

# AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF

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Title A Study of Grandparent-Grandchild Relationship  
From Youth's Point of View

Abstract Approved [REDACTED]  
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## Purpose of the Study

This study was planned to answer at least in part the following questions:

- What grandparent-grandchild relationships are valued and what are not valued by grandchildren?
- What characteristics do college girls feel are desirable and undesirable in grandparents?
- What methods have parents used to help establish desirable grandparent-grandchild relationship?
- What early recollections of grandparents do grandchildren consider outstanding?
- What methods do grandchildren consider desirable in dealing with controversial issues with grandparents?
- What factors have influenced college girls in their attitudes toward growing older?

## Securing the Data

A questionnaire which included essay questions was used in securing the data for this study.

One hundred fifty college women enrolled in the School of Home Economics at Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon, served as subjects for the study. The mean age of the group was 19.8 with a standard deviation of 1.3 years. The mean age of their 201 living grandparents was 73.2 with a standard deviation of 6.9.

## Conclusions

The following conclusions were made regarding the girls who participated in this study:

1. Young people desire admirable characteristics in grandparents. Characteristics such as loving, understanding, kind, happy, modern, considerate, religious, cheerful, friendly, helpful, refined, respectable, tolerant, in good health, and sense of humor were included among the most frequently mentioned.

2. They want companionship with their grandparents. They like to take walks, hear grandparents tell of early experiences, and stories of the grandchild's parents. Many of those who did not have living grandparents mentioned with regret that they missed this companionship, while those having grandparents repeatedly expressed appreciation of the

fact that they were able to know them. The grandchild prefers gifts of material things rather than of money. One of the grandparents' greatest contributions is made through companionship.

3. They recognize areas in which grandparents have had satisfactory experience and appreciate an opportunity to talk about things in these areas. Grandchildren appreciate advice regarding matters in which grandparents have a wealth of background. If grandchildren wish advice from grandparents, they prefer to request it rather than to have the grandparent offer it.

4. They expressed a desire to maintain happy relationships, and to avoid controversial issues with grandparents. Happiest relationships came when grandparents maintained their own homes and interests, and were "up to date," but not "disgustingly" modern. They prefer frequent short visits with grandparents rather than less frequent long visits. Grandchildren feel that discipline and family affairs should be left to the parents. Grandchildren feel that keeping situations from grandparents is preferable to conflict. Controversial issues arise more often when grandparents are interfering, and domineering than under any other circumstances.

5. As a group they were fair and generous to their grandparents. They did not want to control their grandparents' lives; they want grandparents to be natural and have their place in society, and accept their role as an older person, retired from the responsibility of their children's family affairs.

6. Grandparents and parents are an important factor in influencing the grandchild's opinions toward growing older. As a group these young people do not mind growing old if they can be financially independent, in good health, both mental and physical, and achieve a background which will permit enjoyment in living.

There is a close relationship between what they think grandparents are and what the grandchild would like to be when she grows older.



GRANDPARENT-GRANDCHILD RELATIONSHIPS  
FROM YOUTH'S POINT OF VIEW

by

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## GRANDPARENT-GRANDCHILD RELATIONSHIP

### FROM YOUTH'S POINT OF VIEW

#### CHAPTER I

##### Introduction

##### Present Trend of Emphasis on the Older Person.

The study of family living is becoming increasingly important, and in recent years much has been written in the field of family relationships. In many studies attention has been centered on parent-child relationships, an important factor in happy family life, but little has been written from the grandparent-grandchild point of view. In recent periodicals attention is being drawn to the older person's role in family life because they are increasing in numbers and also because they have become more closely associated with young people during the period of war.

Dr. Louis I. Dublin (5, p.17) of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, now on leave of absence with the Red Cross, a highly conservative authority, considers life expectancy well above seventy not unlikely in the near future. Fewer babies born, fewer adults dying, inescapably



mean a rapidly growing proportion of older people in our population. By 1980, one American in seven will probably be more than sixty-five. Two in five will be more than forty-five.

From many standpoints the child and youth are trained for adult living. In many cases the adult is being trained for parenthood, parents of the infant, the child, and the adolescent, but here our training has ceased. "Theorists say people should be trained for aging just as, when young, they train for maturing." (5,p.18). Training for old age and grandparenthood has not as yet been developed.

There is need for further study in this field not only from the research and educator's point of view, but because grandparents are asking for assistance.

Following is an excerpt from a letter written by a grandmother to an educational journal: (6, p.364)

"May I make a plea for the woman the educators seem to have forgotten - the grandmother? What about a few articles to help her be a "progressive grandmother?" Since you believe that education can and should help everyone, it must be possible to educate even her. These white-haired women are now much in demand. Yet our daughters often refuse to trust us with the simplest decisions because, they tell us, we are too old fashioned.

"Grandmothers can and should be educated in modern methods. They should not be left to feel incompetent in handling their grandchildren in the approved modern way.

"I was caught up the other morning when my five-year-old granddaughter looked up at me with her large blue eyes and said, "Grandmother, do you realize you are spoiling me?" It led me to ask myself: "How much should grandparents spoil their grandchildren?" "Is the child entitled to that unplanned-for treat he gets from his grandmother - but for obvious disciplinary reasons cannot get from the modern mother?"

"How much does grandmotherly indulgence make things more difficult for mother? More important still - how much does the different approach of grandmother and mother undermine the authority of both - since a child is quick to play one against the other?

"What about the new theories on diet? Of course grandmother raised six children without constant weighing and balancing vitamins. That may have been luck, instinct, or just good common sense.

"The modern mother likes the more scientific approach. Can this gulf be bridged?

"I think it can. I should like to see your magazine establish a little 'grandmother's corner.' It might help iron out some of the differences of opinion between the

two generations - differences which seem insuperable now, but which are often nothing more than a difference in approach. The mature wisdom and broad experience of grandmothers should be worth something. But granny probably needs a guiding and understanding spirit to bring her up to date."

### Importance of the Problem

During and following a period of war, there are of necessity more frequent child-parent-grandparent contacts. That these relationships be happy is important not only to the grandparent, but to the child and parent.

Because of lack of studies in this field and the realization of an increasing need for information concerning grandparent-grandchild relationships, the writer has undertaken this piece of research with the hope that it will give information that may answer in part some of the questions arising from these increasing contacts, and that from this study will emerge a better understanding of grandparent-grandchild problems; also a realization by parent study groups of the need for grandparent education.

## CHAPTER II

### Review of Literature

#### Relating to Grandparent-Grandchild Relationship

#### Literature in this Field

The writer found a lack of literature relating directly to grandparent-grandchild relationship. In so far as the writer could find, very few studies have been made which include data concerning this topic.

The only material found by the writer which was written on the topic were a few articles in popular magazines, and parts of studies concerned with family relationships.

Considering the lack of information, and the apparent need for research the writer felt a study concerning grandparent-grandchild relationships would be of value.

#### Studies Including Phases of Grandparent-Grandchild Relationships

In Rowland's study of attitudes toward adjustments in family living (1,p.121) she included a few items on grandchild-grandparent relationships. These items were concerned with phases of companionship and social relationships between grandparents and grandchildren.

Rowland's questionnaire, which was used with high school students is similar in form to a part of the questionnaire formulated by the writer.



### Methods Adapted from Studies on Parent-Child Relationships

Many studies have been made on parent-child relationships. Due to the similarity of data to be gathered the methods used in making these studies were examined. Those which involve methods similar to those used by the writer are described briefly.

One of the well known studies on parent-child relationships was made by Sowers, Parent-Child Relationships from the Child's Point of View. Sowers made an analysis of 2000 essays on characteristics of the ideal parent. From these 2000 essays she selected ten characteristics which she used in forming a characteristic rating scale. (2, p.122). The writer incorporated in part, this method of study used by Sowers as it was very adaptable to a study concerning grandparent-grandchild relationships. (See appendix, Part A, section on rating grandparents' characteristics.)

In Wright's study of the attitudes of five hundred four high school students toward home and family life situations, (3, Appendix, Part A) she gathered data by means of a questionnaire which included the following three questions:

What phases of your family life do you value so much that you would like to include them in your own family when you have a home of your own?

What have you suffered from, or what hardships have you had in your family life that you want to avoid in your own family when you have a home of your own?

What have you missed in your life that you would not want your children to miss?

The writer adapted these questions to grandparent-grandchild relationship situations, and used them in her study. (See Appendix, Part A).

## CHAPTER III

### The Problem

#### Statement of the Problem

This study is based on an investigation of opinions held by college girls toward various phases of their relationships with grandparents, and characteristics of grandparents. It is designed to answer at least in part, the following questions:

1. What relationships with grandparents do granddaughters value?
2. What are common undesirable grandparent-granddaughter relationships?
3. What part do parents play in establishing good relationships between grandparents and grandchildren?
4. What are the attitudes of college girls toward growing old?
5. What characteristics do college girls consider desirable and undesirable in grandparents?

It would seem that a program for adult education could make a greater contribution to their older members, the grandparents' group, if leaders knew and understood youth attitudes towards various relationships with grandparents.

This study is presented with the hope that it may add to the knowledge and understanding of these attitudes, and thus bring about better adjustments between grandparents

and grandchildren.

### Limits of the Study

This study was made at Oregon State College in Corvallis, Oregon. The subjects selected for the investigation were registered in the School of Home Economics and included girls from freshman, sophomore, junior and senior classes.

The survey was made during a period of war (1945), a time when normal family life is often disrupted and when there is more frequent contact between grandparents and grandchildren.

The writer limited the field of study to experiences which are most common to grandchildren and grandparents, and to a study of grandparent characteristics.



## CHAPTER IV

### Construction of the Questionnaire

#### Methods of Studying Attitudes

The most commonly used methods in studying attitudes are (1) personal interview, (2) written expressions in essay form, (3) the questionnaire, (4) and checking statements on attitude scales. (1, p.18).

The questionnaire method was selected for this study, incorporating no. 2, written expressions in essay form, and no. 4, checking statements in a self-rating attitude scale. By using the questionnaire method a larger number of responses to each question could be secured and the responses could be limited to areas in which information was desired. Essay questions were included with the questionnaire thereby giving an opportunity for spontaneous response.

#### Organization of the Questionnaire

The questionnaire (see Appendix, Part I) was organized into five sections which may be described as follows:

Section A included general information, which dealt with age, year in school, home background of the students, and general information concerning grandparents.

Included in part B were 6 essay questions concerning

desirable and undesirable grandparent-grandchild relationships; parents' contribution to grandchild-grandparent relationships; attitudes toward growing old and early recollections of grandparents.

Question 7 which was included in this group was concerned with both ideal and undesirable grandparent characteristics.

The following section, Part C included a list of experiences in which the subjects were asked to use the following scale in making their responses. (1,p.118).

- a. I like very much doing this.
- b. I like doing this.
- c. I neither like nor dislike doing this.
- d. I don't care about doing this.
- e. I greatly dislike doing this.

The list included social experiences, work activities, play activities, financial experiences, and others. Space was provided for the subject to indicate when she had had experience in each situation.

Part D consisted of a group of 16 statements concerning youth-parent attitudes should controversial issues arise between grandparent and grandchild. These were to be evaluated as to the most desirable attitudes. Also as to whether or not the subject had had experience with each response.

The last group, Section E, includes questions similar to those used by Sowers in her study.

Sowers asked her subjects to list characteristics found in the "ideal" parent. From these lists she compiled a master list of the 10 most frequently mentioned. She incorporated this list in a group of questions which she used in gathering her data.

The writer used a group of questions, similar in form and type, but adapted to the grandparents rather than parents. The sixty-six questions used in this part of the questionnaire included the following characteristics: strict, up to date, understanding, happy, kind, religious, sincere, exemplary, fair and just, shows favoritism, and companionable with grandchildren.

The following form was repeated with each of the eleven characteristics:

1. a b c d e Most grandparents whom I know are strict.
2. a b c d e My mother's mother is strict.
3. a b c d e My mother's father is strict.
4. a b c d e My father's mother is strict.
5. a b c d e My father's father is strict.
6. a b c d e If I were a grandparent I would be strict.

In responding to questions similar to the above the following code was used so that degree could be checked:  
a. extremely b. very c. fairly d. not very e. not at all.

The essay group of questions were placed immediately after the general information questions to encourage spontaneous answers which would be unaffected by the other



questions and also to encourage more fully answered questions.

### Preliminary Questionnaire

The questionnaire was first submitted to two specialists in household administration for suggestions and criticism. Six grandparents were asked to examine the questionnaire and make suggestions. These suggestions were incorporated and a revised questionnaire was prepared which was checked by four girls of college age. The final revision of the questionnaire included the suggestions made by all groups. It was again submitted to specialists for a final check.

### Gathering the Data

The final questionnaire was given to college girls during class time. In filling out the questionnaire students were asked not to sign their names. This was done to encourage freedom in personal responses. The questionnaire was written in a form similar to many college examinations, familiar to college students. A minimum amount of explanation was used in the written directions. Since the questionnaire was given directly the instructors in charge of the classes gave an explanation of the

questionnaire as well as specific instructions. Students were encouraged to write remarks in the margins and space was allowed for additional opinions. The subjects were asked to fill out as much of the questionnaire as possible even though their grandparents were not living or if they had never known their grandparents. They were asked to give responses which would be what they think their attitude would be in such situations. The subjects who did not know their grandparents were grouped separately in making the analysis of results.

The questionnaire was completed in an average of 30 minutes.



## CHAPTER V

### Results of the Study

This study pertaining to grandparent-grandchild relationships from the youth's point of view is divided into several parts. These parts include general information concerning the college girl as well as her grandparents; grandparent-grandchild relationships which are of value, and those undesirable; the parents' part in establishing good relationship between grandparents and grandchildren; characteristics the college girl considers desirable and undesirable in grandparents; and the attitudes of a college girl toward growing old.

### Background of the Subjects

Number of Subjects, Age, and Class in College: One hundred and fifty women students enrolled in home economic classes at Oregon State College were included in the study. Of the 150, 23.3 percent were freshmen, 14 percent were sophomores, 48.6 percent were juniors and 12.1 percent were seniors. (2 percent did not state their age and class.)

The mean age of the group was 19.8 years and the standard deviation 1.3. (For detailed table see Appendix, Part B, Table 18.)

Locale of Subjects' Homes: Forty-five and three-tenths percent of the subjects came from cities over 8,000. Twenty-six percent came from small towns and 28 percent from the country. (.7 percent gave no information.)

Only 2 percent reported having lived away from home during high school.

#### Background of the Parents

Marital Status: About three-fourths of the subjects lived in normal homes while one-fourth lived in homes broken either by divorce, separation, or death. (See Appendix Part B, Table 20.)

Occupational Classification of Mothers: Seventy-two percent of the mothers were homemakers, 18.7 percent earned, and 9.3 percent were either not living or the occupation was not reported. (Appendix, Part B, Table 21.)

Occupational Classification of the Fathers: About one-fifth of the fathers were professional workers, one-fifth farmers, one-tenth proprietors, managers, and officials, one-tenth clerical and sales workers; almost one-eighth were craftsmen and foremen; the remainder were operators, protective service workers and laborers. A little less than one-eighth were either not living or not mentioned by the subjects. (See Appendix, Part B, Table 22.)

**Siblings of Parents:** The mean number of siblings of the parents was 3.97. That is, the parents came from families averaging 4.97 children. (For more detailed tables concerning parents of the subjects see Appendix, Part B, Table 23.)

### Background of the Grandparents

**Number of Grandparents Living:** Two hundred-one grandparents of the 150 subjects were reported living, 130 of these were grandmothers and 71 grandfathers. Forty were deceased within the last 5 years, 53 between 5 and 10 years and 155 over 10 years. Some of the subjects could not recall when their grandparents had died and some did not respond to the question thus accounting for the remaining number of grandparents.

One-fourth of the girls had no grandparents living; a little over one-third had 1 grandparent living; not quite one-fourth had 2 grandparents living; about one-eighth had 3 grandparents living and 3 percent had 4 living grandparents. (See Appendix, Part B, Table 24 and 25.)

**Mean Age of Grandparents:** The mean age of the living grandparents was 73.2 and the standard deviation<sup>†</sup>6.85. (Appendix, Part B, Table 26.)

**Health of Grandparents:** Seven percent of the grandparents were in excellent health as evaluated by the



granddaughters. Forty-three and eight-tenths percent were in good health, 27.4 percent were in fair health and 12.9 percent were in poor health according to the subjects; 7.5 percent were not classified by the subjects. (See Appendix, Part B, Table 27.)

#### Occupational Classification of the Grandmothers:

Thirty-eight and five-tenths percent of the grandmothers were homemakers, 10.8 percent were retired, 12.3 percent had no occupation, 4.6 percent were invalid, 3.8 percent were clerical sales, and domestic workers. Occupation was not given for the remaining 30 percent. (Appendix, Table 28.)

#### Occupational Classification of the Grandfathers:

Thirty-one percent of the grandfathers were classed as retired; 24 percent as farmers and farm managers; 11.2 percent as craftsmen and foremen; 7 percent as clerical and sales workers; 7 percent were proprietors, managers, officials, professional workers, homemakers, protective workers; 1.4 percent had no occupation; 1.4 percent was invalid and no information was given about 17 percent. (See Appendix, Part B, Table 29.)

Financial Status of the Grandparents: Over two-thirds of the grandparents were self-supporting, one-fourth needed financial assistance and approximately one-twelfth were contributing to the support of another member of their family. (See Appendix, Part B, Table 30.)

Locale of Grandparents' Homes: About two-thirds or 65.2 percent of the grandparents lived in a locality other than that of the grandchild; about one-fourth or 26.9 percent lived in the same town as the grandchild, but not in the same home; about one-twentieth or 4.4 percent lived in the home with the grandchild part of the time and 2 percent lived in the same home with the grandchild. (See Appendix, Part B, Table 31.)

Frequency of Subject's Contacts with Grandparents: Thirty-five and eight-tenths percent of the subjects see at least one grandparent as often as once a month; 38.6 percent see them as often as every 2 months and not more than every 6 months; 11.4 percent see their grandparents at least once a year; .5 percent once in 2 years; 5.3 percent see their grandparents between 2 and 5 years; .9 percent see their grandparents once in 10 years. Eight percent never see their grandparents and 9.4 percent gave no information. (Appendix, Part B, Table 32.)

Number of Grandparents Having Had Grandchildren Living in Their Homes: About three-fourths, or 82.6 percent, of the 201 grandparents have not had grandchildren living with them. Two grandparents had grandchildren living with them for 15 years; 16 percent had grandchildren living with them 1 to 6 years; 6 percent had grandchildren living with them 2 to 6 months; and 2.5 percent, 1 week to 1 month. (See



Appendix, Part B, Table 33.)

Number of Children and Sons and Daughters-in-Law of Grandparents: The number of sons and daughters and sons- and daughters-in-law of the grandparents varies but little. One-fifth of the grandparents had 2 children living, and 2 sons- and daughters-in-law living. A little less than one-third had 4 children or sons- and daughters-in-law living, and about one-eighth had 3 living. (For more detailed information see Appendix, Part B, Table 34.)

Number of Grandchildren per Grandparent: The average number of grandchildren per grandparent was 7.5. The number per grandparent ranged from 1 to 47, however few were over 25. (For table showing distribution see Appendix, Part B, Table 34.)

The distribution seemed to be fairly even between the number of grandchildren younger and older than the subject. Thirty-three of the subjects were the youngest and 21 were the oldest grandchild.

All responses were not complete, but as nearly as could be determined only one subject reported being an only grandchild.

Number of Great Grandchildren per Grandparent: Seventy-six of the living grandparents reported had no great grandchildren; 29 had one; 26 had two and 5 had three. One grandparent had 20 great grandchildren. (For detailed

table see Appendix, Part B, Table 34.)

Education of Grandparents: Complete data concerning the education of the grandparents were not obtainable as many of the subjects did not know how much education their grandparents had. Of the 201 living grandparents 7.3 percent were college graduates, 3.8 percent had studied in college, 18.8 percent were high school graduates, 21.2 were grammar school graduates only and 1.7 percent had gone to grade school for several years. (Appendix, Part B, Table 36.)

#### Classification of Grandparent-Grandchild Relationships

##### According to Happy-Unhappy, etc.

The subjects were asked to select their own words to describe their relationships with their grandparents. Table I shows the frequency of mention for each classification. In some cases two words were given in describing relationship with grandparents. This may be accounted for by the fact that the relationship is not the same for each grandparent. Each of these evaluations was recorded on the frequency table. Favorable relationships were mentioned 206 times. Relationships which are usually favorable were mentioned 10 times; and unfavorable relationships were mentioned only 11 times.

