | 5 | 40.9 | 14 | 4 | 39.4 |
| Preparing Food | 9 | 0 | 25.0 | 12 | 5 | 36.3 | 16 | 3 | 36.8 |
| Managing Money | 6 | 1 | 27.7 | 17 | 3 | 32.9 | 13 | 4 | 38.1 |
| Furnishing the House | 5 | 1 | 25.0 | 12 | 4 | 31.8 | 13 | 4 | 38.1 |
| Caring for Clothing | 8 | 1 | 33.3 | 17 | 3 | 32.9 | 16 | 2 | 31.5 |
| Planning Meals | 8 | 0 | 22.2 | 19 | 3 | 35.2 | 18 | 1 | 28.9 |
| Getting Ready and Caring for the Baby** | 4 | 0 | 25.0 | 6 | 1 | 22.7 | 8 | 3 | 35.7 |
| Serving Food | 7 | 0 | 19.4 | 9 | 5 | 32.9 | 15 | 1 | 25.0 |
| Finding a Place to Live | 6 | 0 | 16.6 | 14 | 4 | 34.0 | 14 | 1 | 23.6 |
| Providing Transportation | 2 | 1 | 16.6 | 10 | 4 | 29.5 | 8 | 4 | 31.5 |
| Buying Food | 6 | 0 | 16.6 | 14 | 2 | 25.0 | 15 | 1 | 25.0 |

*See Appendix B for formula used in computing the percent maximum weights. Occasional difficulty was given a score of 1. Much difficulty was given a score of 4.

**Only 29 of the 50 homemakers had had, or were expecting children. Of these, four had been married six to 12 months; 11 had been married from 13 to 24 months; and 14 had been married from 25 to 36 months.

next most often expressed problem activity for homemakers married less than a year and for those married from two to three years. The homemakers married from one to two years considered caring for the house more difficult than preserving food (Table 29).

In examining Table 29 it appears that the longer the homemakers were married the more they experienced or recognized difficulties with sewing, buying clothing, managing money, furnishing the house, and providing transportation. Of these, sewing was the homemaking activity where the difficulty appeared to increase most rapidly. Using the weighted percent of 40 or more, homemakers married less than a year reported problems with three homemaking activities, while the other two groups each reported difficulty with four of the 16 homemaking activities investigated.

Family Composition. To further examine the effect of family composition on homemaking activity areas, the homemakers were divided into two categories: (1) those who had had or were expecting children and (2) those who neither had had nor indicated that they were expecting children at the time of the interviews.

Table 30 shows that participating in community organizations and preserving food were again most frequently stated by the

homemakers as homemaking activity problem areas regardless of their family composition (Table 30).

Problems with caring for the house, buying clothing, equipping the house, furnishing the house, serving food, and providing transportation seemed to increase with the coming of children to the family. Surprisingly, participating in community organizations, preparing food, managing money, caring for clothing, planning meals, and finding a place to live seemed to be more difficult for the childless women in this study (Table 30).

Again, using the weighted percent of 40 or more, data indicated that the homemakers who had had or were expecting children reported difficulties with six homemaking activities; whereas, the homemakers who neither had had nor indicated that they were expecting a child reported difficulties with four of the activities.

Employment Status. To examine the effect of the homemakers' employment status on the difficulties they experienced in the 16 homemaking activities investigated in this study, the homemakers were classified as follows: (1) the full-time homemakers, (2) the employed homemakers, (3) the student homemakers, and (4) the employed student homemakers.

Participating in community organizations was again indicated as the most frequently experienced problem area by the employed and the employed student homemakers. The student homemaker

Table 30. Homemaking activities reported as difficult by homemakers--according to their family composition.

| Activities | Family Composition | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| | Had No Children Nor Indicated Expecting Children | | | Had Had or Were Expecting Children | | |
| | (N-21) | | | (N-29) | | |
| | Number of Homemakers Who had Difficulty and Weighted* Percent of Their Expressed Difficulties | | | | | |
| | Occasional difficulty | Much difficulty | Percent Maximum Weight | Occasional difficulty | Much difficulty | Percent Maximum Weight |
| | Homemakers | | | Homemakers | | |
| Participating in Community Organization | No. 7 | No. 13 | 70.2 | No. 12 | No. 14 | 58.6 |
| Preserving Food | 9 | 8 | 48.8 | 12 | 11 | 48.2 |
| Caring for the House | 15 | 5 | 41.6 | 18 | 8 | 43.1 |
| Sewing | 15 | 5 | 41.6 | 20 | 7 | 41.3 |
| Buying Clothing | 15 | 4 | 36.9 | 21 | 7 | 42.2 |
| Equipping the House | 17 | 3 | 34.5 | 19 | 8 | 43.9 |
| Preparing Food | 14 | 4 | 35.7 | 23 | 4 | 33.6 |
| Managing Money | 15 | 4 | 36.9 | 21 | 4 | 31.8 |
| Furnishing the House | 13 | 3 | 29.7 | 17 | 6 | 35.3 |
| Caring for Clothing | 17 | 4 | 39.2 | 24 | 2 | 27.5 |
| Planning Meals | 19 | 2 | 32.1 | 26 | 2 | 29.3 |
| Getting Ready and Caring for the Baby** | -- | -- | -- | 18 | 4 | 29.3 |
| Serving Food | 13 | 2 | 25.0 | 18 | 4 | 29.3 |
| Finding a Place to Live | 11 | 4 | 32.1 | 23 | 1 | 23.2 |
| Providing Transportation | 6 | 3 | 21.4 | 14 | 4 | 25.8 |
| Buying Food | 12 | 2 | 23.8 | 23 | 1 | 23.2 |

*See Appendix B for formula used in computing the percent maximum weight. Occasional difficulty was given a score of 1. Much difficulty was given a score of 4.

**Only 29 of the 50 homemakers had had or were expecting children.

reported an equal amount of difficulty with participating in community organizations and caring for the house. The full-time homemaker experienced more difficulty with preserving food than with participating in community organizations (Table 31).

A summary of the data presented in Table 31 indicated that the number of homemaking activity problems the homemakers experienced seemed to be related to the kinds of roles they assumed. For example, using the weighted percent of 40 or more, the student homemaker reported ten homemaking activity problems, the full-time homemaker reported six, and the employed homemaker and employed student homemaker each reported four (Table 31).

Participating in community organizations, preparing food, and buying food seemed to become more difficult as the homemakers assumed additional roles. For example, the homemakers assuming two roles, the employed homemakers and the student homemakers, reported more difficulty with participation in community organizations than did the full-time homemakers. The homemakers assuming three roles, the employed student homemakers, experienced much more difficulty with participating in community organizations than did the homemakers assuming fewer roles (Table 31).

