

TRENDS IN THE CHANGING ROLE OF A GROUP  
OF HOMEMAKERS IN MANHATTAN, KANSAS

by

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

LD 2668 T4 1954 L3 C.2 Documents	
LIST OF TABLES . . . . .	iii
LIST OF FIGURES . . . . .	vi
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
REVIEW OF LITERATURE . . . . .	3
METHOD OF PROCEDURE . . . . .	8
FINDINGS . . . . .	10
Information Concerning the Families . . . . .	10
Activities of Homemakers in Care of Homes . . . . .	27
Activities of Homemakers Outside Their Homes . . . . .	40
Evaluation of Homemakers' Leisure Time . . . . .	53
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS . . . . .	59
ACKNOWLEDGMENT . . . . .	66
LITERATURE CITED . . . . .	67
APPENDIX . . . . .	68



## LIST OF TABLES

- Table 1: Age and number of homemakers.
- Table 2: Number of members in households and percent of total members.
- Table 3: Household members and amount of time residing at home.
- Table 4: Comparison of changes in size of households at the time of study to 5 and 10 years before study.
- Table 5: Average size of families, average number and age of children of a group of homemakers, 5 years before study compared to 10 years before study and 5 years before study compared to time of study.
- Table 6: Number and ages of children.
- Table 7: Number of organized activities in which children participated according to sex and age.
- Table 8: Amount of housework done by homemakers in each age group at time of study.
- Table 9: Number of homemakers employing outside help in the home.
- Table 10: Frequency of part-time help.
- Table 11: Kind of work done by outside help in the home.
- Table 12: Number of kinds of time-labor saving equipment in use and the changes in the use of this equipment over a 10 year period in relation to homemakers' ages.
- Table 13: Average number of time-labor saving equipment used by a group of homemakers, 5 years before study as compared to 10 years before study and 5 years before study compared to time of study.
- Table 14: Changes in activities related to the home, which are done by the homemakers.
- Table 15: Number of activities related to the home and done as leisure time activities, necessary part of homemaking, and part of husband's job by a group of homemakers, 5 years before study as compared to 10 years before study and 5 years before study as compared to the time of study.
- Table 16: Comparison of homemakers doing more or less in activities related to the home.

## List of Tables (cont.)

- Table 17: Number of homemakers employed outside the home.
- Table 18: Number of homemakers that have continued education by attending classes.
- Table 19: Number of organizations in which homemakers participated or would have liked to participate.
- Table 20: Average number of organizations to which homemakers belong and the average degree of organizational participation by a group of homemakers, 5 years before study compared to 10 years before study and 5 years before study compared to time of study.
- Table 21: Number of organizations in which homemakers participated according to reason.
- Table 22: Degree of organizational participation by homemakers.
- Table 23: Average degree of organizational participation by homemakers.
- Table 24: Evaluation of leisure time as to the number of homemakers having excess time, expecting more leisure time, and receiving satisfactions from the way time is used.
- Table 25: Changes in satisfactions received by homemakers from way time is used.
- Table 26: Extent of boredom expressed by homemakers concerning homemaking responsibilities.
- Table 27: Use of skills and abilities by homemakers.
- Table 28: Place of residence for households 5 and 10 years before study.
- Table 29: Number of homemakers in each size and kind of dwelling.
- Table 30: Occupations of husbands and number engaged in each occupation.
- Table 31: Amount of laundry sent from the home.
- Table 32: Kinds of equipment given as time-labor saving by homemakers and the number of homemakers using equipment.
- Table 33: Number of homemakers that have taken or would like to take specific classes.

## List of Tables (cont.)

- Table 34: Number of reasons stated by homemakers for taking or wanting to take classes, and for not taking classes in which they were interested.
- Table 35: Comparison in changes of the number of organizations in which homemakers participated.

## LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1: Average number of household members for each age of homemakers.
- Fig. 2: Average age of children for each age of homemaker.
- Fig. 3: Average number of activities for boys and girls of each age.
- Fig. 4: Average number of activities per child of either sex, per girl, and per boy for each age of homemakers.
- Fig. 5: Average number of organizations in which homemakers participated.
- Fig. 6: High, low, and average number of activities for boys of each age.
- Fig. 7: High, low, and average number of activities for girls of each age.
- Fig. 8: Average number of leisure time activities at time of study as compared to 5 and 10 years before.
- Fig. 9: Average number of activities done as a necessary part of homemaking at time of study as compared to 5 and 10 years before.

## INTRODUCTION

Women, who are between 40 and 50 years old are frequently to be heard reminiscing of the days when the children were young, when the mother was needed and almost constantly on call. This reminiscence is of a discontented nature, the woman shows self-pity and has a "what will I do now?" plea in her voice.

Exactly when this mental state of depression resulting from the decrease of the family's dependency (particularly the children) upon the mother occurs will vary with the age of the children and the time at which they leave home. The last child usually leaves home when the mother is 40 to 50 years of age.

Actually what the mother has faced at this time of lightened family responsibility can be referred to as "homemaker retirement". The mother has accomplished the very thing at which she thought she was going to spend a life time when she married. As a young girl, she thought of herself, when married, as a young woman with young children, not a middle aged or older woman with the children gone from home.

The problem of "homemaker retirement" has come about with changes in our mode of living. Improved health conditions have resulted in a longer life span. Sons and daughters marry to form separate family units, which are no longer under parental influences. Women cease bearing children at an earlier age and smaller families are evident. The latter factors with the increased life span has in the main brought about the problem of "what will I do now" for the established, yet not old homemaker.

Society had been concerned that each member of the family be psychologically, socially and financially prepared for the changes that come with family cycles. During the normal life cycle, emphasis in the recovery period (just after the children have gone from the home) has been on preparing the couple for the retirement period, a period of lessened income.

Much concern has developed about the welfare of the aged. The man or woman retiring from an occupation or profession has been called to the attention of the public. The full-time homemaker who reaches her vocational retirement at a much earlier age has hardly been given any thought. For the worker on the job, we have been anxious for working conditions to be improved. Steps have been taken to prevent boredom, mental and physical fatigue. When children are small, the homemaker expects physical fatigue at times. The love, gratitude and complete dependence of the small child compensate for this. As the homemaker grows older and the children are no longer so utterly dependent on her, concern should be had for the feeling of uselessness and the boredom, followed by mental fatigue, experienced by the homemaker.

Although the homemaker's retirement comes when the children are no longer dependent upon the mother, the full impact is not felt until the last child leaves home. The writer of this thesis was thus concerned with the preparation that was being made for the homemaker's retirement period.

The objectives set up for this thesis were:

1. To determine how the roles of the homemakers, 35 to 45 years of age, with children are changing and the factors that are contributing to



this change.

2. To secure information regarding the activities, apart from homemaking duties, that the 35 to 45 year old homemakers, with children, engage in or would like to engage.

3. To arouse an awareness on the part of homemakers and those working with this age group, that as the role of the homemakers changes, there is an increasing need for these women to feel useful. One way is through participation in activities outside the home.

4. To help organizations of society understand the importance of using the abilities and training of homemakers in this age group.

#### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Writings published in 1952 and 1953 dealt more directly with the problems connected with the readjustment period faced by homemakers when their children permanently leave home. Earlier publications gave information that indirectly applied to this problem as it related to changes of the role of women in our society.

Gruenberg and Krech (1952), p. 133, referred to the period when the children have gone from the home as the "empty-nest" stage. Reference was made to the days when a woman of 50 or 60 years of age was considered an elderly woman. Since this woman had continued to have children until 40 or more, the space left for reminiscing was short and was a suitable occupation for a grandmother with a dozen or more grandchildren. Today, a great many women are finding themselves at 43 or 48 looking and feeling young, with their children in college or married.

Gruenberg and Krech, p. 134, continue with the fact that since



World War II the tendency among younger married couples has been to have four children instead of two. Yet these four when half grown will be looking after themselves most of the day.

To be known as three-year-old Johnny's Mother is thrilling and to be seventy is to be content to sit in a rocker and be Whistler's Mother. Yet between these periods there is a time, starting around 40 years of age, when the woman wants to be somebody else.

Covan(1953), p. 573, refers to this period when the adolescent and young adult children withdraw from the family as "post-parental". The "post-parental" term is used in referring to both husband and wife. Covan indicated that this period starts when the adolescent children seek the company and authority of their peers. The mother has tended to keep her afternoons free so that she would be home when the children returned from school. Suddenly she finds the adolescent children have lengthened their days away from home with extraclass activities at school, dates at the drug store, and so forth.

Anshen (1949), p. 23, found the period of the child's dependence upon adults for mere physical survival may be conservatively set at ten years.

Landis and Landis (1952), p. 5, stated that when the children marry and leave home, the American woman is faced with the same type of readjustment as that facing her husband perhaps two decades later when he retires. It is this discrepancy in the timing of retirement periods for husbands and wives that present one of the problems of American marriage, as it is motherhood rather than housewifery which is the source of pride and self-sacrifice in the urban married woman.

Wiegand's (1953), p. 233, study pointed out the average time used by

homemakers for "care of family members" was much longer when the youngest child was less than four years old. Scarcely any time was used for this activity by homemakers in all-adult households or where the youngest children were teenagers. When the homemaker's time used for care of family members was related to the age of the youngest person in the household, the homemaker's average time decreased as the age of the youngest person in the home increased.

Gruenberg and Krech, p. 134, emphasized the importance of the woman looking ahead, while the children were still young, to consider how extra time in the future would be used. Seemingly the years in which one might do the looking are so full, so crowded, that most women do not do any planning in this direction, until quite suddenly, they find themselves out of a job--the job they were led to believe was a lifetime one.

Gruenberg and Krech, p. 146, suggested that the women might have several plans to be used at this time of decreased home responsibility. Some women train in a profession planning to return after taking out ten or 15 years to raise a family. This is not the usual choice, even though the experience and qualities developed in the home, as a mother, gives the woman more understanding, insight, warmth, and tenderness. Most women do not think in professional terms, but consider participation in community affairs. They plan to increase the time outside the home as the children increase in age and leave home.

The common pitfall of women seeking activity in organizations is their lack of direction of energies. Participation in organizations should be approached with the idea in mind that the outside responsibilities contribute to the woman's growth and development as a person, not add up to a

hodgepodge of activities leading only to the big time jobs and the woman's name in the headlines.

Landis and Landis, p. 5, stated that the period between the children's leaving home and old age is the main source of voluntary civic and social activity in the United States. The woman has turned to these activities because the task of caring for her family has been cut in half while her strength is still unimpaired.

MacDonald and Williamson (1950), p. 3, found the amount of cleaning a homemaker gives her home is determined not only by her own and her family's standards of cleanliness, but other conditions, too. These were: responsibilities, health, size and condition of home, the help other family members can give, and the various resources available to her such as money, equipment and commercial services. As these conditions changed, so did the amount of care given the home.

Gross and Zwemer (1944), p. 55, found that family members helped in various ways with the household tasks. Husbands in the lower economic level were more apt to help in the home. The tasks most frequently done by the husbands were helping with the dishwashing, carrying heavy loads, cleaning floors, porches, and basements, and meal preparation. Child care and training was not looked upon as a household task. Aside from the homemakers, children six to 16 years of age did the most work for the home. The frequency of work done in the home decreased in children over 16. But when children over 16 did work for the home, they spent longer hours. Even some children of four and five years of age made a small work contribution to the home.

Dickins (1945), p. 10, did a study in the summer of 1943, using 160

white and Negro homemakers residing in Mississippi towns as subjects. The homemakers kept records for one week as to how they used their time and the assistance they received in homemaking activities. She concluded that white cooperators with one or more children five years and under averaged 11 hours and 15 minutes in care of children per week. White cooperators with children six to 15 years of age spent two hours and 34 minutes a week in care of the children.

Muse (1946), p. 61, from her studies of time expenditures on homemaking activities in 183 Vermont farm homes concluded:

1. Total homemaking hours rose as the number of persons in the household increased and as the age of the youngest household member decreased.
2. The hours spent on homemaking by the housewife and also by the other persons in the household rose as household size increased.
3. Total hours spent on child care tended to rise slightly as the number of children under eight years of age rose from one to four. However, the time spent per child decreased.
4. Time expenditure on child care tended to increase as the age of the younger child decreased.

Lehman (1953), p. 714, reported on the organizational activities of 1900 to 1950 Ohio State University alumnae. The average number of activities engaged in by married women was 5.3 and an average of 5.9 activities for single women. Committee membership was generally assumed, but it was the women in their 40's and 50's that took the most responsibility as officers.

Children influenced the number of activities in which the homemakers participated, but not always as would be expected. There was a high average membership among those homemakers with no children or those with five or more children. The homemakers with no children were least active as

leaders. The homemakers whose children's ages were spread from pre-school through adulthood and those whose children were all grown tended to belong to more organizations than others. Homemakers that had children all in school accepted more positions of responsibility.

In a study of the community activities participated in by 200 women college graduates living in Stillwater, Oklahoma, Fawcett (1951), found that 77 women between 30 and 44 years of age were leaders or officers in 51 community activities and active members in 127. This group were second to the 65 women between 45 and 60 years of age, who were leaders or officers in 53 community activities and active members in 133.

A reference was made by Baber (1953), p. 551, to a study made by the Population Reference Bureau of Washington, D. C. In 1950, college graduates of the class of 1924, from ten selected colleges were found to have an average of 1.53 children per graduate. This was 25 years after graduation and in most cases the families would be completed. This was a low average number of children. The picture for the graduates of 1936 to 1940 was much brighter. Beginning with the class of 1936, the ten year birth rate of each succeeding class was higher, although the families were not yet completed. The average completed family for the general population in the United States in 1950, had 3.1 children.

#### METHOD OF PROCEDURE

The subject and purposes of the thesis could have been applicable to any number of homemakers not yet 45 years of age, who were living with their husbands and had children. Had resources permitted this type of study, actual changes in the role of the homemaker could have been measured, rather



than trends in the changing role of a group of homemakers.

To more closely control the data and to make a more homogeneous group, several requirements were necessary for the 25 homemakers used as subjects in this study. The subjects were graduates in home economics, members of family groups composed of husbands and children, residing in Manhattan, Kansas, and 35 to 45 years of age.

Homemakers of 35 to 45 years of age were used, since that ten year period would be indicative of the preparation these women were making for the coming homemaker's retirement period. During that period of years, changes would have occurred in the homemakers' activities (both inside and outside the home), ages of children, size of family, and in the homemakers' available resources.

Names of homemakers, who were graduates in home economics and thought to be 35 to 45 years of age were taken from Kansas State College alumnae records and the membership files of the American Association of University Women.

The Riley County enumeration records for spring, 1953, were used to obtain the homemakers' ages and to establish which homemakers were living with their husbands and had children.

The 25 homemakers were chosen at random as they were available and willing to be interviewed. The eight-page interview schedule (Appendix, p. 69 ) developed by the writer was used in personal interviews with the homemakers. The interview schedule was used to obtain information concerning the households, organized activities of the children, activities of the homemakers (both in the care of their homes and their activities outside of the homes), and an evaluation of the homemakers' leisure time.

The data were recorded and compiled for comparison within age groups at the time of the study and five and ten years before. Further compilations were made of the data to compare the homemakers at the time of the study with their counterparts of five years before and to compare the homemakers five years before to their counterparts of ten years before.

After due study and comparison of the data through tables and bar and line graphs, the significant data were written in the findings.

## FINDINGS

### Information Concerning the Families

The Homemakers. The 25 homemakers used in the study ranged in age from 35 to 44 years. Each age group was represented by two or more homemakers, except only one homemaker was 40 years of age. The largest age group was that of five, 44 year olds. The median age of the homemakers was 40 years and the average age was found to be 39.8 years (Table 1).