It appears from the subjects' ratings that this group

on the whole has a high percentage of happy grandparent-grandchild relationships. Since the subjects were all college students they represent a higher educational level than average. (Complete data concerning educational status are not available as only a part of the subjects knew the education completed by their grandparents. (See Appendix, Part B.)

Many of the subjects classified their relationships with grandparents favorable, but went on to say that there are certain relationships which are undesirable, or as one girl said, "Our relationship is happy, but I did not enjoy living with grandmother;" another, "We get along fine, but grandfather tries so hard to impose his ideas on us." Still another said, "I enjoy every phase of my relationship with my grandparents." A person may be very much admired, but there still may be certain characteristics which seem undesirable to another person. This does not change respect or affection for the person. This point was brought out a number of times in reference to grandparents.



TABLE I

Grandparent-Grandchild RelationshipsAs Evaluated by Granddaughters

N 150

Classification of Relationships	No.*	%	Classification of Relationships	No.	%**
Very happy	30	20.	Fair relationships	3	2
Happy	119	79.3	Tolerant	3	2
Congenial	54	36.	Not close	2	2
Understanding	3	2.	Unhappy	11	7.3
Usually congenial	4	2.6			

\*This total includes some grandparents not living but known sufficiently well by the granddaughter that an evaluation was possible.

\*\* Since the evaluations are based on more than one grandparent in many cases the percent is more than 100.

Number of Subjects Having Lived with Grandparents Who Reported Unhappy Relationships.

Of the 11 cases mentioning unhappy relationships with grandparents, 9 or 81.8 percent were girls who had lived with grandparents, but of the 35 girls having lived with grandparents for a period of 1 week to 15 years, 9 or 25.7



percent consider their relationship with grandparents unhappy. Table 2 shows the number of girls evaluating their relationship as very happy, happy, congenial and unhappy when classified according to different periods of time that they lived with grandparents.

TABLE 2

Grandparent-Grandchild Relationships  
for Those Subjects Having Lived with Grandparents

Type of Relationship	Length of time lived with grandparents					
	1 wk. to 1 mo.	2-11 mo.	1-3 yrs.	4-9 yrs.	10-16 yrs.	Total
	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %
Very happy	1-33.3		2-66.7			3-100
Happy	4-23.5	8-47.0	3-17.7	2-11.8		17-100
Congenial	2-33.3	2-33.3	1-16.7	1-16.7		6-100
Unhappy	1-11.2	3-33.3	3-33.3		2-22.2	9-100
Total	8	13	9	3	2	35

In commenting on essay question two (See Appendix, Part A) one girl stated, "I would not want to say that I want my grandchildren to miss the experience of having a grandparent live in the same home." This girl had had a very happy experience with a grandparent in her home. The same essay question drew 17 responses to the effect that grandparents and grandchildren living in the same home is not conducive to the best of grandparent-grandchild relationships. This did not mean dislike for the grandparents in most cases. As one girl expressed it, "I think my grandparents are wonderful people, when we are not living together," and another, "I want my grandchildren to love me, I think grandchildren appreciate their grandparents more if they don't see too much of them." Several mentioned tension present in families where grandparents were living. Another girl who seemed to have had a very unhappy experience with a grandparent in the home stated: "My brother and I are still suffering from having grandmother in our home." She spoke of friction between grandparent and members of the family. This question is discussed more fully later in the study.

An Evaluation of Grandparent-Grandchild Relationships -  
Based on Responses to Essay Questions.

In Appendix, Part C, will be found a summary of responses to the seven essay questions. These responses are ranked in order of frequency of mention.

It should be kept in mind in analyzing these responses that they were voluntary. The essay questions were placed first in the questionnaire with the hope that the comments would not be influenced by the more objective questions asked later in the questionnaire.

Desirable Relationships with Grandparents: The first essay question, "What phases of your relationships with your grandparents do you value so much that you would like to repeat them with your grandchildren should you become a grandparent?" elicited 172 comments from the group. (See Table 3.)

Grandparent-grandchild companionship ranked highest as a valued activity, with 49 mentioning various phases of companionship with grandparents. Such comments as, "I just enjoy being with my grandmother," were mentioned. Fifteen of the subjects mentioned enjoying stories their grandparents would tell of olden times, or of stories about the parents of the subjects when they were young. Just talking with grandparents was enjoyed by some. A

number mentioned the wealth of knowledge and experiences of their grandparents that made them both interesting and enlightening to talk with.

Grandparent and grandchildren visiting either in the grandparent's home or the child's home ranked as second in frequency of mention with 47 comments. Twenty-five enjoyed visiting the grandparent's home, and 13 mentioned visits from grandparents; 6 mentioned going to grandparents for meals or holiday dinners and 3 mentioned grandparents visiting in their home for meals.

In reading the responses concerning grandparents visits it can be noticed that visiting back and forth of grandparents and their grandchildren can be a very desirable and happy experience and has many possibilities for the promotion of good relationship and understanding. Specific conditions mentioned by a number of the subjects were such as: "I always enjoy visits of my grandparents if they don't stay too long," or "I look forward to grandfather's weekly visit on Saturday morning" or "Their yearly visit is a happy time for me." Holiday visits were mentioned, also family dinners. Some of those not having an opportunity to know their grandparents expressed the desire to live near enough to grandparents for occasional visits.

Grandparents doing things for grandchildren came next in frequency of mention with 26 referring to this as a



happy experience. Gifts from grandparents seemed to be enjoyed and appreciated. Nine of the group made specific mention of this. Food, cookies and candy "on hand" for grandchildren was looked forward to by some as a treat they could expect. A number appreciated having their grandparents teach them to cook, sew, and to pray.

TABLE 3

Desirable Relationships with Grandparents

N 150

Type of Relationships	Frequency	
	No.	%
Grandparent-grandchild companionship involving letter writing, story-telling, conversation, etc.	49	32.6
Grandparent-grandchild visits in homes of each	47	31.3
Grandparents doing things for grandchildren	26	17.3
Grandparent and grandchild going places together	20	13.3
Grandparent and grandchild doing things together	19	12.6
Miscellaneous comments	11	7.6
Total	172*	

\*This number is greater than the number of cases because some made more than one response.

Five of the 26 mentioned that their grandparents had done "everything possible" for their grandchildren and they hoped to do the same for their grandchildren.

Twenty of the 150 subjects mentioned enjoying going places with grandparents. Six enjoyed going for walks, 5 enjoyed trips with grandparents; family reunions and toing to church with grandparents were also mentioned.

Nineteen mentioned doing things with grandparents. Playing, reading, making candy, and singing seemed to be enjoyed by a number. Helping grandparents was also mentioned. Among miscellaneous relationships and qualities enjoyed were good religious influence of grandparents and grandparents showing pride in grandchildren.

Grandparent-Grandchild Relationships To Be Avoided:  
Essay question two was stated as follows: "What phases of your relationships with your grandparents were so undesirable that you would not like to repeat them with your grandchildren should you become a grandparent." (Table 4)

Nineteen of the group indicated that their experience with domineering grandparents was such that they did not wish to repeat the relationship with their grandchildren. Interfering in family affairs was the chief phase of domineering mentioned. "Bossiness" and interfering with the disciplining of children were sources of friction. Grandparents expecting too much attention from grandchildren

was also mentioned.

The general opinion seemed to be that grandparents were desirable as companions, but discipline and other family affairs should be left "strictly alone" by grandparents. As one subject said, "Grandparents have had their opportunity to run a household and raise a family - now let their children raise their own families."

Seventeen of the group mentioned grandparents and grandchildren living together as a relationship to be avoided. Thirteen mentioned that grandparents living in sons or daughters' homes is undesirable and some commented that a child living with a grandparent also is undesirable.

One of the subjects stated that she and her brother were still suffering from having their grandmother live in the home because of friction between the grandparent and the girl's father. One said, "There is always tension in our family during grandmother's lengthy visits.."

The subjects having lived with grandparents mentioned more undesirable characteristics than did those who had not lived with grandparents. This does not mean that this group thought less of their grandparents, but that these undesirable characteristics tended to dominate the desirable with daily contact.

We can conclude from the statements given in the previous question and also in this question that occasional



contacts with grandparents are valued highly, but actually living with grandparents may involve complications.

Misunderstandings between grandparent and grandchild were mentioned 12 times. Several mentioned being required to give up something because the grandparent disapproved. Some mentioned that grandparents were "trying" to have around because of mannerisms, disagreement, or poor personality.

Drunkenness, snoring, affected mind and demanding a kiss were listed as sources of irritation to the grandchild.

Disagreement between two grandparents caused undesirable circumstances in some cases, and grandparents speaking another language only caused some difficulties.

Lack of harmony between a parent and grandparent may cause unrest and discontentment in the grandchild, whether it be parent and parent's parent, or parent and in-law's parents. Also lack of harmony between two grandparents may be a source of constant concern for the grandchild.



TABLE 4

Grandparent-Grandchild Relationships To Be Avoided

Type of Relationship	Frequency of Mention	
	No.	%*
Grandparents domineering	19	33.9
Grandparents and grandchildren living together	17	30.3
Grandparents and grandchildren not understanding each other	12	21.4
Grandparents causing embarrassment and irritations	4	7.2
Miscellaneous comments	4	7.2
Total	56	100

\*Percents are of the total number of responses.

Desirable and Undesirable Characteristics Mentioned in Essay Questions: Among the desirable and undesirable relationships listed by the subjects were a number of characteristics. It is interesting to note that 65 desirable characteristics were mentioned as contrasted with 37 undesirable. The characteristics were similar in type to those mentioned in response to essay question 7. (Appendix, Part C includes a classified list of these characteristics, ranked according to frequency.)

Desirable Grandparent-Grandchild Relationships Subjects Regretted They Had Missed: "The subjects were asked to respond to the following question: "What relationships with your grandparents have you missed that you would not want your grandchildren to miss?" Comments indicated that 39 subjects feel they missed much when they did not know their grandparents. Because the grandparents died before the birth of the grandchild, or because of distance between families, or lack of interest either of the parent or grandparent some of the subjects were not able to know all of their grandparents, or in some cases, any of their grandparents.

Seventeen stated that they would like to see their grandparents more often. Some specified that "companionship is important when children are young." Some would like grandparents to live close enough to see them at least once a year; some wanted to be able to spend holidays with grandparents, and some mention having missed family reunions.

Twenty-six miscellaneous comments are included in the list. (Part C in the Appendix summarizes these in more detail.) Among the comments are the following: complete mutual trust between child and grandparent; being able to stay with grandparent all night, or a week; knowing

grandparents on a happy basis; knowing happy grandparents and others.

It seems obvious that young people definitely want to know their grandparents and they want frequent contacts with them on a friendly and happy basis.

TABLE 5

Desirable Grandparent-Grandchild Relationships  
Which the Subjects Missed but Do Not Want Their  
Grandchildren to Miss

Relationship missed	Frequency*	
	No.	%
Grandparents and grandchildren able to know each other.	39	45.8
Grandparents and Grandchildren see each other more often	17	20.0
Family reunions	3	3.6
Miscellaneous relationships	26	30.6
Total	85	100.

\*Percent is figured on total number of responses (85).

Parents' Contribution in Promoting Desirable Grandparent-Grandchild Relationship: Parental influence may be an important factor in establishing good relationships between grandparent and grandchild.



To determine what the subjects feel their parents have done to establish good relationships between grandparent and grandchild the question, "What have your parents done to promote good relationships between their parents and their children?" was asked. A summary of these responses follows.

Parents allowing children to visit grandparents was mentioned most frequently, 9 times, as a means of promoting good relationships. Allowing grandparents to stay with children while parents went out was mentioned seven times. Some indicated that visiting grandparents without the parents going along encouraged good relationships. The feeling that the parents trust the grandparents in relationship between grandparent and grandchild was an influential factor in promoting good relationships.

Six stated that their parents invited the grandparents into the home for short visits on Sundays, or for meals and this tended to promote good relationship.

Parents speaking respectfully of grandparents, and telling the children about their grandparents encouraged good relationships.

Some appreciated the fact that their parents had commanded the respect of grandparents, and had encouraged their children to want to please their grandparents and to be thoughtful of them. Still others felt that the fact



their parents had not demanded or especially encouraged respect, or the doing of things for grandparents or the showing of affection, but had relied totally on the merits of the grandparent to win respect and affection caused a deeper appreciation of the grandparent.

"The fact that my parents enjoy their parents" some commented, "has passed this feeling on to me."

A number of parents had given age as an explanation and reason for overlooking specific characteristics in grandparents.

TABLE 6

Parents' Contribution in Promoting Desirable  
Grandparent-Grandchild Relationship

Relationships Promoted by Parents	Frequency	
	No.	%*
Grandchild allowed to visit grandparent	9	11.7
Grandparent stayed with grandchild while parents went out.	7	9.1
Grandparents invited to grandchild's home for short visits	6	8.1
Parents talked respectfully of grandparents	4	5.1
Parents told children about grandparents	4	5.0
Miscellaneous comments**	47	61.0
Total	77	100.

\*Percents are based on total number of responses (77).

\*\*For detailed list see Appendix, Part C.

Subjects' Attitudes Toward Growing Old: Just how does the college girl feel toward approaching old age? Of interest especially is the reason behind their feeling toward growing old. Do grandparents or other older people influence this feeling? If so, to what extent? With this in mind, the following question was formulated.

"What is your feeling toward growing old. What has influenced you to feel as you do?"

In analyzing the responses to this question, the writer has divided them into 3 parts; those responses that indicate a favorable attitude toward growing old, those responses that indicate an indefinite opinion or neutral opinion, and those attitudes that are unfavorable toward growing old.

Favorable Attitudes Toward Growing Old: Of the group who held a favorable attitude toward growing old (Table 7), 17 stated "I think it will be nice," or "beautiful, fun, pleasant, wonderful, or a great experience. Eleven stated that they would enjoy old age if they could have a full life, rich in joys and sorrows, and a memorable youth. Eight specified that they wanted to be independent both financially and physically. Seven felt that having children and grandchildren would enrich old age. Six felt that they would enjoy old age if they could be like their grandparents. Some said, "I look forward to old age, but

am certainly not waiting for it." Some want to grow old "gracefully."

A number believed that old age can be a rich experience and one can enjoy life as fully as when young, but in a different fashion. "Old age does not mean losing interest in things," as one phrased it. "It is a natural part of living and I don't want to miss any of it." Another said, "There is nothing unpleasant about growing old unless you make it," and "We don't have to grow old in mind, just in body."



TABLE 7

Favorable Attitudes Expressed by Subjects  
Toward Growing Old

Attitudes mentioned by subjects	Frequency	
	No.	%*
Think of old age as nice, beautiful, etc.	17	17.7
Think old age will be enjoyed if preceded by a rich, full life.	13	13.7
Desire financial and physical independence in old age.	8	8.4
Will enjoy the experience of having children and grandchildren in old age.	7	7.4
Hope to be like grandparents	6	6.2
Look forward to old age, but is not waiting for it.	6	6.2
Would like to grow old gracefully.	5	5.2
Thinks life can be enjoyed as fully when one gets older only in a different fashion.	4	4.3
Miscellaneous comments**	31	30.0
Total	97	100.

\*Percentages are based on number of responses.

\*\*Part C in the Appendix lists the various desirable comments toward old age in more detail.



Factors Influencing Favorable Attitudes Toward Growing Old: Table 8 shows that parents and grandparents have influenced the subjects in forming desirable attitudes towards growing old. Observation of other older people has also been an influence. Religion was mentioned by some as being a contributing factor in developing a desirable attitude toward growing old.

TABLE 8

Factors Influencing Subjects Attitudes  
Toward Growing Old

Persons Influencing Attitudes	Frequency	
	No.	%*
Grandparents	7	33.3
Parents	7	33.3
Observation of older people - not grandparents	4	19.0
Relationships with older people in church	2	9.6
Because grandparents were just the opposite	1	4.8
Total	21	100.0

\*Percents are based on total number of responses.

### Neutral Attitudes of Subjects Toward Growing Old:

Of those having a neutral or indefinite attitude toward growing old 19 stated that they did not mind growing old - if - they could be independent, or if they could do it gracefully, or if they could be like their grandparents. Eighteen said "growing old is inevitable." Twelve said, "I don't think about growing old," nine said, "It doesn't bother me in the least," and seven said, "I have no fear of growing old." Other comments were: "I don't care," "I cannot realize I will grow old," and "War has made me want more from youth."

TABLE 9

### Neutral of Indefinite Attitudes of Subjects Toward Growing Old

Attitude	Frequency	
	No.	%*
Don't mind growing old	32	32.8
Growing old is inevitable	18	19.1
Don't think about growing old	12	12.9
Growing old doesn't bother subject	9	9.8
Growing old holds no terror for subject	7	7.5
Miscellaneous comments**	17	17.9
Total	95	100.

\*Percents are based on total number of responses.

\*\*For a more detailed list see Appendix, Part C.

### Negative Attitude of Subjects Toward Growing

Old: Of those having a negative attitude toward growing old, 8 stated, "I don't want to grow old." Six stated that they do not want to live with their children. This again brings out the undesirability of grandparents and grandchildren living together. Five stated that they do not want to be a burden. This reaction has been brought out in a number of other responses. "I do not relish the thought" is the response given by four. "I don't want to be old and ill," "I always notice older people and I wonder if I will be unhappy like many of them are," "I do not wish to become unyielding to progress and change in living," and "The slowing down physically and occasionally forgetting things that comes with old age is rather distressing to the younger generation." (See Appendix, Part C, for more complete details.)

Factors Influencing Negative Attitudes of Subjects Toward Growing Old: The girl whose grandmother is dependent does not want to be dependent when she becomes old. The girl whose grandparents have ill health, or who has observed older people with ill health does not wish to be "old and ill." The girl whose grandparents have lived in her home, or who has lived with her grandparents does not want to live in the same home with her children and grandchildren when she becomes older.



The observation of the subjects grandparents, or of other older people seems to have influenced the subjects' attitudes more than any other one thing. It would seem, therefore, that through example, grandparents have an opportunity to open up to youth, avenues of enjoyment which they can look forward to.

TABLE 10

Unfavorable Attitudes and Conditions  
Concerned with Growing Old

Attitude or Conditions Mentioned by Subjects	Frequency	
	No.	%*
Don't want to grow old.	8	12.9
Don't want to live with my children when I am old.	6	19.4
Don't want to be a burden on someone wither physically or financially.	5	8.1
Don't relish the thought.	4	6.5
Don't want to be old and ill	3	4.9
Don't want to lose youth's freedom	3	4.9
Would rather die young than be an old and helpless person	3	4.9
Miscellaneous comments	30	48.4
Total	62	100.

\*Percents are based on total number of responses.



TABLE 11

Factors Influencing Negative Attitudes  
Of Subjects Toward Growing Old

## Undesirable Attitudes

Influences Mentioned by Subjects	Frequency	
	No.	%*
Don't want to be as dependent as "my" grandmother.	1	20.
Had to develop patience with "my" feeble grandparents.	1	20.
Parents and grandparents have very poor health.	1	20.
Older People observed are unhappy: Seeing homes in which grandparents live and are helpless.	1	20.
The most congenial old people observed do not live harmoniously with children and grandchildren.	1	20.
Total	5	100.

\*Percents are based on total number of responses.

There were 254 responses to the question "What is your attitude toward growing old?" Of the 254 responses 97 were not unfavorable toward growing old, 95 were neutral and 62 were most unfavorable toward growing old.

Since people are living longer, an increasing number will experience old age. It seems desirable therefore to help youth develop attitudes toward each age of life which will not limit their opportunities for good adjustment.

Early Recollections of Grandparents: To determine the experiences that stand out in early relationship, the subjects were asked to mention early recollections and memories of grandparents. A great variety of responses were made. Of the 151 responses, 16 mentioned visiting grandparents, 13 mentioned grandmother's cooking, 12 mentioned grandmother's kindness, 7 mentioned learning from grandparents, 6 mentioned grandparents telling stories, 5 mentioned celebrating holidays together, 5 mentioned gifts from grandparents, 4 mentioned grandparents visiting in child's home, 4 mentioned grandmother's long hair, 3 mentioned grandparent's generosity, 3 grandparent's happiness when together, 3 grandparents teasing me and 3 grandparent's affection and concern about me. In all there were 67 miscellaneous comments.

From these comments it can again be seen that grandparents' visits are outstanding events to the young child. In every case visiting in the grandparent's home seems to be more desirable and outstanding than grandparents visiting in the home of the child. In the question visiting grandparents was mentioned 4 times more often than grandparents visiting the child.

One half of the group that mentioned visiting grandparents specifically referred to visiting for a meal or on a Sunday. Some mentioned going to the country to visit

grandparents, or to another town.

It can be concluded from comments in the various questions that good food, cookies, pies and candy are associated with grandmothers.