Income. In order to see if income influenced the difficulties homemakers had, their family incomes were categorized into one

Table 31. Homemaking activities reported as difficult by homemakers--according to their employment status.

| Activities | Employment Status | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| | Homemaking | | | Work | | | Student | | | Work | | |
| | Homemaking | | | Homemaking | | | Homemaking | | | Student | | |
| | (N-12) | | | (N-23) | | | (N-7) | | | (N-8) | | |
| | Number of Homemakers Who had Difficulty and Weighted* Percent of Their Expressed Difficulty | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Occasional difficulty | Much difficulty | Percent maximum weight | Occasional difficulty | Much difficulty | Percent maximum weight | Occasional difficulty | Much difficulty | Percent maximum weight | Occasional difficulty | Much difficulty | Percent maximum weight |
| | Homemakers | | | Homemakers | | | Homemakers | | | Homemakers | | |
| | No. | No. | | No. | No. | | No. | No. | | No. | No. | |
| Participating in Community Organization | 5 | 5 | 52.00 | 8 | 12 | 60.8 | 4 | 3 | 57.1 | 1 | 7 | 90.6 |
| Preserving Food | 3 | 6 | 56.2 | 15 | 6 | 42.3 | 5 | 2 | 46.4 | 5 | 0 | 15.6 |
| Caring for the House | 9 | 3 | 43.7 | 15 | 4 | 33.6 | 4 | 3 | 57.1 | 5 | 3 | 53.1 |
| Sewing | 10 | 2 | 37.5 | 13 | 7 | 44.5 | 5 | 2 | 46.4 | 7 | 1 | 34.3 |
| Buying Clothing | 9 | 3 | 43.7 | 15 | 6 | 42.3 | 5 | 2 | 46.4 | 7 | 0 | 21.8 |
| Equipping the House | 8 | 4 | 50.0 | 16 | 4 | 34.7 | 5 | 2 | 46.4 | 7 | 1 | 34.3 |
| Preparing Food | 9 | 1 | 27.0 | 18 | 3 | 32.6 | 4 | 2 | 42.8 | 6 | 2 | 43.7 |
| Managing Money | 10 | 1 | 29.1 | 12 | 6 | 39.1 | 7 | 0 | 25.0 | 7 | 1 | 34.3 |
| Furnishing the House | 8 | 4 | 50.0 | 16 | 4 | 34.7 | 5 | 2 | 46.4 | 7 | 1 | 34.3 |
| Caring for Clothing | 3 | 3 | 31.2 | 17 | 3 | 31.5 | 5 | 2 | 46.4 | 5 | 1 | 28.1 |
| Planning Meals | 11 | 1 | 31.2 | 22 | 0 | 23.9 | 5 | 2 | 46.4 | 7 | 1 | 34.3 |
| Getting Ready and Caring for the Baby** | 6 | 2 | 31.8 | 10 | 1 | 26.9 | 1 | 0 | 8.3 | 1 | 1 | 62.5 |
| Serving Food | 7 | 2 | 31.2 | 14 | 2 | 23.9 | 3 | 2 | 39.2 | 7 | 0 | 21.8 |
| Finding a Place to Live | 8 | 0 | 16.6 | 17 | 3 | 31.5 | 5 | 1 | 32.1 | 4 | 1 | 25.0 |
| Providing Transportation | 4 | 2 | 25.0 | 9 | 4 | 27.1 | 3 | 0 | 10.7 | 4 | 1 | 25.0 |
| Buying Food | 7 | 0 | 14.5 | 15 | 2 | 25.0 | 6 | 0 | 21.4 | 6 | 1 | 31.2 |

*See Appendix B for formula used in computing the percent maximum weight. Occasional difficulty was given a score of 1. Much difficulty was given a score of 4.

**Only 29 of the 50 homemakers had had or were expecting children. Of these, 11 were full time homemakers, 13 were employed homemakers, three were student homemakers, and two were employed student homemakers.

of the following four income brackets for further examination: less than \$3,000, \$3,000 to \$4,999, \$5,000 to \$6,999, and \$7,000 and over.

Participating in community organizations was the homemaking activity problem area reported most often by the homemakers regardless of the amount of their family income. However, caring for the house was indicated to be as difficult as participating in community organizations in the under \$3,000 income group of homemakers (Table 32). The second most frequently expressed homemaking activity difficulty listed by the homemakers according to their family incomes were as follows: for the homemaker with a family income of \$5,000 to \$6,999, preserving food; for the homemaker with a family income of \$7,000 and over, getting ready and caring for the baby (Table 32).

Based on the weighted percent of 40 or more, the homemakers with family incomes less than \$3,000 a year reported difficulty with eight homemaking activity areas; the families with annual incomes of \$3,000 to \$4,999 a year reported difficulty with six; those with annual incomes of \$5,000 to \$6,999 reported difficulty with two; and those with annual incomes of \$7,000 or over reported difficulty with four homemaking activities. The eight homemaking activities that the homemakers with incomes under \$3,000 expressed as most difficult were participating in community organizations, caring for

Table 32. Homemaking activities reported as difficult by homemakers--according to the family income.

| Activities | Income | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| | Under \$3,000 | | | \$3,000-\$4,999 | | | \$5,000-\$6,999 | | | \$7,000 and over | | |
| | (N-7) | | | (N-12) | | | (N-22) | | | (N-9) | | |
| | Number of Homemakers Who had Difficulty and Weighted* Percent of Their Expressed Difficulties | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Occasional difficulty | Much difficulty | Percent maximum weight | Occasional difficulty | Much difficulty | Percent maximum weight | Occasional difficulty | Much difficulty | Percent maximum weight | Occasional difficulty | Much difficulty | Percent maximum weight |
| | Homemakers | | | Homemakers | | | Homemakers | | | Homemakers | | |
| | No. | No. | | No. | No. | | No. | No. | | No. | No. | |
| Participating in Community Organization | 2 | 4 | 64.2 | 3 | 9 | 81.2 | 9 | 10 | 55.6 | 5 | 4 | 58.3 |
| Preserving Food | 2 | 3 | 50.0 | 4 | 5 | 50.0 | 10 | 9 | 52.2 | 5 | 2 | 36.1 |
| Caring for the House | 2 | 4 | 64.2 | 7 | 4 | 47.9 | 16 | 4 | 36.3 | 8 | 1 | 33.3 |
| Sewing | 4 | 2 | 42.8 | 8 | 4 | 50.0 | 15 | 5 | 39.7 | 8 | 1 | 33.3 |
| Buying Clothing | 5 | 1 | 32.1 | 4 | 6 | 58.3 | 17 | 4 | 37.5 | 10 | 0 | 27.7 |
| Equipping the House | 3 | 3 | 53.5 | 8 | 3 | 41.6 | 17 | 3 | 32.9 | 8 | 2 | 44.4 |
| Preparing Food | 6 | 0 | 21.4 | 7 | 3 | 39.5 | 18 | 4 | 38.6 | 6 | 1 | 27.7 |
| Managing Money | 4 | 2 | 42.8 | 8 | 1 | 25.0 | 17 | 3 | 32.9 | 7 | 2 | 41.6 |
| Furnishing the House | 3 | 2 | 39.2 | 7 | 2 | 31.2 | 15 | 4 | 35.2 | 5 | 1 | 25.0 |
| Caring for Clothing | 4 | 2 | 42.8 | 10 | 2 | 37.5 | 18 | 1 | 25.0 | 9 | 1 | 36.1 |
| Planning Meals | 5 | 0 | 17.8 | 10 | 2 | 37.5 | 20 | 2 | 31.8 | 10 | 0 | 27.7 |
| Getting Ready and Caring for the Baby** | 3 | 1 | 29.1 | 2 | 0 | 12.5 | 12 | 1 | 26.6 | 1 | 2 | 56.2 |
| Serving Food | 4 | 1 | 28.5 | 6 | 1 | 20.8 | 15 | 3 | 30.6 | 6 | 1 | 27.7 |
| Finding a Place to Live | 3 | 1 | 25.0 | 8 | 2 | 33.3 | 17 | 0 | 19.3 | 6 | 2 | 38.8 |
| Providing Transportation | 2 | 3 | 50.0 | 5 | 2 | 27.0 | 10 | 1 | 15.9 | 3 | 1 | 19.4 |
| Buying Food | 6 | 0 | 21.4 | 7 | 1 | 22.9 | 15 | 2 | 26.1 | 7 | 0 | 19.4 |