Number of Household and Family Members. The number of household and family members was thought to have a direct relationship and influence with the homemaker's pattern of activities. For this reason, data were collected concerning household and family members. The term "household" was used when referring to all persons living as members in the home, while the term "family" was used to indicate the husband, wife, and children.

All age groups of the homemakers showed an increase in the number of household members when comparing the time of the study with five and ten years before. An increase is also shown when comparing five years before the study with ten years before. At the time of the study there were 113



Table 1: Age and number of homemakers.

Age of homemakers	: Number of homemakers : in each age group	: Percent of total : homemakers
35 years	3	12
36 "	2	8
37 "	3	12
38 "	2	8
39 "	2	8
40 "	1	4
41 "	2	8
42 "	3	12
43 "	2	8
44 "	5	20
Total homemakers	25	100
Median age of homemakers: 40 years		
Average age of homemakers: 39.8 years		

household members, five years before there were 97 household members, and ten years before there were 78 household members. The number of household members for any one age group of homemakers was almost always (within one percent) the same percentage of the total household members at the time of the study or five and ten years before. The one deviator was the 35 year olds, who ten years before the study made up a lesser part of the total household members (Table 2).

Most of the households consisted only of the family. In two situations the grandmothers were living as household members at the time of the study. One of these grandmothers was away from the home most of the year. Five years before the study, a nephew and grandmother lived in two homes and ten years before, a grandfather, a grandmother, and a sister of one of the homemakers were living as members of three households. The two above grandmothers were the only persons living all year with the family, the other persons were with the family as members most of the year.

One hundred eight of the 113 household members at the time of this study were found to be at home all year. Of the remaining members, two were home most of the year and two were home half of the year. One member was away from home most of the year (Table 3).

In comparing the number of household members at the time of study with five years before, an increase of 14.16 percent was found. Ten years before compared with the time of study shows an increase of 30.97 percent (Table 4). The 41 year old homemakers show the least amount of change in

Table 2: Number of members in households and percent of total members.

Age of homemakers	: Number of members : in households			: Percent of total members		
	: at time : 5 years: 10 years			: at time : 5 years: 10 years		
	: of study:	before	before	: of study:	before	before
35 years	14	11	7	12.38	11.34	8.97
36 "	9	7	5	7.96	7.22	6.15
37 "	13	12	9	11.50	12.37	11.54
38 "	10	9	7	8.76	9.28	8.97
39 "	9	8	7	7.96	8.25	8.97
40 "	5	3	3	4.42	3.09	3.85
41 "	8	8	7	7.08	8.25	8.97
42 "	13	11	9	11.50	11.34	11.54
43 "	7	6	6	6.19	6.19	7.66
44 "	25	22	18	22.12	22.68	23.08
Total for all homemakers	113	97	78	99.87	100.01	99.70

Table 3: Household members and amount of time residing at home.

Age of home- makers	: Number of household members*		: Others living in home as household members					
	: At home at time of study		: At time of study:		: All year		: Most of year	
	All year:	Most of:	1/2 of year:	away from home	5 years	10 years	5 years	10 years
	: year	:	: most of year	:	ago	ago	ago	ago
35 years	14							
36 "	9						1	
37 "	13							
38 "	8		1	1				
39 "	8		1					
40 "	5							
41 "	7	1						
42 "	13							1
43 "	6	1						
44 "	25				1	1		1
Total for all homemakers	108	2	2	1	1	1	1	2

\* including homemakers

Table 4: Comparison of changes in size of households at the time of study to 5 and 10 years before study.

Age of homemakers	:Numerical increase :At time of study as compared with		Percent increase	
	5 years before	10 years before	5 years before	10 years before
35 years	3	7	21.43	50
36 "	2	4	22.22	44.44
37 "	1	4	7.69	30.77
38 "	1	3	10	30
39 "	1	2	11.11	22.22
40 "	2	2	40	40
41 "		1		12.50
42 "	2	4	15.38	30.77
43 "	1	1	14.23	14.23
44 "	3	7	12	28
Total for all homemakers	16	35	14.16	30.97

the number of family members. For these homemakers, there was no increase found in the number of household members when comparing the time of the study with five years before and an increase of one household member when comparing the time of the study with ten years before. Numbers, at the time of the study compared with five years before indicated a gain of three household members for the 35 and 44 year old homemakers and a gain of seven household members over ten years before by these two age groups. These were the greatest increases in numbers of household members for any of the

age groups. These gains by percentage were quite different. The gain of three members in the households of the 35 year olds meant an increase of 21.43 percent and for the 44 year olds, this was a gain of 12 percent. The addition of seven members by the 35 year olds meant an increase of 50 percent and for the 44 year olds, an increase of 23 percent (Table 4).

The younger group of homemakers, 35 to 40 years of age, in the study averaged as many household members at the time of the study as did those homemakers 41 to 44 years of age. The lowest average number of household members was 3.5 for the 43 year old homemakers. The 38, 40, and 44 year olds each had the highest average number of household members which was five (Fig. 1). The average number of household members for all age groups was 4.5.

Homemakers used in the study showed increases in size of families, also. The homemakers at the time of the study showed slightly larger families than their counterparts of five years before. Homemakers, five years before the study showed slightly larger families than did their counterparts ten years before the study (Table 5).

The Children. At the time of the study, there were 26 girls and 35 boys. The girls ranged in age from two to 16 years, while the boys had a wider age range of eight months to 19 years.

The median age of the children of all the homemakers was eight years. The median age for the children of the median aged homemaker was found to be five years. However, the median aged homemaker of 40 years was the only one of her age in the study.

The average number of children for the homemakers in the study was 2.4. This supported the population studies which indicated that middle

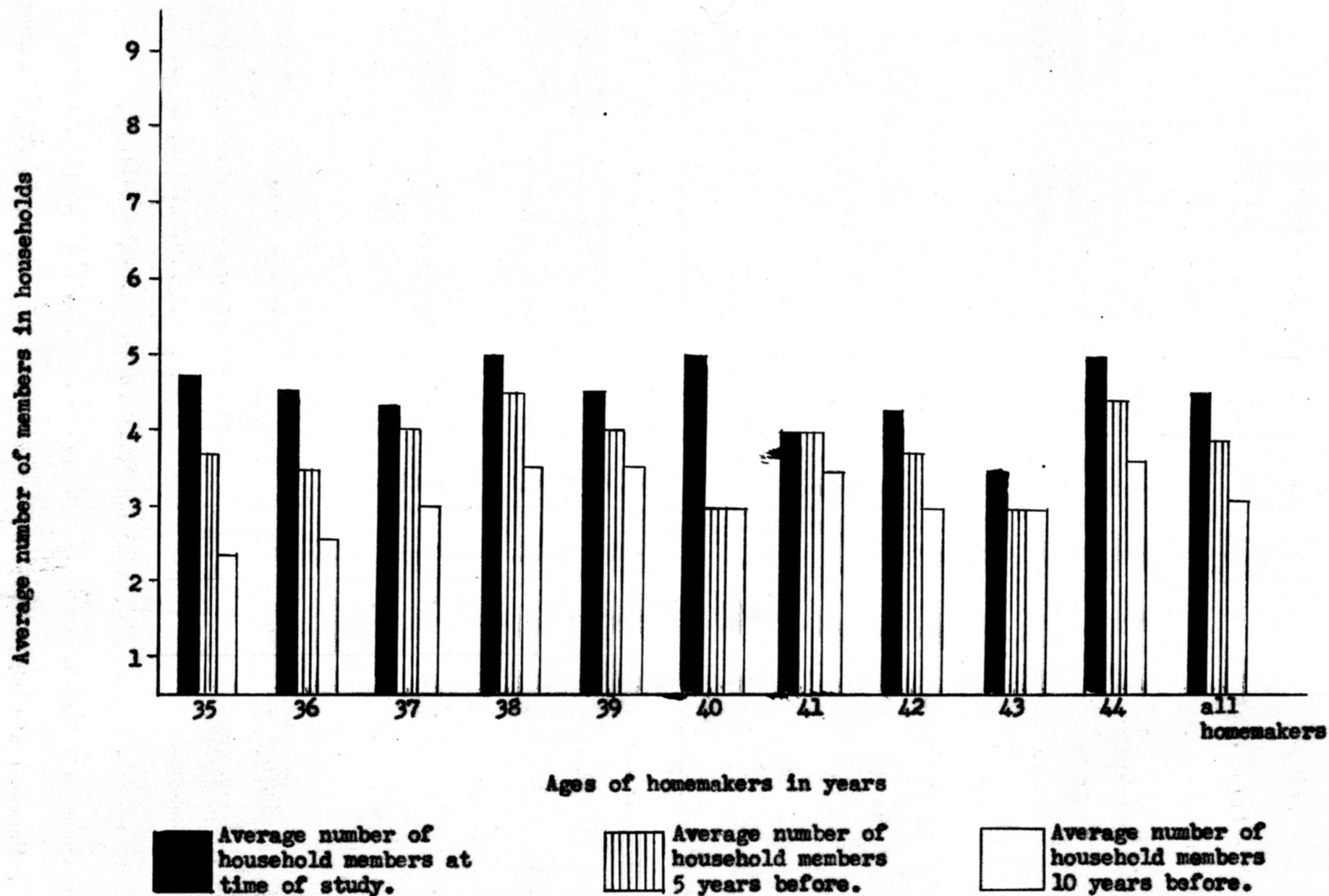


Fig. 1: Average number of household members for each age of homemakers.



Table 5: Average size of families, average number and age of children of a group of homemakers, 5 years before study compared to 10 years before study and 5 years before study compared to time of study.

Comparison of homemakers	Age of home- maker at which comparison was made	Average num- ber of persons in the family	Average num- ber of children	Average age of children	Median age of children
35 year olds, 5 years before, to the 40 year olds, 10 years before	30	3.6 3	1.6 1	3 2	3 2
36 year olds, 5 years before, to the 41 year olds, 10 years before	31	3 3.5	1 1.5	4.5 4.3	4.5 4
37 year olds, 5 years before, to the 42 year olds, 10 years before	32	4 2.6	2 1.3	4.3 2	4.5 2
38 year olds, 5 years before, to the 43 year olds, 10 years before	33	4.5 3	2.5 1	6 3	7 8
39 year olds, 5 years before, to the 44 year olds, 10 years before	34	4 3.2	2 1.2	6.5 3.2	7 2.5
40 year olds, 5 years before, to the 35 year olds at time of study	35	3 4.6	1 2.6	7 6	7 6.5
41 year olds, 5 years before, to the 36 year olds at time of study	36	4 4.5	2 2.5	7.5 5.6	8.5 4
42 year olds, 5 years before, to the 37 year olds at time of study	37	3.6 4.3	1.6 2.3	3.3 8.4	3 8
43 year olds, 5 years before, to the 38 year olds at time of study	38	3 4.5	1 2.5	13 11	13 12
44 year olds, 5 years before, to the 39 year olds at time of study	39	4.2 4.5	2.2 2.5	5.6 11.8	6 12

west families in which the husband, wife, or both were college graduates had more children than families in most of the other sections of United States in which the husband, wife, or both were college graduates.

The homemakers proved to be representative of a current population trend in which the average number of children per family is increasing. In comparing the 35 to 39 year olds, five years before to the 40 to 44 year olds, ten years before and the 35 to 39 year olds, at the time of the study to the 40 to 44 year olds, five years before, the data showed an increase in the average number of children per family (Table 5).

The highest average number of children for any one age group of homemakers was three. This average was for the 40 year homemaker. The 44 year olds followed with an average of 2.8 children per homemaker (Table 6).

The children of the 43 year old homemaker had the highest average age of 12.5 years. The lowest average age was found to be 5.6 years for the children of the 36 year olds. The oldest homemakers in the study, the 44 year olds, had children that averaged nine years of age. This figure is only one tenth above the average age of 8.9 years found for all children (Fig. 2). Entering into this situation was the appearance of "second families" to two of the homemakers in this age group. Homemakers in other age groups were also recipients of "second families". For these families, the age difference of the children between the last and next to the last child was from seven to 15 years.

Organized Activities of Children. The organized activities the children participate in could affect the homemakers' activities several ways. When children are younger, the homemakers are frequently responsible for taking the children to the activities or helping with activities in

Table 6: Number and ages of children.

Age of homemakers	: Number of : children		: Total num- : ber of : children	: Average num- : ber of : children	: Age range of: : children		: Average age: : of : children	: Median age of : children
	: Girls:	: Boys			: Girls:	: Boys		
35 years	3	5	8	2.6	2-11	1-8	6	6.5
36 "	2	3	5	2.5	4-7	1-12	5.6	4
37 "	3	4	7	2.3	7-11	3-12	8.4	8
38 "	3	2	5	2.5	12-15	6-9	11	12
39 "	3	2	5	2.5	8-14	8 mo.-12	11.8	12
40 "	1	2	3	3	4	5-12	7	5
41 "	1	3	4	2	16	7-15	12.5	13.5
42 "	6	1	7	2.3	3-13	8	7.4	7
43 "	1	2	3	1.5	2	17-19	12.6	17
44 "	3	11	14	2.8	11-15	2-14	9	10
Totals for all children	26	35	61	2.4	2-16	8 mo.-19	8.9	8

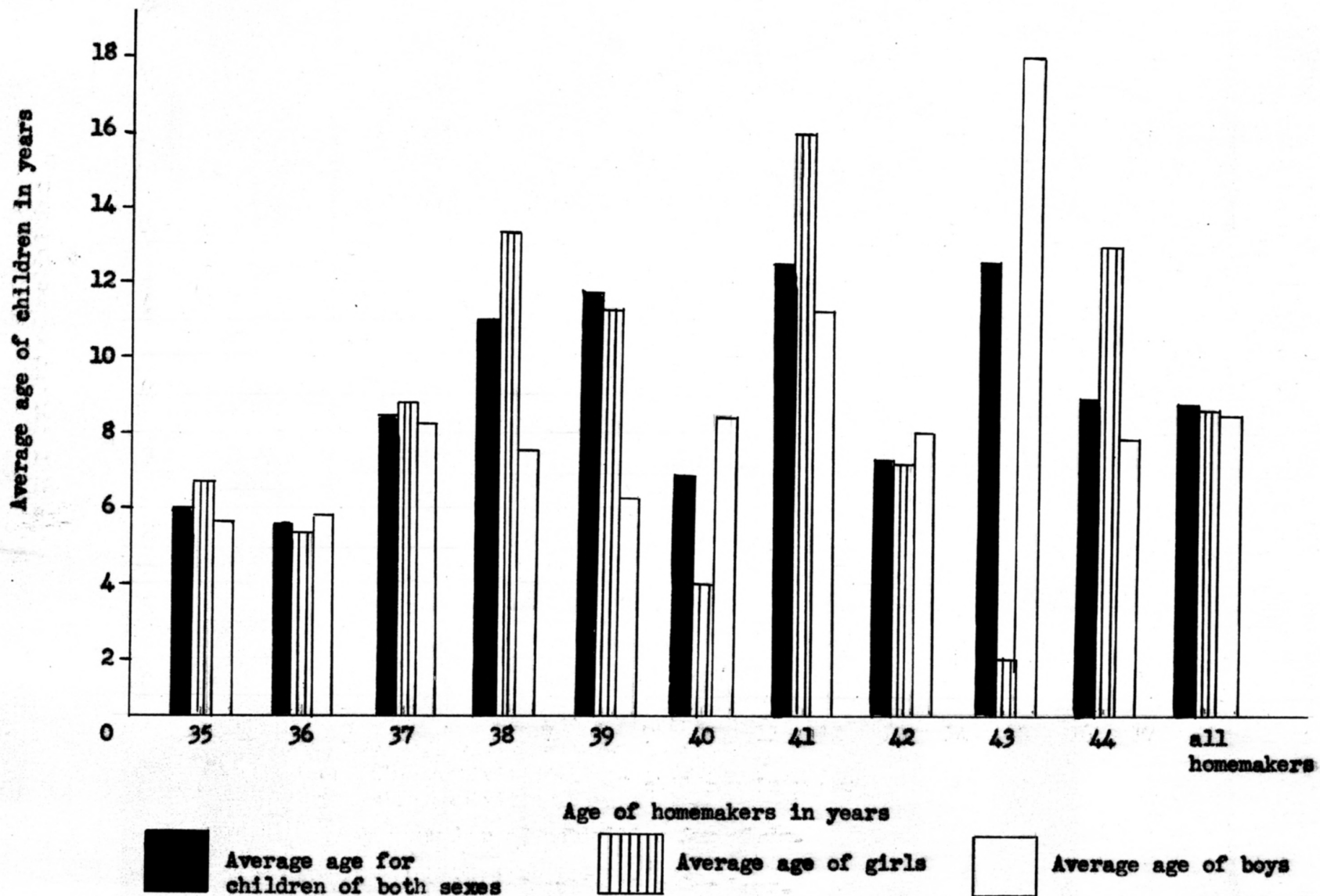


Fig. 2: Average age of children for each age of homemaker.

which the children participate. When children are older, they attend more activities which are usually centered away from their homes. Entertainment in the homes may increase, if the homes are used as meeting places for the organized activities.