Various types of companionships are remembered by the grandchildren. Physical characteristics are remembered also. Grandmother's hair was mentioned here. In another question a "plump" grandmother seemed to be desired by some.

Grandparents pleasant ways, kindness, loving affection, generosity, and happiness as well as other personality characteristics cling in the memory of the child. Grandchildren often remember and appreciate things the grandparents teach them; things such as cooking, sewing, knitting, ironing, poetry, spelling their names and praying.

**Characteristics of an Ideal Grandparent:** In filling out the questionnaire the subjects voluntarily included many admired characteristics as they told about grandparents. Also they were asked especially to list characteristics of the ideal grandparent. This was done to give them an opportunity to think specifically of characteristics. Many of the characteristics listed were those which might be considered acceptable in any companion. A few

pertained more directly to grandparents. Characteristics of an ideal parent also might be very similar except that those of the parent probably would include more characteristics pertaining to discipline and providing for a family.

TABLE 12

Pleasant Early Recollections of Grandparents

N=150

Recollections mentioned by subjects	Frequency	
	No.	%*
Visiting grandparents	16	10.5
Grandmother's cooking	13	8.5
Grandparent's kindness	12	7.9
Learning from grandparents	7	4.6
Grandparents telling stories	6	3.9
Celebrating holidays together	5	3.4
Gifts from grandparents	5	3.4
Grandparent's visits	4	2.7
Grandmother's long hair	4	2.7
Grandparent's generosity	3	2.0
Grandparent's happiness together	3	2.0
Grandparents teasing "me"	3	2.0
Grandparent's affection and concern about "me"	3	2.0
Miscellaneous comments*	67	44.4
Total	151	100.

\*For detailed list see Appendix, Part C.



Characteristics of Grandparents as Rated by the Subjects

Characteristics of Grandparents Rated by the Subjects as Desirable: The largest percent mentioning any one characteristic was 24. The two characteristics mentioned with this frequency were - loving and understanding. Twenty-one and three-tenths percent felt that an ideal grandparent should have definite interests, some mentioned especially that grandparents should have interest in life, and interest in grandchildren. Kindness was a characteristic mentioned by 18.6 percent; happy was mentioned by 15.3 percent and modern was mentioned by 13.3 percent. Ten and six-tenths percent felt that a grandparent should be considerate and thoughtful. (Table 13)

Grandchildren seem to feel that grandparents should be companionable. Companionship was referred to by several of the subjects as being desirable. Of those who had not had grandparents, companionship with them seemed to be missed very much.

Friendliness was mentioned by 8.6 percent and 8 percent mentioned helpfulness as being a desirable characteristic, but several indicated that they felt grandparents should be helpful only when there was a real need for help, and that there is such a thing as being "too helpful." In other words the subjects prefer that grandparents

not force themselves upon grandchildren but wait until their help is sought.

Neatness, cleanliness and personal pride were included in the 7.3 percent who felt that presenting a nice appearance was important.

Six and six-tenths percent felt that grandparents should be tolerant of grandchildren and understanding of changing modern ideas. Six percent mentioned good health as a characteristic to be desired in grandparents; 6 percent felt that a sense of humor was desirable, and 6 percent felt a grandmother should have good food available for grandchildren. Her cookies, pies and other types of food were included as well as expecting grandmother to be a good cook.

Five and three-tenths percent expected grandparents to be generous, 5.3 percent expect grandparents to be jolly and well informed. Some felt that a good education was essential in an ideal grandparent. Since these opinions were expressed by college girls, it might be expected that they would consider an education helpful in promoting companionship.

Ability in story telling was mentioned by 4.6 percent as a desirable grandparent characteristic. This has been mentioned in another question as being valued very much by grandchildren.

Cooperative, enjoy children, pleasant, religious, respectful and tactful were each mentioned by 4 percent. An attitude of approval, fun, gentle, sincere, and someone to confide in was each mentioned by 3.3 percent. Some stated that they liked to tell their grandparents secrets, and others felt that grandparents were interested listeners to personal affairs that others did not have time for, or were not interested in hearing.

Two and six-tenths percent felt that grandparents should be broad-minded, carefree, congenial and hospitable; also that they should expect good conduct of grandchildren. Two and six-tenths percent also thought grandparents should be instructive. Many mentioned that grandparents taught them to knit, sew, and pray. The desirability of leaving advice and discipline to parents was mentioned by 2.6 percent of the subjects.

Two and six-tenths percent felt that grandparents should maintain their own home, and live in it, have a pleasing personality, be sweet and sympathetic.

Appreciative, calm, and unselfish, were mentioned by 3 percent. Many other characteristics were mentioned but once. These also are worthy of consideration because they were frequently mentioned with emphasis and strong feeling. (A detailed list will be found in the Appendix, Part C, Essay question 7 b.)

TABLE 13

Characteristics of Grandparents Which Were  
Considered Desirable by Granddaughters

N =150

Characteristic	Frequency No.	%	Characteristic	Frequency No.	%
Loving	36	24.	Fun	5	3.3
Understanding	36	24.	Gentle	5	3.3
Definite interests in activities and things	31	21.3	Sincere	5	3.3
Kind	28	18.6	Someone to confide in	5	3.3
Happy	23	15.3	Broad-minded	4	2.6
Modern	20	13.3	Carefree	4	2.6
Considerate	16	10.6	Congenial	4	2.6
Cheerful	14	9.3	One who expects good conduct	4	2.6
Companionable	13	8.6	Hospitable	4	2.6
Friendly	13	8.6	Instructive	4	2.6
Helpful	12	8.	Willing to leave advice and disci- pline to parents	4	2.6
Present a nice ap- pearance	11	7.3	Maintain own home	4	2.6
Tolerant	10	6.6	Pleasing personal- ity	4	2.6
Good health	9	6.	Sweet	4	2.6
Sense of humor	9	6.	Sympathetic	4	2.6
Good cook	9	6.			
Generous	8	5.3	Miscellaneous char- acteristics*	56	
Jolly	8	5.3			
Well informed	8	5.3			
A good story teller	7	4.6			
Cooperative	6	4.			
Enjoys children	6	4.			
Pleasant	6	4.			
Religious	6	4.			
Respectful	6	4.			
Tactful	6	4.			
Attitude of appro- val	5	3.3			

\*See Appendix, Part C, essay question 7 b.



Characteristics of Grandparents Rated by the Subjects as Undesirable: Interference in the affairs of the grandchild and parents seemed to be a source of friction more than any other one thing. This was mentioned by 23.3 percent. The subjects seem to feel that a grandparent should "tend to his own business" as several phrased it; giving unasked for advice, entering into disciplining grandchildren were all mentioned as undesirable. (Table 14)

Domineering was mentioned by 21.3 percent as being undesirable in grandparents. Several referred to this characteristic as being "bossy" or "overbearing".

Fourteen and six-tenths percent mentioned selfishness as undesirable in grandparents. This was third in frequency of mention. Five and three-tenths percent mentioned generosity as a desirable characteristic, thereby giving greater emphasis to the dislike for selfishness.

Fourteen percent mentioned gruff, grouchy or cross as being greatly disliked; 9.3 percent mentioned old-fashioned as being disliked. Attention is called to the fact that 13.3 percent mentioned modern as being a desirable trait, however, it should also be noticed that 4 percent mentioned "disgustingly modern" as being very undesirable. It would seem from these comments that the grandchild would prefer that the grandparent strike a medium

between "old fashioned" and "disgustingly modern."

Showing favoritism was mentioned by 8 percent as being undesirable. Showing favoritism either to certain grandchildren, or to one of the children's families as a whole, or to one of the grandparent's children.

Narrow mindedness was disliked by 7.3 percent of the 150 cases while broadmindedness was mentioned by 2.6 percent of the cases as being desirable.

In the group of disliked characteristics nervousness and irritability were mentioned by 6 percent of the cases, 5.3 percent mentioned complaining, 5.3 percent mentioned spoiling and pampering grandchildren, 5.3 percent mentioned self pity, and 5.3 percent mentioned critical and fault finding as being undesirable.

Four and six-tenths percent listed demanding as being undesirable, i.e. demanding of either the parent or grandchild. Four and six-tenths percent also mentioned poor health as being undesirable. Poor health was referred to again and again as being dreaded in old age. Realization of this may encourage grandparents to give more attention to caring for health, and the prevention of illness.

Four percent mentioned jealousy as being greatly disliked in grandparents.

Being dependent was mentioned by 3.3 percent. This factor was also mentioned elsewhere as being a great cause

for concern among young people who are looking forward to old age. Good health and economic independence rank high as desired goals in old age. It would seem therefore, that education which will help attain these goals is important.

Childishness, nagging, strictness, and ignoring were each listed by 3.3 percent. Two and six-tenths percent mentioned living with children and children's families, "nosy", protecting children from punishment and "set in their ways," among the undesirable characteristics of grandparents.

The writer feels that education for grandparenthood is important, and that each characteristic mentioned by the subjects, both desirable and undesirable should receive consideration. In other words, how can we educate people and what experiences should they have in order to develop personalities which will reveal these characteristics that promote desirable relationships? The grandchild's opinion of the grandparent, and his respect and affection are also worth much to the grandparent.

Desirable grandchild characteristics are also important in grandchild-grandparent relationships. A study of these relationships from the grandparent's point of view would be helpful.

TABLE 14

Undesirable Situations and Characteristics  
Of Grandparents as Evaluated by Granddaughters

N = 150

Characteristic mentioned	Frequency	
	No.	%
Interferring with grandchild and parent	35	23.3
Domineering	32	21.3
Selfishness	22	14.6
Gruffness	21	14.
Old fashioned	14	9.3
Show favoritism	12	8.
Narrow minded	11	7.3
Nervous and irritable	9	6.
Complaining	8	5.3
Pampering grandchildren	8	5.3
Self pity	8	5.3
Critical and fault-finding	8	5.3
Demanding	7	4.6
Poor health	7	4.6
"Disgustingly" modern	6	4.
Jealous	6	4.
Dependent	5	3.3
Childish	5	3.3
Nagging	5	3.3
Strict	5	3.3
Ignoring	5	3.3
Live with children and families	4	2.6
"Nosy"	4	2.6
Protect children from punishment	4	2.6
"Set in their ways"	4	2.6
Miscellaneous characteristics*	80	

\*See Appendix



Attitudes of Grandchildren toward Activities with Grand-  
parents

The questions in this section were included with the hope that the responses might indicate the extent to which there are activities which the subjects enjoyed very much with their grandparents, whether they disliked certain activities with grandparents very much or if there are activities which they neither like nor dislike.

In discussing these questions, the terms like and enjoy are used interchangeably.

Several types of activities were listed for students to react to. These included such as going places with grandparents, doing things with grandparents, listening to grandparents stories and opinions, including grandparents in family and social affairs, doing things for grandparents, financial problems involving grandparents, and caring for invalid grandparents.

Several activities were included in each of these groups. It was the writer's hope that the results might give an indication as to whether an entire group of activities was liked or disliked, or whether certain phases or types were liked or disliked. For instance, it was found that including grandparents in family affairs was enjoyed by most of the group, but inviting grandparents to spend a month's vacation in the home of the grandchild

was disliked more than any other phase of family and social affairs.

Attention is called to the fact that some of the activities mentioned may be disliked in themselves by the subject, and not disliked because of the grandparent association.

In Table 15 will be found lists of frequency of mention for these activities with percentages falling in each group. The table indicates the number and percentages having had the experience of engaging in these various activities with grandparents.

For ease in evaluating the results the writer has analyzed these activities by classifying them into groups. The activities are summarized in order of frequency of mention within the group. Percentages of the total number responding are included. (Table 15)

Grandparent-Grandchild Activities Classified According to Type and Evaluated by Granddaughters:

Going Places with Grandparents: Seven questions to which the subjects responded fell in the group "going places with grandparents." Table 15 gives frequencies and percentages.

(1) Going to Church: Going to church with grandparents seemed to be enjoyed most. Of the 67 girls having had this experience 46.2 percent liked very much going to

church with grandparents, 41.8 percent liked doing it and none held an extreme dislike although 4.5 percent did dislike it. Of the 45 not having had experience 55.5 percent felt that they would like very much going to church with grandparents, 26.7 percent felt they would like it and none of them felt that they would dislike or dislike very much going to church with grandparents. This is the only activity in this group in which no girls felt they disliked going with grandparents. In other sections of the study the fact is brought out that many value the religious influence of grandparents. It seems from this study therefore, that college girls look to their grandparents for religious inspiration.

(2) Going on a Trip: Fifty-nine girls had had experience in taking grandparents on a trip. Of the 59, 52.6 percent enjoyed it very much, 22 percent liked it, 5 percent disliked it and 6.7 percent disliked very much taking grandparents on a trip. Of the 46 not having had experience in taking grandparents on a trip 30.4 felt they would like it very much, 30.4 felt they would like it, 6.5 percent would dislike it and 4.4 would dislike it very much.

(3) Attending Movies: Of the 52 who had had experience in attending movies with grandparents 38.6 percent enjoyed it very much, 41 percent enjoyed it, 9.2

percent disliked it and 2 percent disliked it very much. Of those not having had the experience 28.3 felt they would enjoy very much going to movies with parents, 28.3 felt they would enjoy it, 6.5 percent felt they would dislike it and 2.1 percent felt they would dislike it very much.

(4) Going for walks: Sixty-three had gone for walks with grandparents. Of these 42.7 percent liked it very much, 41.3 percent liked it, 3.1 percent disliked walking with grandparents. Fifty-two had not had experience in walking with grandparents. Twenty-five percent felt they would enjoy walking very much, 57.7 percent felt they would enjoy it and 3.9 percent felt they would not enjoy walking with grandparents.

(5) Attending social functions: Of the 57 having had experience in attending social functions with grandparents, 33.4 percent liked it very much, 50.6 percent liked it, 3.6 percent disliked it and 1.8 percent disliked very much attending social functions with grandparents. Of the 46 not having this experience 21.7 percent felt they would enjoy very much attending social functions with grandparents, 32.7 felt they would enjoy it and 6.5 percent felt they would dislike it.

(4) Traveling on a long train trip: Seventeen had had experience in traveling on a long train trip with



grandparents; 52.9 percent of these liked it very much, 17.7 percent liked it, and 11.7 percent disliked it. Sixty-one girls responding had not had the experience; 16.3 percent felt they would enjoy very much traveling on a long train trip with grandparents, 18 percent felt they would like it, 18 percent felt they would dislike it and 13.2 felt they would dislike it very much. There was a larger percentage who felt they would dislike this activity more than any other in this classification.

(5) Going shopping: Going shopping with grandparents seemed to be the least enjoyed activity with grandparents. Of the 34 having had this experience 35.3 percent liked doing it very much, 23.5 liked it, 14.8 percent disliked it and 2.9 percent disliked very much shopping with grandparents. Of the 43 responding who had not had the experience 13.9 percent felt they would enjoy very much going shopping with grandparents; 13.9 percent felt they would enjoy it, 18.7 percent felt they would dislike it and 4.6 felt they would dislike it very much.

It can be concluded that on the whole, the group enjoys going places with grandparents as the highest percentage fall in the first two groups i.e. liking to do it or liking very much to do it.

The writer feels that although the group as a whole tends to follow a definite pattern of response the minority

group should not be disregarded. Of those who tend to deviate from the general responses of the group this difference of opinion can often be traced back to an experience in the subject's own life or to an observation in the lives of others thereby causing her to feel strongly for or against an activity.

Doing Things with Grandparents: The activities in this group drew more neutral responses than most other groups of activities, consequently there were fewer responses which indicated strong likes or dislikes. Refer to Table 15 for detail.

(1) Planning with grandparents a birthday surprise for parents: The experience of planning with grandparents a birthday surprise for parents was reacted to by 89 subjects. Of these 37 had had the experience. Eighty-one and one-tenth percent of them enjoyed it very much; 13.5 percent enjoyed it and 5.4 percent neither liked nor disliked it. Fifty-two had not had the experience. Forty-four and two-tenths of these felt they would enjoy it very much; 23.2 percent felt they would enjoy it; 30.7 percent felt they would neither like nor dislike it and 1.9 percent felt they would dislike it.

(2) Playing games with grandparents: Playing games with grandparents had been experienced by 49 of those reacting. Of the 49, 50.8 percent enjoyed very much

playing games with grandparents, 18.8 enjoyed it, 3.4 percent disliked it and 3.4 percent disliked it very much. Forty-seven percent disliked it and 3.4 disliked it very much. Forty-seven of those responding had not experienced playing games with grandparents, but 29.9 percent felt that if they had an opportunity they would enjoy it very much, 29.9 percent felt they would enjoy it, 8.4 percent felt they would dislike it.

(3) Working indoors: Fifty-three had had experience working indoors with grandparents. Of the 53, 39.6 percent liked it very much, 35.8 percent liked it, 11.4 disliked it and 1.8 percent disliked it very much. Forty-four had not had the experience of working indoors with grandparents. Of these thirty-six percent felt they would enjoy it very much, 22.7 percent felt they would enjoy it, and 4.5 percent felt they would dislike very much working inside with grandparents.

(4) Working out-of-doors: Working out-of-doors with grandparents had been experienced by 38 with 50 percent of the 38 liking very much to work outside with grandparents. Forty-two percent liked it and 2.6 percent disliked it. Fifty-two had not had experience but 25 percent felt they would enjoy the activity very much, 30.8 percent felt they would enjoy it, 1.9 percent felt they would dislike it and 4.5 percent felt they would dislike it very much.



(5) Reading material of interest to both: Reading together material of interest to both grandparent and grandchild fell 4th in the group while reading material of interest to the grandparent only was last on this list or 7th. Of the 31 having had experience in reading material of interest to both 48.4 percent enjoyed it very much, 35.4 percent enjoyed it and 3.3 percent disliked it. Of those reporting not having had the experience 32.2 percent felt they would enjoy it very much, 42.8 percent felt they would enjoy it, and 3.5 percent, they would dislike it. Eighteen had had experience in reading material of interest to the grandparent only. Twenty-two percent enjoyed it very much, 22 percent enjoyed it and 5.6 disliked it. Fifty-nine stated they had not had this experience; 10.2 percent felt they would enjoy it, 22 percent felt they would dislike it and 5 percent felt they would dislike it very much. A high percentage fell in the neutral section.

(6) Developing a hobby: Twenty-three subjects had had experience in developing a hobby with grandparents. Of the 23, 47.8 percent enjoyed it very much, 26 percent enjoyed it, and 4.4 percent dislike it. Of the 55 responding but not having had the experience, 21.8 percent felt they would like it very much, 30.9 percent felt they would like it, 9 percent felt they would not



like it and 5.5 percent felt they would dislike it very much.

(7) Working under supervision of grandparents:

Working under the supervision of grandparents was mentioned few times as being liked very much. It is interesting to note that it was mentioned as being disliked by more than any other activity in the group. Thirty-eight of the group had had experience in working under the supervision of grandparents. Eighteen percent enjoyed very much working under the supervision of grandparents, 34.2 percent enjoyed working with grandparents, 15.8 percent disliked it and 7.9 percent disliked it very much. Of those responding, 51 had not had experience in working under the supervision of grandparents. Eleven percent of these felt they would enjoy very much working under the supervision of grandparents, 9.8 percent felt they would like it, 25.5 percent felt they would dislike it and 9.9 percent felt they would dislike it very much.

One may conclude that this group of activities was not greatly liked or disliked by the girls. The subjects would rather work with grandparents than under their supervision. They would rather do things which are of interest to both than to help or to entertain grandparents.

### Listening to Grandparent's Stories and Opinions:

(1) Listening to grandparents tell stories: As has been brought previously in this study, listening to grandparents tell stories can be placed at the top of the list of most enjoyed activities. (Table 15 gives further details.) Of 127 responding to the question 83 had had experience, 75.9 percent of this 83 liked very much to hear grandparents tell stories, 15.6 percent liked to hear stories and but 1.2 percent disliked hearing grandparents tell stories and 2.4 disliked it very much. The remaining 4.9 percent neither liked nor disliked it. Of the 44 not having had the experience 77.3 percent felt they would like very much hearing grandparents tell stories of past experiences, 11.4 felt they would enjoy it, 4.5 percent felt they would dislike it and 2.3 percent felt they would dislike very much hearing grandparents tell stories of past experiences.

Listening to grandparents opinions is not enjoyed as much as listening to their stories.

(2) Opinions concerning religion: Of the 103 responding to the question on listening to grandparents' opinions concerning religion, 53 had had the experience. Thirty-two percent enjoyed very much hearing grandparents' opinions concerning religion; 18.9 percent enjoyed it, 15 percent disliked it and 5.7 percent disliked it very much.