*See Appendix B for formula used in computing the percent maximum weight. Occasional difficulty was given a score of 1. Much difficulty was given a score of 4.

**Only 29 of the 50 homemakers had had or were expecting children. Of these, six had family incomes of under \$3,000, four had family incomes from \$3,000 to \$4,999, 15 had family incomes from \$5,000 to \$6,999 and four had family incomes of \$7,000 and over.

the house, equipping the house, preserving food, providing transportation, sewing, managing money, and caring for clothing.

As the family income increased, there seemed to be an indication that difficulty in caring for the house decreased. It was interesting to note that the problem of managing money was almost the same for the homemakers in the highest income category as for those in the lowest. Providing transportation was much more difficult for the homemakers in the under \$3,000 income group than for those homemakers in the three higher income categories (Table 32).

The Homemakers' Sources of Information

Women are not born effective or ineffective home managers. Each one manages her home according to her education, experience, abilities, skills, and judgment. The young homemakers who participated in this research were asked where they got ideas and techniques on how to manage their homes and rear their families. The replies were summarized in Table 33. Forty-six homemakers stated that their mother had been the most frequently used source of information, while 41 indicated that they also had taught themselves. Magazines were listed as the third most used source.

Table 33. Sources of information used for managing their homes as reported by homemakers.

| Sources of Information Used | Number of Homemakers |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Books | 27 |
| Family and relatives | |
| Husband | 22 |
| Mother | 46 |
| Mother-in-law | 19 |
| Other relatives | 8 |
| Friends and neighbors | 24 |
| Magazines | 35 |
| Mass Media | |
| Newspaper | 17 |
| Radio | 8 |
| Television | 17 |
| School and group meetings | |
| College home economics | 8 |
| Cooperative Extension Service | 12 |
| High school home economics | 30 |
| Taught self | 41 |
| Other | 9 |

Of the 50 young homemakers interviewed, 38 said they often read the local daily newspaper. The most popular type of magazine reading done often by the homemakers was the women's magazines; the most used type of book was the cookbook. Even though 33 homemakers said they read the manufacturer's bulletins supplied with new appliances, many of the homemakers stated that after reading they disposed of them. Surprisingly, only 17 of the homemakers participating in the study read Cooperative Extension Service bulletins (Table 34).

Table 34. Literature read by the homemakers.

| Literature Read | Frequency Read | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------|-------|
| | Often | Sometimes | Never |
| | Number of Homemakers | | |
| Books | | | |
| Cook | 22 | 28 | 0 |
| Child care | 7 | 24 | 19 |
| Non-fiction | 16 | 23 | 11 |
| Novels | 19 | 25 | 6 |
| Bulletins | | | |
| Extension Service | 2 | 15 | 33 |
| Manufacturer's | 2 | 31 | 17 |
| Magazines | | | |
| Consumer | 2 | 10 | 38 |
| News | 8 | 30 | 12 |
| Women's | 23 | 23 | 4 |
| Newspapers | | | |
| Daily local | 38 | 6 | 6 |
| Daily state | 8 | 25 | 17 |
| Weekly | 1 | 5 | 44 |

To the question "About what homemaking activities are you interested in obtaining more information and how would you like to get this information?" the eight most frequently requested homemaking activity areas and the percent of homemakers desiring the information were furnishing the house, 88 percent; sewing, 82 percent; preparing food, 80 percent; managing money, 72 percent; planning meals, 64 percent; getting ready and caring for the baby, 62 percent; preserving food, 54 percent; and buying food, 50 percent. Table 35 gives (1) a more complete breakdown of specific tasks within each homemaking activity category, (2) the number of homemakers wanting

Table 35. Homemaking activities about which homemakers expressed an interest in obtaining more information and the first three most frequently requested information sources for each activity.

| Activities | | Homemakers | | | | Information Choices | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| | | No. | First | Second | Third | | | |
| Food | Planning | 32 | Newsletter | Magazine | Newsletter | | | |
| | Buying | 20 | Newsletter | Magazine | Newspaper - Group Meeting | | | |
| | Storing | 14 | Newsletter | Newsletter | Group Meeting | | | |
| | Preparing | 40 | Group Meeting | Magazine | Newsletter - Magazine | | | |
| | Serving | 17 | Group Meeting | Magazine | Magazine - Newsletter | | | |
| | Preserving | 27 | Group Meeting | Magazine | Magazine - Newsletter | | | |
| Clothing | Planning | 14 | Books | Magazine | Magazine | | | |
| | Buying | 10 | Magazine | Newsletter - Television | Newsletter | | | |
| | | | | Magazine - Bulletin | | | | |
| | Making | 35 | Group Meeting | Magazine - Newsletter | Magazine | | | |
| | Mending | 15 | Group Meeting | Magazine | Magazine | | | |
| | Remodeling | 17 | Group Meeting | Newsletter - Group Meeting | Magazine | | | |
| | | | | Magazine - Bulletin | | | | |
| | Washing | 7 | Bulletin | Magazine - Other | Magazine | | | |
| Housing | Ironing | 6 | Bulletin | Magazine | Magazine | | | |
| | Finding a Place to Live | 9 | Bulletin | Book | Magazine - Book | | | |
| | Interior Design | 40 | Magazine | Book - Bulletin | Magazine - Book | | | |
| | Selecting Furnishings | 25 | Magazine | Magazine | Book - Bulletin - Group Meeting | | | |
| | Cleaning Furnishings | 15 | Bulletin | Television | Newsletter | | | |
| | Updating Furnishings | 22 | Group Meeting | Magazine - Newsletter | Book | | | |
| | Selecting Equipment | 13 | Magazine | Bulletin | Magazine | | | |
| | Using and Caring for Equipment | 7 | Newsletter | Bulletin - Magazine | Magazine | | | |
| | Repairing Equipment | 10 | Group Meeting - Magazine | Bulletin | Magazine | | | |
| | Daily Care of the House | 7 | Newsletter | Magazine | Magazine | | | |
| | Weekly Cleaning of the House | 5 | Bulletin - Newsletter | Magazine | Magazine | | | |
| | Seasonal Cleaning of the House | 13 | Magazine | Bulletin | Magazine | | | |