A total of 192 organized activities were participated in by the children. The 26 girls took part in 103 activities, while the 35 boys were in 89 activities (Table 7). A fewer number of girls, than boys, participated in more activities; they also participated in more activities at an earlier age (Fig. 3).

The average number of activities for each child was 3.1. The average number of activities was 3.9 per girl and 2.5 per boy. The 41 year old homemakers' children averaged 5.5 activities per child. This was the highest average number of activities per child for any age group of homemakers. The lowest average number of activities was 1.6 per child of the 35 year old homemakers (Fig. 4).

One boy of 12 and one of 14 years had each participated in nine activities which was the highest number of activities for any one age of boys. In six boys' age groups, one activity was the lowest number of activities above zero taken part in by the boys (Fig. 6, Appendix).

A girl of 16 years took part in nine activities as the highest number of activities for girls. The lowest number of activities, above zero, participated in by the girls was one. One activity was participated in by a girl of three and a girl of four years (Fig. 7, Appendix).

Places of Residence. The organizations participated in by the homemakers and their families would be partially influenced by the facilities and opportunities available in the communities in which they resided. The

Table 7: Number of organized activities in which children participated according to sex and age.

Children's ages	: Number of children : by sex		: Number of organized : activities by sex		: Number of organ- : ized activities : for all children
	: Girls	: Boys	: Girls	: Boys	
8 months		1			
1 year		2			
2 years	2	1	1	1	2
3 "	1	2	1	1	2
4 "	3	2	4	2	6
5 "		2		2	2
6 "	1	3	2	3	5
7 "	4	3	10	4	14
8 "	2	4	9	11	20
9 "		1		3	3
10 "		2		5	5
11 "	4	2	21	7	28
12 "	2	6	12	30	42
13 "	3		17		17
14 "	1	1	7	9	16
15 "	2	1	10	5	15
16 "	1		9		9
17 "		1		3	3
19 "		1		3	3
Total for all children	26	35	103	89	192

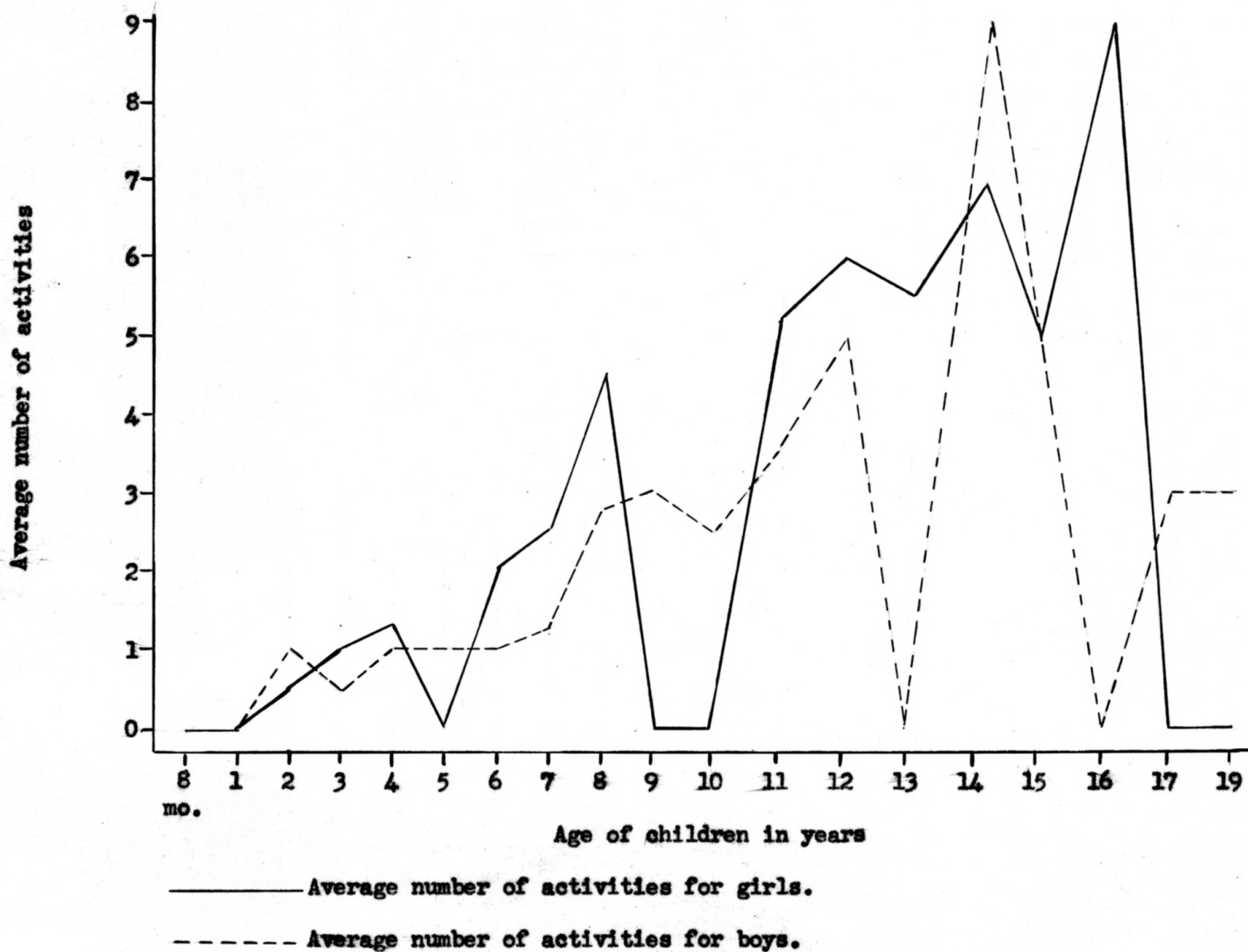


Fig. 3: Average number of activities for girls and boys of each age.



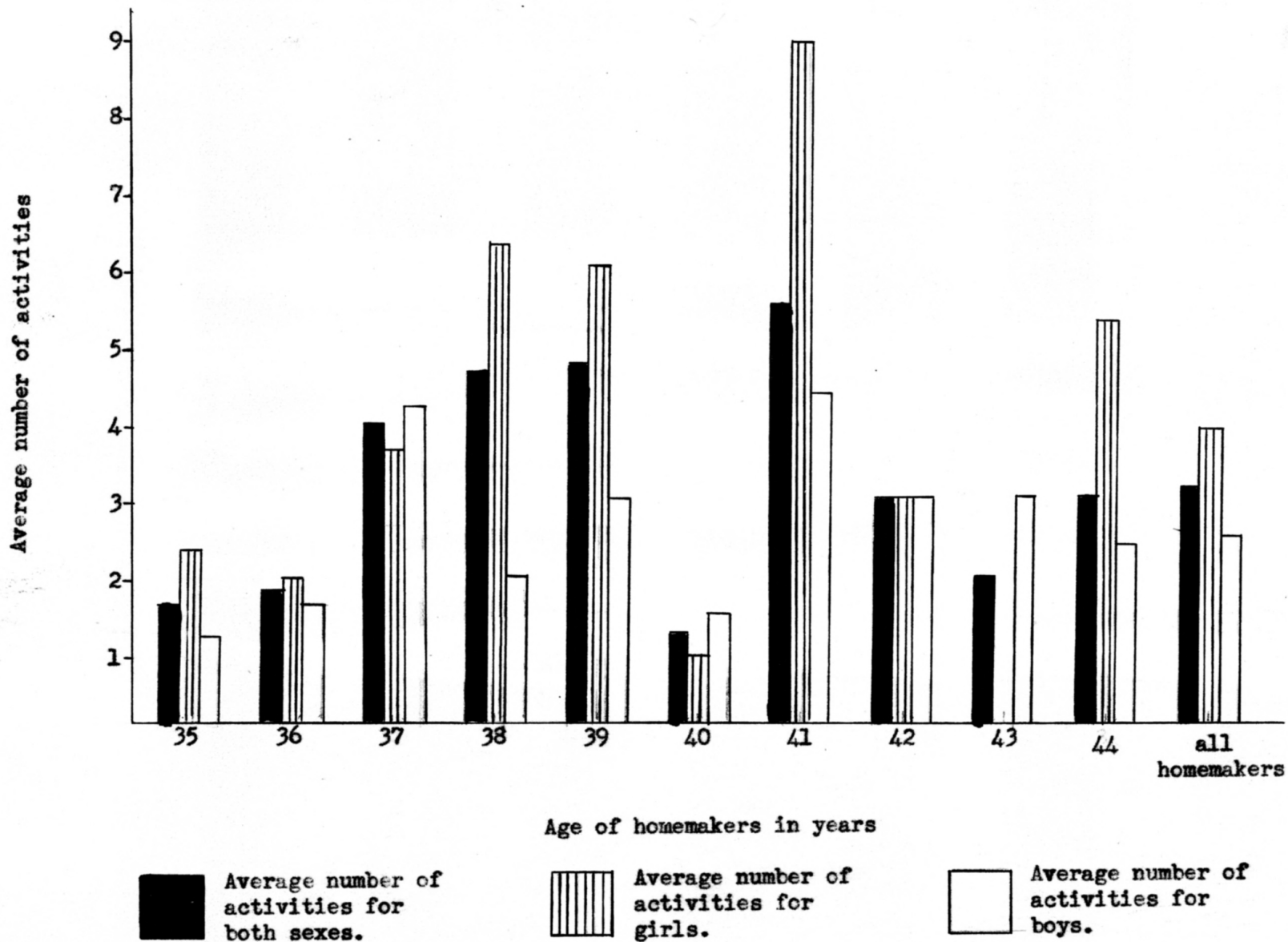


Fig. 4: Average number of activities per child of either sex, per girl, and per boy for each age of homemaker.

homemakers' activities related to their homes would be affected by the family being together and the permanency of the place of residence.

For the most part over two-thirds of the homemakers resided in Manhattan, Kansas, at least ten years before the study. Five years before the study, 20 families resided in Manhattan and ten years before the study, there were 12 families living in Manhattan. Of the nine homemakers, whose husbands were in military service ten years before the study, four were with their husbands. Four of five homemakers that were not with their husbands in service were living with their children in Manhattan. The younger group of homemakers, 35 to 37 years of age, were the ones that accompanied their husbands to the service (Table 28, Appendix).

Sizes and Kinds of Dwellings. Twenty four of the homemakers and their households occupied single family detached units. The one remaining homemaker lived with her family in a duplex (single family semi-detached dwelling).

The number of rooms in the dwellings ranged from five to nine rooms. Thirteen homemakers lived in dwellings containing six rooms. The average number of rooms was 6.46 per dwelling and 6.40 was the average number of rooms in use. Twelve of the homemakers' dwellings were on two floors, ten were on one floor, two on one and half floors, and one on three floors (Table 29, Appendix).

Occupations of Husbands. The homemakers' activities in their homes and the organizations in which they participated were determined to some extent by the occupations of their husbands.

A total of 14 occupations were engaged in by the husbands. Six husbands were teachers at Kansas State College and six were on staff, other

than teaching, at Kansas State. The number of husbands according to their occupations are found listed in the appendix (Table 30).

### Activities of Homemakers in Care of Homes

Outside Help in the Homes. At the time of the study, 18 of the homemakers did all their own housework, with the remaining seven doing part of their housework (Table 8).

Table 8: Amount of housework done by homemakers in each age group at time of study.

Amount of:	Age of homemakers by years										: Total for all
housework:	35:	36:	37:	38:	39:	40:	41:	42:	43:	44:	homemakers
All	2	1	3	2	1	1	1	3	2	2	18
Part	1	1			1		1		3		7

No homemakers had full-time help in the home at the time of the study, nor during the ten years previous to the study. Eleven homemakers had part-time help at the time of the study and nine homemakers had part-time help five and ten years before the study (Table 9).

More homemakers at the time of the study had outside help in the home, but with less regularity than formerly. Five homemakers at the time of the study had outside help in the home weekly and five had outside help on special occasions. Both five and ten years before the study, four homemakers had outside help in the home daily (Table 10).

There was no relationship between the ages of homemakers to the number and frequency of employment of outside help in the home.

Table 9: Number of homemakers employing outside help in the home.

Age of home- makers	: At time study was made		: 5 years before		: 10 years before	
	: had full	: had part	: had full	: had part	: had full	: had part
	: time help	: time help	: time help	: time help	: time help	: time help
35 years		2		1		
36 "		1		1		
37 "				1		1
38 "						1
39 "		2		2		2
40 "		1		1		
41 "		1				1
42 "		1		1		2
43 "		1				
44 "		2		2		2
Total for all homemakers		11		9		9

Table 10: Frequency of part-time help.

		: Age of homemakers by years :										
Number of homemakers having help		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	Total for all homemakers
		35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	
Daily	At time of study											0
	5 years before	1				1	1			1		4
	10 years before				1	1			1	1		4
2 times a week	At time of study	1										1
	5 years before											0
	10 years before			1								1
3 times a week	At time of study											0
	5 years before								1			1
	10 years before								1			1
Weekly	At time of study	1				1	1			2		5
	5 years before		1							1		2
	10 years before					1	1			1		3
Special occasion	At time of study	1				1	1		1	1		5
	5 years before	1				1						2
	10 years before									1		1

More homemakers used outside help with house cleaning than any other kind of work at the time of the study, as well as five and ten years before. Other kinds of work done by outside help, besides housecleaning, were all or part of the laundry, meal preparation, and care of the children (Table 11). The outside help did more than one kind of work for some of the homemakers. There was no relationship between the age of the homemakers and the kind of work done by outside help. Some homemakers did not have outside help nor help with the same kind of work at the time of this study as they had had five or ten years before.

Amount of Laundry Sent from Home. Sending all or part of the laundry from the home to commercial laundry or to be done in a private home was practiced by six homemakers at the time of the study; by four homemakers five years before the study; and by one homemaker ten years before the study (Table 31, Appendix). The young homemakers tend to send more laundry from their homes than do the older homemakers.

Use of Time and Labor Saving Equipment. In addition to a specific check list of equipment considered time and labor saving, the homemakers listed for the writer during the interview other kinds of equipment which were considered by the individual homemaker to be time and labor saving (Table 32, Appendix).