Fifty had not had this experience. Twenty percent felt they would enjoy it very much, 32 percent felt they would enjoy it, 10 percent would dislike it and 12 percent would dislike it very much. In both those who had had experience and those who had not a little over one-fifth disliked it, about one-half liked it very much and a little over one-fourth neither liked nor disliked it. This would not therefore, be classed as an activity disliked by the subjects.

(3) Opinion concerning politics: Opinions concerning politics are enjoyed less than opinions concerning religion. One hundred three responded to this question with 51 having had the experience. Seventeen and six-tenths percent liked very much hearing grandparents' opinions concerning politics. Twenty-seven and four-tenths percent enjoyed it, 23.6 percent disliked it and 7.8 percent disliked it very much.

Of those not having had the experience 15.3 percent felt they would like very much hearing grandparents' opinions concerning politics, 34.6 percent felt they would enjoy it, 19.3 felt they would dislike it and 9.7 percent felt they would dislike it very much. Over one-fourth disliked hearing grandparents' opinions concerning politics.

As one subject suggested in an essay question, that she did not enjoy hearing opinions repeated over and over



even though they were identical to her own opinions, but to hear them repeated over and over when they were not her opinions was even more disliked.

Seeking Grandparents' Advice: Seeking grandparents' advice concerning dates, selection of friends, selection of clothing and concerning a job seemed to be liked less than most activities. (See Table 15.)

(1) Concerning a job: The best liked within this group was seeking grandparents' advice concerning a job. Seventy-eight responded to this question and of these only 19 had had experience; 26.3 percent enjoyed very much having grandparents' advice when seeking a job, 26.3 enjoyed it, and 26.3 percent neither liked nor disliked it. Twenty-one percent disliked it. Of those not having had the experience 11.8 percent felt they would like it very much, 10.2 percent felt they would like it, 13.5 percent felt they would dislike it and 10.2 percent felt they would like it very much. Fifty-four percent felt they would neither like nor dislike asking grandparents' advice concerning a job.

(2) Concerning selection of friends: Asking grandparents' advice concerning the selection of friends ranked next in frequency of mention. Eighty-four responded to this question with 26 having had the experience. Twenty-three percent enjoyed it very much, 30.1 percent



enjoyed it, 19.3 percent disliked it and 7.7 percent disliked it very much. Of the 58 having had the experience, 6.8 percent indicated they enjoyed very much asking grandparents' advice concerning the selection of friends.

Eighteen and nine-tenths percent felt they would enjoy it, 17.3 percent felt they would dislike it and 12.1 percent felt they would dislike it very much.

(3) Concerning selection of clothing: Ninety-two responded to the question concerned with asking grandparents' advice about the selection of clothing. Thirty-seven of these had had this experience and 16.2 percent enjoyed it very much, 37.8 percent enjoyed it, 8.2 percent disliked it and 10.8 percent disliked it very much. Of the 55 not having had the experience, 3.6 percent felt they would like it very much; 14.6 percent felt they would like it; 21.8 percent felt they would dislike it and 14.6 percent felt they would dislike very much asking grandparents' advice concerning selection of clothing.

(4) Concerning a date: Asking grandparents' advice concerning a date was the activity enjoyed least in this group. Eighty-three responded to the question with 25 having had the experience. Twenty-four percent enjoyed it very much, 44 percent enjoyed it, 8 percent disliked it and 16 percent disliked it very much. Of the 58

not having had the experience 1.7 percent felt they would enjoy very much asking grandparents' advice concerning a date. Twenty-two and four-tenths percent felt they would enjoy it, 20.7 percent felt they would dislike it and 8.7 percent felt they would dislike it very much.

It can be noticed that fewer had had experience in seeking grandparents' advice concerning a date than most other phases of grandparent activities. This may partially account for the fact that fewer enjoyed it. Also it may be a topic on which the subjects feel the grandparents are less qualified to give advice. It has been previously mentioned that in general the subjects would prefer obtaining advice from parents rather than from grandparents.

Including Grandparents in Family and Social Affairs: Going to grandparent's homes for dinner and including grandparents at family dinners were both enjoyed very much by the group. A small percentage preferred going to grandparents' homes for dinner to including grandparents at their family dinners. (Table 15)

(1) Going to grandparents' homes for dinner: Of the 118 responding to the question of going to grandparents' homes for dinner 75 had had the experience, 80 percent liked very much going to grandparents' homes for dinner, 18.6 percent enjoyed it and 1.4 percent disliked

it. Of those not having had the experience (43) 48.8 percent thought they would enjoy it very much, 41.8 percent felt they would enjoy it, and 9.4 percent felt they would neither like nor dislike going to their grandparents for dinner.

(2) Including grandparents at family dinners:

One hundred twenty-four responded to the statement concerned with including grandparents at family dinners. Seventy-seven of these had had experience and 74 percent of the group enjoyed it very much, 19.5 percent enjoyed it and 6.5 percent neither liked nor disliked it. Forty-seven who responded had not had the experience. Fifty-one percent of these thought they would like very much including grandparents at family dinners, 34.2 percent thought they would like it and 14.8 percent believed they would neither like nor dislike this activity. None felt they would dislike including grandparents at family dinners.

(3) Including grandparents on family picnics:

Including grandparents on family picnics was enjoyed by a large number - about 10 percent less were in the group enjoying this activity very much than of those enjoying including grandparents at family dinners. However there were none who disliked including grandparents on family picnics.

Of the 112 responding to this question 66 had had experience in having grandparents at picnics; 63.6 percent

of the 66 enjoyed the activity very much, 31.9 percent enjoyed it, and 4.5 percent neither liked nor disliked it. Forty-six had not had experience in having grandparents at picnics. Of these 54.4 percent felt they would enjoy including grandparents on family picnics very much, 32.6 percent would enjoy it and 13 percent would neither like nor dislike the activity.

(4) Inviting friends to meet grandparents: Inviting friends to meet grandparents was next in frequency when ranked according to enjoyment, with more falling in the neutral group than were in the neutral group for the three situations just discussed. This is especially true of those not having had the experience. One hundred five responded to this question with 51 having had the experience. Sixty-two and seven-tenths percent liked to invite their friends to meet their grandparents very much; 33.4 percent liked it and 3.9 percent neither liked nor disliked it. Of the 54 responding who had not had experience, 27.7 percent felt they would enjoy very much inviting friends to meet grandparents; 35.2 percent felt they would enjoy it; 25.9 percent felt they would neither like nor dislike the activity; 9.3 percent felt they would dislike the activity and 1.9 percent felt they would dislike very much inviting their friends to meet their grandparents.



(5) Including grandparents and friends at the same dinner: A slightly smaller percent felt they would enjoy including grandparents and friends at the same dinner, with more disliking including grandparents and friends at the same dinner than inviting friends to meet grandparents. Whether table manners could have influenced the responses to this statement is a question. Of the 104 responding to this question 60 had had experience. Fifty-five percent of these enjoyed very much including both grandparents and friends at the same dinner; 30 percent enjoyed it; 3.3 percent disliked it and 3.3 percent disliked it very much. Forty-four had not had the experience; 29.5 percent felt they would enjoy it very much; 38.7 percent felt they would enjoy it, 11.3 percent would dislike it.

(6) Including grandparents in family group discussions was rated by 95 subjects. Forty-seven had had this experience with 57.4 percent of these enjoying it very much, 27.7 percent enjoying it and 2.1 percent disliking it. Forty-eight had not had the experience. Of these 35.5 percent felt they would enjoy very much including grandparents in family group discussions, 35.5 percent felt they would enjoy it, 8.3 percent felt they would dislike it and 2 percent felt they would dislike it very much.

(7) Taking grandparents to hotel, or restaurant to eat: Ninety-two reacted to the situation of taking grandparents to a hotel or restaurant to eat. Forty-two had had the experience and 59.5 percent enjoyed it very much; 35.7 enjoyed it and 2.4 percent disliked it. Fifty had not had the experience but 32 percent felt they would enjoy very much taking grandparents to a hotel or restaurant to eat, 32 percent felt they would enjoy it very much and 6 percent disliked doing it.

(8) Inviting grandparents to spend a month's vacation in grandchild's home: Least enjoyed in this list of including grandparents in family and social affairs was: "Inviting grandparents to spend a month's vacation in your home." Of the 91 responding to this question 43 had had the experience. Forty-six and five-tenths percent of these enjoyed it very much; 30.2 percent enjoyed it; 2.3 percent disliked it and 11.6 percent disliked it very much. Forty-eight had not had the experience but 27 percent felt they would enjoy it very much; 31.3 percent felt they would dislike it and 4.2 percent felt they would dislike it very much. These figures again bear out the feeling given all through the study that grandparents' companionship is valued very much by the grandchild, but long visits and too frequent contact tend to emphasize the undesirable points.

Doing Things for Grandparents: This group of activities was generally enjoyed by the subjects. (See Table 15 for frequency and percentage.)

(1) Giving grandparents birthday and Christmas gifts: One hundred twenty-one reacted to the activity, "giving grandparents birthday and Christmas gifts," 97 percent of those having had the experience enjoyed it very much and 3 percent enjoyed it. Of the 53 not having had the experience 62.2 percent felt they would enjoy it very much; 32 percent felt they would enjoy it, and 5.6 percent felt they would neither like nor dislike it.

(2) Planning birthday surprise for grandparent: One hundred twenty-four reacted to the activity: "planning birthday surprise for grandparent." Forty-eight had had the experience. Of these 85.4 percent enjoyed it very much, and 14.6 percent enjoyed it. Seventy-six responding had not had the experience; 73.6 percent of these felt they would enjoy it very much; 14.5 percent felt they would enjoy it, 10.5 percent felt they would neither like nor dislike it and 1.4 percent felt they would dislike planning a birthday surprise for their grandparents.

(3) Running errands for grandparents: Of the 109 responding to the statement concerning running errands for grandparents, 63 had had the experience. Of these

31.7 percent enjoyed it very much, 42.9 percent enjoyed it, 22.2 percent neither liked nor disliked it and 1.6 percent disliked it and 1.6 percent disliked it very much. Forty-six had not had the experience of running errands for grandparents. Twenty-three and nine-tenths of these felt they would enjoy it very much; 41.3 percent felt they would enjoy it, 32.6 percent felt they would neither like nor dislike it especially, and 2.7 percent felt they would dislike running errands for grandparents.

Generally speaking, the grandchild seems to enjoy doing things for grandparents. In no activity studied were there more than 2 cases where the grandchild disliked doing things for the grandparent. The writer believes that from statements made by the subjects if the grandparent does not demand these attentions, does not overdo the asking of favors, and makes requests in a pleasant way, the grandchild enjoys giving the grandparent these attentions.

Financial Problems Involving Grandparents: Including grandparents in financial problems was the most disliked of any group of activities. Several of the subjects made marginal notes to the effect that grandparents should be financially independent and that grandparents should not interfere or express opinions concerning family



finance. As one girl said, "My grandmother leaves financial problems up to my parents, as it is their money to spend." This same trend of feeling was found in the subjects' desire to borrow money from grandparents.

(1) Giving grandparents equal voice in family financial problems: Sixty-five indicated their willingness to "give grandparents an equal voice in family financial problems." Eleven had had the experience and of these, 36.5 percent enjoyed it very much, 36.5 percent enjoyed it and 9 percent disliked it and 9 percent disliked it very much. Fifty-four had not had experience. Of these, 3.7 percent felt they would enjoy it very much, 14.9 percent felt they would enjoy it and 31.5 percent felt they would dislike it and 12.9 percent felt they would dislike very much giving grandparents equal voice in family financial problems.

(2) Giving family money to support of a grandparent: Seventy-two responded to the question concerned with giving family money for the support of a grandparent. Only 16 had had this experience. Of these 31.2 percent liked very much doing this, 31.3 percent liked it and 37.5 percent neither liked nor disliked it. Fifty-six had not had the experience. Twelve and five-tenths of these felt they would like this very much; 28.5 percent

felt they would like it, 50 percent felt they would neither like nor dislike doing it and 15.2 felt they would dislike it and 13.1 felt they would dislike very much giving family money for the support of a grandparent.

It is possible that some of those disliking the thought of giving family money for the support of grandparents believed that it would mean they would have less for themselves. It is possible also that they may come from families that feel more economic pressure.

(3) Accepting money as a gift from grandparents: Accepting money as a gift from grandparents was reacted to by 97 subjects. Fifty-one had had this experience. Twenty-one and five-tenths percent enjoyed it very much; 33.3 percent enjoyed it; 11.8 percent disliked it and 3.9 percent disliked it very much. Of the 46 not having had the experience 2.2 percent felt they would enjoy it very much; 17.3 percent felt they would enjoy it, and 15.2 percent felt they would dislike it and 13.1 felt they would dislike accepting money as a gift from grandparents.

It is interesting to note that a high percentage enjoyed receiving gifts from grandparents, but less than half of those responding when asked specifically liked receiving money as gifts from grandparents. Gifts other than money seem to be more appreciated by granddaughters.

(4) Asking grandparents for money: Seventy reacted to "asking grandparents for money." Ten of these had had this experience. Two, or 20 percent liked doing it, 20 percent neither liked nor disliked it, 20 percent disliked it and 40 percent disliked it very much. Sixty had not had the experience. Only one of these felt she would enjoy it very much, 21.7 percent felt they would neither like nor dislike it, 20 percent felt they would dislike it and 56.8 percent felt they would dislike it very much.

(5) Borrowing \$100 or less from grandparents: Five had had experience in borrowing \$100 or less from their grandparents. One of these liked it, one disliked it and 3 disliked it very much. Sixty-one responding had not had the experience. Eleven and five-tenths percent of these felt they would neither like nor dislike it, 22.9 percent felt they would dislike it and 65.6 percent felt they would dislike very much borrowing \$100 or less from grandparents.

(6) Borrowing \$100 or more from grandparents: The entire 67 responding to the statement "borrow \$100 or over from grandparents. Eight and nine-tenths percent felt they would neither like nor dislike it, 19.4 percent felt they would dislike very much borrowing over \$100 from grandparents.

### Experiences with Invalid Grandparents:

(1) Visiting invalid grandparents: Fifteen had had experiences in visiting invalid grandparents. Fifty-three percent of these enjoyed it very much, 20 percent enjoyed it and 26.7 percent neither liked nor disliked it. Sixty-three who responded had not had the experience. Nineteen percent of these felt they would enjoy it very much, 42.8 percent felt they would enjoy it, 36.6 percent felt they would neither like nor dislike visiting invalid grandparents and 1.6 percent felt they would dislike it. (Table 15)

(2) Reading to invalid grandparents: Fifteen had also had experience in reading to invalid grandparents. Forty-six and six-tenths percent enjoyed it very much, 40 percent enjoyed it and 13.4 percent felt they neither liked nor disliked reading to invalid grandparents. Fifty-nine of those responding had not had experience in reading to invalid grandparents. Eighteen and six-tenths percent felt they would enjoy it very much, 27.6 percent felt they would enjoy it, 49 percent felt they would neither like nor dislike it, 33 percent felt they would dislike it and 1.5 percent felt they would dislike very much, reading to invalid grandparents.

(3) Running errands for invalid grandparents: Fifteen had had experience in running errands for invalid



grandparents. Forty percent of these enjoyed it very much, 33.3 percent enjoyed it and 26.7 percent neither liked nor disliked it. Sixty had not had experience. Of these 11.6 percent felt they would enjoy it very much, 45 percent felt they would enjoy it and 43.4 percent felt they would neither like nor dislike running errands for invalid grandparents.

(4) Spending parts of each day with invalid grandparents: Seventy-six responded to the question which was concerned with spending parts of each day with ill grandparents. Twenty-one had had experience. Of these one-third enjoyed it very much and over one third enjoyed it; about one-fifth neither liked nor disliked it, about one-twentieth disliked it and one-twentieth disliked it very much. Of the 55 not having had the experience, 1.8 percent felt they would enjoy very much spending parts of each day with invalid grandparents, 38.2 percent felt they would enjoy it, 54.5 percent felt they would neither like nor dislike it, and 5.5 percent felt they would dislike it.

(5) Staying home from social function to care for invalid grandparent: Twenty-two had had experience in staying home from a social function to care for invalid grandparents. Twenty-two and seven-tenths percent enjoyed it very much, fifty percent enjoyed it, and 27.3 percent

neither liked nor disliked it. Fifty-seven had not had the experience. Of these, 3.5 percent felt they would enjoy it very much, 12.3 percent would enjoy it, 54.5 percent would neither like nor dislike it, 10.5 percent would dislike it and 5.2 percent would dislike very much staying home from a social function to care for an invalid grandparent.

(6) Caring for invalid grandparents: Of the 14 having had experience in caring for invalid grandparents, 42 or 9 percent enjoyed it very much, 14.3 percent enjoyed it, 21.4 percent neither liked nor disliked it, 14.3 percent disliked it and 7.1 percent disliked it very much. Fifty-eight had not had this experience; 1.7 percent thought they would like it very much, 31 percent thought they would like it, 56.9 percent felt they would neither like nor dislike it, 8.7 percent would dislike it and 1.7 percent would dislike very much helping in the care of invalid grandparents.

Even though the grandchild has frequently stated the desire to be physically independent in old age, she enjoys helping the invalid grandparent. The subjects seemed more willing to be of help to the invalid grandparent than to the grandparent in good health. Sympathy for the helpless and a need for help might enter into this.

In most cases, those who have had definite experiences

with their grandparents rated their enjoyment of the activity much higher than did those who had not had the experience. The latter group based their evaluation on how they think they would feel.

A Summary of Previously Mentioned Activities Classified According to those Most Liked and Most Disliked by Granddaughters: As a matter of interest the writer has listed those activities with grandparents most enjoyed and those most disliked by granddaughters.

Activities Most Enjoyed by Granddaughters: The activity listed most frequently in the first classification "I enjoy doing this very much" was giving gifts to grandparents. Of the 121 responding to this question, 68 had had experience with this activity; 66 enjoyed very much giving grandparents gifts. Fifty-three of the 121 had not had experience with this activity. Thirty of the 51 believed if it would be possible to do so, they would like very much to give gifts to their grandparents.

Ninety-seven of the 124 responding enjoyed very much planning birthday surprises for grandparents. Of the 97, 41 had had the experience and 56 had not. One hundred twenty-seven responded to the question of grandparents telling stories of past experiences. Of the 127, 97 liked very much to hear grandparents tell stories of past



experiences; 63 of these had had experience in hearing their grandparents tell stories. This would indicate that the majority enjoyed hearing stories the grandparents tell. Two stated that they greatly disliked hearing grandparents tell stories of past experiences. Several mentioned that they did not like to hear the grandparent set the "good old days" up as an example for present living, or that they did not enjoy hearing constant reference to the grandparent's youth, or how grandparents raised their children. They did enjoy especially hearing grandparents tell stories about the parents of the subjects.

One hundred twenty-four responded to the question concerned with including grandparents at family dinners. Of the 124, 81 said they enjoyed very much including their grandparents at family dinners. Fifty-seven had had experience. One hundred eighteen responded to the question concerning going to grandparent's home for dinner. Eighty-one of these liked very much going to their grandparent's home for dinner and 60 of the 81 had had this experience.

The above are the five most enjoyed activities of those listed in the group of questions. By reference to Table 15 the frequency for other activities may be noted.

#### Activities Most Disliked by Granddaughters:

The most disliked activity was borrowing more than \$100



from grandparents; 48 of the 67 responding to the question disliked this practice very much although none of this group had had the experience. Of the 66 who responded to the question of borrowing \$100 or less from grandparents 43 disliked this practice very much; 3 had had experience. Thirty-eight of the 70 responding to the question which concerned asking grandparents for money disliked this practice very much; 4 had had this experience. It would seem therefore that grandchildren prefer not to call upon grandparents for financial help, either in small or large amounts.

Twelve of the 92 responses to the question of receiving their grandparents' advice concerning the selection of clothing stated that they disliked very much hearing the grandparent's opinion on this topic. Four of these had had this experience.

