

EXISTING AND PREFERRED HOUSING OF RURAL-FARM
AGED COUPLES IN LINN COUNTY, KANSAS

by

JOAN ELLEN CARROLL

B. S., Hunter College
of the City of New York, 1954



A THESIS

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Household Economics

KANSAS STATE COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE

1955

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
REVIEW OF LITERATURE	3
The Aged	3
Housing the Aged	8
Housing the Rural Aged	15
METHOD OF PROCEDURE	19
ANALYSIS OF DATA	24
The Couples	24
Occupation, Income, and Ownership of Farm	25
Circumstances and Extent of Retirement	30
Health of the Couples	34
The Dwelling	39
Present and Preferred Housing Features	46
Facilities Provided or Desired	50
Activities Performed in the Dwelling	56
Entertaining in the Home	59
Leisure Activities	63
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	66
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	67
LITERATURE CITED	68
APPENDIX	70

INTRODUCTION

In 1900, 4 percent of the people in the United States were 65 years of age or older. In 1950 this figure had increased to 8 percent. The aged are ultimately expected to constitute 13 or 14 percent of the total population (2).

With more people living past the age of 65, it was realized that there was great necessity for research on the problems of aging. Within the last 10 years research has dealt with the physical, psychological, social, and economic problems of the aged. While housing has been given some attention, urban rather than rural housing has been emphasized. In 1950 there were 443,739 rural-farm people in Kansas. The aged made-up 8.5 percent of this number or 37,717 persons (21). Thus the trend toward an increasing proportion of older people has been more pronounced in the rural-farm population of Kansas than in the country as a whole. This indicates that many farm people remain on their farms after reaching the age of 65. For this reason it seemed desirable to study the housing problems of the rural-farm aged. Projects to do this have been set up at the Wisconsin and Kansas Experiment Stations.

The Kansas project deals with the housing requirements of the rural aged in Linn and Barber Counties. The project was far too large to be reported completely as a master's thesis. Since the Linn County data for rural-farm people were currently accessible this report was drawn from this information. The individuals, 65 years of age or older, living as couples, were chosen for this

study because aged individuals living with their spouse were the numerically largest group in the sample. Furthermore, it was believed that many rural-farm aged couples do not have housing which meets their requirements.

Securing satisfactory shelter and living arrangements for the later years of life in a rural-farm area involves certain problems. The housing needs and desires of the aged must be satisfied in a way which meets the more limited vigor and reduced income of the later years. A large old house which embodies sentimental associations and familiar environment may be a great psychological asset but a financial liability and a physical impossibility to keep up.

Research in this field aims to contribute toward developing a housing program for the aged. This study attempts to determine the housing problems of rural-farm aged couples, and find the underlying factors which must be taken into account in solving their problems. To do this it is believed necessary to know more about the aged couples themselves, their activities, present and preferred housing features and facilities.

Objectives of the study:

1. To study the individuals 65 years of age or older, living as couples in Linn County, Kansas, including their age, health, retirement pattern, and the ownership and disposition of their farms.
2. To determine the desired features and facilities not adequately provided by their present housing.
3. To study the activities of such couples.

4. To study the effect of income level on their mode of living.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The Aged

During the past half century there has been a change in the age pattern showing an increase in the proportion of older people. According to the 1950 census, there were 12,269,537 persons aged 65 or over in the United States comprising 8.1 percent of the total population. This figure indicated that the number of people in the later years of life had quadrupled since 1900 whereas the population as a whole had only doubled in this period.

The percentage of the population past the age of 65 varied greatly among the states. Kansas had 10.2 percent of its total population 65 years of age or over at the time of the 1950 census. This was an increase of 23.6 percent over 1940 and indicated that Kansas was a state in which the proportion of older persons was relatively high, ranking fourth among the states having the higher percentages of older persons. New Hampshire, the state with the highest percentage of aged in its population, had only 0.7 percent more than Kansas or 10.9 percent (20).

Within Kansas there was a large variation in the number of older persons within the several counties. Linn County, having 15.6 percent of its population aged 65 or more, had the highest percentage. It was also well suited for this study because it had a relatively large rural population and had no urban places.

According to the 1950 census there were 1,568 persons 65 or older, 626 of whom were rural-farm people (21). This group of rural-farm people 65 or over constituted the population from which we drew the sample for the present study.

For the purposes of this study, people 65 years of age or over were considered "the aged". This is the commonly accepted statistical definition. Such an arbitrary definition as those past 65 has its weaknesses because all physical and mental functions do not reach their peak nor are they reduced at the same time. This is true not only between individuals but within the same person. Furthermore, the definition of aging depends on who is defining "the aged" because the characteristics of agedness differ when applied to various aspects of living.

As reported by the American Public Health Association (2) the psychologist tells one that "individual personality is the final test of mental or emotional old age, and the proverb that the old age of an eagle is better than the youth of a sparrow seems to be valid." To the sociologist, old age begins when "an individual is no longer able to maintain the social relationships of the average adult in his culture." To the economist "The aged are those who no longer earn their living and are supported by their own savings, by their families, or by public provision."

Little reliance can be placed on chronological age as a criterion of agedness. Aging is a natural process making up a phase of the life pattern which is characterized by advancing physiologic involution of tissue. It is, however, believed to be

a gradual continuous process starting at conception and ending with death. As a doctor discussing the biologic aspects of aging, Weller (Tibbitts, 18) said:

How natural it is to grow old becomes evident at once with the not unpleasant discovery that we commence growing old before we are born. Nature is economical. Useless structures undergo atrophy and disappear, or are otherwise disposed of. Those who have some familiarity with embryology will recall that in the development of the human egg cell, the ovum, three-fourths of the nuclear material is discarded. The tail of the spermatozoon is absorbed after the spermatozoon has entered the ovum. The placental blood vessels show senile changes at the time of birth. Throughout the entire development period these involuntary processes take place. The roots of the milk teeth are absorbed and the thymus gland and the tonsils diminish in size. These and many other alterations are part of the process of growing old, even in childhood and adolescence.

After adult stature has been attained the aging process continues. It influences the character of the diseases of middle life and of old age, but we are not now discussing individual diseases. There are recognizable tissue changes which become more and more evident as the years advance. Reasonably enough, these are of the same character as those found in the mature (senile) placenta which was discarded when the person was born.

Older people are, however, capable of remaining alert, functional members of society if they maintain relatively good health. Much progress has been made in the field of geriatric medicine. Maintaining health as one grows old, according to Stieglitz (Tibbitts, 18), involves the following problems:

First and foremost is the fact that repair after injury is slowed. We may say that for each five years we have lived it takes us an extra day to repair after a given injury, such as a sore throat or a broken leg...Second, I previously mentioned the lessened reactions to injury and inconspicuousness of symptoms. In consequence of this relative silence, illness is often neglected too long. Delay in diagnosis and in institution of treatment is a definite and serious handicap in the practice of geriatric medicine...Third, there are lessened reserves for stresses which become apparent with aging.

Health is affected by many factors, both psychological and physiological. As one member of the First National Conference on Aging (10) put it, "the houses we live in, the way in which we work, and the attitudes we hold affect our health just as surely as the functioning of our muscles, tissues, and organs."

The deficiencies which are associated with aging are feebleness, reduced motivity, lack of motivation, loneliness, and physical and mental inability to function at an earlier efficiency. These deficiencies require the aging individual to adjust at various points during the aging process. If these adjustments are poor they lead to loss of contacts and loss of interest. It is generally agreed that this is one of the major social and psychological problems of old age. The nature of society tends to intensify these problems. As the sociologist, Pollak (17), said:

Society designates certain types of behavior and certain levels of rewards as appropriate for those of specific age groups, with accustomed behavior and awards given up by the individual as he enters a new group and, since work, independence and freedom are among the highest social values in our culture, limitation of behavior is prone to be experienced as a hardship. The special problem of old age is inherent in the fact that its limitations, which keep increasing, are experienced after freedom from restraints and cannot be rationalized as transitions to a more desirable situation.

These limitations of behavior which inevitably overtake the aged, require readjustments which are generally involved in the psychological problems of old age. In addition, however, mental health is affected by external factors as cultural, economic, and social pressures. When friends become fewer as one grows older adjustments to loss of health, loss of spouse, loss of a job becomes more difficult. The implications of this situation were

especially well stated by Frank (11) who said:

We have scarcely realized the traumatic impact of compulsory retirement even upon those who have been prepared for it. There is a break in customary activities, loss of position and prestige, all of which compel the individual to revise his or her image of the self. To the extent that this image of the self has been centered around work, has been built upon a feeling of competence and adequacy, often of power and authority, the loss of these may be a severe shock. It may take months, even years, to recover from this shock, to create a new image of the self they can live with.

The post-retirement period is like a period of convalescence in which many do not recover, as we see in the persistent disturbances or early death of those who have been retired unwillingly.

Civil and government agencies in urban areas have recently become acutely aware of these problems and have made efforts to deal with them. Educational and recreational programs have been started to help the aged remain active and thereby avoid the problems caused by passivity. Consultation centers have been set up to help people develop new interests and a new design for living.

Programs like these are helping older persons to maintain their capacities for new experiences. As long as this is possible the aged are not a burden on their family or on society. It has been suggested by Valaoras (22) that the increase in the number of aged is not a tragedy which has increased the burdens of dependency on the producing group. He said that human beings are not living to be older, rather larger numbers live to grow older:

Medical and public health practice should not be allowed to suffer from the fallacy that its humanitarian work inevitably adds undue burdens to society. The prolongation of life by cutting down the mortality forces operating among young and middle-aged persons results not only in the increase in the old-age group, but also in an equally important growth in the population of working

ages; the conservation of human beings at their optimum fitness for as many years of life as possible is perhaps the most suitable economic and social pattern of life for human populations.

Housing the Aged

The problems of old age and aging have been considered important and worthy of study for many years. But only within the past 10 years has housing for the aged been considered of sufficient importance to be studied. Housing is not an isolated aspect of the problems inherent in aging. It is pointed out by the American Public Health Association (2) that the deficiencies which accompany old age cannot be compensated for by a dwelling standard. It is felt, however, that "suitable housing" is an important essential for normal community living. The ultimate solution for satisfactory housing of the aged is "implicit in improvement of housing in general."

Current research on housing for older people has concerned itself with the problems of segregation by age within a community or into special retirement communities, types of communal housing, and plans for providing auxiliary services and public housing to widen the choice of possible living arrangements. It has also been concerned with the advisability of continuing in familiar homes and neighborhoods as compared with moving to more suitable quarters specially set up for older people.