Continued

Table 35. Continued

| Activities | Homemakers | | Information Choices | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|-------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| | No. | First | Second | Third | |
| Child Care | Getting Ready for the Baby | 20 | Group Meeting | Book | Magazine |
| | Child Care | 24 | Book | Magazine | Magazine |
| Managing Money | Planning the Family Budget | 17 | Bulletin - Group Meeting | Bulletin | Magazine |
| | Keeping Family Records | 7 | Bulletin - Newsletter | Magazine | Magazine |
| | Using Credit | 4 | Bulletin | Book - Newsletter | Magazine - Newsletter |
| | Buying Insurance | 15 | Bulletin | Magazine - Group Meeting | Book - Group Meeting |
| | Making a Will | 22 | Bulletin | Magazine | Book |
| Transportation | Choosing a Car | 6 | Magazine | Newspaper - Book | Magazine - Book - Bulletin |
| | | | | Magazine - Bulletin | Newsletter - Television |
| | | | | Group Meeting | |
| | Making Minor Repairs | 10 | Group Meeting | Bulletin | Newsletter |
| Other | Landscaping | 6 | | | |
| | Time Management | 3 | | | |

additional information about each task, and (3) the homemakers' preferred source for obtaining this desired information.

The first choice of information sources most often indicated by the young women ranked as follows: first, group meetings, mentioned 11 times; second, bulletins, mentioned ten times; third, magazines and newsletters, each mentioned seven times; and fourth, books, mentioned two times (Table 35).

When the first, second, and third first choice information sources were considered, the acceptable information sources listed by frequency of times they scored as first choice were as follows: magazines, 53 times; bulletins, 22 times; newsletters, 21 times; group meetings, 18 times; books, 15 times; television, three times; and newspapers, two times. No requests were made for homemaking information to be given by radio (Table 35).

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This chapter consists of a summary, conclusions of the study, and suggestions for further research.

Summary

For this research, the purpose was (1) to identify and describe young homemakers' management problems through expressed difficulties in homemaking activities, (2) to investigate the relationship between expressed problem areas and the length of marriage, family composition, employment status, and family income of young homemakers married in their teens and, (3) to determine additional homemaking information young homemakers want and to learn the sources from which they would like to obtain it.

Data for the study were obtained through personal interviews with 50 homemakers who had married in their teens. They were all 22 years old or younger, had been married at least six months, but no longer than three years, and were living in Corvallis, Oregon, at the time of the interviews. Thirty-one of the homemakers were wives of full-time college students and 19 were wives of non-students. Stratified sampling was utilized for determining the over-all sample. Random sampling was the technique used to select the sub-sample. from each of the two given strata, student and non-student wives.

Appointments for interviews with homemakers were arranged by telephone. An interview schedule developed by the researcher was used to record data collected during the interviews with the homemakers in their homes.

The average age of the homemakers was 20.1 years and the average age of their husbands was 22.6 years. These young couples had been married on an average of 2.2 years. Of the 50 homemakers, 29 had, had lost, or were expecting children at the time of the interviews. Only three of the homemakers had not completed high school; 18 had a high school education; however, 29 had training beyond the high school level, and of these, four had graduated from college. One of the husbands had not completed high school; 14 had a high school education; and 35 had an education beyond the high school level. Of these, 19 were college graduates. Approximately one-fourth of the total group of homemakers and their husbands were either college graduates or were graduating during the spring term when the interviewing was done.

Twenty-three of the homemakers participating in this study were gainfully employed on a full-time basis. Eight reported assuming a triple role of homemaker, part-time employee and student, however, seven were combining the roles of homemaker and student. Twelve were full-time homemakers.

Data on the total annual income from all sources showed that

seven homemakers' families had incomes under \$3,000, that 34 had incomes between \$3,000 and \$7,000, and that nine had incomes over \$7,000. The income of these families ranged from under \$3,000 to \$15,000. Forty-eight of the husbands and 40 of the wives had been employed at some time during the previous year. Some husbands reported "moonlighting," or holding two or more jobs simultaneously. Thirty-two of the 50 families received income from 25 different sources other than employment.

The young families in this community seemed to be a mobile group. This could be because approximately two-thirds of the interviewees represented student families and the period of marriage had been too short to accumulate possessions. Only 11 owned their homes; the remaining 39 rented theirs. Thirty-eight stated that they had moved at least once since marriage, but two families reported changing addresses six times during their marriage. Two-thirds of the families had lived a year or less in the residence occupied at the time of the interview. Of the 50 respondents, 26 described their housing as multiple unit dwellings; 18 occupied single family houses, and six were mobile home dwellers.

The homemakers expressed felt difficulty in each of the 16 homemaking activities about which they were questioned. Based on the weighted percentages, the expressed difficulties in order of importance to these young homemakers were participating

in community organizations, 63.5 percent; preserving food, 48.5 percent; caring for the house, 42.5 percent; sewing, 41.5 percent; buying clothing, and equipping the house, each 40.0 percent; preparing food, 34.5 percent; managing money, 34.0 percent; furnishing the house, 33.0 percent; caring for clothing, 32.5 percent; planning meals, 30.5 percent; getting ready and caring for the baby, 29.3 percent; serving food, 27.5 percent; finding a place to live, 27.0 percent; providing transportation, 24.0 percent; and buying food, 23.5 percent. Each of the homemakers participating in the study reported difficulties with at least one-half of the 16 homemaking activities investigated.

The factors and resources most frequently indicated as causing difficulties in the 16 homemaking activities were time, money, knowledge, space, and equipment. In all, 33 different factors and resources were enumerated by the homemakers as causes for their problems.

Of the eight activities listed as most enjoyed, 18 of the homemakers said they most enjoyed food preparation, 15 sewing, and eight housecleaning. On the other hand, of the seven activities given as least enjoyed, 18 of the 50 homemakers interviewed expressed a dislike for ironing, 17 for housecleaning, and six for washing dishes.

