

T H E S I S

on

A STUDY OF INCOMES AND EXPENDITURES OF  
HOME ECONOMICS GRADUATES OF  
OREGON STATE COLLEGE

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by

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## INTRODUCTION

### A--The Nature and Purpose of the Study

The position of the Home Economics graduate, is of importance in the educational world. Her efficiency in the years after graduation is shown by her standards in expenditure for shelter, comforts and savings, as well as by her ability to earn. A basis for questions as to the adequacy of the income is given in the comparison of the salary earned by the graduate, or by her husband where the graduate is not employed outside of the home.

This investigation has a multiple aim, namely:

1. To discover the incomes of Home Economics graduates from Oregon State College.
2. To find the relation between training and degree and the positions held.
3. To study the basic reasons for working as given by married graduates.
4. To give a summary of the home life as shown by the number of graduates married and the number of children in the home.
5. To appraise the standards of living as shown by money expended for shelter and comforts or conveniences.

### B--Method Used in the Collection of Data

Information for this study was obtained from a ques-

tionnaire submitted to graduates of the School of Home Economics of Oregon State College. The material used in the study was of a confidential nature, as it was thought that the sender would be more frank in her replies if the information could not easily be identified. Since the investigation was a study of incomes and expenditures, a candid expression was desired and it is the opinion of the writer that the replies were conscientiously given, and that the returns on the schedules, which were filled out in detail, were as accurate as the one filling them out could make them. Therefore the assumptions in this study are based upon the supposed correctness of data used.

It is also believed that the replies used in this study are perhaps more nearly accurate when obtained by the questionnaire than they would have been had it been possible to use the personal interview method, since the questions deal with personal matters.

#### C--The Size and Character of the Sample

Questionnaires were sent to the 1,428 women who have graduated from the School of Home Economics since its organization.

Considering the fact that these graduates cover a wide range of years, or from 1893 to 1930, the year of making the survey, it was thought that the information would be extensive enough to give an adequate sample. The scope includes Oregon State College graduates who are



widely scattered over the United States and in foreign countries.

In this study, only those schedules were used which were filled out in detail and seemed to give a conscientious consideration of the problems under investigation. Those schedules not filled out in detail were not valuable for comparison and those who expressed a "guess" were not considered in the results used in the study. The replies of the graduates of the class of 1929 were used in the tabulation and while one year's time is not a sufficiently long period upon which to base comparisons in all of the questions considered, yet in some phases the shorter time gives a basis for comparison with the longer number of years since graduation.

During the 37 year period, whose graduates are reported in this study, the Oregon State College has maintained the same general type of instruction for women students of home economics. As the college has developed its curriculum, it has drawn its students from a wider area but the College has always attracted the young women who have some fundamental interest in training for home making. Thus the group of graduates, who replied to the questionnaire, probably would be considered as a representative group.

#### 1. The Questionnaire Used in the Study

A copy of the questionnaire, upon which the data

in the study is based, was sent to all graduates of the School of Home Economics of Oregon State College at the close of the school year, 1930. The total number sent to Home Economics alumni was 1,428, and of this total 235 were returned to the school unclaimed, leaving 1,193 which reached the addressee. In reply to the 1,193 questionnaires sent out 379, or 31.8% were returned. But 210 of the 379 replies were not complete in all details and were not used in the study, leaving 169 which were used in the study. This 169 is 17.2% of the total which were used in the study for the purpose of showing results or contrasts.

Table I offers data in regard to the number of questionnaires sent, those returned unclaimed, those not used and those schedules which were used in the study.

TABLE I

Tabulation of Returns of Questionnaires Sent to Graduates of the School of Home Economics at Oregon State College.

Total number of questionnaires sent	1,428
Number returned unclaimed	235
Number reaching destination	1,193
Number or replies received	31.8% or 379
Number not used in this study	210

169 or 17.2% of the total number, 1,193 were used in this study.

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## 2. Location and Years of Graduation Represented

The returns from the questionnaire represent graduates who, in 1930, were located in 19 states and the District of Columbia, as well as Mexico and Canada. Schedules were received from graduates of each class, beginning with 1893, with the exception of the nine class years: 1894, 1895, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1902, 1907 and 1910. The study includes data from married and unmarried graduates. Some of the young women married Oregon State College students or graduates and the occupations of the husbands cover agricultural, educational and commercial fields. The married home economics graduates are found earning both before and after marriage and with and without children in the home.

One of the aims of the study was to find how many Home Economics graduates live on the farm. Of the 169 graduates studied three of the unmarried live on a farm. Sixteen of the married graduates answered "yes" to the question, "Do you live on a farm?". This makes a total of only nineteen who are living in the country. The sixteen married graduates are rural home-makers and the three unmarried graduates are assisting with the duties of the farm home.

Of the 169 graduates in Home Economics, 150 replied that they lived in the city or town--of these 71 were unmarried and 79 were housewives. This data gives a large

percentage of urban dwellers, explained by the occupations and positions held since graduation.



FACTORS CONSIDERED IN MAKING THE STUDY

-II-

FACTORS CONSIDERED IN MAKING THE STUDY

A--Unmarried Graduates of Oregon State College Who Have Earned

Sixty-nine unmarried graduates whose records were used in this study held positions and were drawing salaries during the year 1929. Five others were at home or had not earned during the year. Two were at home "helping with the work on the farm" and caring for sick relatives. Another gave as a reason for not working, that she had "inherited a substantial income and a position was not necessary". A fourth gave as a reason for not drawing a salary that she was "to be married soon". The fifth made the explanation that she was "learning the life insurance business" and not yet ready to receive compensation.