Table 15

Granddaughters' Attitudes toward  
Participating in Activities with Grandparents  
follows on next seven pages

# Granddaughters' Attitudes toward Participating in Activities with Grandparents

Code used to rate degree of like or dislike:

- a. Like doing this very much
- b. Like doing this
- c. Neither like nor dislike doing this
- d. Don't care about doing this
- e. Greatly dislike doing this

## Granddaughter-Grandparent Participation in Activities Classified According to Experience

	<u>a</u>		<u>b</u>		<u>c</u>		<u>d</u>		<u>e</u>		<u>Tot.</u>
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	
Going places with grandparents:											
Going to movies:											
Had experience	20	38.6	21	41.0	5	9.2	5	9.2	1	2.0	52
No experience	13	28.3	13	28.3	16	34.8	3	6.5	1	2.1	46
Going for walk:											
Had experience	27	42.7	26	41.3	8	12.7	2	3.1			63
No experience	13	25.0	30	57.7	7	13.4	2	3.9			52
Going to church:											
Had experience	31	46.2	28	41.8	5	7.5	3	4.5			67
No experience	25	55.5	12	26.7	8	17.8					45
Attending social functions:											
Had experience	19	33.4	29	50.6	6	10.6	2	3.6	1	1.8	57
No experience	10	21.7	15	32.7	18	39.1	3	6.5			46
Going shopping:											
Had experience	12	35.3	8	23.5	8	23.5	5	14.8	1	2.9	34
No experience	6	13.9	6	13.9	21	48.9	8	18.7	2	4.6	43
Go on a trip:											
Had experience	31	52.6	13	22.0	8	13.6	3	5.0	4	6.7	59
No experience	14	30.4	14	30.4	13	28.3	3	6.5	2	4.4	46
Travel on long train trip:											
Had experience	9	52.9	3	17.7	3	17.7	2	11.7			17
No experience	10	16.3	11	18.0	21	34.5	11	18.0	8	13.2	61

TABLE 15 (cont.)

Granddaughter-Grandparent Participation in Selected Activities Classified According to Experience Degree of like or dislike											
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Tot.</u>
Planning with grandparent a birth-day surprise for parents:											
Had experience	30	81.1	5	13.5	2	5.4					37
No experience	23	44.2	12	23.2	16	30.7	1	1.9			52
Playing games:											
Had experience	30	50.8	17	28.8	8	13.6	2	3.4	2	3.4	49
No experience	14	29.9	14	29.9	15	31.8	4	8.4			47
Developing a hobby:											
Had experience	11	47.8	6	26.0	5	21.8	1	4.4			23
No experience	12	21.8	17	30.9	18	32.8	5	9.0	3	5.5	55
Reading material of interest to grandparent only:											
Had experience	4	22.2	4	22.2	9	50.0	1	5.6			18
No experience	6	10.2	12	20.4	25	42.4	13	22.0	3	5.0	59
Reading together material of interest to both											
Had experience	15	48.4	11	35.4	4	12.9	1	3.3			31
No experience	15	48.4	11	35.4	4	12.9	1	3.3			31
No experience	18	32.2	24	42.8	12	21.5	2	3.5			56
Working with grandparent inside:											
Had experience	21	39.6	19	35.8	6	11.4	6	11.4	1	1.8	53
No experience	16	36.4	10	22.7	16	36.4			2	4.5	44
Working with grandparents outside:											
Had experience	19	50.0	16	42.2	2	5.2	1	2.6			38
No experience	13	25.0	16	30.8	18	34.6	1	1.9	4	7.7	52
Working under supervision of g.p:											
Had experience	7	18.4	13	34.2	9	23.7	6	15.8	3	7.9	38
No experience	6	11.7	5	9.8	22	43.2	13	25.5	5	9.8	51



TABLE 15 (cont.)

Granddaughter-Grandparent Participation in Selected Activities Classified According to Experience											
Degree of like or dislike											
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Tot.
Listening to grandparents stories and opinions:											
Tell stories of past experience:											
Had experience	63	75.9	13	15.6	4	4.9	1	1.2	2	2.4	83
No experience	34	77.3	5	11.4	2	4.5	2	4.5	1	2.3	44
Opinion on politics:											
Had experience	7	17.6	14	27.4	12	23.6	12	23.6	4	7.8	51
No experience	8	15.3	18	34.6	11	21.1	10	19.3	5	9.7	52
Opinion concerning religion:											
Had experience	17	32.0	10	18.7	15	28.4	8	15.0	3	5.7	53
No experience	10	20.0	16	32.0	13	26.0	5	10.0	6	12.0	50
Seeking grandparents' advice:											
A date:											
Had experience	6	24.0	11	44.0	2	8.0	2	8.0	4	16.0	25
No experience	1	1.7	13	22.4	27	46.5	12	20.7	5	8.7	58
Selection of friends:											
Had experience	6	23.0	8	30.7	5	19.3	5	19.3	2	7.7	26
No experience	4	6.8	11	18.9	26	44.9	10	17.3	7	12.1	58
Selection of clothing:											
Had experience	6	16.2	14	37.8	10	27.0	3	8.2	4	10.8	37
No experience	2	3.6	8	14.6	25	45.4	12	21.8	8	14.6	55
A job:											
Had experience	5	26.3	5	26.3	5	26.3	4	21.1			19
No experience	7	11.8	6	10.2	32	54.3	8	13.5	6	10.2	59

TABLE 15 (cont.)

Granddaughter-Grandparent Participation in Selected Activities Classified According to Experience Degree of like or dislike											
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Tot.</u>
Including grandparents in family and social affairs:											
Inviting friends to meet grand- parents:											
Had experience	32	62.7	17	33.4	2	3.9					51
No experience	15	27.1	19	35.2	14	25.9	5	9.3	1	1.9	54
Including grandparents at fam- ily picnics:											
Had experience	42	63.6	21	31.9	3	4.5					66
No experience	25	54.4	15	32.6	6	13.0					46
Including grandparents at fam- illy dinners:											
Had experience	57	74.0	15	19.5	5	6.5					77
No experience	24	51.0	16	34.2	7	14.8					47
Including grandparents and friends at same dinner:											
Had experience	33	55.0	18	30.0	5	8.4	2	3.3	2	3.3	60
No experience	13	29.5	17	38.7	9	20.5	5	11.3			44
Taking grandparents to a hotel or restaurant to dinner:											
Had experience	25	59.5	15	35.7	1	2.4			1	2.4	42
No experience	16	32.0	16	32.0	15	30.0	3	6.0			50
Going to grandparents' home for dinner:											
Had experience	60	80.0	14	18.6			1	1.4			75
No experience	21	48.8	18	41.8	4	9.4					43

TABLE 15 (cont.)

Granddaughter-Grandparent Participation in Selected Activities Classified According to Experience											
Degree of like or dislike											
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Tot.</u>
Giving family money for support of grandparent:											
Had experience	5	31.2	5	31.3	6	37.5					16
No experience	7	12.5	16	38.5	38	50.0	3	5.4	2	3.6	56
Accepting money as a gift from grandparent:											
Had experience	11	21.5	17	33.3	15	29.5	6	11.8	2	3.9	51
No experience	1	2.2	8	17.3	24	52.2	7	15.2	6	13.1	46
Asking grandparents for money:											
Had experience			2	20.0	2	20.0	2	20.0	4	40.0	10
No experience	1	1.5			13	21.7	12	20.0	34	56.8	60
Borrow \$100 or less from grand- parents:											
Had experience			1	20.0			1	20.0	3	60.0	5
No experience					7	11.5	14	22.9	40	65.6	61
Borrow over \$100 from grandpar:											
Had experience											
No experience					6	8.9	13	19.4	48	71.7	67
Experiences with Invalid Grandparents:											
Staying home from a social func- tion to care for ill grandp:											
Had experience	5	22.7	11	50.0	6	27.3					22
No experience	2	3.5	7	12.3	39	68.5	6	10.5	3	5.2	57
Spending parts of each day with ill grandparent:											
Had experience	7	33.3	8	38.0	4	19.1	1	14.8	1	4.8	21
No experience	1	1.8	21	38.2	30	54.5	3	5.5			55

TABLE 15 (cont.)

Granddaughter-Grandparent Participation in Selected Activities Classified According to Experience Degree of like or dislike											
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Tot.</u>
Inc. grandparents in family group discussions:											
Had experience	27	57.4	13	27.7	6	12.8			1	2.1	47
No experience	17	35.5	17	35.5	9	18.7	4	8.13	1	2.0	48
Inviting grandparent to spend a month's vacation in your home:											
Had experience	20	45.5	13	30.2	4	9.4	1	2.3	5	11.6	43
No experience	13	27.0	15	31.3	11	22.9	7	14.6	2	4.2	48
Doing things for grandparents:											
Giving grandparents birthday and Christmas gifts:											
Had experience	66	97.0	2	3.0							68
No experience	33	62.2	17	32.0	3	5.6					53
Planning birthday surprise for grandparent											
Had experience	41	85.4	7	14.6							48
No experience	56	73.6	11	14.5	8	10.5	1	1.4			76
Running errands for grandpar.											
Had experience	20	31.7	27	42.9	14	22.2	1	1.6	1	1.6	63
No experience	11	23.9	19	41.3	15	32.6	1	2.2			46
Financial problems involving grandparents:											
Giving grandparents equal voice in family financial prob:											
Had experience	4	36.5	4	36.5	1	9.0	1	9.0	1	9.0	11
No experience	2	3.7	8	14.9	20	37.0	17	31.5	7	12.9	54



TABLE 15 (cont.)

Granddaughter-Grandparent Participation in Selected Activities Classified According to Experience Degree of like or dislike											
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Tot.</u>
Helping in care of invalid grandparent:											
Had experience	6	42.9	2	14.3	3	21.4	2	14.3	1	7.1	14
No experience	1	1.7	18	31.0	33	56.9	5	8.7	1	1.7	58
Running errands for invalid grandparent:											
Had experience	6	40.0	5	33.3	4	26.7					15
No experience	7	11.6	27	45.0	26	43.4					60
Reading to invalid grandparent:											
Had experience	7	46.6	6	40.0	2	13.4					15
No experience	11	18.6	16	27.6	29	49.0	2	3.3	1	1.5	59
Visiting invalid grandparents:											
Had experience	8	53.3	3	20.0	4	26.7					15
No experience	12	19.0	27	42.8	23	36.6	1	1.6			63

Methods of Dealing with Controversial Issues which In-  
volve Granddaughter-Grandparent Relationships:

Due to difference in generations, there is a great chance for difference of opinion between grandparents and grandchildren; for example, opinions concerning style of clothing, hours the grandchild keeps, and many others may arise. Realizing that parental influence may be important in the settlement of these issues a list of possible solutions was included in the questionnaire and the subjects were given an opportunity to indicate whether in their opinion the parent or grandchild should react in certain ways, whether they should both comply or whether neither should comply. The subjects were also asked to indicate whether or not they had had experience with the different reactions. Also an opportunity was given for listing of any other solutions in suggestions the subject cared to make. The statements were not listed in special order. This was done to avoid any possible influence which might carry over from one statement to another. (Refer to Table 16.)

Say Nothing About the Situation: The most frequently approved method of dealing with controversial issues was "Say nothing about the situation," should these controversial issues arise. This reaction was endorsed 70 times with 39 having had experience with the situation and 31 not

having had the experience. Five and one-tenth percent of the 39 had had the experience but did not recommend this solution. Forty-eight and seven-tenths felt the grandchild should say nothing, 25.6 percent felt the parent should say nothing and 20.6 percent felt both the parent and grandchild should say nothing.

Recognize Reasons for the Way Grandparents Feel and Show Consideration and Respect: The following method of approach: "Recognizing the reason for the way the grandparents feel and show as much consideration and respect as possible," ranked second in total frequencies with 69 responses. Thirty-six of the 69 had had experience and 33 had had no experience using this type of reaction. Fifty-two and seven-tenths, however, felt the grandchild should react in this way, 19.5 percent felt the parent should react in this way and 27.8 percent felt they should both recognize the reason for the way the grandparent feels and show as much consideration and respect as possible. Thirty-nine and four-tenths percent of those not having had this experience with this method felt the grandchild should respond in this way, 9 percent felt the parent should and 51.9 percent felt both parent and grandchild should practice this in making their response.

After Discussing the Situation Avoid Bringing the Matter Up Again: Sixty-one indicated that it would be

well, after discussing with the grandparent, reasons for the grandchild's point of view to avoid bringing up the matter again. Thirty-three had had experience in using this method and 28 who responded had not. Of the 33, 6 percent did not recommend this method, 57.5 percent felt the grandchild should avoid bringing the matter up again, 3.2 percent felt the parent should do likewise, and 33.3 percent felt both parent and grandchild should follow this method. Of those not having had the experience 50 percent felt the grandchild should avoid bringing the matter up again, 17.8 percent felt the parent should do likewise and 32.2 percent felt they both should use this method.

Listen to Grandparents but Make No Comments: Sixty felt that it is desirable to listen to the grandparents if they continue to discuss the matter, but make no comment. Thirty-four of the 60 had experienced this reaction and 26 had not. Eleven and seven-tenths percent had had experience but felt this reaction was not to be recommended. Sixty-seven and seven-tenths felt that listening to the grandparents, but making no comment should be the grandchild's response. None of them felt the parents alone should react in this way, but 20.6 percent felt that both parent and grandchild should react in this way. Of those



not having the experience, 69.2 percent felt the grandchild should listen to the grandparent if they continue to discuss the matter, but make no comment; 15.4 percent felt this should be the parent's reaction and 15.4 percent felt the parent and grandchild both should react in this way.

Take Plenty of Time to Discuss the Situation with the Grandparents: The method "Take plenty of time to discuss the situation with the grandparents to help them understand conditions" was endorsed by 57 subjects. Thirty-two of the 57 had had experience doing this and 26 had not. Three and one-tenth percent had tried this method but did not recommend it, 43.7 percent recommended it for the grandchild, 15.6 percent for the parent and 37.6 percent for both grandparent and grandchild. Of those not having the experience 30.8 percent recommended it for the grandchild, 26.9 percent for the parent and 42.3 percent for both.

Tell Grandparents that Times Have Changed: Fifty-six felt that "telling the grandparents as tactfully as possible that times have changed since they were young" would be an acceptable method. Thirty-four had had this experience. Two and nine-tenths percent of the 34 did not recommend the method after having had experience with it and 61.7 percent recommended it for the grandchild, 14.8 percent recommended it for both the grandchild and the parent,

and 20.6 percent for both the parent and grandparent. Thirty-one and eight-tenths percent of those not having had experience with this method would recommend that the grandchild tell the grandparents as tactfully as possible that times have changed since they were young. Thirty-six and four-tenths percent felt the parents should do this and 31.8 percent felt that both parent and grandchild should.

Avoid Discussing with Grandparents: "Avoid discussing with grandparent" was reacted to by 47. Twenty-four of these had had experience in doing this. It is interesting to note that twelve and four-tenths percent of these 24 did not recommend this method, 54.2 percent recommended it for the grandchild, 16.7 percent for the parent and 16.7 percent for both parent and grandchild. Of the 23 not having avoided discussing the matter with grandparents, 52.2 percent recommended this method for the grandchild, 26 percent for the parent and 21.8 percent for both parent and grandchild.

Offset Differences in Opinion by Developing Close Relationship in Other Matters: Forty-four felt that trying to offset differences in opinion by developing close relationships with grandparents in matters that they did agree upon would be a solution, when controversial matters arise. Twenty-one of the 44 had had experience with this method

and 4.8 percent of these did not recommend it, 42.8 percent recommended it for the grandchild, 9.6 percent recommended it for both grandchild and parent. Twenty-three had not had experience with this method. Of these 47.8 percent recommended this for the grandchild, 8.6 percent recommended it for the parent and 43.6 percent recommended it for both the grandchild and parent.

Give Grandparents Books or Articles to Read to Bring Them Up to Date: Giving the grandparents books or articles to read that will bring them "up to date" was reacted to by 41. Of these 14 had had experience with this method. Seven and four-tenths did not recommend it while 42.8 percent recommended it for the grandchild, 28.4 percent for the parent and 21.4 percent for both. Twenty-seven had not had experience in giving the grandparent books or articles to bring them up to date. Forty and eight-tenths of these who reacted felt the grandchild should do this, 25.8 percent felt the parent should do this and 33.4 percent felt they both should. (Table 16)

Compromise with Grandparents: "Meet the grandparents halfway and compromise in the situation was reacted to by 40. Eighteen of these had had experience with this method whereas 11.1 percent of the 18 did not recommend it. Fifty-five and five-tenths recommended it for the grandchild; 16.7 percent recommended it for the parent and 16.7 percent

for both parent and grandchild. Of the 22 not having had experience 63.6 percent recommended that the grandchild should compromise, 13.6 percent felt the parent should and 22.8 percent felt they both should.

**Tell Grandparents Only Part of the Situation:** Thirty-seven reacted to the method of telling the grandparent only part of the situation to avoid conflict. Of the 37, 23 subjects had had experience and 4.3 percent of these did not recommend this as a solution, 43.6 percent recommended it for the grandchild, 8.6 percent for parents and 43.5 percent for both. Of the 14 responding but not having experience 35.7 percent recommended that the grandchild tell the grandparent only part of the situation, 42.9 percent recommend it for the parent and 21.4 percent recommend it for both parent and grandchild.

**Tell Grandparents the Matter Is Settled:** Telling the grandparents that the matter is settled and that further discussion is not necessary was reacted to by 20. Seven of these had this experience and 14.3 percent of these did not recommend it, 57.2 percent recommended it for the grandchild, and 28.5 percent for the parent. Thirty-eight and five-tenths percent of the 13 not having the experience recommended it as a possible method for the grandchild to



use, 46.1 percent for the parent and 15.4 percent for both grandparent and grandchild.

**Disregard Grandparents' Feelings:** Seventeen responded to the statement: "Disregard grandparents' feelings and do not change actions." Six of these had had experience in using this method. Three and one-tenth percent of those having had the experience did not recommend it, 43.7 percent of these recommended it for the grandchild, 15.6 percent for the parent and 37.6 percent for the parent and grandchild, both. Twenty-six had not had experience. Of those 30.8 percent recommended this for the grandchild, and 72.7 percent for the parent.

**Argue With Grandparents:** Sixteen reacted to arguing with grandparents. Ten had had experience with this method and of these 30 percent did not recommend arguing, 10 percent recommended it for the grandchild, 20 percent for the parent and 40 percent for both. Six who responded to this question had not had experience with this method, however 50 percent of these did recommend arguing by the grandchild as a solution and 50 percent recommended it for the parents.

**Keep Everything From Grandparents:** Keeping everything from the grandparents was evaluated by eleven. Six of these had had this experience. Of these 33.3 percent did not recommend it. Fifty percent recommended it for the

grandchild, and 16.7 percent for the parent. Five had not had the experience. Sixty percent of these recommended that the grandchild keep everything from the grandparent and 40 percent that the parent keep everything from the grandparent.

**Accept Grandparents' Ideas:** Falling last in frequency of evaluation was the statement "Accept grandparents' ideas and conform to them." Of the 9 checking this, four had had the experience. Fifty percent of these did not recommend it, 25 percent recommended it for the parent and 25 percent for the grandchild and parent both. Five had not had the experience; forty percent of these recommended that the grandchild accept the grandparents ideas and conform to them, 40 percent recommended this method for the parent and 20 percent for both.

**Conclusion for this Section:** From the responses to the above group of statements it can be concluded that generally speaking approximately one-half of those responding had had experience in using the various suggested methods of dealing with controversial issues between grandchildren, parents, and grandparents. In most cases over 50 percent felt the issue should be settled directly between the grandchild and grandparent without involving the parent in the issue. Somewhat less than 25 percent

felt that matters should be settled between parent and grandparent, and a little over 25 percent felt that both parent and grandchild should unite to settle the issue with the grandparent.

Saying nothing about the situation was the most frequently endorsed means of avoiding difficulty in controversial issues. The grandchild on the whole seemed to be willing to consider the grandparent's point of view and to do all possible to avoid conflict. It was obvious however that they did not wish to conform to the grandparent's ideas.

Seven wrote in responses all to the effect that there should be no controversial issues between grandparents and grandchildren due to misunderstanding. In each case it was said that these questions are between parent and child and that grandparents should not attempt to interfere regardless of their opinion. Some felt modern, well informed grandparents could avoid all of these difficulties.

TABLE 16

Parent-Grandchild Responses to Controversial Issues

Code: 1. You would do this  
 2. Parents should do this  
 3. Both should do this

Should controversial issues arise the following methods of response were recommended by granddaughters										
Response		Had exp. but no recommend.	<u>You</u>		<u>Parent</u>		<u>Both</u>		<u>Total</u>	
			<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	
1.	Say nothing about the situation:									
	Had experience	2	5.1	19	48.7	10	25.6	8	20.6	39
	No experience			18	58.1	6	19.3	7	22.6	31
2.	Avoid discussing situation with grandparent:									
	Had experience	3	12.4	13	54.2	4	16.7	4	16.7	24
	No experience			12	52.2	6	26.0	5	21.8	23
3.	Keep everything from the grandpar:									
	Had experience	2	33.3	3	50.0	1	16.7			6
	No experience			3	60.0	2	40.0			5
4.	Tell the grandparent only part of the situation to avoid conflict:									
	Had experience	1	4.3	10	43.6	2	8.6	10	43.5	23
	No experience			5	35.7	6	42.9	3	21.4	14
5.	Disregard the grandparents feelings and do not change actions:									
	Had experience	1	16.7	4	66.6	1	16.7			6
	No experience			3	27.3	8	72.7			11



TABLE 16 (cont.)