The one kind of time and labor saving equipment all homemakers had at the time of the study was a washing machine. Nineteen homemakers had automatic washers and six had conventional washers. The washing machine was also the piece of equipment that more homemakers had five and ten years before the study. However, five and ten years before the study more homemakers had conventional washers. Five years before the study, 14 homemakers

Table 11: Kind of work done by outside help in the home.

		: Age of homemakers in years										: Total for all	
Kind of outside help		: 35	: 36	: 37	: 38	: 39	: 40	: 41	: 42	: 43	: 44	: homemakers	
Housecleaning	At time of study	1	1			1	1	1			2	7	
	5 years before				1	2	1		1		2	7	
	10 years before				1	1	2		2		2	8	
All of laundry	At time of study		1			1						2	
	5 years before		1								1	2	
	10 years before				1	1	1		1		1	5	
Laundry, ironing only	At time of study												
	5 years before				1	1			1			3	
	10 years before					1		1	1		1	4	
Meal preparation	At time of study												
	5 years before					1						1	
	10 years before								1			1	
Care of children	At time of study	1				2	1		1	1		6	
	5 years before	1				1						2	
	10 years before				1	1	2				1	5	



had conventional washers and 11 had automatic washers. Ten years before, 17 homemakers had conventional washers and three had automatic washers.

The piece of equipment second in frequency of use by homemakers was the vacuum cleaner. At the time of the study, 22 homemakers used a vacuum cleaner and two of these homemakers had another vacuum cleaner on the second floor of their homes. Five years before the study, 23 homemakers had vacuum cleaners and ten years before, 16 homemakers had vacuum cleaners.

One less homemaker used the vacuum cleaner at the time of the study than five years before. This was the only kind of equipment in which a decrease occurred in the total number in use (Table 32, Appendix).

The homemakers used a total of 110 pieces of time and labor saving equipment at the time of the study. Five years before, 73 pieces of equipment were in use and ten years before, 44 pieces of equipment were being used.

In comparing the time of study with five years before, an increase of 29 percent in the number of pieces of equipment being used was found. A gain of 60 percent in the number of pieces of equipment being used was found when comparing the time of study to ten years before (Table 12). None of the 35 year old homemakers were using time and labor saving equipment ten years before the study.

In comparing 35 to 39 year old homemakers, five years before the study to their counterparts ten years before, a slight increase in the number of kinds of time and labor saving equipment used was found. The 35 to 39 year old homemakers at the time of study, when compared to their counterparts of five years before, show an increase in the number of kinds of time and labor saving equipment used (Table 13).

The total effect of World War II on the kinds of time and labor saving

Table 12: Number of kinds of time-labor saving equipment in use and the changes in the use of this equipment over a 10 year period in relation to homemakers' ages.

Age of homemakers	: Number of kinds of equipment : being used :			: Numerical increase of : equipment in use at time : of study as compared to:		: Percent increase of : equipment in use at time : of study as compared to:	
	At time	: 5 years	: 10 years	: 5 years	: 10 years	: 5 years	: 10 years
	of study	: before	: before	: before	: before	: before	: before
35 years	17	7		10	17	58.82	100
36 "	6	5	2	1	4	16.66	66.66
37 "	11	8	5	3	6	27.27	54.54
38 "	7	6	4	1	3	14.29	42.86
39 "	15	9	5	6	10	40	66.66
40 "	4	3	2	1	2	25	50
41 "	13	11	5	2	8	15.38	61.54
42 "	7	5	4	2	3	28.57	42.86
43 "	7	5	5	2	2	28.57	28.57
44 "	23	19	12	4	11	17.39	47.83
Total for all homemakers	110	73	44	32	66	29	60

Table 13: Average number of time-labor saving equipment used by a group of homemakers, 5 years before study as compared to 10 years before study and 5 years before study compared to time of study.

Comparison of homemakers	Average number of kinds of time-labor saving equipment
35 year olds, 5 years before, to the 40 year olds, 10 years before.	2.3 2
36 year olds, 5 years before, to the 41 year olds, 10 years before.	2.5 2.5
37 year olds, 5 years before, to the 42 year olds, 10 years before.	2.6 1.3
38 year olds, 5 years before, to the 43 year olds, 10 years before.	3 2.5
39 year olds, 5 years before, to the 44 year olds, 10 years before.	4.5 2.4
40 year olds, 5 years before to the 35 year olds, at the time of study.	3 5.6
41 year olds, 5 years before, to the 36 year olds, at the time of study.	5.5 3
42 year olds, 5 years before, to the 37 year olds, at the time of study.	1.6 3.6
43 year olds, 5 years before, to the 38 year olds, at the time of study.	2.5 3.5
44 year olds, 5 years before, to the 39 year olds, at the time of study.	3.8 7.5

equipment used by the homemakers was not known by the writer. The periods showing less equipment in use were during the War or during the few years after the War. No new equipment was available during the War and continued to be scarce on the market for the first few years following the War.

Activities Related to the Home. The activities considered as related to the pattern of activities in homes were entertaining, visiting, accompanying husbands on business trips, reading, music, gardening, sewing, arts and crafts, vacationing, income producing activities, and other hobbies or activities done by the homemakers. Among the "other activities" listed by the homemakers were viewing television, caring for aged or ill relatives, and group leadership responsibilities related to their children's activities. The homemakers were asked to indicate whether the activity was done as a part of leisure time, as a necessary part of their homemaking, or as a part of their husband's jobs.

Leisure Time Activities Related to the Home. At the time of the study as a part of leisure, the homemakers engaged in 155 activities; five years before the study, 143 activities; ten years before, 123 activities (Table 14).

The average number of activities engaged in by each homemaker, as leisure time activities, at the time of the study and five and ten years before were 6.2, 5.7, and 4.9, respectively. This gradual increase was true for most of the homemakers. The 37 and 39 year old homemakers averaged more activities than other homemakers at the time of the study and five years before. The 40 year old homemaker averaged several less leisure time activities than were averaged for all homemakers. This homemaker was consistent in doing less activities five and ten years before the study, also (Fig. 3, Appendix).

Table 14: Changes in activities related to the home, which are done by the homemakers.

Age of homemakers	: Number of activities that were done								
	: In leisure time			: As a necessary part : of homemaking			: As part of husband's : job		
	: at time :5years	:10 years:	: at time : 5 years:10 years:	: at time : 5 years:10 years:	: at time : 5 years:10 years:	: at time : 5 years:10 years:	: at time : 5 years:10 years:	: at time : 5 years:10 years:	: at time : 5 years:10 years:
	: of study: before	: before	: of study: before	: before	: of study: before	: before	: of study: before	: before	: before
35 years	20	16	7	10	6	2			
36 "	9	8	6	3	1	1			
37 "	24	21	17	11	7	4	1	1	1
38 "	13	11	11	6	4	5	1		
39 "	18	17	16	6	8	5			
40 "	2	3	1	3	3			1	
41 "	13	8	9	4	5	3	2	1	
42 "	17	17	16	10	8	7	1	1	
43 "	7	15	16	5	2	2			
44 "	32	27	24	15	16	14	4	4	2
Total for all homemakers	155	143	123	73	60	43	9	8	3

Homemakers at the time of the study engaged in more leisure time activities related to the home than the homemakers of a comparable age five years before. More leisure time activities related to the home were done by homemakers five years before the study than by homemakers of a comparable age ten years before (Table 15).

A leisure time activity related to the home which had not been included on the interview schedule was viewing television. Two homemakers, 41 and 44 years of age participated in this activity.

Activities Related to the Home and Engaged in as a Necessary Part of Homemaking. Activities done as a necessary part of homemaking showed the greatest variations from those listed by the writer on the interview schedule (Appendix, p.69). Because of their children's activities, seven homemakers were leaders or sponsors of ten groups such as scouts, camps, Sunday school classes, and school groups. One of the 38 year old homemakers had, at the time of the study, the temporary care of her mother, who was ill and living in the home. One of the 43 year old homemakers was caring for her aged father and aunt in her home. Because of this situation, this homemaker was residing in Manhattan. Three homemakers helped their husbands in business as frequently as needed. One homemaker, 39 years old, had seven boys as boarders for three meals a day, five years before the study.

As a necessary part of homemaking, the homemakers participated in 73 activities at the time of the study; 60 activities, 5 years before; 43 activities, 10 years before the study (Table 14).

Activities engaged in as a necessary part of homemaking increased slightly at the time of the study over five and ten years before for all the homemakers, except the 39, 41, and 44 year olds (Fig. 9, Appendix).



Table 15: Number of activities related to the home and done as leisure time activities, necessary part of homemaking, and part of husband's job by a group of homemakers, 5 years before study as compared to 10 years before study and 5 years before study as compared to the time of study.

Comparison of homemakers	: Average number of activities related to the home and done as		
	: Leisure time : : activities	: Necessary part of : : homemaking	: Part of husband's : : job
35 year olds, 5 years before, to the 40 year olds, 10 years before	5.3 1	2	
36 year olds, 5 years before, to the 41 year olds, 10 years before	4 4.5	.5 1.5	
37 year olds, 5 years before, to the 42 year olds, 10 years before	7 5.3	2.3 2.3	.33
38 year olds, 5 years before, to the 43 year olds, 10 years before	5.5 4	2 1	
39 year olds, 5 years before, to the 44 year olds, 10 years before	8.5 4.8	4 2.8	.40
40 year olds, 5 years before to the 35 year olds, at time of study	3 6.6	3 3.3	1
41 year olds, 5 years before, to the 36 year olds, at time of study	4 4.5	2.5 1.5	.5
42 year olds, 5 years before, to 37 year olds, at time of study	5.6 8	2.6 3.6	.33 .33
43 year olds, 5 years before, to the 38 year olds, at time of study	7.5 6.5	1 3	.50
44 year olds, 5 years before, to the 39 year olds, at time of study	5.4 9	3.2 3	.80



The highest average increase in activities per homemaker was for the homemakers 35 to 38 years of age and the 43 year olds. These homemakers had an average increase of one or more activities at the time of the study over five years before. One homemaker, 38 years of age, and one, 43 years old, had gained the responsibility of caring for either ill or aged relatives during the five years previous to the time of the study. The children of the 38 and 43 year old homemakers averaged 11 and 12.6 years of age, respectively, which was the older average age group of children.

These two homemakers may have had a decrease, at least not an increase, in their activities done as a necessary part of homemaking had they not had the factor of senility in their homes. The two year old child of the 43 year old homemaker would influence these activities, too.

The 39, 41, and 44 year old homemakers had decreased at the time of the study, the number of activities done as a necessary part of homemaking. These homemakers' children averaging 9 to 12.5 years of age were in the average older age group of children.

**Activities Related to Homes and Done as a Part of Husbands' Jobs.** As a part of husbands' jobs, nine activities were done at time of study, eight activities, five years before, three activities, ten years before (Table 14). Few of the homemakers were responsible for any activities in their homes because of their husbands' jobs. It was the same homemakers that did activities in the home because of their husbands' jobs at the time of the study and five and ten years before. Helping husbands with their business, which was located in the homes, was the main way that the homemakers' activities were associated with the husbands' jobs.

In activities related to the homes, the homemakers were doing more in

97 activities at the time of the study than five years before and less in 71 activities at the time of the study than five years before. The difference between these two numbers indicated the homemakers did more in 26 activities related to the home, at the time of study as compared to five years before. In comparing the time of study with ten years before, the homemakers were found to be doing more in 40 activities related to the home (Table 16).

In activities related to the home, the homemakers were found to be doing more in an average of 1.1 activities per homemaker at the time of the study as compared to five years before. More was done in an average of 1.6 activities per homemaker in comparing the time of the study with ten years before (Table 16).

#### Activities of Homemakers Outside Their Homes

Employment Status of Homemakers. Only a small proportion of the homemakers were in either part-time or full time employment; nor did they express a desire to be employed (Table 17).

At the time of the study, two homemakers, 44 years of age, were in full-time employment. Two homemakers, 42 and 43 years old, were employed part-time. The children of the homemakers 42 and 43, and one homemaker of 44 were in school. The children of the 42 year old homemaker were seven and 11 years of age; the 43 year old, 19; and the 44 year old, 13. The other 44 year old homemaker had children ten, eight, four, and two years of age. This homemaker's mother-in-law lived with the family and did the major part of the housework.

Five years before the study, only one homemaker (44 years old) was employed and she was employed part-time. This was the same homemaker, with

Table 16: Comparison of homemakers doing more or less in activities related to the home.

Age of home- makers	Number of activities: in which more was done at time of study than		Number of activities: in which less was done at time of study than		Average number of activities per home- maker in which more was done at time of study than		Average number of activities per home- maker in which less was done at time of study than	
	: 5 years : before	: 10 years : before	: 5 years : before	: 10 years : before	: 5 years : before	: 10 years : before	: 5 years : before	: 10 years : before
35 years	14	17	7	4	4.6	5.6	2.3	1.3
36 "	7	9	4	4	3.5	4.5	2	2
37 "	16	20	6	5	5.3	6.6	2	1.6
38 "	6	7	6	7	3	3.5	3	3.5
39 "	7	9	13	10	3.5	4.5	6.5	5
40 "	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1
41 "	10	9	3	4	5	4.5	1.5	2
42 "	13	13	5	7	4.3	4.3	1.6	2.3
43 "	2	2	13	15	1	1	6.5	7.5
44 "	21	19	12	10	4.2	3.8	2.4	2.
Total for all homemakers	97	107	71	67	3.9	4.3	2.8	2.7

Table 17: Number of homemakers employed outside the home.

Age of homemakers	Extent of employment				
	Full-time		Part-time		
	at time of study	5 years before	10 years before	at time of study	5 years before
35 years		1			
36 "		1			
37 "					
38 "					
39 "					1
40 "					
41 "					
42 "				1	1
43 "				1	
44 "	2			1	1
Total for all homemakers	2	2	2	1	3

one child, that was in full-time employment at the time of the study.

Ten years before the study, two homemakers, 35 and 36 years old, were in full-time employment and three homemakers, 39, 42, and 44, were in part-time employment. At that time, the 35, 36, and 42 year old homemakers' husbands were in service and there were no children in these families. The 44 year old homemaker had no children.

At the time of the study, one homemaker of 39 desired to be in full-time employment and one of 42 would have liked part-time employment.

Community and College Classes Attended. Few homemakers had taken any of the classes available at Manhattan's High School, Community House, or colleges.

At the time of the study, no homemakers were taking classes, five years before, 14 homemakers had taken classes, and 12 homemakers had taken classes ten years before the study (Table 18). These homemakers had taken a total of 31 classes with no particular kind of classes preferred. Some of the homemakers who had taken classes ten years before the study were the same ones who had taken classes five years before.

The homemakers listed 42 classes they would like to take, naming classes in crafts and typing more frequently than others (Table 33, Appendix).

Homemakers took classes or wanted to take classes more often for reasons of personal interest or enjoyment. "Lack of time" was the reason given most frequently by the homemakers in answer to why they had not taken the classes in which they were interested (Table 34, Appendix).

Participation in Organizations. The homemakers participated in 155 organizations at the time of the study, 125 organizations, five years before, and 75 organizations, ten years before. Nineteen organizations were speci-

Table 18: Number of homemakers that have continued education by attending classes.

Age of homemakers	Classes in							
	Manhattan's High School				Manhattan's Community House		College courses	
	at time of study	: 5 years before	: 10 years before	: 10 years before	at time of study	: 5 years before	: 10 years before	: 10 years before
35 years		1			1		1	1
36 "			1			1		
37 "		1	1		2			
38 "			1				1	
39 "					1		2	
40 "								
41 "			1					
42 "		1	1		1			1
43 "								
44 "			2				2	2
Total for all homemakers		3	7		5	1	6	4



fied by the homemakers as the number of organizations to which they would have liked to belong (Table 19).