Housing is worthy of study because it is one of the basic needs of mankind. It is generally agreed that individual characteristics and desires exist in all age groups but basically people

want to live independently and have personal privacy. Yet, for the aged, as Randall (Donahue and Tibbitts, 8) stated:

With this desire for independence there is paradoxically the conflicting desire for security, for freedom from fear of what the future almost inevitably holds--sickness and the need for care because of it. One of the most delicate tasks which anyone can undertake is to try to keep independence and security in balance at any age. With older people, as the scales gradually or sharply shift and the need for security begins to outweigh the ability to remain socially independent, it requires consummate skill and tact to compensate for the shift and to salvage to them that sense of independence which can make all the difference between content and discontent.

Going a step further, Donahue (8) stated that old age is a period when loss of social status affects a person more deeply than does a similar loss at an earlier age. Loss of community recognition, caused by the younger generation taking over responsibilities, is hard for the aged. It is also hard for them to adjust if they are put into a new environment. This is the reason that older people prefer familiar surroundings and neighborhoods. It was indicated, however, that the aged can adjust themselves to a new environment if given encouragement and help.

The needs of older persons as summarized by Wickenden (23) were based on the conclusion that the aged have the basic needs and desires they have had throughout their lives. Burgess (Tibbitts, 18) added that most of the readjustments to aging are in the nature of reduction of activities or modifying them to meet declining physical vigor, reduced income, or both.

The American Public Health Association (2) concurred with these assumptions and stated that the reasons for reduced or modified activity were as follows:

As a person ages, more time is spent at home. The field of vision diminishes until the sight embraces only that which is immediately in front of the eyes. Sensitivity to heat and cold increases. Sensitivity to high pitched notes diminishes. The sense of smell is not as acute as in earlier years and fatality rates from gas poisoning, as well as from burns and scalds, are high among older people. Declining sensory acuity produces strain and tension. There is an increase in tremor and slower reaction to a stumble or fall.

The housing needs of anyone undergoing such physical changes would include adequate space, ventilation, light, heat, equipment for cleanliness, sanitation, and safety--basic essentials for all dwellings. In addition their housing should be oriented for maximum sunlight, provide relatively high indoor temperatures, have no slippery surfaces, no stairs or change in floor levels. If stairs are necessary they should be wide and shallow and provide continuous handrails on both sides. Housing for the aged should also, be arranged to simplify housekeeping, prevent accidents, and should be large enough to accommodate an ill person without disrupting the household. Other provisions which are often considered important for elderly people are call-bells or an available telephone. Principles for healthful housing of the aged established by the American Public Health Association Committee on the Hygiene of Housing can be summed up by the statement: "that aging people should be maintained in their accustomed environments, and that their homes should be as accident-proof as possible."

Another opinion came from the First National Conference on Aging (10) held in 1950. The recommendations of the conference stressed the importance of high standards for health and safety in living arrangements. They also felt that it was important to take

into consideration the needs of older people for privacy, companionship, and independence.

This desire for independence is supported when one notes that only 26 percent of the total aged population in the United States did not live in their own household. The fact that a large proportion of the aged maintained their own households substantiated the finding of Anderson (3). Her study, related to housing the aged couples of moderate income in Manhattan, Kansas, showed that older people preferred to live in their own home and were reluctant to face the problem of where and how to live if this were no longer possible. When forced to consider the question of where they would live if they could not live independently, the couples stated that they would choose to live in their own homes with the services of a companion or have separate quarters in the home of a son or daughter.

More than three-fourths of the couples preferred a one-story house but less than half had the desired one-story dwelling. Half the couples preferred slightly larger houses than they were occupying. Most of these couples were well supplied with modern conveniences. All homes had running water and electricity, all but one had flush toilets, and 94 percent had bathrooms equipped with tub and lavatory. Showers were had or desired by 70 percent of the couples. Ninety percent of the couples desired central heating and 75 percent had it. Refrigerators and radios were in the homes of all but one couple, and 90 percent of the homes were equipped with telephones.

The 1950 census (19) revealed that approximately 70 percent

of the aged lived in their own household, 20 percent lived with relatives, and about 4 percent lived with others not relatives, and 6 percent lived in hotels, boarding or rooming houses, and institutions. An exact tabulation of relative data was made by the Federal Security Agency's Committee on Aging and Geriatrics (9) who set up the following table from unpublished data of the Bureau of the Census which showed the percentage of aged persons having various living accommodations:

Household relationships of persons 65 years of age and over, by sex: 1950.

Type of household and household relationships	: Total	: Men	: Women
Total	100	100	100
In households	94	94	95
Own household	69	77	62
Married and living with spouse	44	60	30
Living with relatives other than spouse	11	8	13
Living alone, or with nonrelatives	14	9	19
Not in own household	26	17	33
Living with relatives	21	13	28
Living with nonrelatives	4	4	4
In quasi-households	6	6	5
Total	100	100	100
In families (1 or more relatives present)	76	80	71
Not in families (no relatives present)	24	20	29

Source: Estimated by Social Security Administration from unpublished data of the Bureau of the Census.

When it becomes necessary for older persons to live with others they must face tensions and conflict. In discussing this problem

McGinnis (16) said:

Differences in habits of sleep, rates of moving about, use of the radio, attitudes toward drinking, card playing, church going, recreation, and ways of bringing up children can become sources of acute disagreement and hurt feelings. To the extent that there can be separate quarters and resources of activity and interest for the old people, these sources of difficulty may be minimized. By the same token, to the extent that the older person is living his life through that of the younger one, it becomes unhealthy and intolerable.

The most conspicuous and consistent preference emerging from the studies concerned with housing preferences of older people is the desire for continued independent living arrangements. There are, however, studies which do not support this preference universally. A Rhode Island statewide survey (12) found 2,400 aged dissatisfied with their housing. Half of the dissatisfied people said that they preferred to live independently, however, one-third said that they liked a congregate arrangement in which they could maintain their own quarters and yet be near other old people and have access to community facilities. This may be explained by the fact that 50 percent of the state's aged were in poor health or handicapped. Further study may reveal that the very old or those in poor health would prefer communal and sheltered care facilities. These handicapped people expressed the desire for small convenient dwellings. Many other aged would like judiciously planned small living areas as evidenced by the fact that 31 percent of the aged who own their own home said that a major reason for their dissatisfaction with their living quarters was overly large dwellings.

The necessity for small livable quarters for the aged has been given some attention particularly in urban areas. As reported

by Kraus (13), one such development is Fort Greene House in New York City. It is a public housing development and includes apartments for the aged. Roosevelt Park, Millville, New Jersey, is a small colony of 18 bungalows built for the aged by public funds.

There have been several projects to promote housing for the aged through government activity. Governor Harriman of New York appointed Philip M. Kaiser as special assistant to handle the problems caused by the increased number of aging people. Eight bills to provide more jobs, housing, and recreation for the elderly were introduced into the New York State Legislature early this year.

Massachusetts passed a law to provide for housing of elderly persons of low income. Standards of design for these dwellings were set up. These designs were based on understanding of and insight into the habits and minutia that make-up the everyday life of the aged. The apartments were necessarily small. The housing board (15) stated:

These small areas place a premium on livability. The elderly tend to spend a great deal of their time indoors, at home, in methodical and sedentary occupations. Their living space is where they will be most of the time. They also tend to require more light than younger people. This is one of their most outstanding physical needs. Their living space should have much larger glass areas than is usual. It should face south, or southwest. Window stools should be low enough to allow them to see out and down from a sitting position--not over two feet high. Liking for flowers and plants increases markedly with age. Ideally, stools should be wide enough to hold flower pots.

Mandatory standards were set up for architects who would build these dwellings. They had to adhere to standards of size of buildings and apartments, sites, floors, stairs, windows,

electricity, sound control, hardware, heating, sanitation, and pest control. The units were designed to rent for \$40.00 a month.

Many cities have set up home services to provide domestic help and marketing services for the aged when they are no longer able to perform these activities but are unwilling to give up independent living. Breckenridge (4) reported a project undertaken by the Chicago Housing Authority which surveyed the needs of the older residents of the Ida B. Wells housing project in Chicago. The statement summarizing their findings was:

It is our conviction that there are many older people who need help with housework, marketing, or other errands who are themselves capable of supervising the work of the person who helps; that such help would enable them to remain independent; that such help can be provided without expensive training and supervision; and that, at least until such time as the community develops sufficient organized and supervised housekeeper services, every effort should be made to develop some of the needed domestic aids.

The problems of housing the aged have been given increasing study in the past few years. The 1954 Conference on Aging (Donahue, 7) held at the University of Michigan devoted itself to these problems "in recognition of the growing interest and concern of many people in finding solutions for this difficult problem." The conference surveyed present knowledge about housing the aged and assessed the "housing desires and needs of aging individuals of varying socio-economic and health status."

Housing the Rural Aged

All of these studies have dealt with the housing needs and preferences of the urban aged. It is felt that the change of the

country from a rural to an urban civilization has profound significance for the nature of the problems of housing the aged. There are, however, problems involved in aging in any environment. Present thought on housing the rural aged has been stated by Burgess (Tibbitts, 18) who said:

Even today, the farmer and his wife who own their farm are able to make a relatively easy and simple adjustment to their declining physical powers and to the expectations of their children and of the community. The aging farmer gradually decreases his agricultural activities until he may be taking care only of his garden. His wife also diminishes her household tasks in accordance with reduced strength.

This does not take into consideration the problems implicit in isolation, loneliness, lack of community services, and the absence of modern conveniences and facilities. In discussing this problem Agan (1) said:

The ease with which the farm homemaker can do all the necessary work of her home is dependent upon the presence of certain conveniences often absent in the rural home but which are usually taken for granted in the urban home. The farm home must be self-sufficient in regard to certain utilities needed in its operation. It may have connection with a public power line for electricity, but its water and sewage system, its fuel, its delivery of goods and other items are, if present, usually provided by the farm itself. Adequate water from a pure source is a first requisite. Lack of running water and lack of a way to dispose of waste water, lack of electricity for light, operation of labor-saving devices, and lack of a suitable central heating system capable of utilizing locally available fuel increase greatly the labor necessary to maintain the farm home and decrease proportionately the comfort of living in it.