Thus the reports show that a large percentage, or 69 out of 74 unmarried graduates are earning.

1. The Number of Years Graduates have Earned

The number of years of employment since graduation gives the substantial contribution to education made by the young women, as the records of this group include members of classes from 1908 to 1929. Eighteen have earned one year since graduation, one of these was a member of the class of 1916, who worked one year and has been at home since. The remaining 17 were all members of the class of 1929. Twelve graduates have worked two years, eleven from

the class of 1928 and one from the class of 1927.

Of the five who have been employed three years since graduation two were from the class of 1926 the other three from the class of 1927.

The two who were employed four years were from the class of 1926. The six who report five years of work since graduation were from different classes--one from 1922, two from 1924 and three from 1926.

Four reported that they had worked six years; one was from the class of 1917, one from the class of 1923 and two from the class of 1924. Five reported seven years work; one was a member of the class of 1922 and four were members of the class of 1923. Four who reported eight years work each were from the class of 1922. The three who have worked nine years, each were from the class of 1921. The three who worked ten years were from the class of 1920. The one who has worked eleven years was from the class of 1919. The one who worked 12 years, from the class of 1916. The two who worked 13 years were from the classes of 1916 and 1917, respectively. The two who have worked 17 years, were from the class of 1913. The one who has worked 21 years was from the class of 1909, and she has worked every year since receiving her diploma.

Therefore we see that there is a rather close relationship between the number of years graduates have earned and the years since graduation, as members have worked almost

continuously. The variation in some cases between the years of salary earning and the years since graduation is accounted for by the fact that some had spent one or more years in study for advanced degrees. These findings are summarized in Table II.

TABLE II

The Number of Years Unmarried Graduates of  
Oregon State College Have Earned

<u>Number of Graduates Who Have Earned</u>	<u>Year of Graduation</u>	<u>Number of Years Graduates Have Earned</u>
18	1916-1917	1
12	1927-1928	2
5	1926-1927	3
2	1926	4
6	1922, 1924, 1926	5
4	1917, 1923, 1924	6
5	1922-1923	7
4	1922	8
3	1921	9
3	1920	10
1	1919	11
1	1916	12
2	1916-1917	13
2	1913	17
1	1909	21
<u>69</u> Total		



2. Positions held by Oregon State College Graduates  
in Home Economics

The questionnaires were sent to graduates of the School of Home Economics, but we do not find all earning in that field. Some are working along the lines of their minor college courses, others have made additional preparation for other occupations.

The field of teaching some phase of Home Economics leads in the occupations listed. Fifty-seven out of ninety-one different positions reported were designated as that of teachers of home economics. Secretarial work stands second with ten working in such positions. Extension Home Economics stands third on the list with five graduates in such positions. Cafeteria and Lunchroom management stands fourth with three graduates in these positions. Commercial Home Economics is the position held by three graduates. Journalism is also represented on the list by three graduates. Dietitian by two, Medicine by 1, Librarian by 1, and 1 is Dean of Girls, while 5 are at home or working at miscellaneous jobs. Table III follows:

TABLE IIITypes of Positions and Number of Graduates Holding Them

<u>Position</u>	<u>Number</u>
Teaching Home Economics	57
Secretarial	10
Home Economics Extension	5
Cafeteria-Lunch Room	3
Commercial Home Economics	3
Journalism	3
Dietitian	2
Medicine	1
Librarian	1
Dean of Girls	1
Home and Miscellaneous	5
	<u>91</u> Total

This gives a total of 91, when the number who have reported work done equals 69, which is explained by the fact that a number have worked at different occupations. Sometimes they have held positions of two different types during the same year, as substitute teaching half of the year and secretarial work the other half.

### 3. Salaries of Unmarried Graduates

The question asked on the schedule was: "What was your income in 1929 from your own earnings?". This study used the salaries recorded for the school year 1929-1930 for those teaching or from the calendar year of 1929

in other professions in making comparisons. Of the five who reported no salaries, one had inherited money, one was to be married soon, one was learning the insurance business and two were at home. Of the latter two it is doubtful if they should be classed in the non-earning group, as they report that they were helping with the work of the farm and caring for an aged relative, which perhaps should be<sup>1</sup> classed as an economic contribution to the home. The five who reported part time salary were graduates of the class of 1929 and began work the middle of the year so reported salary for only one half of the school year. This half year salary of four of the number, if calculated on the yearly basis, would put them in the salary range from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

In the salaries ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500 the study shows 24 graduates. If we add the four in the part time group we find 28 in that range. In the salaries ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,000 we find 14 graduates and in the range from \$2,000 to \$2,500, 12 are listed. In the range from \$2,500 to \$3,000 five reported and in that between \$3,000 and \$3,500 only four reported. The highest of the salaries reported, as listed in Table IV was \$3,300.