Based on chi-square tests, there was a significant relationship at the .05 level between felt difficulties in preparing food and the length of time the homemaker had been married, and between buying clothing and the homemakers' family income.

However, the chi-square tests did not indicate that there was a significant relationship at the .05 level between the 14 other homemaking activities and the four demographic variables: the homemakers' length of marriage, family composition, employment status, and family income.

Descriptive statistics were also used to investigate the relationship between the expressed homemaking activity problem areas and the four variables. The most frequently mentioned homemaking problem activity regardless of the homemakers' length of marriage, family composition, and family income was participating in community organizations. The employed and the employed student homemakers indicated participating in community organizations as their most difficult homemaking activity problem; however, the student homemakers reported an equal amount of difficulty with participating in community organizations and with caring for the house. The full-time homemakers experienced more difficulty with preserving food than with participating in community organizations.

It appeared that the difficulties these homemakers experienced with sewing, managing money, furnishing the house, and providing transportation increased with their length of marriage. Sewing was the homemaking activity where the difficulty appeared to increase most rapidly. Using the weighted percent of 40 or more, homemakers married less than a year reported problems in three homemaking

activities in comparison to the other two groups reporting difficulty with four of the 16 investigated homemaking activities.

When the data were analyzed according to family composition, it was evident that with the coming of children to the family difficulties in caring for the house, buying clothing, equipping the house, furnishing the house, serving food, and providing transportation seemed to increase. Again, using the weighted percent of 40 or more, data indicated that the homemakers who had had or were expecting children reported difficulties with six homemaking activities while the homemakers who neither had had nor indicated that they were expecting a child reported difficulties with four of the activities.

In examining the influence the homemakers' employment status had on their homemaking activities, there was an indication that the number of homemaking activity problems the homemakers experienced seemed to be related to the kinds of roles they assumed. For example, using the weighted percent of 40 or more, the student homemaker reported ten problem activities, the full-time homemaker reported six, and the employed homemaker and the employed student homemaker each reported four of the homemaking activities as difficult. Participating in community organizations, preparing food, and buying food appeared to become more difficult as the homemakers assumed additional roles.

Income seemed to be an influencing factor in the number of homemaking activity problems these young homemakers experienced. When the weighted percent of 40 or more was used, the homemakers with family incomes less than \$3,000 a year reported the most and those with incomes from \$5,000 to \$6,999 the least number of problem areas. The low income group experienced difficulties in caring for the house, equipping the house, managing money, furnishing the house, caring for clothing, and providing transportation more frequently than did homemakers classified in the other three higher income groups when all weighted percentages were compared.

When the young homemakers were asked where they got ideas and techniques on how to manage their homes and rear their families, 46 indicated from their mothers; whereas, 41 added that they had also taught themselves. Magazines were the third most used source.

The homemakers interviewed had access to various types of reading material such as books, bulletins, magazines, and newspapers. Of the 50 young homemakers, 38 said they often read the local daily newspaper. The women's magazine was the most popular type of magazine; while the most used type of book was the cookbook. Thirty-three of the homemakers reported that they read manufacturer's bulletins. On the other hand, only 17 of them read Extension Service bulletins.

These homemakers married in their teens recognized their

needs and expressed a desire for additional information to help them cope with their homemaking problems. The eight most frequently requested homemaking activity areas listed and the percent of homemakers desiring the information in each were furnishing the house, 88 percent; sewing, 82 percent; preparing food, 80 percent; managing money, 72 percent; planning meals, 64 percent; getting ready and caring for the baby, 62 percent; preserving food, 54 percent; and buying food, 50 percent.

Group meeting was the most often mentioned first choice information source by the homemakers for the desired homemaking information; however, magazines, bulletins, newsletters and books were each mentioned as acceptable sources.

Conclusions

Indications were that young homemakers married in their teens--regardless of their length of marriage, family composition, employment status or family income--experience a wide variety of problems with their homemaking activities. Each of the homemakers participating in the study reported experiencing difficulty with from one-half to all of the 16 activity areas about which they were questioned.

Based on the weighted percentages, these homemakers expressed the most difficulty with participating in community

organizations, preserving food, caring for the house, sewing, buying clothing, and equipping the house.

The 50 young homemakers interviewed were able to identify and willing to relate the factors and resources causing difficulty in their job of homemaking. Limited time, money, knowledge, space, and equipment were the resources most frequently recognized and stated by them as causing their problems.

These homemakers enjoyed doing some tasks more than others. Food preparation was the activity most enjoyed and ironing was the activity least enjoyed by the homemakers.

The homemakers' length of marriage, family composition, employment status, and family income seemed to be related to the number and kinds of problems these homemakers experienced with their homemaking activities, even though the chi-square tests indicated that this relationship was significant at the .05 level in only two of the 16 investigated activities. These were between preparing food and the homemakers' length of marriage, and between buying clothing and the homemakers' family income.

This group of homemakers indicated a definite need for additional help in solving their homemaking problems. Each of them expressed a desire for additional homemaking information in from two to 13 of the 16 homemaking activities identified as problem areas. Eighty percent or more of the homemakers requested further

information in furnishing the house, sewing, and preparing food.

The most requested first choice for a source of information was through group meetings; however, magazines, bulletins, newsletters, **and** books were each mentioned as acceptable sources. Therefore, it appears that these young homemakers not only recognize the need for assistance, but they are willing to get it from various sources.

Suggestions for Further Research

Even though the interview schedule was constructed for the purpose of obtaining data for this particular research, it could be used, after revision, to identify and to describe management problems of any age group of homemakers.

Some of the questions raised by the study that could be further investigated are:

- (1) Does a relationship exist between the expressed difficulty in the homemaking activity, caring for the house, and the amount and type of electrical equipment the homemaker has?
- (2) Is there a relationship between homemaking tasks least and most enjoyed and the homemakers' age, length of marriage, family composition, employment status, and family income?

- (3) How is the number of sources used by these young homemakers for answers to homemaking problems related to the homemakers' age and education?

Since the resources--time, money, knowledge, space and equipment--were indicated most frequently by the young homemaker as causing difficulties in the 16 homemaking activities investigated in this study, further research and/or education about these resources in relation to the young homemakers' homemaking activity problems could give direction to educators in helping these homemakers solve their problems.

Replication of this study concerning the identification of young homemakers' management problems could be conducted with a larger sample of student and non-student wives.

In order to generalize more about the management problems of young homemakers in Oregon and for the identification of management problems of young homemakers throughout the United States, further research would be needed to determine whether the findings in this study were typical in other geographical areas.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
Interview Schedule

Interview No. _____

Date _____

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
 School of Home Economics
 Department of Home Management
 Identification of Management Problems of Young Homemakers
 Married in Their Teens

Interview Schedule
 Melionee A. Echols

As a graduate student, I am interested in young homemakers. Could you help me identify some of the problems you have in carrying out your responsibilities as a homemaker? To help identify them, I have made a list of activities which homemakers often do.