The work involved in these essential activities must go on regardless of the age of the farm operator. The rural home is likely to be the house the family has occupied during all the phases of its life cycle. This implies a house large enough to accommodate a

family with children. When an aged couple is left alone on a farm after their children have left home, overhousing often exists. This assumption is supported by the 1950 census figures (19) which show that older families tend to have larger quarters than do younger families. Nearly three-fifths of the aged had quarters containing five or more rooms, whereas less than half of the families under 65 had units that large. The aged occupy a larger proportion of units of eight or more rooms than younger families.

Farm housing, furthermore, is very often accepted as it exists. Typically, improving the house must compete for any available income with increasing the farming facilities which will put the farm on a more secure footing. This means that household facilities are often wanting. For aged people this presents additional problems because a large, ill-equipped house requires much work to maintain (Cowles and Irwin, 6).

The study done by Cowles (5) on the rural-farm aged in Wisconsin gives the only available information of housing conditions and preferences of rural-farm aged people. She found that the average number of rooms in the homes of the aged in the two counties she studied was 6.2 rooms. She also found that there was a tendency for the older people to use smaller portions of their house. Adequacy of space varied according to the household group in which the aged person lived. Elderly persons living alone with husband or wife usually had sufficient space, with only 1.2 percent of them showing a coefficient of density of 1.51 or over. It was found that one-third of the people interviewed lived as couples.

Less than half of the rural aged in the Wisconsin study had

central heating, running water, and a flush toilet. In general the older the person the less frequently were these conveniences available in their home. A large proportion of the dwellings contained stairs to the second floor (87.7 percent) and 95 percent had basement stairs. Nearly half of the stairs to the second floor were not used by the aged and over a fourth of the basement stairs were not used by them.

During the interview, the field workers made an evaluation of the aged's state of health. This is a highly tentative and subjective estimate but it was found that one-fifth of the 429 persons interviewed were in poor or very poor health with the percentage increasing with additional age.

The Cowles study showed that the rural-farm aged need housing which offers privacy and independent living without being isolated. The location should allow for access to "commercial or social facilities" as heat, toilet facilities, and electricity. It was also found that space requirements were small but should supply sufficient storage space, but on one floor, if possible, and provide safety features wherever possible. Over 50 percent of the elderly persons interviewed did not have these optimum housing conditions. The implications of this study were summed up by Cowles (5) as follows:

Solution of the problem of housing the aged must consider not housing alone, but the entire complex of problems facing the aged. It should further be recognized that some of these problems may be caused or aggravated by the conditions of farm living. Thus lowered income, for example which must be taken into account in considering improvement of housing for the use of elderly people may stem from inability to keep up the hard physical work of the farm when disabilities

of age strike. The long hours demanded by farming both for the farmer and the farm homemaker during their active life may make it difficult when working days are over to develop the pursuits of leisure. Hence while the aged people living on farms may have housing needs identical with those encountered in village or city living, the degree to which these needs can readily be met may be related to and determined by certain characteristics of the farm or farm life.

METHOD OF PROCEDURE

The Farmhouse Technical Committee (NC-9) proposed a regional project entitled Housing the Aged Rural Population in the North Central Region. This study was designed to determine the existing and preferred housing requirements of the rural aged population of the North Central region. In preparation for this project two states in this area set up a pilot study to develop methods of procedure and tools of measurement. It was desirable that these states have interest, qualified personnel, and be different from each other in climate, size and type of farm, farm income, and cultural background. Wisconsin and Kansas, found to meet these requirements, were chosen to conduct the pilot study.

The Wisconsin project (408a) with Dr. May Cowles as leader was started first and one phase has been completed. The results of this study were reported in the review of literature. The Kansas project (RRF 288) directed by Tessie Agan, was begun in 1954. The counties to be studied in each state were to consist of a high proportion of rural-farm aged people and were to be chosen from the highest and the lowest income quartiles.

As the Kansas project evolved it was found that the low income county was 63 miles closer to Manhattan than the high income

county and was therefore less expensive and quicker to study. For this reason the data for the low income county were collected first and this study was a part of that material.

The first step in choosing the counties was to determine the counties in the highest and lowest income quartiles. In Kansas each quartile contained 26 counties. In order to select a county composed of enough rural-farm aged to draw a good sample, the counties having a rural-farm population of less than 40 percent of the total population and those having less than 500 rural-farm aged were excluded. After these exclusions there were five counties which remained: Linn, Jackson, Republic, Jewell, and Marshall. The distance that would probably have to be traveled to get a 25 percent sample of rural-farm aged was computed for these counties according to a formula devised by Dr. Cowles. The formula used was:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{Number of aged} \times 25\%) \times \frac{\text{Number of acres in an average farm}}{640} \\ & \times \frac{100\%}{\% \text{ of rural-farm aged}} = \text{Miles traveled to get a 25 percent} \\ & \text{sample.} \end{aligned}$$

On the bases of the results of this formula Linn County was chosen as the county which would require the least traveling to interview a 25 percent sample of the aged.

The nature of the project, the method for selecting the sample, and the general content of the interview-schedule were preliminary steps done by the NC-9 committee. Selecting the sample for Linn

County, developing the schedule, doing the interviewing, coding, and interpreting data were done at the Kansas Experiment Station and the writer assisted in all phases except the interviews.

The method for choosing the sample was different in each state. The sample in Wisconsin was chosen by a statistician at the Wisconsin Experiment Station. Using the total number of rural-farm dwelling units per township, and the percentage of the rural-farm population which the aged constituted as a basis, sample areas were mapped out in each township in the two counties. When possible the sample areas in two to four adjoining townships were combined to reduce travel costs while interviewing. This resulted in 15 sample areas, designed to reach 25 percent of the aged in each of the 37 townships in the two counties. Within each sample area, an attempt was made to interview all persons 65 years of age or older living on farms.

In accordance with the sampling method used by the Kansas statistician and in preparation for choosing the sample, the Linn County enumeration books for 1954 were examined and a list made of the aged population in the county. It was found that the rural-farm aged had increased from 626 as reported by the 1950 census to 724 in 1954 (14). The persons 65 years of age or older were listed according to name, township, and type of family group. From this listing the experiment station statistician drew a random sample so that each person had a probability of one-fourth of being included in the sample. Substitutes were selected to maintain the size of the sample if there were refusals or if some were otherwise unavailable. Since all individuals over 65 who were living

with persons selected were also considered part of the sample there actually was a 25.4 percent sample.

The NC-9 committee agreed that a 25 percent sample should be used. The statistician from the Kansas State College Experiment Station felt that a sample of 25 percent was not necessary to get an unbiased estimate of the ratios in the population. The narrowing confidence interval that accompanies expansion of sample size would not be great enough to justify such a large sample. It was felt, however, that it was necessary to use a 25 percent sample to keep the studies at the Wisconsin and Kansas Experiment Stations parallel.

Both the Kansas and Wisconsin interview schedules contained questions bearing on the activities of the aged, their present and preferred housing requirements, and their economic and health situations. The Kansas interview schedule enlarged on the information asked for by the Wisconsin schedule and related the questions to the situation in Kansas. The divisions of the subject matter in the schedule were arranged to help establish rapport between the interviewer and respondent rather than by a logical order. The Kansas schedule, which appears in the Appendix, was tested by interviewing a few aged persons before the field worker went to Linn County.

During the months of November and December, 1954, personal interviews were conducted by the field worker, Winifred Slagg, in the farm homes of the aged of Linn County chosen in the random sample. For the Linn County study 184 persons living in various family arrangements were interviewed. This paper entails analysis

of data from the 92 persons who were the individuals living as couples, at least one of whom was 65 years of age or older. The interviews were made with the wife, the husband, or the wife and husband. In 31 instances both husband and wife were present. In eight other cases only the wife under 65 was present. The interviewer read the questions and wrote the answers in the blanks provided in the schedule.

As reports of the interviews were returned they were examined and edited. An outline of a code adapted to the interview schedule was made, tested on several schedules, and readapted. Project workers coded the information on the schedules for processing by International Business Machine. This required five cards.

Tabulations of data were made on the basis of several identification columns including age, family type, and income. Enumerations were made for frequency, and two and three way tables. Statistical tests were made to determine the representativeness of the sample, to get evidence about the hypothesis that attributes were independent, or that there was a significant difference in percentage ratios. Tables were included on the basis that these tests showed them to be significant. On the basis of the tabulated interview data, and the results of the tests which showed significant variations at the 5 percent level, the "Analysis of Data" was written.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

The Couples

According to the enumeration books of Linn County there were 724 rural-farm aged persons in the county. These people could be classified according to four general family types; aged persons living alone, couples in which only one person was 65 or over, couples in which both persons were 65 or over, and aged living with others not their spouse. A random sample of approximately one-fourth or 184 persons were interviewed in the 132 households visited in the county. These households were located on the township map of Linn County as shown in Fig. 1 (Appendix).

For this study the data were interpreted concerning couples in which at least one person was 65 or over. There were 243 such couples living in Linn County, of which 55 couples would have been one-fourth. The sample was proportioned among the townships and family types as they seemed to be classified in the enumeration books. Several households were found to be misclassified. The sampling procedure provided that interviews were to be completed even when a person was found to be in a different category than he had been thought to be. Thus 58 couples were interviewed (Table 1).

Individuals in these 58 couples, at least one of whom was 65 years of age or older comprised 50 percent of the total number of individuals interviewed in the Linn County sample, and all maintained their own homes, and lived alone in a rural-farm situation.

Of these couples there were 34 in which both the husband and wife were 65 years of age or older, in 24 only the husband was 65 or more. Thus, there were 92 individuals living with their spouse. Information concerning the wives under 65 was not asked for except as it affected the life of the aged husband.

In order to check the representativeness of the sample the aged individuals in the population and in the sample were divided into age groups, those between 65 and 74, sometimes referred to as the younger group, and those 75 and over, referred to as the older group. A test was made to determine how the population ratios for the age groups compared to the sample ratios for the same groups. The ratios of aged men in the population and in the sample were almost exactly the same in couples in which both persons were 65 or over. The differences in the ratios which were found in the other groups were small enough to be accounted to chance variations in sampling (Table 2).

Occupation, Income, and Ownership of Farm

Aged people living on a farm who desire to remain active are in a fortunate position because farming allows a variety of activities with some requiring less effort than others. Occasional employment which allows the aged to practice various trades is also often available in a farming community.

All of the husbands in this study were or had been farmers. Most of them, 82.8 percent, were still doing farm work. Other employment partially occupied 15.6 percent of these men. Only 10 or 17.2 percent had completely retired. The proportion of retired

Table 1. Aged couples of Linn County, Kansas by township and family type showing sampling and interview pattern.