Complaint is lodged that salaries of college graduates do not compensate for the expense of years of special training and that the salary is not sufficient for the

standards of living demanded and for advancement in higher life activities. The question arises--Is the salary sufficient when we consider the years and financial output necessary for the securing of an education? How does the salary of graduates correspond with that of the population of the United States as a whole? The salaries in this study are salaries of unmarried women, who for the most part are not required to support relatives. Their incomes can be compared only with those of their own class or with the incomes of the masses. From the National Bureau of Economic Research we find that only 1% of the income earners of the United States receive incomes from \$8,000 to over \$1,000,000; 86% of the families in the United States have incomes of \$2,000 or less, with possibly three fourths<sup>2</sup> of the people receiving less than \$1,574 per annum. Table IV follows:



TABLE IVTypes of Salaries of Unmarried Graduates ofOregon State College

<u>Salary Range</u>	<u>Number of Graduates</u>
Part time salary	10
From \$1,000 to \$1,500	24
From \$1,500 to \$2,000	14
From \$2,000 to \$2,500	12
From \$2,500 to \$3,000	5
From \$3,000 to \$3,500	4
Total number earning-----	<u>69</u>
At home or reporting no salary-----	5
Total number of unmarried graduates-----	<u>74</u>

Salary was given for the school year 1929 and 30 by teachers and for the calendar year of 1929 by workers in other professions.

4. Relation of Salary to Graduate Study and Advanced Degrees

One purpose of the inquiry, which included 169 graduates of the School of Home Economics, was to find the correlation between salary and graduate study, leading to an advanced degree.

In the unmarried group, 31 had done some graduate work at summer school at Oregon State College, or elsewhere. Table IV recorded 24 graduates in the salary range under \$1,500 and five who reported part time salary, also

five others who, for various reasons given, reported no salary for the year 1929. This makes a total of 34 graduates in the group of salaries under \$1,500.

In this group of 34 graduates seven report that graduate work has been done and includes those who are recent graduates as well as those who are "at home". A number of replies suggested the time as "next year" or, "in two years" when graduate study would begin. Some reported that graduate work could not be done until college indebtedness had been defrayed. No advanced degrees were reported by the 34 graduates in the group of salaries under \$1,500, but seven members had done some graduate work.

In the salaries ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,000, which includes 14 graduates, seven have done graduate work, but no advanced degrees were reported by this salary group.

In the salaries ranging from \$2,000 to \$2,500, which included 12 graduates, advanced work was done by eight persons with four holding the Master's degree.

In the salaries ranging from \$2,500 to \$3,000, two report graduate work, but no advanced degrees were reported by this salary group.

Those reporting salaries ranging from \$3,000 to \$3,300 report two degrees--one Master's and one Medical--the other two in that salary range report no graduate work done, but have been working in their respective lines--

Journalism and Extension for eight and ten years respectively and have added experience.

Table V shows a close correlation between graduate study and salary. In the group with a salary below \$2,000 we find 48 graduates with no advanced degrees but graduate work covering a short time has been done by 14 individuals. In the salaries ranging between \$2,000 and \$3,300 the replies to the schedule show 21 graduates; six of this number hold advanced degrees, 12 have done some graduate work, while 3 have done nothing beyond the Bachelor's degree.

TABLE V

Relation of Salary to Graduate Study and Advanced Degrees

Number of Graduates	Salary Range Reported	Graduate Work Done by Members	Number of Advanced Degrees Held	Nature of Degree
34	None reported to \$1,500	7	--	--
14	\$1,500 to \$2,000	7	--	--
12	\$2,000 to \$2,500	8	4	M.S.
5	\$2,500 to \$3,000	2	--	--
4	\$3,000 to \$3,500	2	2	M.S. M.D.
69	Total indicating	26	6	

5. Relation of Salary to the Number of Years Since Graduation

The study shows much variation in regard to the comparison between salary and the number of years graduates

have worked since receiving their Bachelor's degree. In the group of 34 graduates with a salary under \$1,500 it was found that 18 have worked one year, 8 have worked two years and the remaining 8 have worked from 3 to 10 years. Of the 14 persons in the salary group from \$1,500 to \$2,000 the years of work range from 2 to 17 years. In the group of 12 women with salaries ranging from \$2,000 to \$2,500 the years of work, from 3 to 21 years are reported.

In the group of 5 with salaries ranging from \$2,500 to \$3,000, the years of work were from 1 to 10 years, there being only one in this group who drew a salary over \$2,500 her first year.

These results show that the group drawing the highest salaries, those above \$2,500, have all, with one exception, worked seven or more years. Those who reported only one year of work are found in the salary group of \$1,500 or less. Only one member reached the higher salaried position her first year. Therefore the evidence in the study points to the fact that years of experience result in higher salaries, largely in proportion to the length of experience.

Table VI gives the tabulated results, showing the relation of salary to the number of years since graduation.



TABLE VI

## Relation of Salary of Oregon State College Graduates to the

## Number of Years Since Graduation (Unmarried)

Salary	Number of Graduates in the Group	Number of Years Graduates Have Earned																				
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>
None re- ported																						
to \$1,500	34	18	8	2	1		1	1	2		1											
\$1,500 to \$2,000	14		2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1		1		1					1			
\$2,000 to \$2,500	12			1	3	1	1	2		1			1						1			1
\$2,500 to \$3,000	5	1							2	1	1											
\$3,000 to \$3,500	4							1	1		1			1								
Totals	69	19	10	4	5	2	4	5	7	3	3	1	1	2					2			1

-B-

MARRIED GRADUATES WHO HAVE EARNED

### B--Married Graduates Who Have Earned

The School of Home Economics provides preparation for young women in home-making as well as for professional work. The latter includes teaching some phase of home economics, institutional management or commercial fields. Therefore, this study was interested in finding the number of graduates who married as well as those entering the field of professional work. Of the 169 women whose schedules were used in this study, 95 were married. This gives a partial answer to the question, "Do women trained in the arts of home-making, select the making of a home of their own as a profession?".