Response	Had exp. but no recommend.		You		Parent		Both		Total
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
6. Take plenty of time to discuss the situation with grandparent to help them understand the condition: Had experience	1	3.1	14	43.7	5	15.6	12	37.6	32
No experience			8	30.8	7	26.9	11	42.3	26
7. Recognize the reasons for the way grandparents feel and show as much consideration and respect as possible: Had experience			19	52.7	7	19.5	10	27.8	36
No experience			13	39.4	3	9.0	17	51.6	33
8. After discussing reasons with grandparent, avoid bringing the matter up again: Had experience	2	6.0	19	57.5	1	3.2	11	33.3	33
No experience			14	50.0	5	17.8	9	32.2	28
9. Listen to the grandparents if they continue to discuss the matter, but make no comment: Had experience	4	11.7	23	67.7			7	20.6	34
No experience			18	69.2	4	15.4	4	15.4	26
10. Tell the grandparents that the matter is settled and that further discussion is not necessary: Had experience	1	14.3	4	57.2	2	28.5			7
No experience			5	38.5	6	46.1	2	15.4	13
11. Argue with the grandparents: Had experience	3	30.0	1	10.0	2	20.4	4	40.0	10
No experience			3	50.0	3	50.0			6

TABLE 16 (cont.)

Response	Had exp. but no recommend.		You		Parent		Both		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
12. Try to offset differences by developing close relationships with grandparents in matters that they do agree upon:									
Had experience	1	4.8	9	42.8	2	9.6	9	42.8	21
No experience			11	47.8	2	8.6	10	43.6	23
13. Give grandparents books or articles to read that will bring them up to date:									
Had experience	1	7.4	6	42.8	4	28.4	3	21.4	14
No experience			11	40.8	7	25.8	9	33.4	27
14. Accept the grandparents idea and conform to them:									
Had experience	2	50.0	2		1	25.0	1	25.0	4
No experience			2	40.0	2	40.0	1	20.0	5
15. Meet the grandparents halfway and compromise in the situation:									
Had experience	2	11.1	10	55.5	3	16.7	3	16.7	18
No experience			14	63.6	3	13.6	5	22.8	22
16. Tell grandparents as tactfully as possible that times have changed since they were young:									
Had experience	1	2.9	21	61.7	5	14.8	7	20.6	34
No experience			7	31.8	8	36.4	7	31.8	22

Grandparent Characteristics:

In Table 17 will be found a summary of characteristics of the four grandparents as evaluated by the subjects, also the subjects' opinions of most grandparents they know and of characteristics the subjects hope to develop by the time they become grandparents. These traits are ranked according to frequency of mention. With only one exception the traits of the four grandparents varied not more than 3 positions in rank order. They ranked in approximately the following order: kind, sincere, fair and just, happy, exemplary, understanding, companionable, religious, up-to-date, partial and strict. For the mother's fathers fair and just was ranked first, while for father's mothers this trait was rated fourth. This was the chief deviation among traits when ranked in order of frequency of mention. "Kind" held first place as a trait the subjects thought most grandparents possess. It is interesting to note that "kind" was rated as second among the traits they hope to be if they should become a grandparent. "Happy" was given first place in what they would be if they should become grandparents. "Happiness" was rated as holding sixth place in their opinion of what grandparents are. Up-to-date was placed in tenth place in their impression of most grandparents and in seventh place in what

they would be if they were a grandparent. The remaining characteristics did not vary more than two positions.

The rank correlation between their evaluation of "what most grandparents are" and their evaluation of what they would be if they were a grandparent is .76 with a probable error of .07.

Part D of the appendix shows in more detail the ranking of these characteristics.



Selected Grandparent Characteristics  
Rated by One Hundred Fifty College Students

N=150

Rank	Percent	No.	Most grandparents I know are:
1	54.6	82	Kind
2	53.3	80	Sincere
3	33.3	50	Fair and just
4	33.3	50	Understanding
5	31.3	47	Exemplary
6	28.0	42	Happy
7	26.6	40	Religious
8	21.3	32	Companionable
9	11.3	17	Partial (show favoritism)
10	10.0	15	Up-to-date
11	5.3	8	Strict

Rank	Percent	No.	My mother's mother is:
1	35.3	53	Kind
2	33.3	50	Sincere
3	30.0	45	Fair and just
4	29.3	44	Happy
5	28.0	42	Exemplary
6	26.6	40	Understanding
7	24.6	37	Companionable
8	20.6	31	Religious
9	14.6	22	Up-to-date
10	8.0	12	Partial
11	6.0	9	Strict

Rank	Percent	No.	My mother's father is:
1	26.6	40	Fair and just
2	24.6	37	Kind
3	24.6	37	Sincere
4		33	Happy
5		26	Exemplary
6		25	Understanding
7		25	Companionable
8		18	Religious
9		16	Up-to-date
10		7	Strict
11		11	Partial (shows favoritism)

Ranked in order of frequency of mention.

Table 17 (cont.)

Ranked in order of frequency of mention.

Rank	Percent	No.	My father's mother is:
1		50	Kind
2		45	Sincere
3		41	Happy
4		39	Fair and just
5		33	Exemplary
6		31	Companionable
7		29	Religious
8		21	Understanding
9		16	Up-to-date
10		16	Partial (Shows favoritism)
11		13	Strict

Rank	Percent	No.	My father's father is:
1		33	Sincere
2		31	Kind
3		29	Fair and just
4		24	Exemplary
5		24	Happy
6		16	Companionable
7		14	Religious
8		14	Understanding
9		11	Up-to-date
10		9	Strict
11		5	Partial (Shows favoritism)

Rank	Percent	No.	If I were a grandparent I would be:
1		96	Happy
2		91	Kind
3		91	Understanding
4		90	Sincere
5		85	Fair and just
6		79	Exemplary
7		64	Up-to-date
8		43	Religious
9		39	Companionable
10		3	Strict
11		2	Partial (Show favoritism)

Rank Correlation between "Most grandparents are" and "If I were a grandparent I would be"  $.76 \pm .07$ .

## CHAPTER VI

### Summary and Conclusions

#### Summary

##### The Problem

This study represents an investigation of opinions held by college girls toward various phases of relationships with grandparents, also an evaluation of characteristics of grandparents, as well as attitudes toward growing old. Since parents are the generation between the grandparent and grandchild, consideration was given to their possible influence in establishing good relationships.

In so far as the writer could find, no studies have been made in this field. Both popular and professional magazines have emphasized the need for more study of youth's relationships with older persons. Grandparents are expressing their desire and need for more available information. Parent study groups also are becoming aware of the need for information in this field.

The primary purpose of this investigation was to secure information which would be of value to child-study groups in which grandparents are enrolled. Also to contribute to the understanding of attitudes concerned with grandparent-grandchild relationships.

### Securing the Data

The questionnaire was chosen as a means of securing a part of the data for this study. Essay questions were included with the questionnaire to encourage spontaneous responses. .

The data which were gathered by means of essay questions dealt with valued and disliked grandparent-grandchild relationships, parent's contributions to grandparent-grandchild relationships, valued relationships frequently missed by the grandchild, grandchild attitudes toward growing old, the grandchild's outstanding early recollections of grandparents and desirable and undesirable grandparent characteristics.

Included in the questionnaire were data concerned with attitudes toward various activities with grandparents, reactions to controversial issues between the grandparent and grandchild, and ratings of selected grandparent characteristics.

The questionnaire was submitted first to two specialists in child development and family relationships. Six grandparents also examined the questionnaire and offered suggestions and criticism. The questionnaire was then revised incorporating these suggestions and checked by four college-age girls. These suggestions and criticisms were used in making the final revision.



One hundred fifty college students enrolled in the School of Home Economics at Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon served as subjects for the study. The subjects were in all four classes in college. The mean age of the group was 19.8 years with a standard deviation of 1.3 years.

The 150 subjects had 201 grandparents living, with a mean age of 73.2 and a standard deviation of 6.9 years.

### Conclusions:

In preparing these conclusions, the data received from the statistics were of value, but the feelings and impressions which were reflected through the spontaneous responses and marginal notes show that back of these comments grandchildren have developed a rather clear cut philosophy toward grandparent-grandchild relationships. It is the hope of the writer that this philosophy is included at least to some extent, in these conclusions.

The following conclusions have been made regarding the young people who participated in this study:

1. Young people desire admirable characteristics in grandparents. Characteristics such as loving, understanding, kind, happy, modern, considerate, cheerful, friendly, helpful, refined, respectable, tolerant, good health, and sense of humor were included among the most frequently

mentioned. Also grandchildren look to their grandparents for religious influence.

2. They want companionship with their grandparents. They like to take walks, hear grandparents tell of early experiences and stories of the grandchild's parents.

Many of those who did not have living grandparents mentioned with regret that they had missed this companionship, while those having grandparents repeatedly expressed appreciation of the fact that they were able to know them.

Grandparents' gifts of material things are remembered with great fondness, and considered a token of affection. Grandmother's good cooking, her cookie jar, and fruit were mentioned as being long remembered. The grandchild prefers gifts of material things rather than of money.

One of the grandparents greatest contributions to the grandchild is made through companionship and this companionship seems closer and more valued when the grandparents do not take the initiative in assuming responsibility for the management and direction of affairs in their children's homes.

3. They recognize areas in which grandparents have had satisfactory experience and appreciate an opportunity to talk about things in these areas. Grandchildren appreciate advice regarding matters in which grandparents have had a wealth of background. Grandchildren feel they gain

much in understanding religion, and in a philosophy of living which comes through companionship, or as one expressed it "just being with grandparents." For areas in which grandparents have little experience, grandchildren are less interested in seeking advice. These areas include such as selection of clothes, or a date. However, if grandchildren wish advice from grandparents, they prefer to request it rather than to have the grandparents offer it.

4. They expressed a desire to maintain happy relationships, and to avoid controversial issues with grandparents. Happiest relationships came when grandparents maintained their own homes, and interests, and were up-to-date, but not "disgustingly" modern. They prefer frequent short visits with grandparents rather than less frequent long visits. They feel that discipline and family affairs should be left to the parents. Grandchildren feel that keeping situations from grandparents is preferable to conflict. Controversial issues arise more often when grandparents are interfering and domineering than under any other circumstances.

5. As a group they were fair and generous to their grandparents. If necessary they would be willing to share family funds to take care of a grandparent. They did not want to control their grandparents' lives. They want

grandparents to be natural and have their place in society, and accept their role as an older person, retired from the responsibility of their children's family affairs.

6. Grandparents and parents are important factors in influencing the grandchild's opinions toward growing older. As a group these young people do not mind growing old, if they can be financially independent, in good health, both mental and physical, and achieve a background which will permit enjoyment in living.

There is a close relationship between what they think grandparents are, and what the grandchild would like to be when she grows older.



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APPENDIX

PART A

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

QUESTIONNAIRE  
GRANDPARENT GRANDDAUGHTER RELATIONSHIPS

A

It is believed that information concerning grandparent-granddaughter relationships will be of value to study groups throughout the country. For this reason, a study has been planned and the following group of questions has been prepared, with the hope that you will be willing to cooperate in answering them as fully as time will permit. Please answer the questions although you may not have had an opportunity to know your grandparents. Due to the personal nature of these questions, you are asked not to sign your name. Feel free to make comments in the margins, or on the back of the page.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Year in school \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_
2. Mother living? \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Father living? \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation \_\_\_\_\_
3. Total number of brothers and sisters: Mother's \_\_\_\_\_  
Father's \_\_\_\_\_
4. Parents living together? \_\_\_\_\_ Separated? \_\_\_\_\_ Divorced? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you live at home while attending high school? \_\_\_\_\_  
If not with whom? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Is your home in a city of population 20,000 or over? \_\_\_\_\_  
8,000-20,000? \_\_\_\_\_ 1,000-8,000? \_\_\_\_\_ small town? \_\_\_\_\_  
just outside city limits? \_\_\_\_\_ country? \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL INFORMATION CONCERNING GRANDPARENTS

If your grandparents are not living, but have died recently enough for you to remember, fill in the following as conditions were when you last knew them. Either write in your responses or place a check(X) in the appropriate column.

- |  | Mothers | parents | Fathers | parents |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|  | grand-  | grand-  | grand-  | grand-  |
|  | mother  | father  | mother  | father  |
| 1. Are your grandparents living? . . . . . |         |         |         |         |
| 2. How old are they? . . .                 |         |         |         |         |
| 3. If not living, when deceased? . . . . . |         |         |         |         |



Mother's	parents	Father's	parents
grand-	grand-	grand-	grand-
mother	father	mother	father

4. What is their present occupation? . . . . .
5. Do they need financial assistance in addition to their own resources? . . . . .
6. Are they contributing their resources to the support of another member of their family? . . . . .
7. Where are they living?
  - In your home? . . . . .
  - In your home part time? . . . . .
  - In your home town but not in your own home? . . . . .
  - In another locality? . . . . .
8. About how many times per year do you see your grandparents? . . . . .
9. Did you ever make your home with your grandparents, and if so for how long? . . . . .
10. How many of their own children are living? . . . . .
11. Indicate total number of sons- or daughters-in-law they have now . . . . .
12. How many grandchildren do they have? . . . . .
  - Older than yourself . . . . .
  - Younger than yourself. . . . .
13. How many great grandchildren do they have? . . . . .
14. Fill in a word (or words) which best describes your relationships with your grandparents. Words such as: happy, congenial, unhappy, do not understand each other, etc. . . . .
15. What was the highest grade in school that was completed by grandparent? . . . . .

## ESSAY QUESTIONS

B

Please answer as fully as time will permit.

1. What phases of your relationships with your grandparents do you value so much that you would like to repeat them with your grandchildren should you become a grandparent?

2. What relationships, if any, with your grandparents have been so undesirable that you want to avoid repeating them with your own grandchildren should you become a grandparent?

3. What relationships with your grandparents have you missed that you would not want your grandchildren to miss?

4. What have your parents done that you also would like to do (if you become a parent) to promote good relationships between your parents and your children?

5. How do you feel about growing old? What has influenced you to feel as you do?

6. What do you recall as being most outstanding in your early recollections of your grandparents?

7. In the two columns below list:

---

a. Characteristics that you would expect to find in an "ideal" grandparent.

b. Characteristics which you think are undesirable in grandparents.

---

C

Mark X in the blank to the left if you have had experience in the particular situation with your grandparents, also encircle the letter which corresponds most closely with your feeling, whether or not you have had this experience.

- a. I like very much doing this.
- b. I like doing this.
- c. I neither like nor dislike doing this.
- d. I don't care about doing this.
- e. I greatly dislike doing this.

1.    a b c d e Going to a movie with grandparents.
2.    a b c d e Going for a walk with grandparents.
3.    a b c d e Attending church with grandparents.
4.    a b c d e Playing games with grandparents.
5.    a b c d e Developing a hobby with grandparents.
6.    a b c d e Reading together material of interest to grandparent only.
7.    a b c d e Reading together material of mutual interest.
8.    a b c d e Listening to stories grandparents tell of past experiences.
9.    a b c d e Listening to grandparents' opinion concerning politics.
10.    a b c d e Listening to grandparents' opinion concerning religion.
11.    a b c d e Asking grandparents' advice concerning a date.
12.    a b c d e Asking grandparents' opinion concerning selection of friends.
13.    a b c d e Asking grandparents' opinion concerning selection of clothing.
14.    a b c d e Asking grandparents' advice concerning a job.
15.    a b c d e Attending social functions with grandparents.
16.    a b c d e Inviting friends to meet grandparents.
17.    a b c d e Including grandparents in family picnic.
18.    a b c d e Taking grandparents on a trip.
19.    a b c d e Travel on a long train trip with grandparents.
20.    a b c d e Inviting grandparents to spend a month's vacation in your home.
21.    a b c d e Including grandparents at family dinners.
22.    a b c d e Including grandparents and your friends at the same dinner.
23.    a b c d e Taking grandparents out to a hotel or restaurant for dinner.
24.    a b c d e Going to your grandparents' home for dinner.



25. \_\_a b c d e Taking grandparent with you when you go shopping
26. \_\_a b c d e Including grandparents in family group discussions.
27. \_\_a b c dee Giving gifts to grandparents for Christmas, birthdays etc.
28. \_\_a b c d e Planning a birthday surprise for grandparents.
29. \_\_a b c d e Planning with grandparents birthday surprise for your parents.
30. \_\_a b c d e Working with grandparents inside the house.
31. \_\_a b c d e Working with grandparents outside the house.
32. \_\_a b c d e Working under the supervision of grandparents.
33. \_\_a b c d e Running errands for grandparents.
34. \_\_a b c d e Giving grandparents an equal voice in family finance problems.
35. \_\_a b c d e Giving family money for the support of grandparents.
37. \_\_a b c d e Asking grandparents for money.
38. \_\_a b c d e Borrowing money from grandparent in amounts of \$100 or less.
39. \_\_a b c d e Borrowing money from grandparent in larger amounts (\$100 or more).
40. \_\_a b c d e Staying home from a social function to care for a sick grandparent.
41. \_\_a b c d e Spending a part of each day with grandparent that is not well.
42. \_\_a b c d e Helping in general care of invalid grandparent living in your home.
43. \_\_a b c d e Running errands for invalid grandparents.
44. \_\_a b c d e Reading to invalid grandparent.
45. \_\_a b c d e Visiting invalid grandparent in his home.

## D

Parents, who stand between the grandparent and the granddaughter in the chain of ancestors, can play an important role in promoting or discouraging specific relationships. There are certain situations where the grandparent and granddaughter may not agree, such as: The hour the granddaughter comes in at night; the length of dresses the granddaughter wears; the type of friends the granddaughter selects; They may not agree concerning politics, etc. In the blank to the left, place (X) in all blanks where you have had experience with this method of responding to the grandparent. Should controversial issues arise, which of the following responses would you recommend as desirable?



Using the following code encircle the letter (or letters) preceding each statement which most nearly expresses your feeling.

Y. You would do this.

P. Parents should do this.

1. \_\_Y P Say nothing about the situation.
2. \_\_Y P Avoid discussing with the grandparent.
3. \_\_Y P Keep everything from the grandparent.
4. \_\_Y P Tell the grandparent only part of the situation to avoid conflict.
5. \_\_Y P Disregard the grandparents feelings, and do not change actions.
6. \_\_Y P Take plenty of time to discuss the situation with grandparents to help them understand conditions.
7. \_\_Y P Recognize the reasons for the way grandparents feel, and show as much consideration and respect as possible without antagonizing.
8. \_\_Y P After discussing reasons with grandparents, avoid bringing the matter up again.
9. \_\_Y P Listen to the grandparents if they continue to discuss the matter, then make no comment.
10. \_\_Y P Tell the grandparents that the matter is settled and further discussion is not necessary.
11. \_\_Y P Argue with the grandparents.
12. \_\_Y P Try to offset differences by developing close relationships with grandparents in matters that they do agree upon.
13. \_\_Y P Give grandparents books or articles to read that will bring them "up-to-date" on present standards.
14. \_\_Y P Accept the grandparents ideas and conform to them.
15. \_\_Y P Meet the grandparents halfway and compromise in the situation.
16. \_\_Y P Tell grandparents as tactfully as possible that times have changed since they were young.
17. \_\_Y P (List other methods if you care to)
18. \_\_Y P

E

Encircle the letter preceding the statement which corresponds to the word (or words) in the code which most closely describes your feeling.

a. Extremely

b. Very

c. Fairly

d. Not very

e. Not at all

1. a b c d e Most grandparents whom I know are strict.
  2. a b c d e My mother's mother is strict.
  3. a b c d e My mother's father is strict.
  4. a b c d e My father's mother is strict.
  5. a b c d e My father's father is strict.
  6. a b c d e If I were a grandparent I would be strict.
- 
7. a b c d e Most grandparents whom I know are "up-to-date".
  8. a b c d e My mother's mother is "up-to-date."
  9. a b c d e My mother's father is "up-to-date."
  10. a b c d e My father's mother is "up-to-date."
  11. a b c d e My father's father is "up-to-date."
  12. a b c d e If I were a grandparent I would be "up-to-date".
- 
13. a b c d e Most grandparents whom I know are understanding.
  14. a b c d e My mother's mother is understanding.
  15. a b c d e My mother's father is understanding.
  16. a b c d e My father's mother is understanding.
  17. a b c d e My father's father is understanding.
  18. a b c d e If I were a grandparent I would be understanding.
- 
19. a b c d e Most grandparents whom I know are happy.
  20. a b c d e My mother's mother is happy.
  21. a b c d e My mother's father is happy.
  22. a b c d e My father's mother is happy.
  23. a b c d e My father's father is happy.
  24. a b c d e If I were a grandparent I would try to be happy.
- 
25. a b c d e Most grandparents whom I know are kind.
  26. a b c d e My mother's mother is kind.
  27. a b c d e My mother's father is kind.
  28. a b c d e My father's mother is kind.
  29. a b c d e My father's father is kind.
  30. a b c d e If I were a grandparent I would be kind.
- 
31. a b c d e Most grandparents whom I know are religious.
  32. a b c d e My mother's mother is religious.
  33. a b c d e My mother's father is religious.
  34. a b c d e My father's mother is religious.
  35. a b c d e My father's father is religious.
  36. a b c d e If I were a grandparent I would be religious.