Township	: Total No. of households :			Couples both 65 or over :			Couples one 65 or over		
	Households			Households			Households		
	Present	Chosen	Interviewed	Present	Chosen	Interviewed	Present	Chosen	Interviewed
Blue Mound	24	6	6	12	3	3	12	3	3
Centerville	31	8	7	20	5	5	11	3	2
Liberty	25	7	8	14	4	4	11	3	4
Lincoln	20	5	5	8	2	3	12	3	2
Mound City	13	3	7	13	3	4	0	0	3
Paris	28	7	5	16	4	3	12	3	2
Potosi	48	7	7	33	3	3	15	4	4
Scott	19	5	6	14	4	5	5	1	1
Sheridan	10	2	2	5	1	1	5	1	1
Stanton	16	3	3	8	2	2	8	1	1
Valley	9	2	2	4	1	1	5	1	1
Total	243	55	58	147	32	34	96	23	24

Table 2. Distribution of individuals living as couples in the aged population of Linn County and in the sample by family type, age, and sex.

Family type	Number	Percent	Men			Total	Number	Percent	Women		
			Under 65	65-74	75 and over				Under 65	65-74	75 and over
Both 65											
present	147	100.0	--	61.2	38.8	147	100.0	--	81.0	19.0	
chosen	34	100.0	--	61.8	38.2	34	100.0	--	88.2	11.8	
One 65											
present	96	100.0	6.3	85.4	8.3	96	100.0	93.8	6.2	--	
chosen	24	100.0	--	95.8	4.2	24	100.0	100.0	--	--	
Total											
present	243	100.0	2.5	70.8	26.7	243	100.0	37.0	51.5	11.5	
chosen	58	100.0	--	75.9	24.1	58	100.0	41.4	51.7	6.9	

men was greater when both members of the couple were 65 or over than when only the husband was 65 or over (Table 3).

Table 3. Occupation of men by family type.

Occupation of men	: Number :	Percent	Family type			
			: Number :	Percent	: Number :	Percent
	: Total		: Couples both 65		: Couples one 65	
Farmer	39	67.2	22	64.7	17	70.8
Farmer and farm related labor	3	5.2	2	5.9	1	4.2
Farmer and trade*	6	10.4	3	8.8	3	12.5
Retired farmer	10	17.2	7	20.6	3	12.5
Total	58	100.0	34	100.0	24	100.0

* Trades included carpenter, painter, blacksmith, stonemason, oil worker, transportation worker.

The wives in this study were all homemakers. None were employed outside the home. They were all active, however, doing various household tasks.

The source of money income for these couples was chiefly from farming; 69 percent of the families derived all or part from this source. Civil rights income such as social security or old age assistance supplied some income to 22.4 percent of the couples. A combination of farming and a trade supplied 13.7 percent of the families with their income (Table 4).

Table 4. Source of income by family type.

Source of income	Total		Family type			
	Number	Percent*	Couples both 65		Couples one 65	
	Number	Percent*	Number	Percent*	Number	Percent*
Farm	40	69.0	24	70.6	16	66.7
Civil rights income	13	22.4	7	20.6	6	25.0
Farm and trade	8	13.7	3	8.8	5	20.8
Pensions, savings, investments	5	8.6	3	8.8	2	8.3
Farm and farm re- lated labor	4	6.9	3	8.8	1	4.2
Rental of land	2	3.4	1	2.9	1	4.2

* Percentages based on total number in the group:

Couples both 65, 34
 Couples one 65, 24
 All couples 58

Although Linn County was in the low income quartile in Kansas the range of income among the aged couples was wide. There were 31 or 53.4 percent of the couples with incomes less than \$1499 last year, 21 or 36.2 percent had incomes between \$1500 and \$4999, while 6 or 10.4 percent had an income of \$5000 or more during the year. When comparing those couples in which both persons were 65 or over and those in which only the man was 65 or over there was relatively little difference in the distribution of income.

Self-support was predominant as 50 of the 58 couples or 86.2 percent were entirely self-supporting. Only 13.8 percent needed any help from outside sources (Table 5).

Table 5. Range of income and support by family type.

Item	Family type					
	Total		Couples both 65		Couples one 65	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Range of income:						
\$ 0 - 1499	31	53.4	19	55.9	12	50.0
\$1500 - 4999	21	36.2	13	38.2	8	33.3
\$5000 and over	6	10.4	2	5.9	4	16.7
Total	58	100.0	34	100.0	24	100.0
Support:						
Entirely self-supporting	50	86.2	29	85.3	21	87.5
Partially self-supporting	4	6.9	2	5.9	2	8.3
Not self-supporting	4	6.9	3	9.8	1	4.2
Total	58	100.0	34	100.0	24	100.0

Farm ownership also was high among these couples as 51 or 87.9 percent owned their farms. A little over a third operated their own farm while half rented out all or part of their land. There was a greater tendency for these couples to own their own farms as the income increased. All those with incomes over \$5000 a year owned their farm as compared to 90.5 percent of those with incomes between \$1500 and \$4999 and 83.9 percent of those with incomes of \$1499 or less.

Among those with incomes of \$5000 or more, two-thirds operated their farm. The practice of renting out the tillable land was high as 26 or 44.8 percent of the couples studied did this. Only one of these 26 couples had an income of \$5000 or more. Among the seven couples who owned no land five had an income of

\$1499 or less (Table 6).

Table 6. Farm ownership and use by range of income.

Item	Range of income							
	Total		\$0 - 1499		\$1500 - 4999		\$5000 and over	
	No.:	Pct.	No.:	Pct.	No.:	Pct.	No.:	Pct.
Ownership:								
Own farm	51	87.9	26	83.9	19	90.5	6	100.0
Non-owner*	7	12.1	5	16.1	2	9.5	-	--
Total	58	100.0	31	100.0	21	100.0	6	100.0
Operation:								
Operate farm	20	34.5	10	32.2	6	28.6	4	66.6
Operate with son or daughter	2	3.4	-	--	2	9.5	-	--
Rent out tillable land	26	44.8	14	45.2	11	52.4	1	16.7
Rent out part	3	5.2	2	6.5	-	--	1	16.7
None owned	7	12.1	5	16.1	2	9.5	-	--
Total	58	100.0	31	100.0	21	100.0	6	100.0
Non-owners:								
Rural non-farm*	4	57.1	4	80.0	-	--	-	--
Renters	2	28.6	1	20.0	1	50.0	-	--
Manager	1	14.3	-	--	1	50.0	-	--
Total	7	100.0	5	100.0	2	100.0	-	--

* Those classed as rural non-farm had sold their farm land to:
 Son or son-in-law, 2
 Non-relatives, 2

Circumstances and Extent of Retirement

Retirement on a farm is often a matter of reducing the amount and limiting the nature of the work done. There were, however, 10 men who felt that they had completely stopped work. The other 48 men, or 82.8 percent, indicated that they were still doing at

least part of their work. Furthermore, almost 90 percent of these men who were still active felt that they would keep on working as long as possible.

Retirement plans were more apparent among the older group than the younger group. It was noted that 30 percent of those 75 and over planned to retire within five years as compared to 5.3 percent among those between 65 and 74. The variation was not as great, however, when comparing the period when full time work was stopped. Approximately 78 percent of the men in all age groups who were not doing full time work had stopped full employment seven or less years ago (Table 7).

Many of the problems peculiar to older rural-farm people arise after they have stopped farming. It is thought that isolation, loneliness, and lack of community services make living on the farm difficult for older people. The desire for familiar surroundings appeared to be strong among the couples in this study, however, for they were reluctant to relinquish their farm homes for living arrangements in areas with more community services. Forty-seven or 81 percent said that they would always live on the farm site. Of these, 10 had already retired and 37 would remain on the farm after they were forced to stop working. Only 11 couples wanted to move either to or near a town when they retired (Table 8).

Table 7. Manner of retirement by age groups.

Manner	: Total :		: 65-74 :		: 75 and over	
	:Number:	:Percent:	:Number:	:Percent:	:Number:	:Percent:
Extent of retirement:						
Doing all or most of work	22	38.0	22	50.0	-	--
Now retired	10	17.2	6	13.6	4	28.6
Now semi-retired*	26	44.8	16	36.4	10	71.4
Total	58	100.0	44	100.0	14	100.0
Time of stopping full time work:						
Less than 1 year ago	5	14.0	3	13.7	2	14.3
1 - 2 years ago	3	8.3	2	9.1	1	7.1
3 - 5 years ago	10	27.8	6	27.3	4	28.6
6 - 7 years ago	10	27.8	6	27.3	4	28.6
8 - 10 years ago	3	8.3	1	4.5	2	14.3
11 - 12 years ago	1	2.7	1	4.5	-	--
Over 12 years ago	3	8.3	2	9.1	1	7.1
No information	1	2.7	1	4.5	-	--
Total	36**	100.0	22	100.0	14	100.0
Plans to stop full time work:						
Will work until senility prevents	43	89.6	36	94.7	7	70.0
Will stop within 5 years	5	10.4	2	5.3	3	30.0
Total	48***	100.0	38	100.0	10	100.0

* Refers to those who do not do a substantial part of the work.

** Includes those retired and semi-retired.

*** Includes those doing all or most of the work and those semi-retired.

Table 8. Preferred retirement residence.

Preference for where to live	: Number	: Percent
On own farm	37	63.8
Now retired and living on farm	10	17.2
Alone in town*	8	13.8
Alone near town*	3	5.2
Total	58	100.0

* Those who wanted to move gave as reasons:
 For comfort and convenience, 7
 To get away from farm work, 4

Many of these people although unwilling to leave their farm had considered arrangements for its disposition. Over one-third planned to rent, nine of the couples or 15.6 percent would dispose of their farm only after their death, while 10.4 percent expected to sell. Those who wanted to dispose of their farm comprised 60.5 percent of the couples in the sample or 35 couples. Rental was the expected arrangement for 18 of these 35 couples or 51.5 percent of those who expected to dispose of their farm. Rental using a share of the crops as payment was desired by 15 of these couples; the other three wanted cash rental. When sale of the farm was desired, cash and a mortgage were the desired terms. Others wished to divide the farm among the children, form partnerships, or hire the work done (Table 9).

Table 9. Expected disposition of farm and agreement terms when retired.