In this study, which covers a scope of 37 years, or Home Economics graduates from 1893 to 1930, matrimony and home-making have been chosen by 56.2%. There is also included in the records those young women from the class of 1929, a certain percentage of whom will no doubt marry a few years later. Conclusions for the opinion are drawn from the fact that the majority of the married graduates in this study worked from 1 to 3 years before they married. See Table VII.

In a study made at Iowa State College of 180 Home Economics graduates, from the year 1905 to 1925, the schedules showed that 72% of the 180 were married, but that they worked an average of 4.2 years before marrying.<sup>3</sup>

#### 1. Years of Employment Before Marriage

From the replies to the questionnaire it was found that 69 of the 95 married graduates worked before marriage, the number of years of employment varying from 1 to 17 years.

Table VII shows the number of married graduates and the years employed before marriage.

TABLE VII

Number of Married Graduates of Oregon State College  
and the Number of Years Employed Before Marriage

<u>Number of</u> <u>Graduates</u>	<u>Number of Years Employed</u> <u>Before Marriage</u>
17	1
17	2
13	3
8	4
4	5
6	6
1	7
1	8
1	9
1	17
<u>69 Total</u>	



## 2. Graduates Working After Marriage and Reasons for Working

One of the aims of this study was to discover the number of graduates who worked after marriage and their reasons for doing so.

The questions asked were, "Have you earned since marriage?" "How long have you worked?" "Have you worked full or part time?" "Give your reasons for working and the nature of the work done." "Do you plan to continue work?"

From the schedules we find that 73 women worked after marriage. Thirteen report full time salary for the year 1929 while 60 report part time work during the same year. Various miscellaneous jobs were represented in the replies.

The reasons given for working were as follows: Three have worked to support the family after the death of the husband and father, and two worked because of the illness of the husband. Two were working to help with expenses while the husband was doing graduate work, one for a M.S., the other for a Medical degree, while two others worked in order that they might pay debts incurred while in attendance at college. Others give as their reasons for working:

"My husband is away from home and I do not have enough house work to keep me employed."

"To get money to buy a home."

"I want some extra money."

"I had nothing to do in our apartment."

"I had a natural interest in the work and wanted to keep on."

"Too much leisure time."

"I was tired of 'working for board and clothes', and wanted money of my own."

"To keep up so that I could make my own living if it was necessary."

"Will not work longer if the added income is not needed."

"Wanted a rest from care of home and children."

"To get ahead on our savings account."

"Art work for diversion and money."

"To pad out a slender income."

"To help pay mother-in-law's expenses."

"To help pay expenses of education of niece and nephew."

"To help fill the proverbial sock."

"To maintain certain standards."

"Spending money."

"Ornamentation of home and for extra equipment."

All these were given as reasons, but "extra money" and "too much leisure time" were the reasons given most frequently.

When the various reasons for working are summarized, "extra money" for home or spending outnumber all other

reasons, as 41 of the 69 give as a definite reason the need of more money in the home, while some of the others give no definite reason save "interest and use of leisure time". Therefore, the real reasons as given, group themselves around the economic as some of those who are adding to the family income admit that they will not accept employment when "financial conditions are better". Some of the women apologize because they are not "working". Others declare that the home occupies all of their time and that they feel the need of more specialized training for this work and mention the need for more work in child training, psychology, mental hygiene, and home management.

The replies to the schedule disclose some pertinent facts in regard to the opinions which seem to be held in regard to work in the home. Some regard the caring for a home and dependents as a full time job, while others report that they are "not earning, just at home".

The reasons for working indicate that some of the Home Economics graduates are not satisfied with work for "board and clothes". They feel a need for an economic interest in the home. In a study made by Hildegrade Kneeland, of the Bureau of Home Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, emphasis is placed upon the fact that 21,000,000 housewives were employed without gain in the home, as reported in the census of 1920. It is also emphasized in the study, that work in the home brings no

wage for the housewife, even though the service rendered is priceless. Sometimes dissatisfaction arises in the mind of the woman who has been professionally trained, and she desires gainful employment.<sup>1</sup>

From other reasons given such as "to buy a home" or "to beautify the yard", it appears that the higher standards of living in the homes of college graduates demand more money for the support of the home than some of the incomes provide, which explains why the wife seeks employment in order to contribute her share.<sup>4</sup>

From the reasons given for working the question of adequate salary for the family arises.<sup>5</sup> The "education of members of the family" or "husband working for a higher degree" disclose the need for an increase in the financial resources of the family.

When answering the question, "Give your reasons for working" many of the graduates said that they had too much leisure time. The simplest and most commonly accepted definition of leisure is "leisure is time at one's own disposal; time one can spend as one pleases".<sup>6</sup> After considering the replies to the schedules, it developed that one reason for leisure time was found in the absence of children in the home. In those homes where children under ten were reported, the mother replied that all of her time was required in the care of home and family. But where no children were reported, leisure time was present to be



disposed of in some way.

In the present study of Oregon State College graduates, 69 of the married ones have children, but only 4 of those with children to care for were found in the group of 13 who were drawing full time salary in 1929. However, only one of the four had children who were under seven in 1929, the year when work for compensation outside of the home was reported. It is obvious that children in the home affect the activities, especially those of the mother. The ages and the number of children tend to curtail her employment outside of the home.

Table VIII gives 73 married graduates working either full or part time. But the greater number of those employed have no children or the latter are grown and away from home, therefore, the mother has leisure to engage in occupations outside of the home.