37. a b c d e Most grandparents whom I know are sincere.  
38. a b c d e My mother's mother is sincere.  
39. a b c d e My mother's father is sincere.  
40. a b c d e My father's mother is sincere.  
41. a b c d e My father's father is sincere.  
42. a b c d e If I were a grandparent I would be sincere.
43. a b c d e Most grandparents whom I know are exemplary  
(that is, set a good example).  
44. a b c d e My mother's mother is exemplary.  
45. a b c d e My mother's father is exemplary.  
46. a b c d e My father's mother is exemplary.  
47. a b c d e My father's mother is exemplary.  
48. a b c d e If I were a grandparent I would try to be  
exemplary.
49. a b c d e Most grandparents whom I know are fair and  
just.  
50. a b c d e My mother's mother is fair and just.  
51. a b c d e My mother's father is fair and just.  
52. a b c d e My father's mother is fair and just.  
53. a b c d e My father's father is fair and just.  
54. a b c d e If I were a grandparent I would be fair and  
just.
55. a b c d e Most grandparents whom I know show favoritism.  
56. a b c d e My mother's mother shows favoritism.  
57. a b c d e My mother's father shows favoritism.  
58. a b c d e My father's mother shows favoritism.  
59. a b c d e My father's father shows favoritism.  
60. a b c d e If I were a grandparent I would show favor-  
itism.
61. a b c d e Most grandparents whom I know are compan-  
ionable.  
62. a b c d e My mother's mother is companionable.  
63. a b c d e My mother's father is companionable.  
64. a b c d e My father's mother is companionable.  
65. a b c d e My father's father is companionable.  
66. a b c d e If I were a grandparent I would try to be  
companionable with my grandchildren.

Thank you for your cooperation in filling out this  
questionnaire.

APPENDIX

PART B

TABLES

CONCERNING DATA ON SUBJECTS

PARENTS, AND GRANDPARENTS



TABLE 18

N 150                      A  
Age of Subjects and Classification in College

Class in college	Not given	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Total	
Freshmen	No:	1	5	17	7	3	1	1			35	
	%:	.7	3.3	11.3	4.7	2.	.7	.7			23.3	
Sophomore	No:											
	%:											
Junior:	No:				15	3	1		2		21	
	%:				10.	2.	.7		1.3		14.0	
Senior:	No:				9	46	15	2		1	73	
	%:				6.	30.7	10.	1.3		17	48.6	
Age not given:	No:					3	13	1	1		18	
	%:					2.	8.7	.7	.7		12.1	
	No:	3									3	
	%:	2.									2.	
Total	No:	3	1	5	17	31	55	30	4	3	1	150
	%:	2.	.7	3.3	11.3	20.7	36.7	20.1	2.7	2.	.7	100

Mean age of the entire group 19.8 years  
Standard deviation 1.3 years

TABLE 19

Locale of Subject's Homes

N 150

Location of homes	No.	Percent
City 20,000 or over	54	36.
City 8,000 - 20,000	14	9.3
Town 1,000 - 8,000	17	11.3
Small town	22	14.7
Just outside city limits	11	7.3
Country	31	20.7
Not reported	1	.7
Total	150	1 00.

TABLE 20

Marital Status of the Subject's Parents

N 150

Marital Status of parents	No. of families	Percent
Parents living together	114	76
Fathers not living	15	10
Mothers not living	10	6.7
Divorced parents	10	6.7
Separated parents	1	.6
Total	150	100

TABLE 21

Subjects' Mothers Classified According to Occupations

Occupational classification*	No.	Percent
Homemakers	108	72.
Professional and semi-professional workers	13	8.7
Proprietors, managers and officials	3	2.
Clerical, sales and kindred workers	7	4.7
Craftsmen, foremen and kindred workers	1	.7
Operative and kindred workers	2	1.3
Domestic service workers	2	1.3
Occupations not reported	14	9.3
Total	150	100

\*Reference No. 4, pages 952-953.

TABLE 22

Subjects' Fathers Classified According to Occupations

Occupational classification*	No.	Percent
Professional and semi-professional workers	31	20.7
Farmers and farm managers	32	21.3
Proprietors, managers and officials	17	11.3
Clerical, sales and kindred workers	17	11.3
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	20	13.3
Operative and kindred workers	9	6.
Domestic service workers	0	0.
Protective service workers	1	.7
Farm laborers and foremen	0	0.
Laborers except farm and mine	4	2.7
Occupation not reported	19	12.7
Total	150	100

\*Reference No. 4, pages 950-951.

TABLE 23

Number of Siblings in Parents' Families

Number of Siblings	No. 150		No. 150		No. 300	
	Mothers'		Fathers'		Total, in- cluding both parents.	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0	17	11.3	8	5.3	25	8.3
1	23	15.3	17	11.3	40	13.3
2	20	13.3	13	8.5	33	11.0
3	12	8.0	26	17.3	38	12.7
4	12	8.0	15	10.0	27	9.0
5	17	11.3	17	11.3	34	11.3
6	7	4.7	10	6.9	17	5.7
7	15	10.0	12	8.0	27	9.0
8	4	2.7	7	4.7	11	3.7
9	1	.7	2	1.3	3	1.0
10	3	2.0	2	1.3	5	1.6
11	1	.7	1	.7	2	.7
12	1	.7	1	.7	2	.7
13	2	1.3	1	.7	3	1.0
14	1	.7	1	.7	2	.7
Not given	14	9.3	17	11.3	31	10.3
Total	150	100.0	150	99.0	300	100.0



TABLE 24

Number of Grandparents Living

No. of living grandparents	No. of subjects	% of subjects	Total no. of living grandparents for each group		
			Grand- mother	Grand- father	Both
0	37	25.5	0	0	0
1	54	36.0	37	17	54
2	34	22.5	45	23	68
3	21	14.0	40	23	63
4	4	3.0	8	8	16
Total	150	100.	130	71	201

TABLE 25

Length of Time Grandparents Had Been Deceased

N 399

Within past 5 years		Between 5 and 10 years		More than 10 years		No in- formation	
No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
40	10.0	53	13.2	155	38.9	151	37.9

TABLE 26

Ages of Living Grandparents\*

N 201 living grandparents

Age groups	Grandparents	
	No.	%
55 - 59	5	2.6
60 - 64	15	7.6
65 - 69	39	19.5
70 - 74	39	19.5
75 - 79	39	19.5
80 - 84	30	14.5
85 - 89	8	3.9
90 - 94	3	1.4
Age not given	23	11.5
Total	201	100.

\*Mean age 73.2  
Standard deviation 6.85

TABLE 27

Health of Grandparents as Evaluated by the Subjects\*

N 201

Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor	
Gm.	Gf.	Gm.	Gf.	Gm.	Gf.	Gm.	Gf.
No. 9	5	52	36	39	19	18	8
Total 14		88		59		26	
No. & % 7%		43.8%		29.4%		12.9%	

\*The health of 15 living grandparents (7.5%) was not evaluated by the subjects.

TABLE 28

Occupations of Grandmothers

N 130

Occupation	No.	Percent
Homemakers	50	38.5
Farmers and farm managers	1	.8
Clerical, sales, etc.	2	1.5
Domestic service workers	2	1.5
Retired	14	10.8
Occupation stated as "none"	16	12.3
Invalid	6	4.6
No response given	39	30.0
Total	130	100.

TABLE 29

Occupations of Grandfathers

N 71

Occupation	No.	Percent
Homemakers	1	1.4
Professional and semi-professional workers	1	1.4
Farmers and farm managers	17	24.0
Proprietors, managers and officials	2	2.8
Clerical, sales, etc.	5	7.0
Craftsmen, foremen, etc.	8	11.2
Operators and kindred workers		
Protective service workers	1	1.4
Farm laborers and foremen		
Laborers except farm and mine		
Retired	22	31.0
Occupation stated as "none"	1	1.4
Invalid	1	1.4
No response given	12	17.0
Total	71	100.

TABLE 30

Financial Status of Grandparents

N 201 130 grandmothers  
71 grandfathers

Extent of self-support	Grandm. No. %	Grandf. No. %	Both No. %
Self-supporting	83 63.8	55 78.0	138 68.5
Grandparents contributing to the support of a member of their fam- ily	7 5.4	8 11.0	15 7.5
Grandparents in need of financial assistance	40 30.8	8 11.0	48 24.0
Total	130 100.	71 100.	201 100

TABLE 31

Locale of Grandparents' Homes

N 201 130 grandmothers  
71 grandfathers

Living arrangements	Grandm. No. %	Grandf. No. %	Both No. %
In home with grandchild all of the time	2 1.4	2 2.8	4 2.0
In home with grandchild part of the time	7 5.3	2 2.8	9 4.4
In grandchild's home town but not in the same home	32 24.5	22 31.0	54 26.9
In another locality	86 66.6	45 63.4	131 65.2
Not stated	3 2.2		3 1.5
Totals	130 100.	71 100.	201 100.



TABLE 32

Frequency of Grandparent-Grandchild Contacts

N 202

Frequency of contact			Frequency of contact		
	No.	%		No.	%
Daily during vacations	13	6.4	Every 6 mo.	23	11.4
Every few days	13	6.4	Once a year	23	11.4
Weekly	14	7.0	Once in 2 years	1	.5
Every two weeks	10	5.0	Once in 3 years	4	2.0
Monthly	22	11.	Once in 4 years	2	.9
Every 2 mo.	12	6.0	Once in 5 years	5	2.4
Every 3 mo.	9	4.8	Once in 10 years	2	.9
Every 4 mo.	13	6.4	Never	16	8.0
			Information not given	19	9.4
Total				201	100.

TABLE 33

Grandparents Having Had Grandchildren Living With Them

N 201

Period of time	No.	Percent
1 week to 1 month	5	2.5
2 months to 6 months	12	6.0
One to 6 years	16	8.0
Six to 14 years	0	0.0
Fifteen years	2	.9
Number that had not lived with grandparents	166	82.6
Total	201	100.

TABLE 34

Grandparents' Families

	No re- sponse	No. of children in each grandparent's family:							Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-15	
No. of grandparents:	6	24	42	26	33	26	40	4	201
% of grandparents:	3.0	11.5	21.0	12.9	16.6	13.0	20.0	2.0	100
<hr/>									
	No. of grandparents:	No. of sons- and daughters- in-law per grandparent:							Total
		0	1	2	3	4	5-8	9-12	
No. of grandparents:	8	7	24	41	28	29	48	16	201
% of grandparents:	4.0	3.5	11.9	20.4	13.9	14.4	23.9	8.0	100
<hr/>									
	No. of grandchildren per grandparent:								
		1	2	3	4	5	6-15	16-25	26-35 36-45
No. of grandparents:		24	12	20	14	17	91	14	7 2
% of grandparents:		11.6	6.0	10.0	7.0	8.5	45.3	7.0	3.5 1.0
<hr/>									
	No. of great-grandchildren per grandparent:								
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-15 16-20
No. of grandparents:	37	76	29	26	5	8	2	10	6 2
	18.5	37.9	14.5	12.9	2.5	3.9	1.0	4.9	2.9 1.0

TABLE 35

Number of Grandchildren Older and Younger than Subject  
(In Subject's Family)

No. of grandchildren:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6-15	16-25
No. of grandchildren younger than subject	33	31	26	12	8	10	20	4
No. of grandchildren older than subject	21	18	31	18	11	14	42	4

TABLE 36

Grandparents' Education

N 201

<u>1-7 grade</u>		<u>8 grade</u>		<u>High school</u>		<u>College 2 years</u>		<u>College grad.</u>		<u>No response</u>	
No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No. of grand- parents	4 1.7	43 21.2	38 18.8	8 3.8	15 7.3	95 47.2					

## APPENDIX

### PART C

Tests of Responses concerned with:

Desirable and undesirable grandparent-grand-child relationships

Activities subjects would not want their grandchildren to miss

Parents' contribution to good grandparent-grandchild relationships

Subjects' attitudes toward growing old

Early recollections of grandparents

Desirable and undesirable grandparent characteristics



## APPENDIX

## PART C

Following is a summary of responses which were given to the essay questions. In making this summary the words of the subject were retained as nearly as possible as they in many cases express the exact feeling of the subject which would often-times be lost in rephrasing the statements. The following lists of responses are ranked according to frequency of mention..

Phases of Grandparent-Grandchild Relationship

Valued by the Subject

Essay Question I

What phases of your relationships with your grandparents do you value so much that you would like to repeat them with your grandchildren should you become a grandparent?

Responses to question 1 classified according to type and ranked in order of frequency.

Social Relationships with Grandparents	Frequency of mention
A. General companionship with grandparents:	
Grandparent-grandchild companionship	25
Grandparents telling stories	15
Conversations between grandparents and grandchildren	6
Letters written by grandparents	2
Telling grandparents secrets	1
	<hr/> 49

## Essay Question I (cont.)

Social Relationships with Grandparents	Frequency of mention
B. Grandparent-grandchild visits:	
Grandchildren's visits in grandparent's home	25
Grandparents' visits in home with grandchildren	13
Going to grandparents' homes for meals	6
Grandparents coming to grandchildren's home for meals	<u>3</u>
	47
C. Grandparents doing things for grandchildren:	
Gifts from grandparents	9
Grandparents having food such as cookies and candy available for grandchildren	6
Grandparents teaching grandchildren	
to cook 2	
to sew 2	
to pray 2	6
Grandparents doing as much as possible for grandchildren	<u>5</u>
	26
D. Going places with grandparents:	
Going for walks with grandparents	6
Trips with grandparents	5
Attending various functions with grandparents	2
Family reunions	2
Going to church with grandparents	2
Going to the circus with grandparents	1
Going on picnics with grandparents	1
Going to the store with grandparents	<u>1</u>
	20
E. Doing things with grandparents:	
Playing with grandparents	7
Reading with grandparents	4
Making candy and bread with grandparents	3

## Essay Question I (cont.)

Social Relationships with Grandparents		Frequency of mention
Singing with grandparents	2	
Fishing with grandparents	1	
Seeing keepsakes	1	
Looking at lantern slides	<u>1</u>	
		19
F. Miscellaneous comments:		
Helping grandparents	2	
Religious influence	2	
Just having grandparents	1	
Grandparents' interest in grandchild- ren and their activities	1	
Grandparents showing pride in grand- children	1	
They spoiled me and I expect to spoil my grandchildren	1	
Would like to look like grandmother	<u>1</u>	
		9

## Characteristics of Grandparents Valued by Granddaughters

Ranked in order of frequency of mention

	F. of M.		F. of M.
Understanding	8	Appreciative	1
Kind	4	Chubby	1
Respected by others	4	Congenial	1
Be an example	3	Courageous	1
Sense of humor	3	Easy to get along with	1
Outstanding	3	Entertaining	1
Accomplish aims	2	Gentle	1
Comfortable	2	Generous	1
Considerate	2	Good influence	1
Fine	2	Good spirits	1
Friendly	2	Intellectual	1
Happy	2	Look like Lincoln	1
Helpful	2	My best friends	1
Peppy	2	Modern views	1
Strict	2	Not stern	1
Sweet	2	Patient	1
Act their age	1	Respect child	1
		Socially minded	1
		Well liked	<u>1</u>
		Total	65

## Essay Question II

What relationships, if any, with your grandparents have been so undesirable that you want to avoid repeating them with your own grandchildren should you become a grandparent?

Responses to question 2 listed in order of frequency

Undesirable Relationships with Grandparents	Frequency of mention
A. Grandparents' aggressiveness:	
Interfering in family affairs	11
Domineering	5
Expecting too much attention from grandchildren	<u>3</u>
	19
B. Grandparents and grandchildren living together:	
Grandparents living in sons or daughter's home	13
Grandchild and grandparent not living together	3
Grandchild living with grandparent	<u>1</u>
	17
C. Misunderstanding between grandparents and grandchild:	
Grandparents not understanding grandchild, i.e. lack of unity in interests	6
Grandparent "trying" to have around	5
Grandparent takes no interest in grandchild	<u>1</u>
	12
D. Embarrassments and irritations caused by grandparents	
Grandfather drank	1
Grandmother's mind was affected	1
Grandmother snored	1
Grandparent demanded a kiss	<u>1</u>
	4



## Essay Question II (cont.)

Undesirable Relationships with Grandparents	Frequency of mention
E. Miscellaneous comments:	
Grandparents spoke another language thus requiring an interpreter	2
Grandmother and grandfather's disa- greements	2
Show favoritism	5
Childish	3
Complaining	3
Jealous	3
Selfish	3
Snoopy	3
Cold	2
Not modern	2
Self pity	2
Biased opinions	1
Easily hurt	1
Harsh	1
Lazy	1
Narrow minded	1
Overbearing	1
Pamper grandchildren	1
Sarcastic	1
Set in their ways	1
Strict	1
Stubborn	1
Total	37

Relationships Subjects Would Not Want

Their Grandchildren to Miss

Essay Question III

What relationships with your grandparents have you missed that you would not want your grandchildren to miss?

Responses to question 3 listed in order of frequency.

Relationships subjects would not want their grandchildren to miss	Frequency of mention
Being able to know grandparents (Either because of death of grandparents before birth of grandchild, or because of distance, or lack of interest by parents they were unable to know grandparents.)	25
Be able to know all 4 grandparents.	<u>14</u>
	39
See grandparents more often	10
Especially when children are young	1
Having grandparents live fairly near	2
Having grandparents live close enough to spend holidays together	2
Having grandparents near enough to see them at least once a year.	<u>2</u>
	17
Miscellaneous comments	
Family reunions	3
Complete mutual trust	2
Want grandchildren to really love grandparents	2
Want grandchildren to stay with grandparents for a week or so, or all night.	2
Listening to stories of olden times	2
Concede that grandchildren may know more than grandparents at times	1
Doing things for each other	1

## Essay Question III (cont.)

---

Relationships subjects would not want their grandchildren to miss	Frequency of mention
<hr/>	
Going to church with grandparent	1
Happier relationships "due to poor marital relations of parent we feel everything was not right with grandparents."	1
Having a chance to ask about parents as youngsters	1
Having plump motherly grandmothers	1
Doing more to show appreciation for grandparent	1
Missed grandparent and grandchild going places together	1
Missed knowing them on a really happy basis	1
Missed hearing grandparents' childhoods because they speak another language	1
Relationship with grandparents who are close to each other, mine were divorced	1
Sense of humor	1
Spend Christmas together	1
Spirit of comradeship	1
Talks with grandfather	1
Would like to have spent Christmas with all 4 grandparents together	<u>1</u>

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Parents' Actions Influencing Relationship  
Between Grandchild and Grandparent

## Essay Question IV

What have your parents done that you would also like to do if you become a parent to promote good relationships between your parents and your children?

Responses to essay question 4 are listed according to frequency.



---

What subjects' parents have done to promote good grandparent-grandchild relationships	Frequency of mention
---	----------------------

---

Allowed to go see grandparents	8
without parents along	<u>1</u>

9

Trusted grandparents with grandchild's care	7
---	---

Invited grandparents into house for visits or Sundays or meals.	6
---	---

Talked respectfully of grandparents	4
-------------------------------------	---

Tell children about grandparents	4
----------------------------------	---

Miscellaneous comments:

Encouraged writing to grandparents occasionally	3
---	---

Taught me to respect what grandparents taught and encouraged wanting to please them and be thoughtful of them	3
---	---

Parents enjoyed visiting grandparents, passing this feeling on to grandchild	3
--	---

Recall pleasant family scenes in their homes when young	3
---	---

Being understanding	2
---------------------	---

Consideration for both sides	2
------------------------------	---

Discuss only the good points of grandparents	2
--	---

Family reunions	2
-----------------	---

Given age as an explanation	2
-----------------------------	---

Have always demanded absolute respect for grandparents	2
--	---

Parents have honored and trusted their parents	2
--	---

Welcomed grandparents into the home	1
-------------------------------------	---

Always respect and admire them	1
--------------------------------	---

Entire family has been close	1
------------------------------	---

Go places together	1
--------------------	---

Good companionship	1
--------------------	---

Grandparents duty to build up respect for themselves rather than parents' duty	1
--	---

Guidance	1
----------	---

Get them acquainted early in life	1
-----------------------------------	---

Have fun together	1
-------------------	---

My grandparents have not discouraged my confidence in them	1
--	---



## Essay Question IV (cont.)

---

What subjects' parents have done to promote good grandparent-grandchild relationships	Frequency of mention
<hr/>	
My parents have promoted the best of re- lations	1
Never tried to interfere with grandparents' affairs	1
Not demanding that grandchild see grand- parents too often thus enjoying them when the grandchild did see them	1
Not insisted that grandchild be nice to grand- parents	1
Relationships have been much better since grandchild has not lived with grand- parent	1
Tactful	1
Talk to grandparent about their troubles and try to make them feel that the par- ent is really trying to help them if they would only talk to the parent	1
There is no tension at all	1
They have made it almost a privilege to be able to stay or visit with grandparents	<u>1</u>

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The Subjects' Feeling toward Growing Old

## Essay Question V

What is your feeling toward growing old? What has influenced you to feel as you do?