Table 19: Number of organizations in which homemakers participated or would have liked to participate.

Age of home- makers	: Number of organizations			: Number of organizations
	: participated in			: to which homemaker would
	: at time :	5	: 10	: like to belong
	: of study: years :	years :	years :	
	:	: before:	before :	
35 years	9	6		1
36 "	16	12	4	1
37 "	20	22	6	2
38 "	10	5	6	1
39 "	17	9	7	3
40 "	3	1	1	
41 "	17	11	9	1
42 "	23	18	14	4
43 "	5	9	9	3
44 "	35	32	19	3
Total for all home- makers	155	125	75	19

The 35 year olds, ten years before, did not take part in any organizations. This was the only age group of homemakers that did not take part in organizations for the period of time for which data were collected.

The homemakers increased the number of organizations in which they

participated 23.2 percent and decreased the number 3.8 percent at the time of the study as compared to five years before. The difference between these two percentages indicates an actual increase of 19.4 percent in the number of organizations in which the homemakers participated. The time of the study compared to ten years before shows an actual increase of 51.7 percent in the number of organizations (Table 35, Appendix).

As a group, the homemakers showed an increase in the average number of organizations per homemaker from ten years before the study to the time of the study. The average number of organizations participated in per homemaker at the time of the study was 6.2, five years before, five organizations, and three organizations ten years before (Fig. 5).

The 36, 39, and 41 year olds participated, respectively, in an average of eight, 8.5, and 8.5 organizations per homemaker. The 43 year olds participated, as the lowest average, in 2.5 organizations per homemaker. This was a decrease of two organizations per homemaker at the time of the study to the average number of organizations of 4.5 to which this age group belonged both five and ten years before.

Homemakers, 35 to 39 years old, at the time of the study took part in more organizations than their counterparts took part in five years before. Five years before the study, the 35 to 39 year old homemakers took part in more organizations than their counterparts took part in ten years before (Table 20).

**Reasons for Participation in Organizations.** The reasons why the homemakers participated in organizations fell into three groupings: for own pleasure, due to their husbands' jobs, or as civic duty. The homemakers took part in 135 organizations for their own pleasure, in 76 organizations

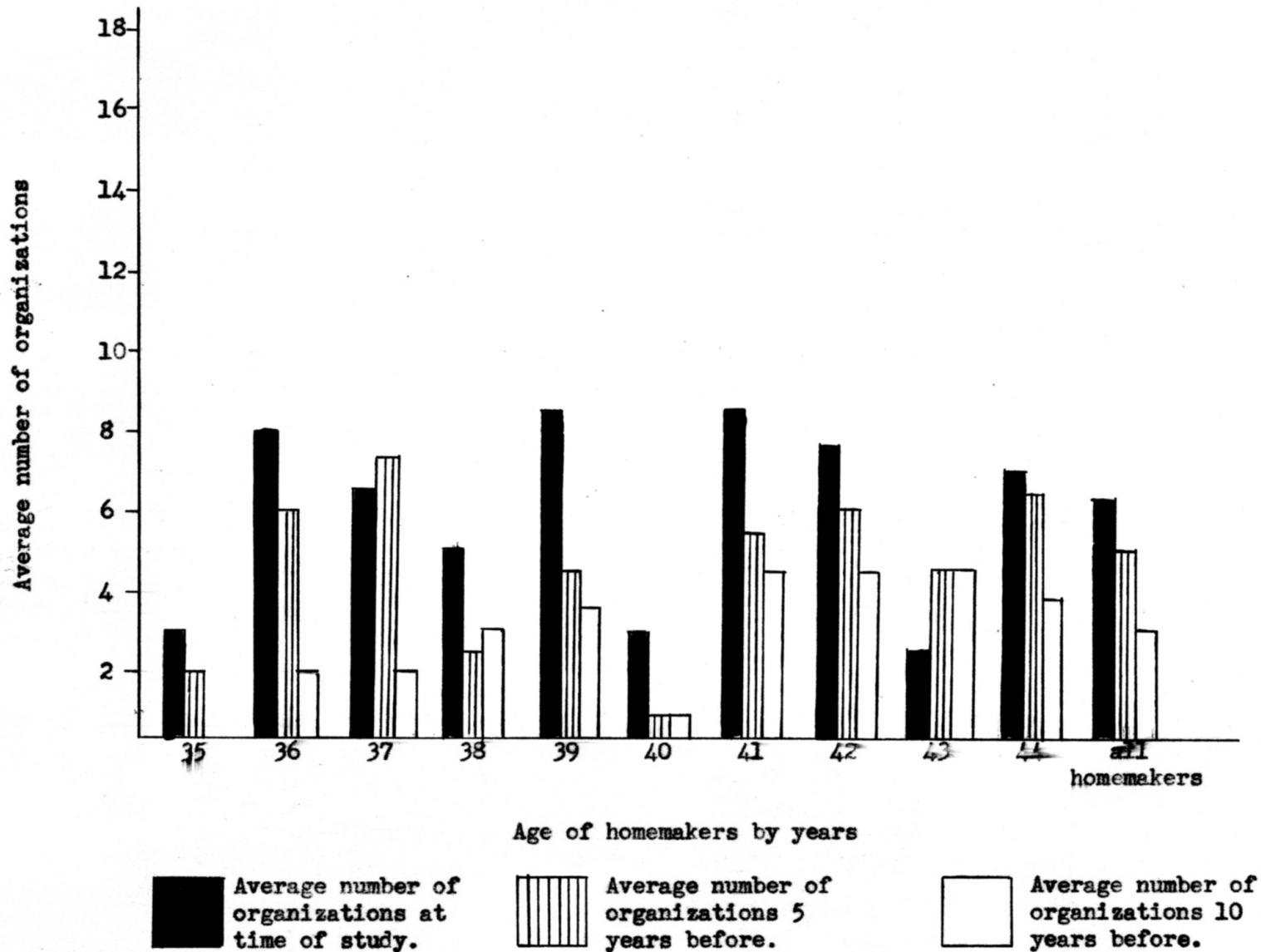


Fig. 5: Average number of organizations in which homemakers participated.

Table 20: Average number of organizations to which homemakers belong and the average degree of organizational participation by a group of homemakers, 5 years before study compared to 10 years before study and 5 years before study compared to time of study.

Comparison of homemakers	Average number of organizations in which homemaker participated as				
	Average number of organizations	Officer or leader	Active member	Member, attending a few meetings	Non-active member
35 year olds, 5 years before, to the 40 year olds, 10 years before	2 1	.66	1.6 1		
36 year olds, 5 years before, to the 41 year olds, 10 years before	6 4.5	.50 1.5	5 4	1 .50	
37 year olds, 5 years before, to the 42 year olds, 10 years before	7.3 4.6	2.3 1.5	5.6 4	1 .50	
38 year olds, 5 years before, to the 43 year olds, 10 years before	2.5 4.5	1 1	2 4.5	.50	
39 year olds, 5 years before, to the 44 year olds, 10 years before	4.5 3.8	3 1.2	4 2.8	.80	.50
40 year olds, 5 years before, to the 35 year olds, at time of study	1 3			1 1	
41 year olds, 5 years before, to the 36 year olds, at time of study	5.5 3	2 1	4 5	1.5 .5	2.5
42 year olds, 5 years before, to the 37 year olds, at time of study	6 6.6	2.6 2	5.3 5.3	.66 1.3	
43 year olds, 5 years before, to the 38 year olds, at time of study	4.5 5	2.5 2	4.5 3.5	1.5	
44 year olds, 5 years before, to the 39 year olds, at time of study	6.4 8.5	1.6 2	5.2 7	1 .5	.2 1

due to civic duty, and 22 because of their husbands' jobs (Table 21). Some organizations were participated in for more than one reason.

Table 21: Number of organizations in which homemakers participated according to reason.

Age of homemakers	: Number of organizations participated in		
	: Due to husband's job	: For own pleasure	: As civic duty
35 years	1	4	4
36 "	2	16	6
37 "	2	24	11
38 "	1	5	6
39 "	2	15	8
40 "	2	2	
41 "	1	11	7
42 "	3	19	16
43 "		7	3
44 "	8	32	15
Total for all homemakers	22	135	76

Degree of Organizational Participation. The degree to which the homemakers participated in organizations was based upon their being an officer or leader, active member; member, attending a few meetings; or a non-active member. In most instances, when the homemakers were officers or leaders they were also active members. An active member was defined as one who attended meetings regularly and participated when asked.

Of the 155 organizations homemakers participated in at the time of

the study, they were officers or leaders in 52, active members in 120; members, attending a few meetings in 25; and non-active members in 11.

Five years before the study, of the 125 organizations in which the homemakers participated, they were officers or leaders in 43, active members in 93; members, attending a few meetings in 17; and non-active members in two.

Ten years before the study, of the 75 organizations in which the homemakers took part, they were officers or leaders in 21, active members in 64; members, attending a few meetings in eight; and non-active members in two (Table 22).

The 36 year old homemakers averaging participation in eight organizations (one of the higher averages) at the time of the study made less proportional gains in becoming officers or leaders and active members, than the 39 and 41 year olds, averaging 8.5 organizations per homemaker. The 36 year olds were non-active in more organizations at the time of the study than any other age groups (Table 23).

At the time of the study, the 41 year old homemakers were officers or leaders and active members in more organizations than any other age group. The 42 and 44 year olds were second and third in the number of homemakers that were officers or leaders. The 39 and 42 year olds were second and third in number of active members.

Five and ten years before the study, the homemakers 39 to 44 years of age tended, as a group, to be officers or leaders and active members in more organizations than the younger group of homemakers, 35 to 38 years old. The 40 year old homemaker had a lesser degree of participation as an officer or leader and active member than any other age group (Table 23).

The homemakers, 35 to 39 years of age, five years before, were more



Table 22: Degree of organizational participation by homemakers.

Age of homemakers	:Number of organizations in which homemakers participated as											
	:Officer or leader			: Active member			: Member, attends a			: Non-active member		
	:At time: 5 : 10			:At time: 5 : 10			: At time: 5 : 10			:At time: 5 : 10		
	: of	:years	:years	: of	:years	:years	: of	:years	:years	: of	:years	:years
	:study	:before	:before	:study	:before	:before	: study	:before	:before	:study	:before	:before
35 years	4	2		6	5		3					
36 "	2	1		10	10	2	1	2	1	5		1
37 "	6	7	2	16	17	5	4	3	1			
38 "	4	2	3	7	4	6	3	1				
39 "	4	6	2	14	8	6	1			2	1	1
40 "				1		1	2	1				
41 "	11	4	3	15	8	8	1	3	1	1		
42 "	9	8	3	20	16	13	2	2	1			
43 "	1	5	2	5	9	9						
44 "	11	8	6	26	26	14	8	5	4	3	1	
Total for all homemakers	52	43	21	120	93	64	25	17	8	11	2	2

Table 23: Average degree of organizational participation by homemakers.

: Average number of organizations in which homemakers participated as												
: Office or leader			: Active member			: Member, attending a			: Non-active member			
						: few meetings						
: At time:5			:10			: At time:5			:10			
Age of			: of			: years			: years			
homemakers			: study			: before			: before			
35 years	1.3	.66		2	1.6		1					
36 "	1	.50		5	5	1	.50	1	.50	2.5		.50
37 "	2	2.3	.66	5.3	5.6	1.6	1.3	1	.33			
38 "	2	1	1.5	3.5	2	3	1.5		.50			
39 "	2	3	1	7	4	3	.50			1	.50	.50
40 "				1		1	2	1				
41 "	5.5	2	1.5	7.5	4	4	.50	1.5	.50	.50		
42 "	3	2.6	1	6.6	5.3	4.3	.66	.66	.33			
43 "	.50	2.5	1	2.5	4.5	4.5						
44 "	2.2	1.6	1.2	5.2	5.2	2.8	1.6	1	.80	.60	.20	
Total for all homemakers	2.08	1.72	.84	4.80	3.72	2.56	1	.68	.32	.44	.08	.08

often officers or leaders than homemakers of a comparable age ten years before. The homemakers, 40 to 44 years of age, five years before, were more often officers or leaders than their counterparts at the time of the study.

Homemakers, 35 to 39, five years before, were active members in more organizations than their counterparts of ten years before. Homemakers, 35 to 39 at the time of the study, were active members in more organizations than homemakers of a comparable age five years before (Table 20).

#### Evaluation of Homemakers' Leisure Time

Excess Time. None of the homemakers felt they had an excess of time at the time of the study.

Leisure Time Expected. Twenty homemakers expected to have more leisure time within the few years following the study (Table 24). Those that did not were one homemaker of 35 years, one of 42, and three of 44. The 35 year old had a boy of one year and one of the 44 year old homemakers had four children, one of which would not be school age until three years after the study. The other two homemakers of 44 would help in their husbands' businesses as soon as time were available that need not be devoted to housekeeping.

Satisfactions from Way Time was Used. Twenty one homemakers received satisfactions from the way their time was used at the time of the study (Table 24). Two homemakers of 38 and 43 indicated they were not receiving satisfactions because of family situations. These were the situations in which the one homemaker's mother was ill and being cared for in the home and where the homemaker was responsible for caring for her elderly father and aunt.

Table 24: Evaluation of leisure time as to the number of homemakers having excess time, expecting more leisure time, and receiving satisfactions from the way time is used.

Age of homemakers	Excess of time	More leisure time in a few years	Receive satisfactions from the way time is used
35 years		2	3
36 "		2	2
37 "		3	3
38 "		2	
39 "		2	2
40 "		1	1
41 "		2	1
42 "		2	3
43 "		2	1
44 "		2	5
Total homemakers	0	20	21

In comparing the time of the study to five years before, seven homemakers received more satisfactions from the way time was used, four received less, and 12 received the same amount of satisfactions. Two homemakers could not say whether they had received more, less, or the same amount of satisfactions.

In comparing the time of the study with ten years before, 14 homemakers received more satisfactions, four less, and six the same amount (Table 25). One homemaker could not say whether she had more, less, or the same amount of satisfactions from the way time was used.

Extent of Boredom. Seventeen homemakers were "seldom" bored with homemaking responsibilities, six were "sometimes" bored, and one was "frequently" bored (Table 26). One homemaker did not answer to terms used in the interview schedule, but said she was "frequently tired and disgusted". The homemaker frequently bored was 43 years of age and was the homemaker caring for her senile father and aunt.

Use of Abilities or Skills. The homemakers, as age groups and as a total group, had increased the number of abilities or skills they were not using at the time of the study over five and ten years before.

Three groups of homemakers, the 36, 41, and 44 year olds, had renewed six abilities or skills by the time of the study over five years before.

Of the 33 abilities or skills not in use at the time of the study, the homemakers expressed a desire to renew 23. The homemakers, 42 to 44, wanted to renew a larger proportion of their abilities or skills not in use at the time of the study than did the younger homemakers (Table 27).

Table 25: Changes in satisfactions received by homemakers from way time is used.

Age of homemakers	: Number of homemakers receiving					
	: More satisfactions at time : of study than		: Less satisfactions at time: : of study than		: Same amount of satis- : factions at time of study as	
	: 5 years : before	: 10 years : before	: 5 years : before	: 10 years : before	: 5 years : before	: 10 years : before
35 years	1	3			2	
36 "		1	1	1	1	
37 "	1	2		1	2	
38 "			1	1	1	1
39 "					2	2
40 "		1	1			
41 "	1	1			1	1
42 "	1	3			1	
43 "			1	1		
44 "	3	3			2	2
Total homemakers	7	14	4	4	12	6

Table 26: Extent of boredom expressed by homemakers concerning homemaking responsibilities.