Another reason for married women seeking employment outside of the home is brought out by the labor and time saving devices in the homes of 72 of the married graduates. They report that it is possible for them to complete their household tasks in a shorter time with modern conveniences and labor savers and this leaves more time for leisure. Other studies, as that of The Use of Leisure Time by Homemakers in a College Community, have emphasized the fact that education stimulates to general interest as well as to a study of the task at hand, therefore education has

helped women to accomplish the work of the home in a shorter time than before. In the study mentioned, one half of the married women, with no children in the home, were gainfully employed.

### 3. Positions Held by Married Graduates

As was true with the unmarried graduates, we find the married graduates holding various types of positions, with teaching some phase of home economics work heading the list. Nine graduates were employed in teaching while 21 were doing part time work in teaching. The other full time jobs included 2 clerical workers, 1 lino-type worker and 1 librarian. Part-time jobs held included that of worker in a cafeteria and lunch room, matron and dean of girls, a librarian as well as research, home economics extension and 4-H club workers.

Other work which was used to fill in "spare moments" included dressmaking and plain sewing, checking apples at the warehouse, picking hops and "I just worked but nothing highbrow".

Table VIII shows the number reporting positions, but before offering the tabulated results the explanation is given that since some worked at part time teaching and other jobs in leisure time, all during the same year, the total indicating what might seem like a discrepancy explained by the fact that one person may be tabulated in two or more different positions during the same year.

TABLE VIII

Specified Type of Work Done After Marriage by Oregon  
State College Graduates Who Contributed to the Family

Income During the Year 1929

Type of Work	Number of Graduates Working full time	Number of Graduates Working part time
Teaching	9	21
Clerical	2	6
Linotype	1	
Librarian	1	2
Cafeteria and Lunchroom		5
Extension and 4-H Clubs		4
Matron and Dean of Girls		2
Research		1
Dressmaking and Plain Sewing		7
Art Work		2
Hand Painted Cards		6
Checking Apples at Warehouse		1
Picking Hops and Berries		2
Kind not states		1
Total Reporting	<u>13</u>	<u>60</u>

TABLE IX

Relation Between Year of Graduation and the Number of Years Employed or Unemployed

Before or After Marriage with Salary and Position

Year of Graduation	Years Employed Before Marriage	Years Employed After Marriage	Years not Employed	Salary Received in 1929	Nature of Position
1918	4	2	6	\$1,200	Teacher of Home Ec.
1927	0	3	0	\$1,255	Teacher of Home Ec.
1903	3	7	17	\$1,300	Librarian
1917	2	1	10	\$1,350	Clerical
1904	8	10	8	\$1,500	Clerical
1918	3	1	8	\$1,600	Teacher of Home Ec.
1926	3	1	0	\$1,600	Teacher of Home Ec.
1918	3	7	2	\$2,100	Teacher of Home Ec.
1920	5	3	2	\$2,100	Teacher of Home Ec.
1925	4	1	0	\$2,100	Teacher of Home Ec.
1924	3	3	0	\$2,100	Teacher of Home Ec.
1921	6	2	1	\$2,500	Teacher of Home Ec.
1914	14	2	0	\$3,000	Linotype



#### 4. Salaries of Married Graduates

In the types of full time salaries reported by the 13 graduates, that of teacher varies from \$1,200 per year to \$2,500. The librarian received \$1,300, those reporting clerical positions received \$1,350 and \$1,500 each, while the linotype and publisher reported an income of \$3,000 per year. The relation between length of time since graduation and salary seems remote as class years from 1903 to 1926 are represented with wide difference in salary. But when the years that graduates have not been employed in gainful occupations are considered, there seems to be a correlation between salary and years of unemployment, since those graduates who have earned continuously, or nearly so, are found in the higher salaried group.

The seeming discrepancy between the number of years employed before marriage as given in Table IX and the tabulation in Table VII is accounted for by the fact that in Table IX, only those graduates are included who were earning in 1929. Some of those earning recorded in Table VII were not earning in that year.

Part time salaries reported by 60 married graduates showed variations from a "few dollars" up to \$687, the major portion, by far, preferring to report the amount earned as a "few dollars for extra spending money" not designating the amount, usually remarking that it was

"too little to report".

Nevertheless the schedules show that 13 married graduates worked full time and 60 worked part time showing that 73 out of 95 married graduates felt a desire or a need for earning some money, the reasons for which have been given.

In a study made of 180 Home Economics graduates of Iowa State College the results showed over one third of the women contributing to the family income after marriage. <sup>3</sup>

#### 5. Graduate Study Reported by Married Graduates

Of the married graduates, 23 did some graduate work, and one received her Master's, one her Ph.D., while others standardized or worked towards the standardization of Bachelor's degrees, given in earlier years.

The married graduates holding advanced degrees were not working when the study was made as their time was required in the home.

#### 6. Number of Children in the Homes of Married Graduates

Sixty-nine, or 72.6% of the 95 married graduates reported children in the home, the largest number in any one home reported was four, this number being reported by three graduates. Twenty-six reported none, 27 reported one child, 25 reported 2 children and 14 reported 3 children. The tabulation is summarized in Table X.

TABLE X

Number of Children in the Homes of Married Graduates  
of Oregon State College

<u>Number of Graduates</u> <u>Reporting Children</u>	<u>Number of Children</u> <u>in the Home</u>	<u>Total Number of</u> <u>Children Reported</u>
26	0	0
27	1	27
25	2	50
14	3	42
3	4	12
Total <u>95</u>		<u>131</u>

Percentage reporting children 72.6%

7. Relation of Children in the Home to Income Earning  
Outside of the Home

The question arises "How do children in the home affect the freedom of the mother in working outside of the home for a salary?". The schedules show that only 4 of the 13 married graduates who were working full time, had children in the home, the remaining nine had none. One had a small daughter three years old, she is the only graduate who reported a salary who has a pre-school child. In reply to the question, "Have you earned since children came?" the majority of the graduates replied that nearly all of their time had been needed in the home since the arrival of the first child. The subject has been further discussed in the study under the caption "Reasons for

Working".