Expectations	: Number	: Percent
Disposition:		
Rent	20	34.5
No plans to dispose of farm	10	17.2
Now retired	10	17.2
Will not dispose of farm until death	9	15.6
Sell	6	10.4
Not owners	2	3.4
No information	1	1.7
Total	58	100.0
Expected agreement terms:		
Sharecrop rental	15	42.9
Cash rental	3	8.6
Cash and mortgage	6	17.1
To be divided among children	3	8.6
Form partnership	2	5.7
Hire men to do work	2	5.7
Not decided	4	11.4
Total	35*	100.0

* Includes those who plan to make any arrangement for the disposition of their farm.

Health of the Couples

Through control of the acute contagious diseases of early and middle life, more knowledge of nutrition, and other factors, life expectancy has been extended to heretofore unexpected length. Now that more people are living to grow old, society faces the possibility that the number of chronically ill older persons will rise sharply. Geriatric medicine has contributed significantly toward the alleviation of chronic illness and physical impairments among the aging. Illness is still high, however, among older people. The couples in this study showed a tendency toward chronic illness,

approximately two-thirds of the men and one-half of the women had one or more chronic illnesses; the most common ailments among both men and women being arthritis and rheumatism (Table 10).

A high proportion of the couples in this study were subject to illnesses requiring the attention of a doctor. Approximately 64 percent of the men and 43 percent of the women had required medical care for an illness during the past year. A small percentage had medical check-ups. There were, however, 50 percent of the women and 34 percent of the men who did not see a doctor during the last year. This indicated that these people were in relatively good health and that the women required or took less medical care than the men (Table 11).

Furthermore, there was relatively little need for bed care among these people. During the last year approximately 82 percent of the men and 74 percent of the women required no bed care. Seemingly, however, the men who required bed care needed it for a longer period of time than did the women; 16 percent of the men required more than two weeks of bed care while only 3.5 percent of the women required bed care for that long (Table 12).

Although physical impairments were not prevalent among couples in this study it was found that 10 or 17.2 percent had impaired vision, and 16 or 27.6 percent had poor hearing. Only a few of these people still had their natural teeth. Approximately 80 percent of the men and 64 percent of the women had lost all or most of their teeth. There were more instances of being without teeth among the men than among the women and among the older group than among the younger group (Table 13).

Table 10. Presence of chronic diseases by age and sex.

Diseases	Total				Percentage* of men and women				
	Men		Women		Men		Women		
	Number	Percent*	Number	Percent*	65-74	75 and over	Under 65	65-74	75 and over
No diseases	19	32.8	29	50.0	34.1	28.6	58.3	43.3	50.0
Arthritis and rheumatism	29	50.0	24	41.4	47.7	57.2	29.2	53.3	25.0
Heart	12	20.7	8	13.8	20.5	21.4	12.5	16.7	--
High blood pressure	4	6.9	5	8.6	9.1	--	--	13.3	25.0
Cancer	1	1.7	-	--	2.3	--	--	--	--
Other	19	32.8	11	19.0	31.8	35.7	16.7	20.0	50.0
No information	-	--	1	1.7	--	--	4.2	--	--

* Percentages based on the number in each group.

	Total	Under 65	65 - 74	75 or over
Men	58	--	44	14
Women	58	24	30	4

Table 11. Need for medical care within the past year by age and sex.

	Total				Percentage* of men and women					
	Men		Women		Men		Women			
	Number	Percent*	Number	Percent*	:75 and 65-74	: over	Under: 65	:65-74	:75 and over	
Medical care										
Required medical care	35	60.3	25	43.1	59.1	64.3	29.1	56.7	25.0	
No medical care	20	34.5	29	50.0	34.1	35.7	62.5	36.7	75.0	
Medical check-up	3	5.2	3	5.2	6.8	--	4.2	6.6	--	
No information	-	--	1	1.7	--	--	4.2	--	--	

* Percentages based on the number in each group (see Table 10).

Table 12. Need for bed care within the past year by age and sex.

	Total				Percentage* of men and women					
	Men		Women		Men		Women			
	Number	Percent*	Number	Percent*	:75 and 65-74	: over	Under: 65	:65-74	:75 and over	
Bed care										
None required	48	82.8	43	74.1	79.5	92.9	83.3	70.0	50.0	
1 - 3 days	-	--	5	8.6	--	--	--	10.0	50.0	
4 - 7 days	-	--	2	3.5	--	--	4.2	3.3	--	
1 - 2 weeks	2	3.4	4	6.9	2.3	7.1	--	13.4	--	
3 - 4 weeks	3	5.2	1	1.7	6.8	--	4.2	--	--	
More than one month	4	6.9	1	1.7	9.1	--	--	3.3	--	
All the time	-	--	-	--	--	--	--	--	--	
No information	1	1.7	2	3.5	2.3	--	8.3	--	--	

* Percentages based on the number in each group (see Table 10).

Table 13. Presence of physical impairments by age and sex.

Impairments	Total				Percentage* of men and women				
	Men		Women		Men		Women		
	Number	Percent*	Number	Percent*	: 75 and 65-74	: over 65	: Under 65	: 75 and 65-74	: over 65
Vision									
Good	27	46.6	40	69.0	50.0	35.7	83.3	60.0	50.0
Fair	24	41.4	14	24.1	40.9	42.9	8.3	33.3	50.0
Failing	5	8.6	3	5.2	4.5	21.4	4.2	6.7	--
One eye	1	1.7	-	--	2.3	--	--	--	--
Cataracts	1	1.7	-	--	2.3	--	--	--	--
No information	-	--	1	1.7	--	--	4.2	--	--
Hearing									
Good	33	59.9	44	75.9	63.6	35.7	87.4	70.0	50.0
Fair	12	20.7	10	17.2	18.2	28.6	4.2	23.3	50.0
Failing	12	20.7	2	3.5	15.9	35.7	--	6.7	--
Hearing aid	1	1.7	1	1.7	2.3	--	4.2	--	--
No information	-	--	1	1.7	--	--	4.2	--	--
Teeth									
Few or no teeth	11	19.0	1	1.7	15.9	28.6	--	3.3	--
Partial or complete plates	35	60.3	36	62.1	59.1	64.3	41.7	73.4	100.0
Own teeth	12	20.7	20	34.5	25.0	7.1	54.1	23.3	--
No information	-	--	1	1.7	--	--	4.2	--	--

* Percentage based on number in each group (see Table 10).

Accidents are among the 10 leading causes of death in the United States, with the number of older people involved exceedingly high. The couples studied, however, had relatively few accidents. Only three individuals had had an accident within the last year. Two men had accidents involving farm machinery, one woman was hurt in a fall.

The Dwelling

The single family house was the only type of dwelling unit lived in by the couples in this study. In every case the house was located in a rural-farm area. Although the dwellings were usually built by someone other than the couples living in them, 13 or 22.4 percent had built their houses.

A majority of the couples, 33 or 56.9 percent, lived in two-story houses, while 24 or 41.4 percent lived in one-story houses. Only one couple had a three-story house. It was expected that there would be a correlation between the number of stories and the range of income of the couples. It was found, however, that larger variations were necessary for the data to show statistically significant differences (Table 35, Appendix).

In addition to these houses having different numbers of stories, 39.7 percent of the houses or 23 had basements. Caves were used for food storage by 12 or 20.7 percent of the couples.

The number of rooms in the dwellings varied from three to 10 with the median number being six. Those in the younger group had most of the larger dwellings. They occupied 10 of the 11 houses having eight or more rooms (Table 14). The range of income seemed

Table 14. Existing rooms in the home and their use by family type and age of head of family.

Rooms	Total		Percentage* of family types and age			
	Number	Percent*	Both 65		One 65	
			65-74	:75 and over:	65-74	:75 and over
Number present:						
3	6	10.2	14.3	7.7	8.6	--
4	6	10.2	9.5	--	17.4	--
5	14	24.0	14.3	38.4	21.7	100.0
6	8	13.7	9.5	7.7	21.7	--
7	13	23.3	23.8	38.5	13.4	--
8	7	12.0	19.0	7.7	8.6	--
9	3	5.0	4.8	--	8.6	--
10	1	1.6	4.8	--	--	--
Number used:						
3	7	12.1	14.3	7.7	13.4	--
4	21	36.2	33.3	38.5	39.0	--
5	18	31.0	23.8	46.1	26.1	100.0
6	5	8.6	14.3	--	8.6	--
7	5	8.6	14.3	7.7	4.3	--
8	-	--	--	--	--	--
9	2	3.5	--	--	8.6	--

* Percentages based on number in each group:

	Total	65-74	75 and over
Both 65	34	21	13
One 65	24	23	1
Total	58	44	14

to have relatively little effect on the possession of large houses as approximately one-third of the houses with eight or more rooms were lived in by couples in each income group (Table 36, Appendix).

The types and locations of the rooms in these houses varied widely. All contained a kitchen. There was a living room in each house except three, and three others had two living rooms. There were bedrooms on the first floor, which were often used by the aged, in 56 or 96.6 percent of the houses. Twenty-five of the houses or 43 percent had some kind of bathroom facilities on the first floor. In only two houses were there any rooms in the basement (Table 15).

When asked their preference, the rooms most frequently preferred were a kitchen, living room, bathroom, two bedrooms, and a dining room. One couple wanted a combination living and dining room. Only bedrooms and bathrooms were wanted on the second floor by the few indicating a preference for second floor rooms (Table 16).

Space adequacy is usually measured by the coefficient of density.¹ All of the couples in this study had an adequate number of rooms. In fact some degree of overhousing existed, as indicated by the large number of rooms in relation to the number of persons occupying them (Table 37, Appendix). A large majority,

¹ This crude measure is obtained by dividing the number of persons by the number of rooms per dwelling unit. A coefficient of 1.00 or less is generally accepted as adequate whereas 1.50 or more is considered an indication of overcrowding.

Table 15. Kinds of rooms and their location in the house.

Rooms	: First floor		: Second floor		: Basement	
	: No.	: Pct.*	: No.	: Pct.*	: No.	: Pct.*
Service rooms						
Kitchen	58	100.0	-	--	-	--
Utility room	3	5.2	-	--	-	--
Common rooms						
Living room	51	87.9	-	--	-	--
Two living rooms	3	5.2	-	--	-	--
Dining room	38	65.5	-	--	-	--
Combination living and dining room	1	1.7	-	--	-	--
Library - den	2	3.4	-	--	-	--
Sleeping rooms						
One bedroom	33	56.9	3	5.2	1	1.7
Two bedrooms	19	32.8	11	19.0	-	--
Three bedrooms	4	6.9	13	22.4	-	--
Four bedrooms	-	--	7	12.1	-	--
Storage room (unused bedroom)	5	8.6	3	5.2	-	--
Baths						
Incomplete bathroom	2	3.4	-	--	-	--
One bathroom	21	36.2	1	1.7	-	--
One and a half bathrooms	1	1.7	-	--	-	--
Two bathrooms	1	1.7	-	--	-	--
Wash room	2	3.4	-	--	1	1.7

* Percentage based on total number of dwellings, 58.