Age of : Number of homemakers bored with homemaking responsibilities			
homemakers :	Frequently	Sometimes	Seldom
35 years		1	2
36 "		2	
37 "			3
38 "			2
39 "			2
40 "		1	
41 "			2
42 "		2	1
43 " 1			
44 "			4
Total for all homemakers	1	6	17



Table 27: Use of skills and abilities by homemakers.

Age of homemakers	: Number of skills or abilities homemaker had, : but was not using			: Number of skills : Number of skills : and abilities re-: and abilities : renewed by time of : homemakers would : study : like to renew	
	: At time of study	: 5 years before	: 10 years before	: study	: like to renew
35 years	3	3	2		1
36 "	4	5	4	1	2
37 "	6	5			3
38 "	2	2	2		1
39 "	3	2	2	1	3
40 "					
41 "		1	1	1	
42 "	3	3	2		3
43 "	2	1	1		2
44 "	10	9	9	3	8
Total for all homemakers	33	30	23	6	23

The list of abilities or skills that the homemakers had but may not have been using is found on page five of the interview schedule (page 69, Appendix). The homemakers most frequently listed playing the piano and typing as skills they had, but were not using. Playing the piano was the skill more homemakers had renewed by the time of the study. Arts and crafts and typing were the abilities or skills more of the homemakers wanted to renew.

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

To obtain a homogeneous group of subjects for the study, the 25 homemakers were graduates in home economics, members of family groups composed of husbands and children, residing in Manhattan, Kansas, and 35 to 45 years of age.

The group proved to be homogeneous in several other ways, too. Over two-thirds of the families, or parts of the families, had resided in Manhattan at the time of the study as well as five and ten years before. One-half of the homemakers' husbands were closely associated with Kansas State College as staff members or teachers. All of the families, but one, lived in single family units. Half of the families had six-room dwellings, which was the average number of rooms per dwelling and the average number of rooms in use. About half of the dwellings were on two floors and about half on one floor.

The homemakers were representative of the general United States population trends toward more children per family. The younger homemakers, 35 to 40 years of age, averaged more children per homemaker than the homemakers, 41 to 44 years of age. Homemakers, 35 to 39 years old, at the time of the study and five years before, had larger families than their counterparts of five and ten years before.

A group of homemakers, 37, 38, 39, and 41 years old, had the children averaging more organized activities per child. These were the homemakers whose children's ages averaged in the older age groups or a larger proportion of the children were seven years of age or above. At about seven years, the average number of organized activities per child began to increase. At 17 to 19, the average number of activities per child seemed to have dropped sharply. Girls participated in more activities and at an earlier age than boys.

None of the homemakers had full-time help and less than half of the the homemakers had part-time help, even on special occasions. More homemakers had part-time help at the time of the study, but had help less regularly.

Factors influencing the amount of outside help available to homemakers in their homes were age of children and number of children. When the children were young the amount of outside help was increased. Families with more than one child had more outside help available than did the smaller families. The 35 and 36 year old homemakers tended to send more laundry from their homes.

The number of pieces of time-labor saving equipment in use increased from ten years before the study to the time of the study. Homemakers, 35 to 39 years of age, at the time of the study and five years before had more time-labor saving equipment in use than their counterparts of five and ten years before the study.

The age of the homemaker, average number of children and their average age, or the age range of the children seemed to make no difference in the number of activities engaged as leisure time in the homes. However, the study made no inquiry into the exact length of time devoted to leisure time

activities of homemakers. Care of ill and aged relatives caused a decrease in the number of leisure time activities for some homemakers.

Homemakers, 35 to 39 years old, at the time of the study and five years before engaged in more activities as a necessary part of homemaking than their counterparts of five and ten years before.

The age and number of children affected the number of activities engaged in by the homemakers as a necessary part of homemaking. Activities increased as the number of children increased and decreased as the children became older. The activities decreased in age groups of homemakers when the average age of the children or the majority of the children reached nine years. The homemakers increased their activities engaged in as a necessary part of homemaking, when the care of ill and aged relatives intervened.

Only a small number of homemakers were responsible for doing activities in their homes because of their husbands' jobs.

More interest was shown by the homemakers in wanting to participate in organizations rather than be employed or attend community or college classes as activities outside the home.

Only four of the homemakers were employed full-time or part-time outside the home; others did not express a desire to be employed.

The homemakers had intentions of taking more classes offered by the community and colleges than they had taken. "Lack of time" was the reason given most frequently as to why classes had not been taken.

The number of organizations in which the homemakers participated were found to increase at the time of the study over five years before and five years before over ten years before the study. Homemakers, 35 to 39 years of age, at the time of the study and five years before participated in more

organizations than their counterparts of five and ten years before.

In general, the age and number of children had no effect upon the number of organizations in which the homemakers participated. At the time of the study the homemakers, 35 to 39, participated in more organizations than the homemakers, 40 to 44. Five and ten years before the study the 40 to 44 year old homemakers had taken part in more organizations than the 35 to 39 year old homemakers.

As the number of organizations in which the homemakers participated increased so did the number of homemakers that were officers or leaders, active members, members, attending a few meetings, and non-active members. Although homemakers, 35 to 38, were participants in as many or more organizations than homemakers, 39 to 44, they were not officers or leaders in as many. Homemakers of 38 years of age were participants in a higher average number of organizations, yet were non-active members in more organizations than any other age group of homemakers.

The 35 to 39 year old homemakers, at the time of the study and five years before were active members in more organizations than homemakers of a comparable age five and ten years before the study.

The 41 year old homemakers stood out as being officers or leaders and active members in a greater proportion of the organizations in which they participated. This group had children who averaged among the oldest in years and was one of the two age groups in which all the children were school age.

Most of the homemakers anticipated leisure time in the next few years, but none felt they had an excess of time at the time of the study. Contrary, to what might be thought, it was homemakers in the older groups, 42 and 44 years of age, who did not expect more leisure time in the next few years.

Most of the homemakers received satisfactions from the way their time was used. Two of the four homemakers indicating they received no satisfactions were responsible for the care of ill or aged relatives.

The time of the study compared with five years before found half of the homemakers receiving the same amount of satisfactions from the way their time was used. The other half of the homemakers received more, less, or did not want to indicate the change in satisfactions received. In comparing the time of the study with ten years before, more than half of the homemakers were receiving more satisfactions. Only the homemaker caring for aged relatives said she was bored, "frequently", with homemaking responsibilities.

Homemakers, as age groups and as a total group, had increased the number of abilities or skills they were not using at the time of the study over five and ten years before. The homemakers, 42 to 44 years old, wanted to renew a larger proportion of the abilities or skills.

The role of the group of homemakers used as subjects for the study had changed, but the changes were more the result of the "times", rather than the maturing of the homemakers. Changes were noted when comparing the homemakers, 35 to 39, at the time of the study and five years before with their counterparts of five and ten years before the study. All homemakers showed changes within each age group when the time of the study was compared to five and ten years before.

The trend was towards increases for the homemakers in: size of families, number of pieces of time-labor saving equipment in use, activities done as leisure time in the homes, activities done in their homes as a necessary part of the homemaking, number of organizations in which they participated.

There was little or no change in the use of outside help in the home,

laundry sent from the home, number of activities done in the home because of their husbands' jobs, and the employment of the homemakers outside their homes.

Since the average age of the children did not consistently increase with the older age groups of homemakers, there was little or no relationship between the changes in the role of the homemakers and the ages of children.

The role of the homemakers deviated from the general trend when the homemakers cared for ill or aged relatives in the home.

The data concerning the evaluation of the homemakers' leisure time did not reflect the characteristic attitudes or the feelings of uselessness and boredom, which according to literature was predominant and which the writer had presupposed concerning homemakers 40 to 44 years of age.

There may have been a number of reasons why the homemakers in the study and particularly those of 40 to 44 year age group did not have excess time; why they were not bored with homemaking responsibilities; why they continued to increase the number of abilities and skills they were not using.

One reason may have been that the homemakers in the study tended to have younger children than might be expected for women of their ages. Over half of the homemakers were 27, 28, or older before their first child was born. This was particularly true for some of the homemakers 39, 40, 42, and 44 years of age. Six homemakers had "second families"; there being a period of seven years or more between the birth of the next to the last child and the last child.

A second reason may be found in the sample of homemakers studied. These homemakers were graduates in home economics; and this may have carried their major interests into their homes.



Another reason may be related to the number of organizations in which these homemakers participated. They averaged 6.2 as the number of organizations in which each homemaker was participating at the time of the study. This would be considered a high number of organizations and the homemakers may have felt their time was well spent. Most of the homemakers had increased the number of organizations in which they had taken part at the time of the study over five and ten years before, indicating they may have been taking care of excess time as it occurred.

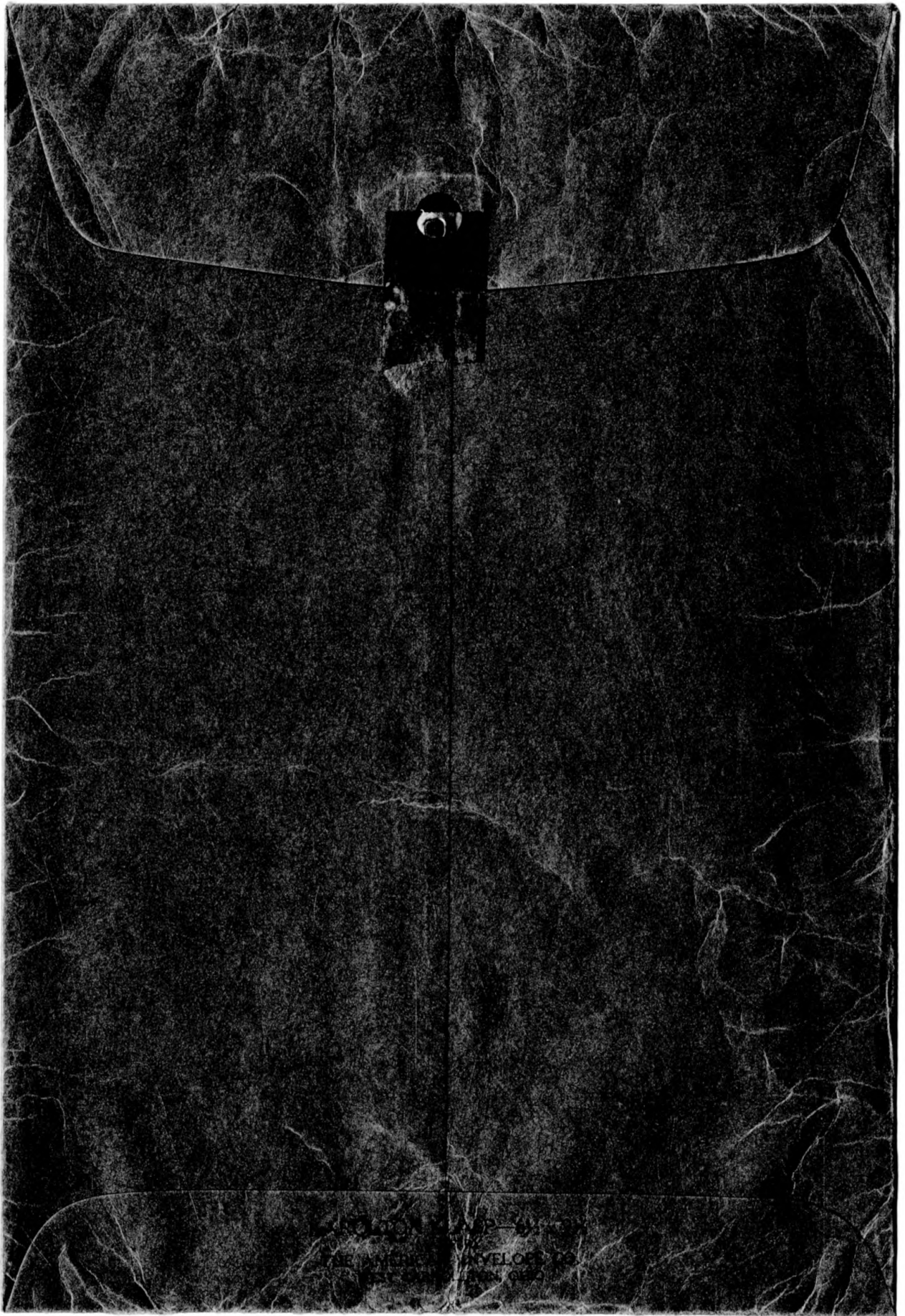
## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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**APPENDIX**



## INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

## I. INFORMATION CONCERNING HOUSEHOLD

A. FAMILY NAME

B. ADDRESS

C. OCCUPATION OF HUSBAND

D. MEMBERS OF HOUSEHOLD

[illegible]

### E. SIZE AND KIND OF DWELLING

APARTMENT \_\_\_\_\_

DUPLEX

SINGLE FAMILY UNIT

Number of rooms in unit \_\_\_\_\_

Number of rooms in use \_\_\_\_\_

Number of floors \_\_\_\_\_

Place of residence:

5 years ago \_\_\_\_\_

10 years ago



page 2

page 2

[illegible]



## III. ACTIVITIES OF HOMEMAKER IN CARE OF HOME

A. DO YOU DO ALL OF YOUR OWN HOUSE WORK?      yes \_\_\_\_      no \_\_\_\_

B. DO YOU EMPLOY OUTSIDE HELP IN THE HOME?

	At Present Time		5 years ago		10 years ago	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Full-time help						
Part-time help						
Daily						
Weekly						
Twice a month						
Monthly						
Twice a year						
Yearly						
Occasionally						
Special Occasion						

C. WHAT DOES OUTSIDE HELP DO?

	At Present Time		5 years ago		10 years ago	
House Cleaning						
Laundry						
Meal Preparation						
Care of Children						
Other:						

D. DO YOU SEND THE LAUNDRY FROM HOME?

	At Present Time		5 years ago		10 years ago	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
All of it						
Flat-work, finished						
Flat-work, unfinished						
Men's shirts						
Other wearing apparel						

E. WHAT TIME-LABOR SAVING EQUIPMENT DO YOU USE?

	At Present Time		5 years ago		10 years ago	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Washing Machine Automatic						
Washing Machine Conventional						
Clothes dryer						
Ironer						
Dish Washer						
Home Freezer						
Vacuum Cleaner						
Other:						

## INTERVIEW SCHEDULE-page 3a

F. WHAT ARE THE CHANGES IN THE PATTERN OF ACTIVITY RELATED TO THE HOME? (X - yes)

[illegible]

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE-page 4

IV. ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE HOME IN WHICH THE HOMEMAKER MAY OR MAY NOT ENGAGE

A. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF HOMEMAKER OUTSIDE THE HOME.