It was found that those who graduated preceding the year 1900 and who were married a few years after graduation, had earned for short intervals after their children were of college age. It might be presumed that graduates would earn after marriage, since 9% of all married women in the United States were employed in gainful employment according to figures based on the 1920 census statistics.<sup>8</sup> But as stated before, only 4 of the 13 women drawing full time salary for 1929 had children; and only one of these was under seven years of age. From the schedules it was found to be true, that the mothers of young children seldom attempted to add to the family income even for a short interval during the year, due to the fact that home duties required all of their time.

According to the summary in Table XI it will be seen that of the 41, who have worked for short periods since children came, the majority or 32 of the 41, have worked two years or less with 9 working from 3 to 10 years. This tabulation covers the period from the date of the first birth to be recorded on the schedules, to the present, or 27 years. Table XI follows:



TABLE XIRelation of Children in the Home to IncomeEarning Outside of the Home

<u>Number of Graduates Who Have Earned</u>	<u>Length of Time Graduates Have Earned After the Birth of Children</u>
14	Part of Year
10	1 Year
8	2 Years
4	3 Years
1	5 Years
1	7 Years
2	9 Years
1	10 Years
<u>41 Total Number Earning</u>	

Thus we see that 43% of the married graduates have earned after the birth of children, the employment has not been full time in all instances, however.

#### 8. Occupation of the Husband

The business of the husband has been reported under the following classifications: 22 followed agricultural pursuits; 27 worked in the educational field; 41 worked in commercial fields.

The salary range of men following agricultural pursuits was from \$800 to \$5,000 per year. In the educational field, the salaries ranged from \$1,000 to \$5,000 while in the commercial field the salary range was from \$900 to

\$10,000, only four being in the range over \$5,000, however.

The occupations and salary reported of those husbands who were working in 1929 are summarized in Table XII.

TABLE XII

Occupation and Salary of the Husbands of Oregon State

<u>College Graduates in Home Economics</u>									
Occupation Reported	Number in Each Field	Salary Range for 1929 in Dollars							
		Under 1000	1000 to 1500	1500 to 2000	2000 to 2500	2500 to 3000	3000 to 4000	4000 to 5000	Over 5000
Agricultural	22	2	1	1	7	4	6	1	0
Education- al	27		5	2	5	6	7	2	0
Commercial	<u>41</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Total Reporting	90	4	12	7	18	18	21	6	4

The income of graduates' husbands who were following agricultural pursuits varied. It was explained that farmers did not always count their incomes by the single year, as the crop yield and the amount of live stock sold depended upon various factors, as drouth, supply and demand. Therefore, the income from agriculture might not have been as high as the average in 1929, the year reported.

In both the educational and commercial fields, incomes were found to correspond quite closely with those in agricultural pursuits, if the exception is made of those four husbands with incomes over \$5,000 per year. In a study

made at the University of California it was found that the mass of salaries in the educational field ranged from \$2,000 to \$5,000.<sup>4</sup>

In a study made at Iowa State College,<sup>3</sup> the reports of 131 married graduates in home economics were used in the study of family incomes. It was found that the majority of the family incomes from all occupations, ranged from \$2,000 to \$5,000. One third of the Iowa State College married graduates however, contributed to this family income. By comparison, we find in the present study that 67 or 74% of the 90 husbands' incomes reported ranged above \$2,000. While in the Iowa study 92 or 79% of the 117 reporting were found in the incomes of \$2,000 and over, the latter study being a report of family income rather than an individual one. The period of time considered and the scope of territory covered is somewhat the same, there being a similarity in the variety of occupations, and the number of years included in the two studies.

#### 9. Number of Graduates Making Budgets and Keeping Accounts

Sixty-four of the 95 married graduates and 38 of the 74 unmarried graduates report that they make budgets and keep records.

Twenty-one of the married graduates answered "no" directly to the question, while ten evaded the answer or

replied, "part of the time", "in a kind of a way", or "not complete records kept".

Eleven of the unmarried graduates answered "no" directly to the question, while twenty-five did not answer the question. Of those answering "no" to budget making, we find: Five answering in the negative where the salary is \$2,000 or below; 2 answered that they did not know what the salary of their husband was; 12 of those who signified by their answer that they did not keep budgets had reported the salary of the husband in the range between \$2,100 and \$10,000; 9 of those answering "no" were in the range where the salary ran between \$2,100 and \$3,000. No correlation was found between salary and budget making or records of expense.

Comparing budget making and the keeping of accounts with the year of graduation we find that those who have graduated during the last decade report a larger percentage of budget makers and account keepers, thus showing that more attention is given to the economics of the household by recent graduates.

One hundred and thirty four, or 79% of the total 169 graduates studied replied directly to the question: "Do you make a budget and keep accounts?", and of the total number of graduates 18.7% answered "no" and 60.3% answered "yes" while the remaining 35 graduates did not give a direct reply. Years of graduation, number, nature of replies follow.