74.2 percent, indicated that they preferred four or five rooms instead of six rooms, the median number possessed (Table 17). It was found that the number of couples preferring four or five rooms showed no statistically significant difference as income varied (Table 38, Appendix). The relationship between the percentage who had and who desired various sized houses is shown in Fig. 1.

Table 16. Preference for kinds of rooms in the house and their location by age of head of family.

Rooms	Total				Percentage* of couples			
	First floor		Second floor		65-74		75 and over	
	Number	Percent*	Number	Percent*	floor	floor	floor	floor
Service rooms								
Kitchen	58	100.0	-	--	100.0	--	100.0	--
Utility rooms	7	12.1	-	--	15.9	--	--	--
Common rooms								
Living room	54	93.1	-	--	90.9	--	100.0	--
Dining room	25	43.1	-	--	38.6	--	57.1	--
Combination living and dining room	1	1.7	-	--	2.3	--	--	--
Library-den	2	3.4	-	--	4.5	--	--	--
Sleeping rooms								
One bedroom	21	36.2	-	--	34.1	--	42.9	--
Two bedrooms	31	53.4	2	3.4	50.0	4.5	64.3	--
Three bedrooms	7	12.1	-	--	15.9	--	--	--
Storage room (unused bedroom)	3	5.2	-	--	4.5	--	--	--
Baths**								
One bathroom	50	86.2	2	3.4	88.7	4.5	78.6	--
One and a half bathrooms	1	1.7	-	--	2.3	--	--	--
Wash room	1	1.7	-	--	2.3	--	--	--

* Percentages based on the number in each group:

Age	Number
65-74	44
75 and over	14

** Five couples did not want a bathroom.

Table 17. Number of rooms preferred by family type and age.

Number of rooms	Total		Both 65				One 65			
	Number	Percent	65-74		75 and over		65-74		75 and over	
3	6	10.3	3	14.3	2	15.4	1	4.5	-	--
4	16	27.6	5	23.8	4	30.8	7	31.8	-	--
5	27	46.6	7	33.3	6	46.1	13	54.6	1	100.0
6	6	10.3	4	19.0	-	--	2	9.1	-	--
7	2	3.5	1	4.8	1	7.7	-	--	-	--
8	1	1.7	1	4.8	-	--	-	--	-	--
Total	58	100.0	21	100.0	13	100.0	23	100.0	1	100.0

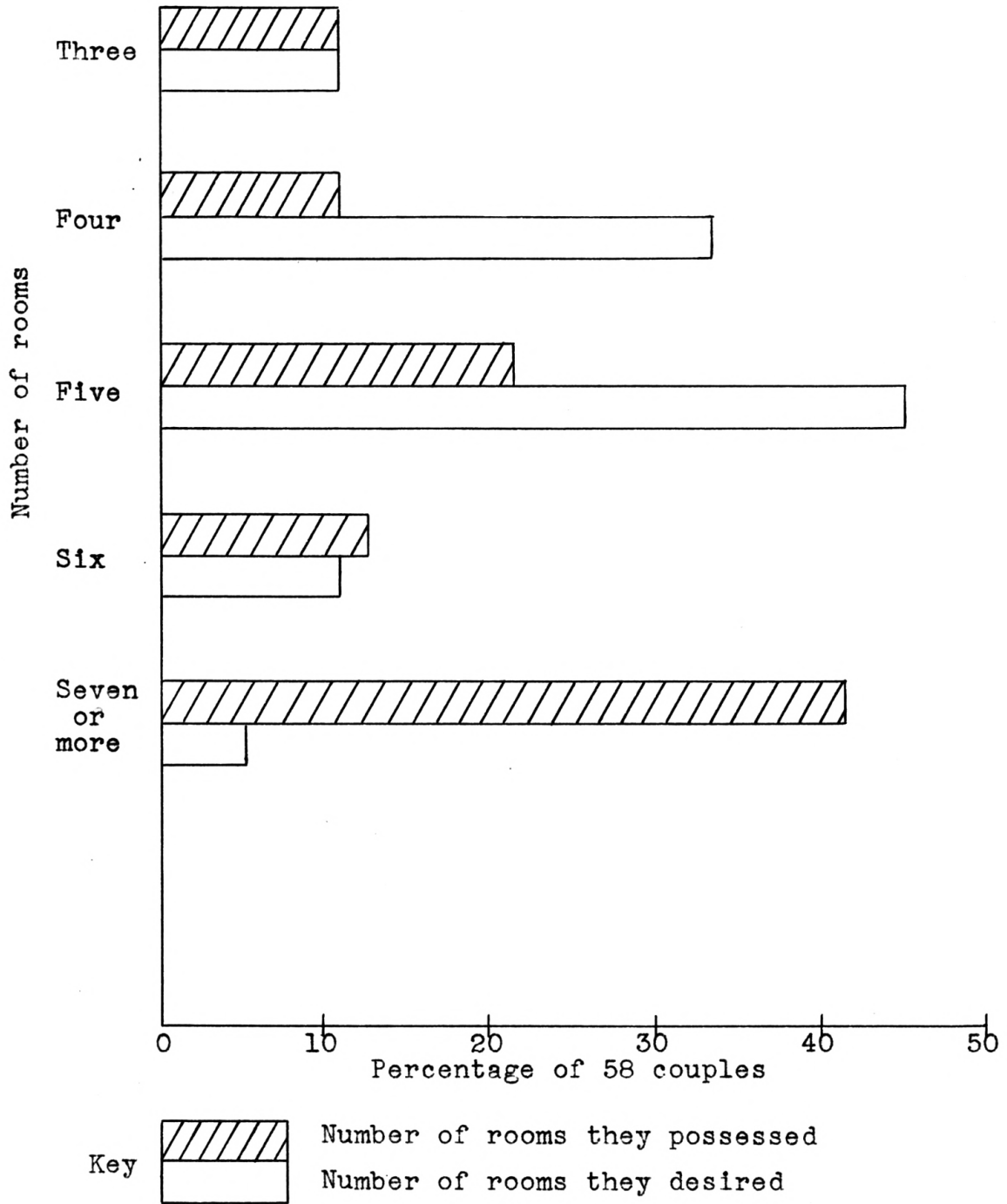


Fig. 1. Number of rooms in the houses and the number desired by percentage of couples.

There was a tendency for these couples to use only a portion of their houses. Four or five rooms were used by 39 or 67.2 percent of all couples, the median being five (Table 16). When there were more than four or five rooms in the house the remaining rooms were often closed and used only for overnight guests. Among these couples 34 or 58.6 percent used all the rooms in their house. Apparently the older these couples became, the less was their space requirement in terms of number of rooms as 53.9 percent of the older group and 38.6 percent of the younger group used only part of their house (Table 39, Appendix).

Present and Preferred Housing Features

A porch is desirable for the rural-farm homemaker because it provides a comfortable place to rest and often furnishes storage space, a laundry area, or washroom facilities. In addition it is protection to the house against rain, snow, and wind. The aged couples in this study were well supplied with porches, as 56 or 96.6 percent had one or more. Furthermore, these couples seemed fortunate in that among the 47 or 81 percent having coveted back porches, 34 or 58.6 percent had them either screened or glassed. There were 50 or 86.3 percent of the houses which had a front porch. Six of these or 10.4 percent were screened or glassed (Table 18).

Many changes in regard to housing features were desired by these couples as only two houses were satisfactory as they were.

Table 18. Location and types of porches.

Location and type	Number	Percent
Front		
open	44	75.9
screened	3	5.2
glassed	3	5.2
Back		
screened	21	36.2
open	13	22.4
glassed	13	22.4
Side		
glassed	12	20.7
open	8	13.8
screened	3	5.2
No porches	2	3.4

The number of rooms in the houses were unsatisfactory for 40 or 69 percent of the couples. A total of 28 couples or 48.3 percent wanted fewer rooms, 12 or 20.7 percent wanted more, and 7 or 12 percent wanted larger rooms. In addition 27 or 46.5 percent were not satisfied with some construction feature of their house.

It is known that going up and down stairs is difficult for older persons because of failing strength and increasing physical disabilities. For this reason it is often recommended that their living arrangements be on one floor. The couples in this study agreed with this recommendation for although 34 or 58.6 percent of the couples did not have a one-story house, all except two had or desired one.

Many of these individuals, 44 or approximately 48 percent, found climbing stairs difficult (Table 40, Appendix). All of the aged who had outside stairs climbed them, and the number who

climbed inside stairs was high. The women climbed inside stairs more often than the men with 60 percent of the women between 65 and 74, and 75 percent of the women 75 or over climbing one or more times daily. Among the men, 50 percent of the younger group and 28.6 percent of the older group climbed stairs one or more times daily (Table 19). The stairways in these houses were safe because they had uniform treads and only one had risers of two heights (Tables 41 and 42, Appendix).

The condition of floors is important to older people because with advancing age comes delayed reaction to a stumble or fall. All but four or 6.9 percent of the couples had even and smooth floors. Others with door sills and rooms on two levels wanted these eliminated. A need to rearrange the floor plan to make possible a saving of steps was recognized by eight or 13.8 percent. Other desired improvements were better construction, addition of a porch or utility room, and provision for more sunlight and fresh air in the house.

The houses in which these couples lived were relatively old as 30 couples had lived in the same house for 20 years or more (Table 43, Appendix). Many of these houses provided only inadequate storage space in terms of closets or built-ins, since half of the couples wanted more closets and about a third wanted more built-ins (Table 20).

Table 19. Frequency of climbing inside stairs.

Number of times climbed	Total				Percentage* of men and women			
	65-74		75 and over		Men		Women	
	Number	Percent*	Number	Percent*	65-74	over	65-74	over
None	1	1.3	2	11.1	2.3	14.3	--	--
Once a week or less	15	20.3	3	16.7	20.5	21.4	20.0	--
1 - 5 weekly	6	8.1	1	5.5	6.8	7.1	10.0	--
Once daily	3	4.1	-	--	4.5	--	3.3	--
2 - 5 daily	25	33.8	7	38.9	29.5	28.6	40.0	75.0
6 or more daily	12	16.2	-	--	15.9	--	16.7	--
No stairs inside house	12	16.2	5	27.8	20.5	28.6	10.0	25.0

* Percentages based on the number in each group (see Table 10).