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

1. What is your age? (Last Birthday)
 - (a) ___ Under 17 years
 - (b) ___ 17 years (c) ___ 18 years
 - (d) ___ 19 years (e) ___ 20 years
 - (f) ___ 21 years (g) ___ 22 years
2. What is your husband's age? (Last Birthday)
 - (a) ___ Under 17 years
 - (b) ___ 17 years (c) ___ 18 years
 - (d) ___ 19 years (e) ___ 20 years
 - (f) ___ 21 years (g) ___ 22 years
 - (h) Other _____
3. How long have you been married?
 - (a) ___ 6 to 12 months
 - (b) ___ 13 to 24 months
 - (c) ___ 25 to 36 months
4. Do you have children?
 - (a) ___ Yes (b) ___ No
5. If you have children, what are their ages? (Last Birthday)
 - (a) _____ Ages of boys
 - (b) _____ Ages of girls
6. Which of the following represents the highest grade you completed in school?
 - (a) Grade School .. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
 - (b) High School ... 1 2 3 4
 - (c) Special Training _____
 - (d) College 1 2 3 4
 - (e) Master's _____
7. Which of the following represents the highest grade your husband completed in school?
 - (a) Grade School .. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
 - (b) High School ... 1 2 3 4
 - (c) Special Training _____
 - (d) College 1 2 3 4
 - (e) Master's _____
 - (f) Ph.D. _____
8. What type of work does your husband do?

9. Which of the following best describes your occupation?
 - (a) ___ Homemaking and no work for pay, either at home or away from home.
 - (b) ___ Homemaking and work for pay, at home.
 - (c) ___ Homemaking and work for pay, away from home.
 - (d) ___ Homemaking and student
 - (e) ___ Homemaking, student and work for pay, away from home.
 - (f) ___ Other _____
10. What is the approximate total annual income of your family from all sources?
 - (a) ___ Under \$3,000
 - (b) ___ \$3,000 - \$4,999
 - (c) ___ \$5,000 - \$6,999
 - (d) ___ \$7,000 and over

No. _____ 2

11. What are the sources of your family income?
%
- (a) _____ Husband's job
_____ full-time
_____ part-time
_____ summer
- (b) _____ Wife's job
_____ full-time
_____ part-time
_____ summer
- (c) _____ Other
_____ G.I. Bill
_____ Scholarship
_____ Savings
_____ Parents
_____ Other _____
12. Do you own _____ or rent _____ the place you live in?
13. Since your marriage, in how many different dwellings have you lived? _____
14. How long have you lived in your present dwelling? _____
15. Which of the following describes the type of housing you presently occupy?
(a) _____ Apartment
(b) _____ Duplex
(c) _____ House
(d) _____ Mobile home
(e) _____ Other _____

YOUR HOMEMAKINGFOODSPlanning Meals:

16. Check any of the following you consider in planning meals. Circle the one most important to you in meal planning.
- (a) _____ Family favorites
(b) _____ Ease of preparation
(c) _____ Left overs
(d) _____ Special diets
(e) _____ Religion
(f) _____ Good food buys
(g) _____ Avoiding repetition
(h) _____ Food in season
(i) _____ Other _____
17. For what period of time do you usually plan meals?
(a) _____ One meal at a time
(b) _____ Meals for a day
(c) _____ Meals for a week
(d) _____ Other _____
18. Do any of the following make planning meals difficult?
(a) _____ Lack of time
(b) _____ Lack of knowledge
(c) _____ Don't like to plan meals
(d) _____ Have "fussy eaters"
(e) _____ Other _____

19. To what extent do you have difficulty in planning meals?

(a) _____ No difficulty
(b) _____ Occasional difficulty
(c) _____ Much difficulty

Buying Food:

20. How often do you buy food?
(a) _____ Every day
(b) _____ Every week, filling in with perishables, occasionally
(c) _____ Every 2 weeks, filling in with perishables, occasionally
(d) _____ Every month, filling in with perishables, occasionally
(e) _____ Other _____
21. Do you make a list prior to buying food?
(a) _____ Always
(b) _____ Most of the time
(c) _____ Some of the time
(d) _____ Never
22. Do any of the following make buying food difficult?
(a) _____ Lack of time
(b) _____ Lack of energy
(c) _____ Lack of money
(d) _____ Lack of interest
(e) _____ Lack of knowledge
(f) _____ Pleasing family members
(g) _____ Kinds of shopping facilities
(h) _____ Lack of transportation
(i) _____ Other _____

No. _____ 3

23. To what extent do you have difficulty in buying food?

- (a) ___ No difficulty
(b) ___ Occasional difficulty
(c) ___ Much difficulty

Storing Food:

24. Does the kind and amount of storage space you have limit food you buy?

- (a) ___ Yes (b) ___ No

25. Do any of the following make storing food difficult?

- (a) ___ Lack of shelf space
(b) ___ Lack of refrigerator space
(c) ___ Lack of freezer space
(d) ___ Lack of knowledge
(e) ___ Other _____

Preparing Food:

26. Do any of the following make preparing food difficult?

- (a) ___ Lack of time
(b) ___ Lack of energy
(c) ___ Lack of money
(d) ___ Lack of interest
(e) ___ Lack of knowledge
(f) ___ Lack of skill
(g) ___ Other _____

27. To what extent do you have difficulty in preparing food?

- (a) ___ No difficulty
(b) ___ Occasional difficulty
(c) ___ Much difficulty

Serving Food:

28. Are your husband's standards in food service different from yours?

- (a) ___ Yes (b) ___ No

29. If yes, in what way? _____

30. What eating facilities do you have?

- (a) ___ Television trays
(b) ___ Bar in the kitchen
(c) ___ Table in kitchen
(d) ___ Dining table in living room
(e) ___ Dining table in dining room
(f) ___ Other _____

31. Where does your family usually eat? (Refer to question 30)

32. Which meals do your family members usually sit down and eat together?

33. Do any of the following make serving meals difficult?

- (a) ___ Hard to work out a convenient time for all family members
(b) ___ Hard to get all food ready for serving at the same time
(c) ___ Don't know correct service
(d) ___ Don't know how to serve food in an attractive manner
(e) ___ Not enough space for serving
(f) ___ Other _____

34. To what extent do you have difficulty in serving meals?

- (a) ___ No difficulty
(b) ___ Occasional difficulty
(c) ___ Much difficulty

No. _____ 4

Preserving Food:

35. If you have preserved food in any of the following ways this past year, please check preceding the food.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| (a) <u>Canned</u> | (b) <u>Frozen</u> | (c) <u>Other</u> |
| ___ Fruit | ___ Fruit | ___ Jams |
| ___ Vegetables | ___ Vegetables | ___ Jellies |
| ___ Meats | ___ Meats | ___ Preserves |
| ___ Sea food | ___ Sea food | ___ Syrups |
| | | ___ Pickles |