The comments made by the subjects are divided into three groups; those who have a favorable attitude toward growing old; those who have an indefinite opinion, or neutral opinion; and those whose attitude is unfavorable toward growing old. The remarks are ranked according to frequency within each group. Included at the end of each group are possible influences, also listed according to frequency of response.

## Part I Attitudes toward Growing Old

Favorable attitudes and reactions toward growing old	Frequency of mention
It will be nice	4
It will be beautiful	4
It will be fun	3
It will be pleasant	3
It will be wonderful	2
It will be a great experience	<u>1</u>
	17
If it is possible to have a full life, rich in experiences, joys and sorrows, a memorable youth, old age will be en- joyed	13
Subject wants to be independent financially and physically	8
Will enjoy having children and grandchild- ren	7
Hope to be like grandparents	6
Look forward to it, but am certainly not waiting for it	6
Would like to grow old gracefully	5
One can enjoy life as fully when one gets older only in a different fashion - change of interests	4
Miscellaneous comments	
Have an urgent desire to do some- thing worthwhile	3
Getting old doesn't mean losing in- terests in things	2
Anxious to see what it is like	2
Would like to have children early in life so old age can be enjoyed	2
Don't want to miss any of it, old age is a part of living	2
Should have with it a feeling of hap- piness	2
A person is as young as she allows herself to be	1
Hope to be content to the fact that one does grow old	1
Feel no regret about growing old	1
Hope to grow into a desirable type of old person	1

## Essay Question V (cont.)

Favorable attitudes and reactions toward growing old	Frequency of mention
Want to make friends and have activities to keep happy when old	1
Want to keep a good disposition	1
Wish to have a happy old age	1
Would try to be considerate of others	1
It can be a dignified, calm maturing rather than a decline	1
It seems that now there is not much difference between being a mother and a grandmother	1
It seems desirable providing there is desirable atmosphere	1
It should be as interesting as any other age	1
It will be that much closer to a finer life after death	1
Just a chance to do things I hadn't been able to do	1
There is nothing unpleasant about growing old unless you make it	1
There is a lot to see and know	1
Tolerance is the best method one could have to grow old gracefully	1
Don't have to grow old in mind, just in body	1

Factors influencing favorable attitudes and reactions toward growing old	Frequency of mention
Influenced by grandparents	5
Because grandparents are so happy	<u>2</u>
	7
Influenced by parents	4
My parents are so happy and contented	<u>3</u>
	7
My observations of older people, <u>not</u> grandparents	2
Seeing happiness of others that have completed so much in a life time	<u>2</u>
	4



## Essay Question V (cont.)

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Factors influencing favorable attitudes and reactions toward growing old	Frequency of mention
Church relations have influenced me	2
Because my grandparents were just the opposite	1

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## Part II

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Indefinite or Neutral opinions toward growing old	Frequency of mention
Don't mind growing old	19
if independent (physically and financially)	4
if can be done gracefully	3
if like grandparents	2
if near people who are loved) 1	2
if with a loving husband ) 1	2
if not a burden to someone	<u>2</u>
	32
It is inevitable	10
It should be taken as a matter of course	3
Just one of those things	3
Natural process	<u>2</u>
	18
Don't think about growing old	12
Doesn't bother "me" in the least	9
Have no fear of growing old	7
Don't care about growing old	3
Have no feeling	2
Growing old need not hinder life	1
Haven't decided	1
In no hurry	1
Not anxious to grow old, but it will not hinder.	1
Can't realize that old age is inevitable as everyone around me is nearly the same age	1
Do not dread it	1
Neither fear nor covet the idea	1



## Essay Question V (cont.)

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Indefinite or Neutral Opinions toward growing old	Frequency of mention
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Will accept it when it comes	1
Will die young, but sure not to worry about it	1
Life is very short	1
No bad feeling about it	1
War makes me want more from youth	1

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Factors influencing indefinite or neutral opinions toward growing old	Frequency of mention
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Seeing parents and grandparents grow old gracefully	2
My grandparents were not financially inde- pendent	1
Want to keep busy as my grandmother is just the opposite	1

## Part III

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Unfavorable attitudes and conditions con- cerning growing old	Frequency of mention
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Don't want to get old	8
Do not want to live with my children when old	6
Do not want to be a burden on someone either physically or financially	5
Don't relish the thought	4
Don't want to be old and ill	3
Don't want to lose youth's freedom	3
Would rather die young than be an old and help- less person	3
Hate to lose youth's freedom	2
Don't want to be like grandmother	2
Dread it very much	2
Hate to think about it	2

## Essay Question V (cont.)

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Unfavorable attitudes and conditions concerning growing old	Frequency of mention
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Think it's wonderful being young and would like to stay young	2
Poor health is big worry	2
Grandchild acts younger than her age because of belief that one should not mature quickly as one shall be old a long time anyway	1
Always notice older people and wonder if will be unhappy like many of them are	1
Afraid to grow old	1
Do not wish to become staid and unyielding to progress and changes in living	1
Do not want to lose teeth at an early age	1
Don't want to act like a feeble old "fuddy duddy" like some people do when they get old	1
Don't want to get feeble	1
See so many women who try so hard to keep from getting old they become unnatural acting and hard looking	1
Want to be out of the way to give someone else a chance	1
Want to mature, but not get old after that	1
Would hate to grow old if previous years had been wasted	1
Would like my home and family to remain stationary	1
Don't like to see people unable to move quickly and unable to grasp things	1
Slowing down physically and occasionally forgetting things that comes with old age is rather distressing to the younger generation	1

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Factors influencing attitudes and conditions concerning growing old	Frequency of mention
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Do not want to be dependent as grandmother is	1
Had to develop patience with feeble grandparents	1
Parents and grandparents have very poor health	1
People observed are unhappy	1

## Essay Question V (cont.)

Factors influencing attitudes and conditions concerning growing old	Frequency of mention
Seeing homes where grandparents live and are helpless	1
The most congenial old people observed do not live harmoniously with children and grandchildren	1

Pleasant Recollections of Grandparents

## Essay Question 6

What do you recall as being most outstanding in your early recollections of your grandparents?

Comments listed in order of frequency.

## Part I

Pleasant recollections of grandparents	Frequency of mention
Visiting grandparents	8
For dinner	3
Each Sunday	2
When grandchild is ill	2
Sunday night suppers	<u>1</u>
	16
Grandmother's cooking	3
Cookies	3
Candy	3
Cinnamon rolls	1
In huge kitchen	1
Pies	1
Sponge cake	<u>1</u>
	13
Grandparents' kindness	12
Learning from grandparents: cook, sew, knit, iron, poetry, make butter, spell name	7
Grandparents told stories	6
Celebration of holidays together	1
Spend Christmas together	<u>4</u>
	5



## Essay Question 6 (cont.)

Pleasant recollections of grandparents	Frequency of mention	
Gifts	3	5
Everytime I visit them	1	
Gifts of money	<u>1</u>	
My grandparents' visits	3	4
Saturday visits	<u>1</u>	
Grandmother's long hair	4	4
Grandparents' generosity	3	3
Grandparents' happiness together	3	3
"Teased me"	3	3
Their affection and concern about me	3	2
Being able to stay all night with grandparents	2	2
Grandfather was always ready to sit and talk	2	2
Grandmother was always busy	2	2
Go to church with grandparents	2	2
I was showered with gifts and attention as I was an only grandchild.	2	2
Long talks	2	2
Sense of humor	2	2
Singing	2	2
Sweet	2	2
Train trips with grandparents	2	1
Understanding	2	1
A special drawer with toys I had to keep in it	1	1
Accent of grandparents	1	1
Death of paternal grandparents and the effect it had on my maternal grandmother	1	1
Due to ill health grandmother always seemed old	1	1
Gentleness	1	1
Getting in an old model T ford and travelling over plank roads to grandparents' house	1	1
Grandfather read Sunday funnies to us	1	1
Grandfather picked cherries for me	1	1
Grandfather used to take long walks when very old	1	1
Grandfather used to wear a brace because of a broken neck	1	1
Grandfather's character	1	1
Grandfather taking me to a race	1	1
Grandmother had a pleasant way with children	1	1
Grandmother in a wheelchair beside the bookcase, always reading because she could not speak	1	1
Grandmother made clothes for me	1	1
Grandmother read to me when I was ill	1	



## Essay Question 6 (cont.)

Pleasant Recollections of Grandparents	Frequency of mention
Grandmother's beautiful flowers	1
Grandmother's jewelry	1
Going to make calls with grandfather (country doctor)	1
Good	1
Good times	1
Grandparent used to entertain me by speaking a foreign language	1
Hospitable	1
How straight grandfather walked	1
Interest	1
Liking to hug grandmother and trying to reach around her waist	1
Loving	1
Patience	1
Religiousness	1
Shopping tours	1
Sleeping with grandmother	1
Sympathy	1
Taking us places with them	1
The closeness we felt on grandparents' golden wedding anniversary	1
They put themselves out for us	1
Thoughtfulness	1
Used to tease grandmother	1
Watching grandfather work	1

Unpleasant recollections of grandparents	Frequency of mention
A desire to escape seeing grandmother	1
Grandmother couldn't stand to have doors slammed	1
How provoked we used to be because grandparent could not hear us, when we were small	1
Not a warm friendly feeling	1
The time my grandmother spanked my brother for something	1
Used to argue with grandmother when small	1
We did not enjoy our grandmother as much in spite of her gifts.	1

# Characteristics of the Ideal Grandparent

## Essay Question VII A

List characteristics that you would expect to find in an "ideal" grandparent.

Characteristics are listed in order of frequency of mention.

Desirable char.	Frequency	Desirable char.	Frequency
Loving	36	Good food (grand-	
Understanding	36	mother)	
Interests		Good cook	4
In grandchildren	10	Cookies all	
Just "interested"	9	the time	3
In life	4	Always on hand	1
Enjoy life	4	Should stay at	
In others	2	home and	
In grandchild-		prepare Sun-	
ren's friends	1	day after-	
In grandchild-		noon meals	
ren's interests	<u>1</u>	for the fam-	
	31	ily	<u>1</u>
Kind	28		9
Happy	23	Generous	8
Modern	20	Jolly	8
(specified by 4		Well informed, alert	
not overdoing it)		or well educated	8
Considerate	16	Tell stories (3 speci-	
Cheerful	14	fied stories of old	
Tolerant	14	times)	7
Companionable	13	Cooperative	6
Friendly	13	Enjoy children (2 spec-	6
Helpful when needed	12	ify doing things	
Present nice appear-		with grandchildren	
ance	3	because they like to)	6
Clean	4	Pleasant	6
Good manners	2	Religious	6
Neat	1	Respect	2
Neat eating ha-		For others	2
bits	<u>1</u>	Self respect	<u>2</u>
	11		6
Good health	9	Tactful	6
Sense of humor	9	Attitude of approval	
		toward child's par-	
		ents	5

## Essay Question VII A (cont.)

Desirable char.	Frequency	Desirable char.	Frequency
Fun	5	Live in a small town	1
Gentle	5	Live on a farm	1
Sincere	5	Loveable	1
Someone to confide in	5	Never live with their	
Broadminded	4	children and fam-	
Carefree	4	ilies	1
Congenial	4	Matronly figure	1
Expect good conduct	4	Not easily hurt	1
Hospitality	4	Not drink	1
Instructive	4	Optomistic outlook	1
Leave advice and dis-		Slightly indulgent	1
cipline to parents	4	Do not stay too long	
Maintain their own home		when they come to	
and live in it	4	visit	1
Pleasing personality	4	Trustworthy	1
Sweet	4	Understandable	1
Sympathetic	4	Young in mind and	
Appreciative	3	spirit	1
Calm	3	Wholesome	1
Good conversationalist	3		
Unselfish	3		
Agreeable	3		
Encouraging	2		
Fair	2		
Friends of their own	2		
Honesty	2		
Maternal	2		
Not curious about af-			
fairs of others	2		
Quiet	2		
Vivacity	2		
Able to do things	1		
Able to be around people	1		
Able to sew	1		
Accomplish aims in life	1		
Act their age	1		
Adjust to changes	1		
Easily entertained	1		
Firm beliefs	1		
Going out of their way			
to do something fine	1		
Ideals	1		
Include child in group	1		



# Undesirable Grandparent Characteristics

## Essay Question VII B

List characteristics which you think are undesirable in grandparents.

Characteristics are listed in order of frequency of mention.

Undesirable char.	Frequency	Undesirable char.	Frequency
Interferring	4	Pampering and spoiling	
With parents	14	grandchildren	8
Meddling into af-		Self pity	8
fairs of others	8	Critical and fault	
With grandchild-		finding	5
ren	5	Of their mate	1
In children's		Of their children	1
family		Of their grand-	
Giving unasked-		children	1
for advice	1		8
Disapproval of		Demanding	5
grandchild's		Require children to	
friends	1	be quiet	1
Giving advice op-		Require children to	
posite of par-		be ladylike	1
ents	1		7
	35	Poor health	7
Domineering, bossy	32	Disgustingly modern	2
and overbearing		Going to dances	1
Selfish	22	Smoking	1
Gruff, grouchy, cross	21	Drinking	1
Old fashioned	7	Flashy dressing	1
Not changing with			6
the times	4	Jealousy	4
Disapproval of		Try to win grand-	
modern ways	1	child's affec-	
Ideas of child		tion from par-	
raising	1	ent	1
In dress	1	Attempt to mono-	
	14	polize grand-	
Show favoritism	12	child's interests	1
Narrow minded	11		6
Nervous and irritable	9	Being dependent	5
Complaining	8	Childish	5



## Essay Question VII B (cont.)

Undesirable char.	Frequency	Undesirable char.	Frequency
Nagging	5	Babyishness	1
Strict	5	Bitter	1
Ignore children	4	Bad temper	1
Live with children and their families	4	Crude	1
Nosy	4	Crying	1
Protect children from punishment	4	Disregarding rules of health	1
Set in their ways and opinions	4	Easily hurt	1
Fussy	3	Fostering and encourag- ing children's quar- rels	1
No interests	3	Frankness of mistakes of others	1
Stubbornness	3	Hate	1
Brooding about your pasr	2	Hostile	1
Dislike children	2	Inability to cope with new generation	1
Don't act their age	2	Insurance	1
Harsh	2	Living close to their children	1
Inconsiderate	2	Lying	1
Intolerant	2	Moody	1
Impatient	2	No manners	1
Lack of understanding	2	Not be able to take sug- gestions	1
Poor disposition	2	Not companionable	1
Poor sense of humor	2	Not harmonious	1
Setting up "their day" as an example	2	Refusing to let grand- children call them grandfather and grand- mother	1
Stingy	2	Restraining	1
Non-religious	2	Sloppy appearance	1
Thinking children are underfoot	2	Slowness	1
Too wrapped up in their children and not let children out of their grasp	2	"Social hounds"	1
Trying to inject old fashioned ideas into lives of grandchild- ren	2	Talk too much	1
Uncleanliness	2	Tell you things against your parents	1
Want everything done "their way"	1	Prudishness	1
Aloofness	1	Unfair	1
Arguing grandparent	1	Unfriendly	1
		Unkind	1

APPENDIX

PART D

RATINGS OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS  
OF  
GRANDPARENTS

Ratings of Grandparents' Characteristics

Code: a. Extremely  
b. Very  
c. Fairly  
d. Not very  
e. Not at all

Statements to which subjects reacted.	<u>a</u>	<u>b</u>	<u>c</u>	<u>d</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>Tot.</u>
Most grandparents whom I know are strict	0	8	44	36	18	106
My mother's mother is strict	3	6	20	21	16	66
My mother's father is strict	3	4	14	15	19	55
My father's mother is strict	6	7	16	14	17	60
My father's father is strict	6	3	11	13	6	39
If I were a grandparent I would be strict	1	2	41	39	23	106
Most grandparents whom I know are "up-to-date"	3	12	63	22	4	104
My mother's mother is "up-to-date"	8	14	24	15	3	64
My mother's father is "up-to-date"	2	10	21	11	0	44
My father's mother is "up-to-date"	6	10	21	11	5	53
My father's father is "up-to-date"	4	7	17	9	2	39
If I were a grandparent I would be "up-to-date"	20	44	32	2	2	100
Most grandparents whom I know are understanding	12	38	50	5	1	106
My mother's mother is understand- ing	13	27	14	7	2	63
My mother's father is under- standing	9	16	12	5	1	43
My father's mother is under- standing	13	17	21	5	4	60
My father's father is under- standing	2	12	18	3	1	36
If I were a grandparent I would be understanding	25	66	10	0	0	101
Most grandparents whom I know are happy	20	22	40	7	1	90
My mother's mother is happy	18	26	11	4	4	63
My mother's father is happy	16	17	6	3	0	42

Ratings of Grandparents' Characteristics

(cont.)

Statements to which subjects reacted.	<u>a</u>	<u>b</u>	<u>c</u>	<u>d</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>Tot.</u>
My father's mother is happy	18	23	13	4	0	58
My father's father is happy	9	15	6	3	0	33
If I were a grandparent I would try to be happy	53	43	5	0	0	101
Most grandparents whom I know are kind	34	48	18	3	0	103
My mother's mother is kind	34	19	4	1	1	59
My mother's father is kind	22	15	6	0	0	43
My father's mother is kind	32	18	1	3	1	55
My father's father is kind	16	15	2	2	0	35
If I were a grandparent I would be kind	55	36	6	1	0	98
Most grandparents whom I know are religious	17	23	49	10	1	100
My mother's mother is religious	14	17	21	8	1	61
My mother's father is religious	7	11	11	12	1	42
My father's mother is religious	14	15	21	7	1	58
My father's father is religious	9	5	14	5	2	35
If I were a grandparent I would be religious	11	32	48	9	0	100
Most grandparents whom I know are sincere	25	55	20	0	1	101
My mother's mother is sincere	26	24	7	0	2	59
My mother's father is sincere	18	19	7	0	0	44
My father's mother is sincere	25	20	9	1	1	56
My father's father is sincere	17	16	1	2	1	37
If I were a grandparent I would be sincere	48	42	7	1	0	98
Most grandparents I know are exemplary	10	37	38	7	1	93
My mother's mother is exemplary	18	24	12	8	2	59
My mother's father is exemplary	9	17	14	3	0	43
My father's mother is exemplary	19	14	14	3	1	51
If I were a grandparent I would be exemplary	40	45	9	1	0	176
My father's father is exemplary	11	18	4	2	0	35



Ratings of Grandparents' Characteristics

(cont.)

Statements to which subjects reacted.	<u>a</u>	<u>b</u>	<u>c</u>	<u>d</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>Tot.</u>
Most grandparents whom I know are fair and just	17	33	45	4	1	100
My mother's mother is fair & just	17	28	9	2	2	58
My mother's father is fair & just	17	22	4	4	1	48
My father's mother is fair & just	18	22	8	4	1	53
My father's father is fair & just	11	18	4	2	0	35
If I were a grandparent I would be fair and just	40	45	9	1	0	176
Most grandparents whom I know show favoritism	5	12	40	25	11	93
My mother's mother shows favor- itism	4	8	16	12	15	55
My mother's father shows favor- itism	3	3	8	13	16	43
My father's mother shows favor- itism	6	10	8	8	18	50
My father's father shows favor- itism	3	2	11	5	13	34
If I were a grandparent I would show favoritism		2	10	24	61	91
Most grandparents whom I know are companionable	9	23	48	13	1	94
My mother's mother is companion- able with her grandchildren	19	18	15	3	1	56
My mother's father is companion- able with his grandchildren	18	7	10	3	1	39
My father's mother is companion- able with her grandchildren	11	20	18	3	2	54
My father's father is companion- able with his grandchildren	5	11	10	3	1	30
If I were a grandparent I would be companionable with my grandchildren	37	45	9			91