Table 20. Preferences for change in features.

Changes	Number	Percent
One floor	32	55.2
More closet space	29	50.0
Fewer rooms	28	48.3
Add a bath	26	44.8
More built-ins	16	27.6
More rooms	12	20.7
Rearrange floor plans	8	13.8
Larger rooms	7	12.1
Add a utility room*	4	6.9
Better construction	4	6.9
Eliminate door sills	4	6.9
Eliminate two levels	2	3.4
Improve or add porch	2	3.4
More sun and fresh air	2	3.4
Would not change	2	3.4

* Wanted to change an existing room to a utility room.

Facilities Provided or Desired

Until recent years farm homes generally lacked the facilities such as electricity, running water, a flush toilet, and central heating, which add to convenience and make daily routines easier. For older people it is particularly desirable that their homes include these facilities because the aged homemaker should be looking for methods to reduce the strain on her declining energies. With the advent of rural electrification and other farm improvement programs many facilities have been added. The number of couples possessing each of these facilities was rather small with the exception of the number having electricity, which was 53 or 91.4 percent.

Those who did not have electricity used gas, kerosene, or gasoline for lighting. The five couples without electricity wanted

it but evidently could not afford it since four had incomes under \$1499 last year (Table 45, Appendix).

There was running water in 44.8 percent of these houses. Its inclusion reduced with the income as 66.7 percent of the high income group, 57.2 percent of the medium income group, and 32.2 percent of the low income group had it (Table 45, Appendix). Among those who did not have running water, 24 or 41.4 percent had to carry water to the house, and eight or 13.8 percent had a pump at the sink (Table 21).

Table 21. Methods of obtaining water by range of income.

Methods	Range of income							
	Total		\$ 0-1499		\$1500-4999		\$5000 and over	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Have running water	26	44.8	10	32.2	12	57.2	4	66.7
Have pump at sink	8	13.8	6	19.4	2	9.5	-	--
Must carry water	24	41.4	15	48.4	7	33.3	2	33.3
Total	58	100.0	31	100.0	21	100.0	6	100.0

Indoor toilet facilities, located near the bedroom are important for older people because of their frequent need for night time use. Facilities outside the house, however, were the only ones available for 57 percent of these couples. Facilities on the floor with the bedroom were provided for 17 or 29.3 percent, while 8 or 13.7 percent had indoor toilet but not on the same floor on which they slept. The amount of income seemed to influence the possession of indoor toilet facilities. When income was below \$1499, 71 percent of the couples had only outside facilities.

When it was above \$1499 those with outside facilities were reduced to approximately 50 percent (Table 22).

There were 24 or 41.4 percent of the couples who had a flush toilet and another half of the couples wanted one. In all there were 53 or 91.4 percent who either had or desired a flush toilet. There were 23 or 39.6 percent of the couples who had a tub or shower. Among these, 16 had a tub and seven had a shower. There were four who had a tub who wanted a shower also. All except three of the couples had or desired a tub or shower, and 56 had or desired a complete bathroom in their house.

Older people require a higher indoor temperature than younger people. This increase in sensitivity to cold is due to reduced muscular activity and to poor blood circulation. In the morning, after several hours of greatly reduced activity, this sensitivity is at a high point. In this study 91.4 percent of all couples stated that their dressing area was heated, and all but two of the couples dressed in their bedroom.

Regardless of the method of heating the house, the people were comfortable during cold weather. Only one couple indicated that they were not satisfied with the indoor temperature of their home. The heating of the houses was not, however, done chiefly through central heating as only a few, 10 or 17.2 percent, had central heating. While over a third did not want central heating, almost half indicated a desire for it. Among the 48 couples who did not have central heating many had several space heaters of the same or different types. Twenty-five or 52.1 percent had at least one heating stove, 22 or 45.8 percent had circulating heaters,

Table 22. Location of bathroom to bedroom by income range.

Location	No.	Pct.	Total No.	Pct.	Range of income					
					\$0-1499		\$1500-4999		\$5000 and over	
					No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Only facilities outside of house			34	58.6	22	71.0	9	42.9	3	50.0
On same floor as bedroom			16	27.6	8	25.8	6	28.6	2	33.3
Removed several rooms*	5	8.6								
Adjacent to sleeping rooms*	11	19.0								
On different floor from bedroom			8	13.8	1	3.2	6	28.6	1	16.7
Sleep upstairs, only facilities downstairs*	6	10.4								
Sleep downstairs, only facilities upstairs*	2	3.4								
Total			58	100.0	31	100.0	21	100.0	6	100.0

* These items are subdivisions of the above categories.

and 8 or 16.7 percent had automatically controlled gas heating stoves (Table 23).

Table 23. Type of space heater by range of income.

Type	Range of income							
	Total		\$ 0-1499		\$1500-4999		\$5000 and over	
	No.:	Pct.*	No.:	Pct.*	No.:	Pct.*	No.:	Pct.*
Heating stove (coal or wood)	25	52.1	17	60.7	7	46.7	1	20.0
Circulating heater (oil or gas)	22	45.8	13	46.4	7	46.7	2	40.0
Gas heating stove (automatic control)	8	16.7	2	7.1	3	20.0	3	60.0
Electric heater	1	2.1	-	--	1	6.7	-	--
Portable heater	1	2.1	-	--	1	6.7	-	--
Gas heater--open face	1	2.1	-	--	1	6.7	-	--

* Percentages were based on the number of couples in each group who had space heaters.

Income	Couples
\$ 0-1499	28
\$1500-4999	15
\$5000 and over	5
Total	48

In areas with extremely high summer temperatures, possession of air circulating and cooling equipment becomes important. Approximately three-fourths of the couples studied had some of these devices. Fans were the usual type possessed as only 6 or 10.3 percent of the couples had air cooling equipment. The amount of income had relatively little effect on the type of equipment the couples had but there were more couples without any devices in the lowest income group than in the others (Table 24).

Table 24. Possession and type of air circulating and cooling devices by range of income.

Possession and type	Range of income							
	Total		\$ 0-1499		\$1500-4999		\$5000 and over	
	No.:	Pct.	No.:	Pct.	No.:	Pct.	No.:	Pct.
No circulating or cooling devices	15	25.9	11	35.5	3	14.3	1	16.7
Several fans	21	36.2	9	29.0	10	47.6	2	33.3
One fan	10	17.3	6	19.4	2	9.5	2	33.3
Window fan	6	10.3	2	6.5	4	19.0	-	--
Air-cooling unit	6	10.3	3	9.7	2	9.5	1	16.7
Total	58	100.0	31	100.0	21	100.0	6	100.0

Over a third of the couples studied had television sets. An additional 14 or 24.1 percent wanted television but over two-fifths said that they did not want it. Television requires extensive and concentrated use of the eyes. This may be the reason that over 71 percent of those in the older age group did not want television sets (Table 44, Appendix).

Refrigeration, a radio, and the telephone have become standard equipment in many farm homes. And so it was with the couples in this study. All but one couple had refrigeration, all but two had a radio, and all but six had a telephone (Table 25).

In general, there was no correlation between the possession of these facilities and the income or age of the people (Tables 44, 45, Appendix). Since the variations were not large enough to show statistically significant differences, it is assumed that the acquisition of these facilities does not depend on income or age.

Table 25. Facilities and preference for them.

Facilities	All couples					
	Have		Want		Do not want	
	No.:	Pct.*	No.:	Pct.*	No.:	Pct.*
Refrigeration	57	98.3	1	1.7	-	--
Radio	56	96.6	1	1.7	1	1.7
Electricity	53	91.4	5	8.6	-	--
Telephone	52	89.7	5	8.6	1	1.7
Air cooling devices	43	74.1	12	20.7	3	5.2
Running water	26	44.8	30	51.7	2	3.5
Flush toilet	24	41.4	29	50.0	5	8.6
Tub or shower	23	39.6	32	55.2	3	5.2
Television	20	34.5	14	24.1	24	41.4
Central heating	10	17.2	28	48.3	20	34.5

* Percentages based on the total number of couples, 58.

Activities Performed in the Dwelling

The basis for judging the adequacy of a house is whether or not it provides well organized space sufficient to serve the requirements of the activities performed in it. The activities of family living differ with the various stages of the family cycle. The activities performed by these aged couples were therefore, important criteria for judging the adequacy of their dwellings, and for making recommendations for families in this age group. Their activities were centered around regular and seasonal housework and farmwork, entertaining at meals and overnight, and pursuit of leisure time activities.

There is more work to be done in a farm home than in a comparable urban home because food preparation begins with more raw products, and laundry and other work necessary to maintain the

home must be done by members of the household. The wives in this study did their own housework, and more than two-thirds of the husbands were active in helping them.

All of the aged wives in this study cooked, baked, washed dishes, cleaned, and mended. All but two did the washing, 33 or 97 percent did the ironing, and almost three-fourths sewed for themselves or others. Approximately half of the husbands helped with the cooking, washing dishes, and the laundry. About a third helped with the cleaning (Table 26).

Apparently, space in the kitchen for two persons to engage in meal preparation and clearing away was required as was space to eat in the kitchen as 54 or 93.1 percent always ate in the kitchen. Food preservation, an activity which requires much kitchen space, was done by all of the couples. Over two-fifths of the husbands helped with this work.

Seasonal housecleaning is being done less and less by home-makers. The couples in this study were, however, still holding to the practice of seasonal housecleaning as 32 or 94.1 percent of the aged women, helped by 24 or 41.4 percent of the men, still did it. Other seasonal housework involving screens, storm windows, window washing, and repairs was done almost equally by men and women. Only four or approximately 7 percent of the men did not help their wives with some of these seasonal activities (Table 27).

Maintenance of the farm and farmstead site are of necessity connected with farm living. Over 80 percent of the men did chores, cared for lawns, gardens, and repaired fences. Two-thirds did

Table 26. Type of housework done by age and sex.

Regular housework	Total				Percentage* of men and women			
	Women		Men		Women		Men	
	Number	Percent*	Number	Percent*	65-74	:75 and over	65-74	:75 and over
Cleaning	34	100.0	19	32.8	100.0	100.0	31.8	35.7
Cooking	34	100.0	28	48.3	100.0	100.0	43.2	64.3
Baking	34	100.0	2	3.4	100.0	100.0	2.3	7.1
Washing dishes	34	100.0	33	56.9	100.0	100.0	56.8	57.1
Mending	34	100.0	-	--	100.0	100.0	--	--
Ironing	33	97.1	4	6.9	96.7	100.0	4.5	14.3
Washing	32	94.1	29	50.0	93.3	100.0	45.5	64.3
Other sewing	25	73.5	-	--	73.3	75.0	--	--
None of these	-	--	18	31.0	--	--	34.1	21.4

* Percentages based on the number in each group.