36. If you can, for which of the following do you use the pressure cooker?

- (a) ___ Fruits (b) ___ Vegetables
(c) ___ Meats (d) ___ Sea food
(e) Other _____

37. For which of the following reasons do you preserve food?

- (a) ___ Family preference
(b) ___ To save money
(c) ___ For personal satisfaction
(d) ___ For convenience
(e) ___ Have own garden
(f) ___ Have own fruit
(g) ___ Have own meat
(h) ___ Have access to these
(i) ___ Other _____

38. Do any of the following make preserving food difficult?

- (a) ___ Lack of time
(b) ___ Lack of energy
(c) ___ Lack of money
(d) ___ Lack of interest
(e) ___ Lack of knowledge
(f) ___ Lack of storage
(g) ___ Lack of skill
(h) ___ Lack of equipment
(i) ___ Other _____

39. To what extent do you have difficulty in preserving food?

- (a) ___ No difficulty
(b) ___ Occasional difficulty
(c) ___ Much difficulty

CLOTHINGBuying Clothing:

40. Do you purchase clothing by a plan?

- (a) ___ Yes (b) ___ No
(c) ___ Sometimes

41. Do you read labels before buying clothing?

- (a) ___ Always (b) ___ Sometimes
(c) ___ Never

42. Which of the following types of information do you look for on labels?

- (a) ___ Care instructions
(b) ___ Fiber content
(c) ___ Manufacturer's name
(d) ___ Fabric finishes
(e) ___ Other _____

43. What factors do you consider important in buying clothing? Check as many as apply, then circle the one most important to you.

- (a) ___ Cost (b) ___ Durability
(c) ___ Quality (d) ___ Ease of care
(e) ___ Comfort (f) ___ Color
(g) ___ Style (h) ___ Need
(i) ___ Likes and dislikes
(j) ___ Present wardrobe
(k) ___ Other _____

44. Do any of the following make buying clothing difficult?

- (a) ___ Lack of time
(b) ___ Lack of money
(c) ___ Lack of interest
(d) ___ Lack of knowledge
(e) ___ Insufficient information on labels
(f) ___ Can't find size for family members
(g) ___ Lack of choice of color
(h) ___ Limited stores
(i) ___ Other _____

45. To what extent do you have difficulty in buying clothing?

- (a) ___ No difficulty
(b) ___ Occasional difficulty
(c) ___ Much difficulty

No. _____ 5

Sewing:

46. If you do not know how to sew, would you like to learn?
(a) ☐ Yes (b) ☐ No
47. If you make garments, for whom do you make them?
(a) ☐ Self (b) ☐ Husband
(c) ☐ Children
(d) ☐ Other _____
48. Which of the following types of sewing did you do this past year?
(a) ☐ Made garments
(b) ☐ Altered garments
(c) ☐ Remodeled garments
(d) ☐ Mended garments
(e) ☐ Other _____
49. Do any of the following make sewing difficult?
(a) ☐ Lack of time
(b) ☐ Lack of energy
(c) ☐ Lack of money
(d) ☐ Lack of interest
(e) ☐ Lack of convenient place
(f) ☐ Lack of skill
(g) ☐ Lack of equipment
(h) ☐ Other _____

50. To what extent do you have difficulty in sewing?
(a) ☐ No difficulty
(b) ☐ Occasional difficulty
(c) ☐ Much difficulty

Caring for Clothing:

51. How often is the laundry done?
(a) ☐ Every day
(b) ☐ Twice a week
(c) ☐ Every week
(d) ☐ Every two weeks
(e) ☐ Other _____
52. Which of the practices listed do you usually follow in washing your family's clothing?
(a) ☐ Sort according to fiber, soil, color
(b) ☐ Prespot
(c) ☐ Close openings

- (d) ☐ Remove trim and fasteners, when necessary
(e) ☐ Select temperature according to fiber, soil, color
(f) ☐ Select time cycle according to fiber, soil, color
(g) ☐ Select detergent according to fiber, soil, color
53. Do any of the following make caring for the clothing difficult?
(a) ☐ Lack of time
(b) ☐ Lack of energy
(c) ☐ Lack of money
(d) ☐ Lack of interest
(e) ☐ Lack of knowledge
(f) ☐ Lack of laundry facilities
(g) ☐ Inflexibility of washer and dryer
(h) ☐ Other _____

54. To what extent do you have difficulty in caring for clothing?
(a) ☐ No difficulty
(b) ☐ Occasional difficulty
(c) ☐ Much difficulty

HOUSINGFinding a Place to Live:

55. If you rent, do any of the following make renting difficult?
(a) ☐ Limited money
(b) ☐ Finding a rental
 ☐ in a desirable neighborhood
 ☐ in a desirable location
(c) ☐ Finding the size needed
(d) ☐ Making arrangements with the landlord to make repairs
(e) ☐ Other _____

No. 6

56. If you have bought or built a house, have any of the following made it difficult?

- (a) ___ Lack of sufficient money
- (b) ___ Lack of knowledge
- ___ about financing
- ___ about how much to invest
- ___ about building materials
- (c) ___ Finding a house or lot
- ___ in a desirable neighborhood
- ___ in a desirable location
- (d) ___ Not knowing where to go for information
- (e) ___ Other _____
- _____
- _____

57. To what extent have you had difficulty in finding a place to live?

- (a) ___ No difficulty
(b) ___ Occasional difficulty
(c) ___ Much difficulty

Furnishing the House:

58. Do you own furniture?

- (a) All (b) Some (c) None

59. If furnishing the house is difficult, what makes it difficult?

[illegible]

60. To what extent do you have difficulty in furnishing the house?

- (a) ☐ No difficulty
(b) ☐ Occasional difficulty
(c) ☐ Much difficulty

Equipping the House:

61. What equipment do you have? How was it obtained? How often do you use it?

[illegible]

61. (continued)

| Small Electrical Equipment | Own | | | Loan | Rental Unit Agency | Use | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Bought | | Gift | | | Regularly | Sometimes | Never |
| | New | Used | | | | | | |
| Mixer | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Coffee Maker | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Toaster | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fry Pan | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iron | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Blanket | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Grill | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Roaster | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Broiler | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Floor Polisher | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Can Opener | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other: | | | | | | | | |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

62. What labor saving equipment would you like if you could have another piece?

63. Do any of the following make equipping the house difficult?
- (a) ___ Lack of time
- (b) ___ Lack of money
- (c) ___ Lack of knowledge
- (d) ___ Lack of storage or space
- (e) ___ Hard to find equipment wanted
- (f) ___ Differing opinions between family members
- (g) ___ Other _____