TABLE XIII

## Number of Graduates Making Budgets and Keeping Accounts

Year of Graduation	Number of Replies	Number Answered "no"	Number Answered "yes"
1893	1	1	-
1894	-	-	-
1895	-	-	-
1896	1	1	-
1897	-	-	-
1898	-	-	-
1899	-	-	-
1900	-	-	-
1901	3	1	2
1902	-	-	-
1903	2	1	1
1904	2	-	2
1905	2	-	2
1906	-	-	-
1907	-	-	-
1908	1	-	1
1909	-	-	-
1910	-	-	-
1911	1	-	1
1912	-	-	-
1913	2	1	1
1914	3	1	2
1915	4	1	3
1916	6	3	3
1917	2	-	2
1918	4	1	3
1919	7	1	6
1920	9	1	8
1921	8	2	6
1922	10	4	6
1923	10	2	8
1924	9	2	7
1925	8	2	6
1926	8	3	5
1927	9	-	9
1928	7	1	6
1929	15	3	12
Total	134	32	102

Percentage  
of Total Number  
(169 Graduates) 79%

18.7%

60.3%

35 Graduates gave an indirect reply which was not used in the summary.

10. Number of Graduates Reporting Home Ownership and  
Income from Investments.

The way in which the income is spent is an illustration of the standards of the home showing especially the cultural side which reveals its degree of socialization. Hawthorne says: "The way a family spends its income has always been considered indicative of its desires, wants and standards".<sup>9</sup> Individuals may spend wisely, or unwisely, or they may be too niggardly to spend at all.

The returned questionnaires of the home economic graduates present some data in regard to the standards of these individuals with reference to savings as shown by income from investments and the number owning their own homes, which is a form of investment. Some of the incomes reported from investments were from life insurance endowments, it was explained.

Of the married graduates, 50 or 52.6% owned their homes, the value ranging from \$200 to \$18,000. The \$200 one was the temporary home of a young couple on a farm. Twenty-two homes ranged from \$1,500 to \$3,500, 23 ranged from \$3,500 to \$7,500 and 4 ranged from \$7,500 to \$18,000. Eight of the unmarried graduates own their homes, the cost varying from \$2,500 to \$10,000, with six homes ranging from \$3,500 to \$4,500. The home with the value of \$10,000 was an inheritance.

Forty-three, or 45.2% of the married graduates re-

ported incomes from investments for the year 1929. The range of the amount of income was from less than \$100 to \$8,800.

Thirty-two, or 43.1% of the unmarried graduates reported incomes from investments for the year 1929. The range of income was from less than \$100 to over \$2,000.

The findings are summarized in Table XIV. The summary reports 58 graduates, or 34.3% of all the 169 graduates whose schedules were used, owning their own homes and 75 graduates, or 44.3% of all graduates, reporting incomes from investments. In the Iowa State College study, cited before, it was found that of 121 replies to the schedule, nearly one-half of the families reported incomes from investments.

TABLE XIV

## Number of Graduates Reporting Home Ownership and Income From Investments

Number Reporting Home Ownership		Cost of Home	Number Reporting Incomes From Investments in 1929		Amount of Income From Investments for the Year 1929
<u>Married</u>	<u>Unmarried</u>		<u>Married</u>	<u>Unmarried</u>	
1		Less than \$500	10	11	Less than \$100
22	1	\$1,500 to \$3,500	23	16	\$100 to \$500
23	6	\$3,500 to \$7,500	6	3	\$500 to \$1,000
4	1	\$7,500 to \$18,000	3	1	\$1,000 to \$1,500
<hr/>			<hr/>		
50	8		43	32	Total Reporting
52.6%	10.8%		45.2%	43.1%	Percentage

Of the 169 graduates studied 34.3% reported home ownership.

Of the 169 graduates studied, 44.3% reported income from investments.



### 11. Number of Graduates Paying Rent

Thirty-nine persons or 41% of the married and 28, or 37.8% of the unmarried graduates paid rent, the price ranging from \$12 to \$90 per month. Six of the 95 married graduates lived in homes provided as a part of the salary of the husband, while 38 of the unmarried lived at home or held positions where room, or room and board, was included, while some failed to answer the question.

Of the 169 graduates we find that 58 or 34.3% own their homes. The remaining 111 or 65.68% are paying rent or have residence included as a part of the salary.

These findings are of interest in studying the standards of living of graduates and the degree of permanent home ownership which exists.

### 12. Cost of Furniture and Equipment

Seventy-two of the married group report the cost of furniture and equipment owned, labor saving devices not included. The range of cost is from \$140 to \$8,000.

The schedules show that sixteen of the unmarried graduates own furniture and household equipment, exclusive of labor saving devices. The range of cost is from \$70 to \$4,000. The latter amount, however, was reported as "inherited".

These figures show that the sixteen young women are interested in homes that have the touch of personal ownership.

Table XV summarizes the number of married and unmarried graduates or 88 in all and the estimated cost of house furnishings owned.

TABLE XV

Cost of Furniture and Equipment Owned by

Oregon State College Graduates

<u>Number of Married</u> <u>Graduates</u>	<u>Number of Unmarried</u> <u>Graduates</u>	<u>Cost of Furniture</u> <u>and Equipment</u>
14	8	Less than \$1,000
29	4	\$1,000 to \$2,000
22	3	\$2,000 to \$3,000
4	1	\$3,000 to \$4,000
2		\$4,000 to \$5,000
<u>1</u>		\$5,000 to \$8,000
72	<u>16</u>	Total indicating

13. Money Spent for Labor Saving Devices

72 married graduates report ownership of labor saving devices with a range of cost from \$10 to \$1,000. Twenty-eight of the 72 report owning from \$200 to \$300 worth of labor saving devices.