	At Present Time	5 years ago	10 years ago	Would Like to Engage In
Full-time employment				
Part-time employment				

B. CONTINUATION OF EDUCATION BY ATTENDING CLASSES

- Have you attended night classes at Manhattan High School?  
Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
What \_\_\_\_  
When \_\_\_\_  
Reason for attending \_\_\_\_
- Do you attend any night classes, now at Manhattan High School?  
Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
What \_\_\_\_  
Reason for attending \_\_\_\_
- Have you attended classes at Manhattan's Community House?  
Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
What \_\_\_\_  
When \_\_\_\_  
Reason for attending \_\_\_\_
- Are you attending classes, now at Manhattan's Community House?  
Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
What \_\_\_\_  
Reason for attending \_\_\_\_
- Have you considered taking night school courses at the Manhattan High School or at Manhattan's Community House?  
Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
What \_\_\_\_  
Why \_\_\_\_  
Reason for not having previously enrolled \_\_\_\_
- Have you taken any college courses in the past 5 years? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
What \_\_\_\_ Why \_\_\_\_
- Have you taken any college courses in the past 5-10 years? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
What \_\_\_\_ Why \_\_\_\_
- Have you considered taking any college courses? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
What \_\_\_\_ Why \_\_\_\_  
Reason for not enrolling for course? \_\_\_\_



## C. PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE ORGANIZATION AND GROUP PARTICIPATION BY HOMEMAKER

## ORGANIZATION

	PARTICIPATES				DUE TO HUSB'D JCB	FOR OWN PLEASURE	WOULD LIKE	CIVIC DUTY
	NOW	5 yrs. AGO	10 yrs. AGO					
1. Aggieville Business Women								
2. American Assn. of Univ. Women								
3. Business & Prof. Women								
4. Civic Music Club								
5. Cancer Control Society								
6. Chamber of Commerce								
7. City Park Board								
8. Community Chest Board								
9. Community Improvement Club								
10. Council of Service Clubs								
11. Council of Social Agencies								
12. Council of Churches								
13. Domestic Science Club								
14. Eastern Star								
15. Friends of Library								
16. Friends of Music								
17. Jr. Chamber of Commerce								
18. Kans. Crippled Children's Soc.								
19. Kiwanis Queens								
20. League of Women Voters								
21. Lioness Club								
22. Manhattan Civil Rights								
23. Manhattan Film Council								
24. Manhattan School Board								
25. Recreation Commission								
26. Manhattan Garden Club								
27. Manhattan Music Club								
28. Past Matrons and Patrons								
29. P.E.O.								
30. P.T.A.								
31. Republican Women's Club								
32. Riley Co. Blood Program								
33. Riley Co. Dem. Central Club								
34. Riley Co. Infantile Par. Assn.								
35. Riley Co. T.B. Assn.								
36. Soroptimists								
37. University Matrons								
38. W.C.T.U.								
39. Y.W.C.A.								
OTHER ORGANIZED GROUPS NOT LISTED								
40.								
41.								
42.								
43.								
44.								
SOCIAL CLUBS (LIST)								
45.								
46.								
47.								
48.								
49.								
50.								
51.								
52.								
CHURCH GROUPS								
53. Church School								
54. Missionary Society								
55. Study Group								
56. Women's Organizations (circle)								
57. Church Choir								
58. Other:								
59.								
60.								

X - yes

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE-page 4b

D. DEGREE OF PARTICIPATION

CORRESPONDING ORGANIZATION NUMBER FROM PAGE 4a

<u>OFFICER OR LEADER</u>																			
At Present																			
5 yrs. ago																			
10 yrs. ago																			
<u>ACTIVE MEMBER *</u>																			
At Present																			
5 yrs. ago																			
10 yrs. ago																			
<u>MEMBER, ATTENDS A FEW MEETINGS</u>																			
At Present																			
5 yrs. ago																			
10 yrs. ago																			
<u>NON-ACTIVE MEMBER</u>																			
At Present																			
5 yrs. ago																			
10 yrs. ago																			

\*Active member is to be defined as one who attends meetings regularly and participates when asked.



V. EVALUATION OF YOUR LEISURE TIME

A. Do you feel that you have an excess of time?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

B. Do you expect to have more leisure time within a few years?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

C. Are you getting satisfactions from the way you use your time?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

More than 5 years ago \_\_\_\_ Less than 5 years ago \_\_\_\_ Same \_\_\_\_  
 More than 10 years ago \_\_\_\_ Less than 10 years ago \_\_\_\_ Same \_\_\_\_

D. Are you bored with your present homemaking responsibilities?

Frequently \_\_\_\_ Sometimes \_\_\_\_ Seldom \_\_\_\_

E. What abilities or skills do you have that you are not using?

	Now	5 years ago	10 years ago
Arts and Crafts			
Book Reviews			
Directing Plays			
Dramatics			
Giving Readings			
Playing Piano			
Playing Other Instruments			
Singing			
Typing			
Writing			

F. Are there any of these abilities or skills that you would like to renew?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Which ones?

Arts and Crafts \_\_\_\_\_  
 Book Reviews \_\_\_\_\_  
 Directing Plays \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dramatics \_\_\_\_\_  
 Giving Readings \_\_\_\_\_  
 Playing Piano \_\_\_\_\_  
 Playing Other Instruments \_\_\_\_\_  
 Singing \_\_\_\_\_  
 Typing \_\_\_\_\_  
 Writing \_\_\_\_\_

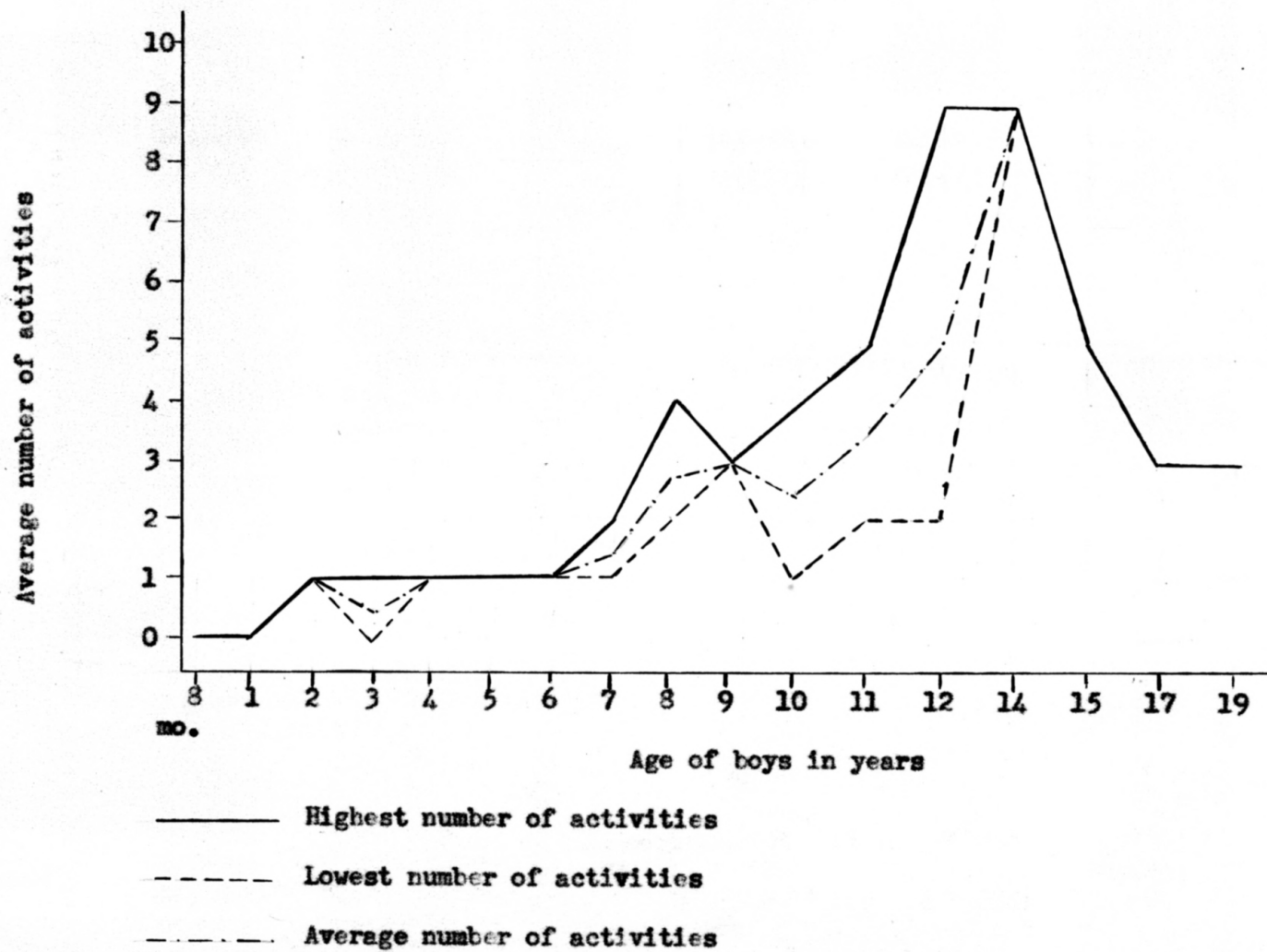


Fig. 6: High, low and average number of activities for boys of each age.



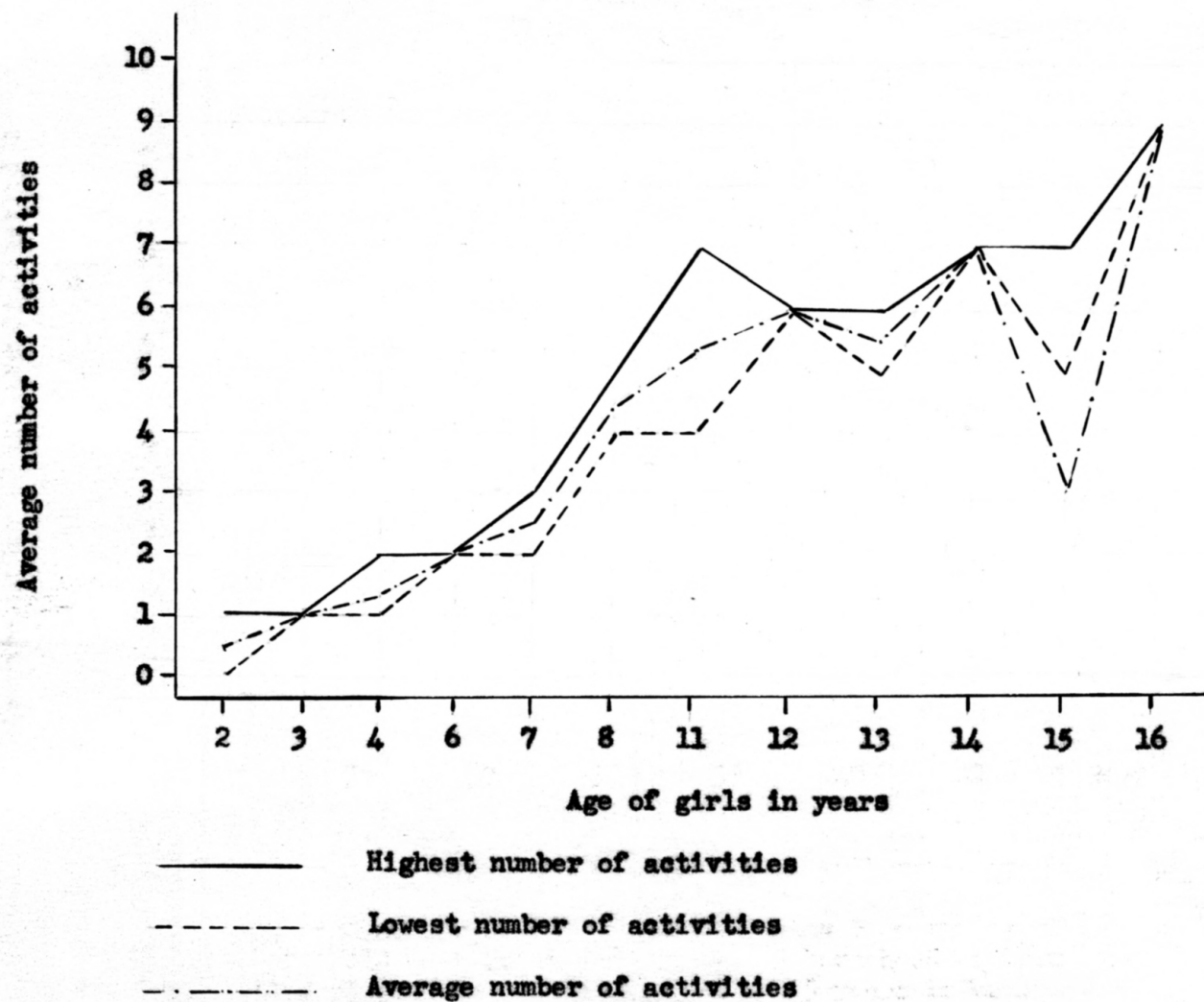


Fig. 7: High, low, and average number of activities for girls of each age.

Table 28: Place of residence for households 5 and 10 years before study.

		: 5 years before			: 10 years before		
Age of home-	makers	: Manhattan	: Away from:	: Husband in Man- hattan, family elsewhere	: Manhattan	: Away from:	: Husband in service, fam- ily with vice, family not with
35 years	3					2	1
36 "	2				1	1	
37 "	3				2	1	
38 "		1		1	1	1	
39 "	2				1	1	
40 "		1					1
41 "	2				1		1
42 "	3				2		1
43 "	1	1			1	1	
44 "	4	1			3	1	1
Total for all homemakers	20	4		1	12	4	5

Table 29: Number of homemakers in each size and kind of dwelling.

Age of home- makers	:Number of house- holds in		:Number of rooms: :in dwellings					:Average	:Number of :rooms in use					:Average	:number of: :floors				
	:single family: :units	: Duplexes	:5:	:6:	:7:	:8:	:9:	:of rooms:	:5:	:6:	:7:	:8:	:9:	:use	:1:	:1 <sup>1</sup> :	:2:	:3:	
35 years	3		1	1	1			6	1	1	1			6	1		2		
36 "	2			1		1		7		1		1		7	1		1		
37 "	3			2		1		6.66		2		1		6.66	1	1	1		
38 "	2			1	1			6.50		1	1			6.50			2		
39 "	2			2				6		2				6			2		
40 "	1				1			7			1			7			1		
41 "	2			2				6		2				6	1	1			
42 "	3			1	2			5.66	1	2				5.66	3				
43 "	1	1		1			1	7	1				1	7	1		1		
44 "	5			1	2		1	6.80	1	3		1		6.20	2		2	1	
Total for all homemakers	24	1		4	13	3	3	2	6.46	4	14	3	3	1	6.40	10	2	12	1

Table 30: Occupations of husbands and number engaged in each occupation.

Listed occupations of husbands	: Age of homemakers in years										: Total for all homemakers
	: 35	: 36	: 37	: 38	: 39	: 40	: 41	: 42	: 43	: 44	
Building Contractor						1					1
Cost Accountant								1			1
Dist. Supt. International Correspondence Schools								1			1
Electric Contractor	1										1
Grocer								1			1
Meat Cutter			1								1
Mortician									2		2
Photographer	1										1
Physician		1									1
Retail Druggist				1							1
Secretary-Treasurer, Kansas Farm Bureau						1					1
Special Insurance Agent								1			1
Staff, Kansas State College	1	1	2	1			1				6
Teacher, Kansas State College		2			1		2	1			6

Table 31: Amount of laundry sent from the home.

		: Age of homemakers in years										: Total for all
Amount of laundry		: 35	: 36	: 37	: 38	: 39	: 40	: 41	: 42	: 43	: 44	: homemakers
All of it	At time of study											
	5 years before	1						1				2
	10 years before											
Flat work, finished	At time of study								2			2
	5 years before											
	10 years before											
Ironing	At time of study	1	1									2
	5 years before		1			1						2
	10 years before		1									1
Men's shirts	At time of study	1						1				2
	5 years before											
	10 years before											

Table 32: Kinds of equipment given as time-labor saving by homemakers and the number of homemakers using equipment.