64. To what extent do you have difficulty in equipping the house?
- (a) ___ No difficulty
- (b) ___ Occasional difficulty
- (c) ___ Much difficulty

Caring for the House:

65. If caring for the house is difficult, what makes it difficult?

66. To what extent do you have difficulty in caring for the house?
- (a) ___ No difficulty
- (b) ___ Occasional difficulty
- (c) ___ Much difficulty

GETTING READY AND CARING FOR THE BABY

67. If you have had a baby or you are expecting a baby, have any of the following made getting ready for the baby difficult?
- (a) ___ Lack of time
- (b) ___ Lack of energy
- (c) ___ Lack of money
- (d) ___ Lack of interest
- (e) ___ Lack of knowledge
- (f) ___ Lack of skill
- (g) ___ Other _____

No. _____ 9

80. Do any of the following make transportation difficult?

- (a) ___ Limited money
 ___ for buying a car
 ___ for operation and upkeep
- (b) ___ Lack of knowledge
 ___ of how to drive
 ___ of what to look for when buying
 ___ of simple repairs
- (c) ___ Poor service at stations and/or garages
- (d) ___ Need a second car
- (e) ___ Other _____

81. To what extent do you have difficulty with transportation?

- (a) ___ No difficulty
 (b) ___ Occasional difficulty
 (c) ___ Much difficulty

HOMEMAKING ACTIVITIES YOU ENJOY

82. What homemaking activities do you most enjoy doing? (Please list.)

83. What homemaking activities do you least enjoy doing? (Please list.)

PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

84. In what community organizations do you participate, and to what extent are you active?

| Organization | No. | <u>Attend</u> | | | <u>Participate</u> | |
|------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | Often | Sometime | Never | Serve on Committee | Hold Office |
| (a) Church | ___ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Community Clubs and Activities | ___ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) School | ___ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) Other | ___ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

85. Do any of the following make participating in community organizations and/or activities difficult?

- (a) ___ Lack of time
 ___ because of employment
 ___ because go to school
 ___ because of homemaking
- (b) ___ Too expensive
- (c) ___ Not interested
- (d) ___ Don't know about organizations
- (e) ___ Have not been asked
- (f) ___ Lack of transportation
- (g) ___ No reliable baby sitter
- (h) ___ Other _____

86. To what extent do you have difficulty in participating in community organizations and/or activities?

- (a) ___ No difficulty
 (b) ___ Occasional difficulty
 (c) ___ Much difficulty

OTHER PROBLEMS

87. Are there homemaking activities with which you have difficulty that have not been mentioned? (Please list.)

90. (continued)

| | | Newspapers | Magazines | Books | Bulletins | Newsletters | Radio | Television | Group Meetings | Other |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| 3. <u>HOUSING:</u> | Finding a Place | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Interior Design | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Furnishings | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Selecting | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Cleaning | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Updating | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Selecting | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Using & Caring for | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Repairing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Caring for the Home | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Daily Care | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Weekly Cleaning | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Seasonal Cleaning | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| 4. <u>CHILD CARE:</u> | Getting Ready for | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Child Care | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| 5. <u>MANAGING</u> | Planning Family Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| <u>MONEY:</u> | Keeping Family Records | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Using Credit | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Buying Insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Making a Will | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| 6. <u>TRANSPOR-</u> | Choosing a Car | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| <u>TATION:</u> | Minor Repairs | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| 7. <u>OTHER:</u> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND COOPERATION IN HELPING US TO KNOW
WHAT THE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS OF YOUNG HOMEMAKERS ARE.

APPENDIX B

Definition of Terms

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Several terms used extensively in this study need clarification.

Planning Meals referred to the making of written menus or the mental decisions about food to be served to the family.

Buying Food referred to making a list (written or mental) going to and returning from the store, and the actual marketing for the food.

Storing Food referred to the storage of canned goods or nonperishables on the shelf or in bins or drawers, the storage of refrigerated foods and the storage of foods by freezing for future use.

Preparing Food referred to preparing meals, packing lunches, baking, preparing the baby's food, and preparing special meals.

Serving Food referred to the setting of the table, putting food on the table, eating, clearing the table, putting leftovers away, dishwashing, and putting dishes away.

Preserving Food referred to the gathering of fruits, vegetables, or foods to be canned; canning fruits, vegetables, meats and sea foods; freezing fruits, vegetables, meats and sea food; making jams, jellies, preserves, syrups and pickles.

Buying Clothing referred to planning the purchase of clothing, going to and returning from the store, and the actual shopping for the clothing.

Sewing referred to making garments, altering garments, remodeling garments, mending garments, and making household articles such as curtains and tablecloths.

Caring for Clothing referred to removing spots and stains, washing and drying clothing, ironing or pressing, folding clothing and putting it away, having clothing laundered and/or cleaned commercially, and storing clothing seasonally.

Finding a Place to Live referred to renting, buying, or building a place in which to live.

Furnishing the House referred to the selection, use, care, updating and arranging of furnishings.

Updating Furniture included the making of slip covers for furniture, the upholstery of furniture, or the refinishing of furniture.

Equipping the House referred to the selection, use, care and simple repairs of equipment.

Rental Unit as used in determining how equipment was obtained referred to the available equipment at the house or apartment rented--regardless of whether it was paid for in the rent or at an additional fee.

Caring for the House referred to everyday care such as dusting, straightening-up, picking up the childrens' toys, picking up clothes; weekly care such as vacuuming, cleaning bathroom fixtures, mopping, waxing; seasonal care such as spring housecleaning, and washing wood-work or windows.

Getting Ready for the Baby referred to providing the baby's clothing, nursery, and needed supplies, as well as storage and space for them.

Caring for the Baby referred to bathing, feeding and other routine care of the baby and washing the baby's clothing.

Managing Money referred to making a plan for spending, keeping records, using credit, buying insurance, and making a will.

Providing Transportation referred to personal travel, in this study the buying, operation and upkeep of an automobile.

Community Organizations referred to organization meetings, including Church, Sunday School, Extension Unit, League of Women Voters, Garden Clubs, Lodges, Eastern Star, Student Wives Clubs, Parent Teacher Associations, and Sororities.

Percent Maximum Weight or Weighted Percentages referred to a sum total of the weighted number of homemakers expressing "occasional felt difficulty" and "much felt difficulty" divided by the maximum weight figure multiplied by the number in the sample at question.

Formula used for Computing Percent Maximum Weight

$$\frac{X(N_1) + Y(N_2)}{Z(N_3)} = \text{Percent Maximum Weight}$$

X = Weight of occasional felt difficulty (1)

Y = Weight of much felt difficulty (4)

Z = Maximum weight figure (4)

N₁ = Number with occasional difficulty

N₂ = Number with much difficulty

N₃ = Sample size

Family Composition referred to the homemakers who had had or were expecting children at the time of the interview.