Where a choice must be made among major labor saving equipment, it was found that the electric range was chosen most frequently in the homes where there were no children, while the electric washing machine was chosen most frequently in the homes where there were children. From the schedule, it appears that the greater number of the gradu-

ates studied, prefer to do the laundry work at home, since the purchase of a washing machine is recorded especially where the presence of children in the home adds to the laundry problem. The need for equipment is apparent. In the study, *Use of Time by Oregon Farm Homemakers*, the question was asked, "Does any of your work tire you physically? If so, what kinds of labor?" the number of farm women specifying laundry was almost 5 times as great as those specifying other tasks; and washing was more frequently specified than ironing. The relation between fatigue from washing without equipment and the use of the washing machine is clear.

One woman lists her servant at \$96 per year as her chief "labor saving device", she being the only one to report a servant, however. Another suggests that her husband helps her a great deal with the children and might be included as one of her "labor savers". Several others, mention the help given by the husband in the home.

Labor saving devices are found in 45 of the homes owned and in 27 of the houses rented.

The differences in these figures may be understood when we consider labor saving equipment as connected with the permanent ownership of homes, as many of those who are renting do not care to be burdened with major labor saving equipment, cumbersome in nature, when frequent moving may be necessary.

Three unmarried graduates are included in the group of 72 owning labor saving devices with costs of \$60, \$250 and \$315. Two of these owners are journalists by profession. The number of unmarried graduates owning labor saving equipment is too small to be of statistical significance and is included only as a matter of interest that some are home keepers. Since their homes may not be permanent in character, it is easily understood why the unmarried group reports little equipment.

Table XVI shows the number of graduates reporting labor saving devices owned and the cost of the same. The figures are of value as an illustration of the standards of living found and the manner in which a portion of the income has been spent.

TABLE XVI

Number of Graduates Reporting Ownership of

Labor Saving Devices

<u>Number of Graduates Reporting</u>	<u>Cost of Labor Saving Devices Owned</u>
10	\$ 10 to \$100
12	\$100 to \$200
28	\$200 to \$300
5	\$300 to \$400
7	\$400 to \$500
3	\$500 to \$600
2	\$600 to \$700
3	\$700 to \$800
1	\$800 to \$900
1	\$900 - \$ 1100
72 Total indicating	



### SUMMARY

The data secured in this study concerning the incomes and expenditures of home economics graduates may be summarized as follows:

The study includes the records of 169 graduates in home economics covering a period of 37 years and representing 19 states and 2 foreign countries as residence of those replying to the schedule.

Of the total 169, only 19 live on the farm with 150 reporting town or city residence.

Of the total number 95 or 56% are married while 74 are unmarried.

In occupations for both the married and unmarried graduates, teaching some phase of home economics heads the list with work in 12 other fields.

Of the 74 unmarried graduates, 69 held positions in 1929 and 1930 with salaries ranging from \$1,000 or less to \$3,300 with 35 in the salary group above \$1,500 and 21 in the salary range above \$2,000.

A relation between graduate study and advanced degrees is found in the higher salary range, that above \$2,000 where 21 graduates are found with 12 reporting graduate work done and 6 holding advanced degrees.

Those working continuously throughout the years are found in the higher salary group; a correlation was found

to exist between experience, Graduate Study and Advanced Degree.

After marriage, 13 graduates were gainfully employed outside of the home and 60 earned part of the time.

Reasons for working center around the economic reasons.

Children in the home were reported by 69 or 72% of the 95 married graduates; a total of 131 children were reported.

43% of married graduates have earned after birth of children, not full time however. In the group of 13 who reported full time employment in 1929, only one of the four who reported children had a pre-school child.

The occupations of graduates' husbands included agriculture, education and commerce, with 59 salaries ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000, with 4 above and 27 below that range. This salary range was found to correspond with the family income of a similar group studied at Iowa State College, also with that of a study of professional salaries in California.

60% of the total number reporting make budgets and keep household accounts.

52% of the married graduates owned their homes. One-third of the total number of graduates, or 169, owned their homes.

Homes owned by 45 of the married graduates were in the range of cost between \$1,500 to \$7,000.

44% of the total number, 169 graduates reported income

from investments.

Labor saving devices were owned by 72 graduates, the cost from \$100 to \$1,100.

Furniture and equipment reported owned by 72 married and 16 unmarried graduates.

72 Graduates report ownership of labor saving devices the cost from \$10 to \$1,100, with over one half reporting in the range from \$200 to \$500.

APPENDIXCopy of questionnaire submitted to Home Economics Graduates

Class-----When did you graduate?-----

What has been your location and occupation each year since graduation?-----

What was your income in 1929 from your own earnings?-----

What was your income in 1929 from other sources (gifts, investments, etc.)?-----

Give date of any graduate work done-----Where-----Degree-

Is Graduate Study planned?-----Where-----

Are you married?-----When?-----Is your husband living-----What is your husband's business?-----

What was your husband's income in 1929?-----

Number of children---Boys-----Girls-----Dates of births---

Have you earned since marriage?-----

Have you earned since children came?-----

How long have you earned?-----Full or part time?-----

Nature of work-----

Your reasons for working?-----Do you plan to continue?-----

Do you keep family or personal accounts and make a budget?-

What is the cost of the house you live in?-----Or what rent do you pay?-----

What is the cost of your furniture and equipment, if owned?-----

What major labor-saving devices have you, and cost of each?-----

Do you live on a farm?-----Or in the city?-----



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