Time-labor saving equipment	: Number of homemakers using equipment		
	: at time of study:	5 years before:	10 years before
Clothes dryer	9	3	
Clothes rack, folding	1		
Dish Master	1		
Dish washer	7	4	
Electric range	2	1	
Floor waxer & polisher	3	2	
Food mixer	7	6	3
Garbage disposer	1	1	
Home freezer	10	4	1
Ironer	6	4	2
Ironing board, adjustable	2		
Oven clock, automatic	2	1	
Refrigerator, automatic defrosting	1		
Refrigerator, extra large	1		
Timed outlet on range	1		
Sewing machine	3	3	3
Steam iron	3	1	
Vacuum cleaner	22	23	16
Vacuum cleaner, 2nd	2		
Washing machine, auto.	19	11	3
Washing machine, conven.	6	14	17

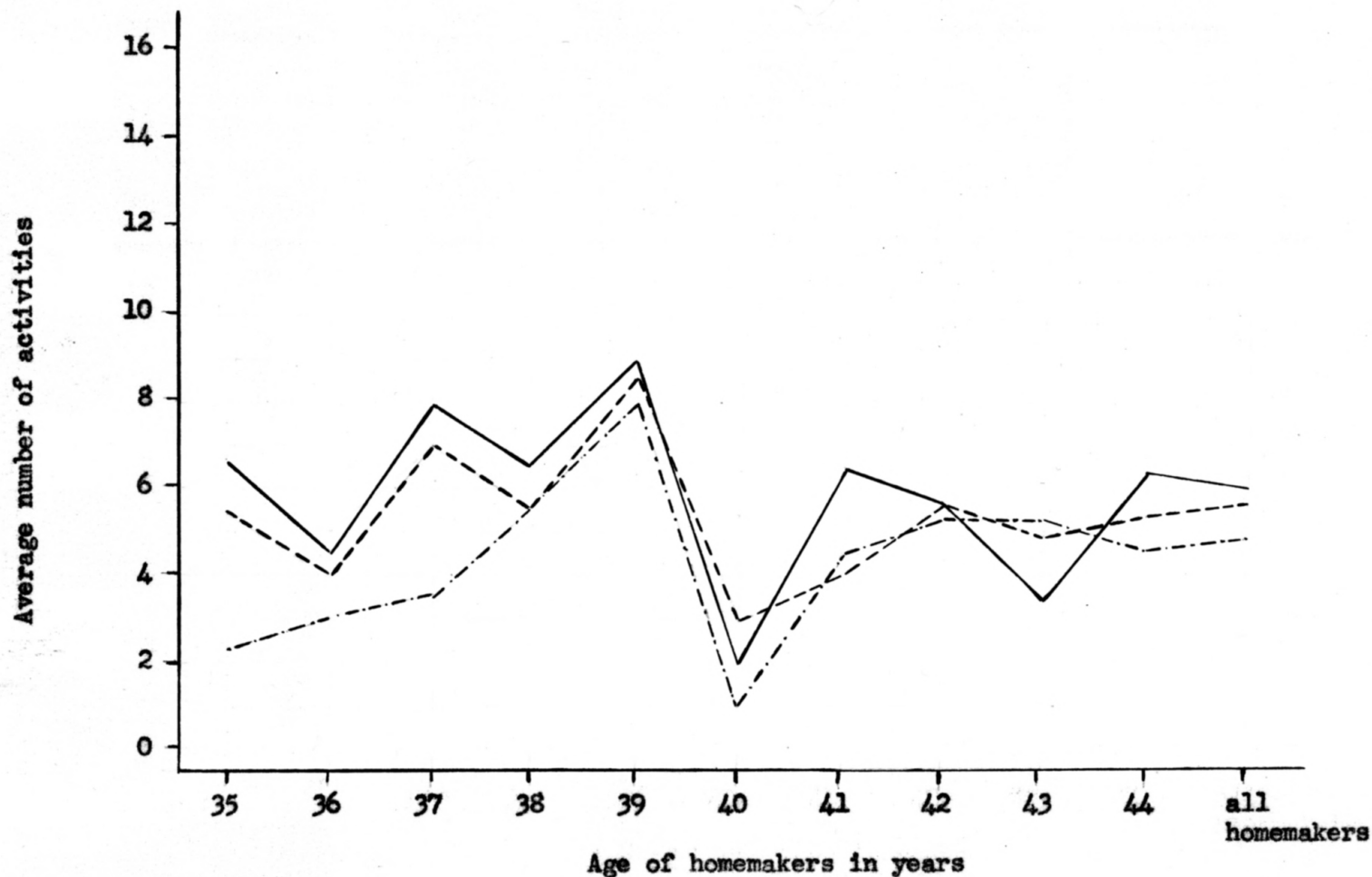
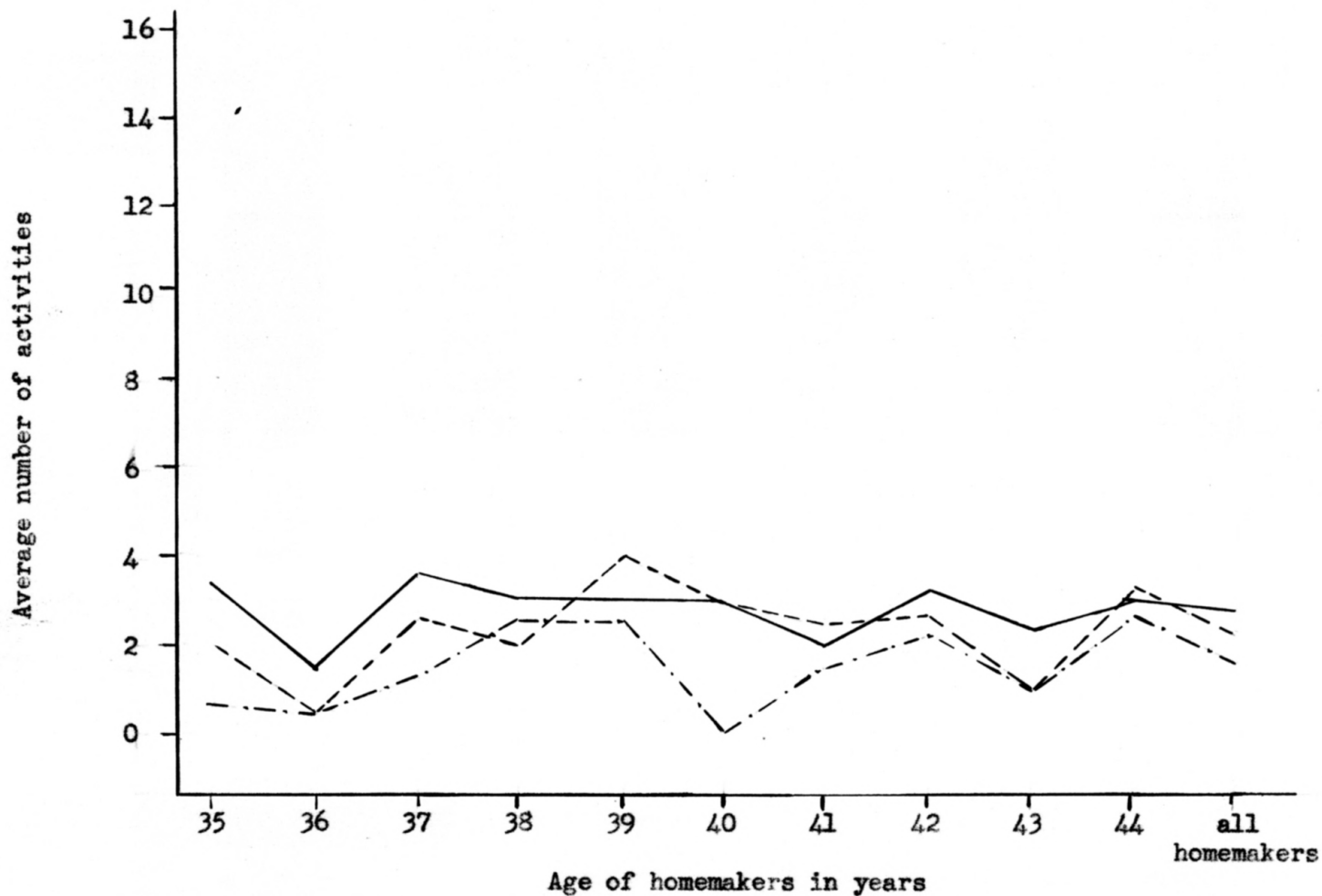


Fig. 8: Average number of leisure time activities at time of study as compared to 5 and 10 years before.





—— Activities done as necessary part of homemaking at time of study.  
 ---- Activities done as necessary part of homemaking 5 years before.  
 -.-.- Activities done as necessary part of homemaking 10 years before.

Fig. 9: Average number of activities done as a necessary part of homemaking at time of study as compared to 5 and 10 years before.

Table 33: Number of homemakers that have taken or would like to take specific classes.

: Number of homemakers:			: Number of homemakers		
: Have : Would like :			: Have : Would like		
Kinds of classes:	taken	: to take	Kinds of classes:	taken	: to take
:	classes:	classes	:	classes	: classes
Adult education		1	First aid	2	
Child guidance	2	2	Furniture refin-		
Civic chorus	1		ishing	1	
Clothing	2	3	Home Economics		
Consumer educa-			courses	2	2
tion	2		Home Economics		
Crafts - not			education		1
specified		7	Home Nursing	2	
Basket weaving		1	Institutional		
Ceramics		1	Management		1
Copper	1		Knitting	1	
Leather	1	1	Logic	1	
Metal	1	2	Music Theory		1
Textile paint-			Painting and		
ing	1		sketching		2
Woodwork	1	1	Photography		1
Dancing, ball-			Piano	1	1
room		1	Shakespeare	1	
Dancing, square	1	1	Shorthand		1
Dramatics		1	Social philoso-		
Driving lessons	1		phy	1	
English		1	Social work		1
Family Relations		1	Typing	1	4
Foods & Nutrition	4	3			
Total number				31	42

Table 34: Number of reasons stated by homemakers for taking or wanting to take classes, and for not taking classes in which they were interested.

Reasons	: Age of homemakers in years										:Total for :all home- :makers
	: 35	: 36	: 37	: 38	: 39	: 40	: 41	: 42	: 43	: 44	
For taking classes or wanting to take classes:											
Care of home			1	1				2	3	7	
Civic duty						1				1	
Future use					1		1		2	4	
Higher degree					3		1		1	5	
Interested				1	5		3	2	6	17	
Learn	1		1		1					3	
Obtain job							1			1	
Personal adjustment							1			1	
Personal enjoyment	6	3	5	1		1	2		3	21	
Review or refresh		1		1				1	1	4	
Security for family				1		1				2	
Taught class		1					1			2	
For not taking classes:											
Financial								1		1	
Hadn't taken time				1					4	5	
Homemaking activities							4			4	
Husband's schedule conflicts		2			1					3	
Lack of time	3	2	1	1	2			3	3	15	
New baby					1					1	
No credit given									1	1	
Other meetings conflict	1		2			1				4	
Time better used at home				2						2	
Waiting for children to be older							1			1	

Table 35: Comparison in changes of the number of organizations in which homemakers participated.

Age of homemakers	: Numerical increase		: Percent increase		: Numerical decrease		: Percent decrease	
	: at time of study		: at time of study		: at time of study		: at time of study	
	: as compared to		: as compared to		: as compared to		: as compared to	
	: 5 years	: 10 years	: 5 years	: 10 years	: 5 years	: 10 years	: 5 years	: 10 years
	: before	: before	: before	: before	: before	: before	: before	: before
35 years	3	9	33.3	100				
36 "	4	12	25	75				
37 "		14		70	2		10	
38 "	5	4	50	40				
39 "	8	10	47	58.8				
40 "	2	2	66.6	66.6				
41 "	6	8	35.2	47				
42 "	5	9	21.7	39.1				
43 "					4	4	80	80
44 "	3	16	8.5	45.7				
Total for all homemakers	36	84	23.2	54.2	6	4	3.8	2.5

TRENDS IN THE CHANGING ROLE OF A GROUP  
OF HOMEMAKERS IN MANHATTAN, KANSAS

by

DOROTHY ALICE LARERY

B. S. in Ed., Kansas State Teachers College,  
Pittsburg, Kansas, 1948

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AN ABSTRACT OF A THESIS

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Household Economics

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OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE

1954

## INTRODUCTION

Much concern has developed about the welfare of the aged. Although the man or woman retiring from an occupation or profession has been called to the attention of the public, the full-time homemaker who reaches her vocational retirement at a much earlier age has been given little thought. For the worker on the job, we have been anxious for working conditions to be improved. Steps have been taken to prevent boredom and mental and physical fatigue. When children are small, the homemaker expects physical fatigue at times. The love, gratitude, and complete dependence of the small child compensate for this. As the homemaker grows older and the children are no longer so utterly dependent on her, concern should be had for the feeling of uselessness and boredom, followed by mental fatigue, experienced by the homemaker.

Although the homemaker's retirement comes when the children are no longer dependent on the mother, the full impact is not felt until the last child leaves home. This is usually when the mother is 40 to 50 years of age. The writer of this thesis was thus interested in the preparation that was being made for the homemaker's retirement period.

Other important aspects of the study set up in the form of objectives were:

1. To determine how the roles of the homemakers, 35 to 45 years of age, with children, are changing and the factors that are contributing to this change.
2. To secure information regarding the activities, apart from home-making duties, in which homemakers, 35 to 45 years old, with children, do

or would like to engage.

#### METHOD OF PROCEDURE

To more closely control the data and to make a more homogeneous group, several requirements were necessary for the 25 homemakers used as subjects in this study. The subjects were graduates in home economics, members of family groups composed of husbands and children, residing in Manhattan, Kansas, and 35 to 45 years of age.

Names of homemakers, who were graduates in home economics and thought to be 35 to 45 years of age were taken from Kansas State College alumnae records and the membership files of the American Association of University Women. Other names were given the writer by persons knowing of the study. The Riley County enumeration records for spring, 1953, were used to obtain the homemakers' ages and to establish which homemakers were living with their husbands and had children. The homemakers were chosen at random, by the writer, as they were available and willing to be interviewed. An interview schedule was developed by the writer to use with the homemakers.

#### FINDINGS

The 25 homemakers used in the study ranged in age from 35 to 44 years. Each age group was represented by two or more homemakers, with the exception of one homemaker, who was 40 years of age.

After collection, study, and comparison of the data through tables and bar and line graphs, the significant findings were:

The role of the group of homemakers used as subjects for the study had changed, but the changes were more the result of the "times", rather than



the maturing of the homemakers. Changes were noted when comparing the homemakers, 35 to 39, at the time of the study and five years before with the 40 to 44 year old women who were 35 to 39 years of age five years before the study, and ten years before the study. All homemakers showed changes within each age group when the time of the study was compared to five and ten years before.

The trend was towards increases for the homemakers in: size of families, number of pieces of time-labor saving equipment in use, activities done as leisure time in the homes, activities done in the homes as a necessary part of the homemaking, number of organizations in which they participated.

There was little or no change in the use of outside help in the home, laundry sent from the home, number of activities done in the home because of their husbands' jobs, and the employment of the homemakers outside the home.

Since the average age of the children did not consistently increase with the older age groups of homemakers, there was little or no relationship between the changes in the role of the homemakers and the ages of children.

The role of the homemakers deviated from the general trend when the homemakers cared for ill or aged relatives in the home.

The data concerning the evaluation of the homemakers' leisure time did not reflect the characteristic attitudes of the feelings of uselessness and boredom, which according to literature was predominant and which the writer had presupposed concerning homemakers 40 to 44 years of age.

There may have been a number of reasons why the homemakers in the study and particularly those of 40 to 44 years of age did not have excess time; why they received satisfactions from the way they used their time; why they

were not bored with homemaking responsibilities; and why the number of abilities and skills they were not using continued to increase.

These reasons may have been:

The homemakers in the study tended to have younger children than might be expected for women of their ages.

The homemakers as graduates in home economics, were carrying out their major interests in their homes.

On the average, the homemakers participated in a high number of organizations.

The homemakers had increased the number of organizations in which they were taking part at the time of the study over five and ten years before, indicating they may have been taking care of excess time as it occurred.