	Total	65-74	75 and over
Men	58	44	14
Women	34	30	4

Table 27. Type of seasonal housework done by age and sex.

Seasonal housework	Total				Percentage* of men and women			
	Women		Men		Women		Men	
	Number	Percent*	Number	Percent*	65-74	:75 and over	65-74	:75 and over
Food preservation	34	100.0	24	41.4	100.0	100.0	38.6	50.0
Housecleaning	32	94.1	24	41.4	93.3	100.0	38.6	50.0
Windows	30	88.2	27	46.6	90.0	75.0	45.5	50.0
Inside repairs	21	61.8	47	81.0	56.7	100.0	79.5	85.7
Screens	20	58.8	40	69.0	56.7	75.0	65.9	78.6
Storm windows	14	41.2	31	53.4	43.3	25.0	54.5	50.0
None of these	-	--	4	6.9	--	--	6.8	7.1

* Percentages based on the number in each group (see Table 26).

farm work and reppaire machinery. Among the women 85.3 percent cared for flowers, 73.5 percent kept gardens, and 58.8 percent did farm chores. A larger number of the men than women did many of these tasks (Table 28).

Entertaining in the Home

Entertaining in a rural-farm situation as in the city, is usually a planned event. Farm people, like families everywhere, have guests to meals and overnight. Older couples, presumably entertain family and friends in about the same manner as during the middle years of life. The number of guests usually present, the type of entertaining done, and the frequency with which it is done are important considerations when planning a house for this group.

All of the couples in this study, except one, needed space in their home for entertaining guests at meals. All but one had company dinners at least once a year. Nearly four-fifths had company dinners one or more times each month. About a third of all couples had dinner guests once a week or more. Approximately three-fifths of the couples served six or more people at company meals, the others served five or less (Table 29). For this reason it would be advisable to provide space in the dining area for serving at least six. Among the aged wives, 28 or 82.4 percent prepared company meals alone. The other six were helped by their husbands or by their guests.

Table 28. Type of outside work done by age and sex.

Outside work	Total				Percentage* of men and women			
	Men		Women		Men		Women	
	Number	Percent*	Number	Percent*	65-74	75 and over	65-74	75 and over
Chores	54	93.1	20	58.8	93.2	92.9	53.3	100.0
Garden	49	84.5	25	73.5	79.5	100.0	70.0	100.0
Repair of fences	49	84.5	-	--	88.6	71.4	--	--
Lawn	48	82.8	8	23.5	84.1	78.6	23.3	25.0
Farm work	39	67.2	1	2.9	75.0	42.9	3.3	--
Walks	39	67.2	1	2.9	65.9	71.4	--	25.0
Repair of machinery and cars	34	58.6	-	--	65.9	35.7	--	--
Flowers	22	37.9	29	85.3	36.4	42.9	86.7	75.0
Repair and upkeep of house	2	3.4	-	--	4.5	--	--	--
None of these	1	1.7	1	2.9	2.3	--	3.3	--

* Percentages based on the number in each group (see Table 26).

Table 29. Frequency and extent of serving company meals.

Item	: Number	: Percent
Frequency:		
Never	1	1.7
2 or more per week	10	17.2
1 per week	10	17.2
3 per month	5	8.7
2 per month	12	20.7
1 per month	9	15.5
8 - 7 per year	1	1.7
6 - 5 per year	1	1.7
4 - 3 per year	5	8.7
2 - 1 per year	4	6.9
Total	58	100.0
Extent:		
None	1	1.7
5 or less	23	39.7
6 or more	34	58.6
Total	58	100.0

The space requirement for overnight guests is determined by the number and frequency of guests. Most of the couples in this study had overnight guests, with nearly three-fifths having them one or more times monthly. From two to six people were the usual numbers entertained overnight. There were, however, four couples who needed sleeping space for 12 or more guests (Table 30).

The overnight guests in these homes were friends and relatives. Children and grandchildren were indicated as overnight guests by 25 or 43.1 percent of these couples. One of these aged couples said their own parents came to stay with them (Table 31). The large houses which many of these couples occupied were put to use when overnight guests came. Approximately 70 percent had guest bedrooms, and over 25 percent were able to open unused upstairs

rooms for their guests (Table 32).

Table 30. Frequency and extent of entertaining overnight guests.

Item	: Aged families having guests	
	: Number	: Percent
Number of times:		
Never	2	3.5
1 - 2 per year	9	15.5
3 - 4 per year	8	13.8
5 - 8 per year	4	6.9
1 per month	12	20.7
2 per month	9	15.5
3 per month	3	5.2
1 per week	9	15.5
2 or more per week	1	1.7
No information	1	1.7
Total	58	100.0
Number of guests:		
No guests	2	3.4
1	3	5.2
2	11	19.0
3	9	15.5
4	10	17.3
5	7	12.1
6	6	10.4
7	1	1.7
8	2	3.4
9	-	--
10	2	3.4
11	-	--
12 or more	4	6.9
No information	1	1.7
Total	58	100.0

Table 31. Types of guests.

Relationship to aged of overnight guests	Number	Percent*
Relatives (relationship not indicated)	33	56.9
Children and grandchildren	25	43.1
Friends	12	20.7
Siblings	3	5.2
Parents	1	1.7
No guests	2	3.4
No information	4	6.9

* Percentages based on total number of couples, 58.

Table 32. Arrangements made for overnight guests.

Where overnight guests sleep	Number	Percent*
Guest bedroom	40	67.0
Couch or couch-bed in living room	23	39.7
Extra cot	15	25.9
Upstairs rooms used only when having guests	15	25.9
In dining room	1	1.7
In basement	1	1.7
In bedroom with aged	1	1.7
No guests	2	3.4

* Percentages based on total number of couples, 58.

Leisure Activities

Life in a rural-farm situation is occupied with activities necessary to keep the farm site productive and comfortable. Leisure for farm people is often an extension of some phase of their work. It is important for the happiness of aged people that they have satisfying activities during leisure hours. Life on a farm, however, provides a relatively smaller variety of activities and

fewer community activities than an urban area does. The couples studied, however, were active in a variety of leisure pursuits.

Over 80 percent of the couples read and listened to the radio. More men than women were occupied in this way. Almost a third of these people watched television. Half of the women did hand crafts and a fifth did needle work (Table 33).

Table 33. Preferred use of leisure time at home by family type and sex.

Activity	: Total		: Percentage# of men and women			
	: Number	: Percent#	: Both 65	: Men	: Women	: One 65
			Men	Women	Men	Women
Reading	76	82.6	88.2	79.4	79.2	--
Radio	75	81.5	85.3	70.6	91.7	--
Television	30	32.6	35.3	32.4	29.2	--
Hand crafts*	20	21.7	5.9	50.0	4.2	--
Hand needlework**	7	7.6	--	20.6	--	--
Games***	4	4.3	5.9	--	8.3	--
Farm chores	3	3.3	--	5.9	4.2	--
Sewing	2	2.2	--	5.9	--	--

Percentages based on number in each group (see Table 34).

* Included rug-making, wood work, quilting, textile painting.

** Included crocheting, knitting, embroidery, fancy work, needlework, etc.

*** Included cards, puzzles, whittling, horseshoes.

Part of the leisure time of these couples was spent resting, both by lying down and by sitting. Eighty-seven or 94.6 percent of the aged individuals rested during the day. The length of time spent resting varied from less than an hour to over three-quarters of the day. Approximately 50 percent of these couples rested in the living room (Table 46, Appendix).

In a rural-farm situation activities away from the home

require some means of private transportation, and a car is considered a necessity for farm people. Among these couples 53 or 91.4 percent had at least one car. In 22 cases both husband and wife drove the car. The man did all the driving in 30 cases and two of all the wives were the only ones who drove (Table 47, Appendix).

Sixty-three percent of these couples made visits and traveled as part of their leisure time activities. Over 40 percent went to town, shopped, and took part in church activities. Almost a third of the women belonged to clubs and over one-fifth of the men were active in the Grange, Farm Bureau, or Extension. A few of the men were interested in sports, and went fishing or watched sports (Table 34).

Table 34. Preferred use of leisure time away from home by family type and sex.

Activity	: Number	: Percent*	: Percentage* of men and women			
			: Total		: Both 65	
			Men	Women	Men	Women
Visit and travel	58	63.0	61.8	67.6	58.3	--
To town and shopping	41	44.6	50.0	50.0	29.2	--
Church activities	38	41.3	35.3	44.1	45.8	--
Grange, Farm Bureau, and Extension activities	16	17.3	23.5	17.6	8.3	--
Clubs	15	16.3	8.8	32.4	4.2	--
Hunting and fishing	9	9.8	8.8	--	25.0	--
Lodge	8	8.7	11.8	5.9	8.3	--
Watching sports	7	7.6	2.9	2.9	20.8	--
Movies or games	4	4.3	5.9	2.9	4.2	--

* Percentages based on the number in each group:

	Total	Both 65	One 65
Men	58	34	24
Women	--	34	--

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The sampling method used provided a representative sample; the interview schedule was reasonable in length and satisfactory to use. The categories for range of income were not sufficiently defined to allow the kinds of statistical tests needed.

Because rural-farm dwellings are often occupied by families through all phases of their life cycles they should be easily adaptable to meet the needs of the families in all their stages. Thus, if satisfactory housing were provided, aged couples could maintain their home for a relatively long period. They showed evidence that they were capable of such maintenance because their health was remarkably good, they continued with the activities of middle life, and they were reluctant to face the problem of where to live in the event that remaining on their farm was no longer feasible.

A satisfactory dwelling for this group could apparently be one-story, composed of four or five rooms chosen from a kitchen, living room, bathroom, one or two bedrooms, and a dining room. Comfort features and facilities should include running water, a complete bathroom, electricity, refrigeration, a telephone, radio, and television. However, central heating was not necessary for the maintenance of comfortable indoor temperatures in this latitude, but air circulating and cooling devices were highly prized.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Sincere appreciation is extended to Miss Tessie Agan, Associate Professor, Acting Head of the Department of Household Economics, and major instructor, for her generous encouragement, counsel, and time given in developing and directing this study, and to Assistant Professor Jack Northam, Experiment Station Statistician, for his assistance in developing the method of procedure and statistical analysis.

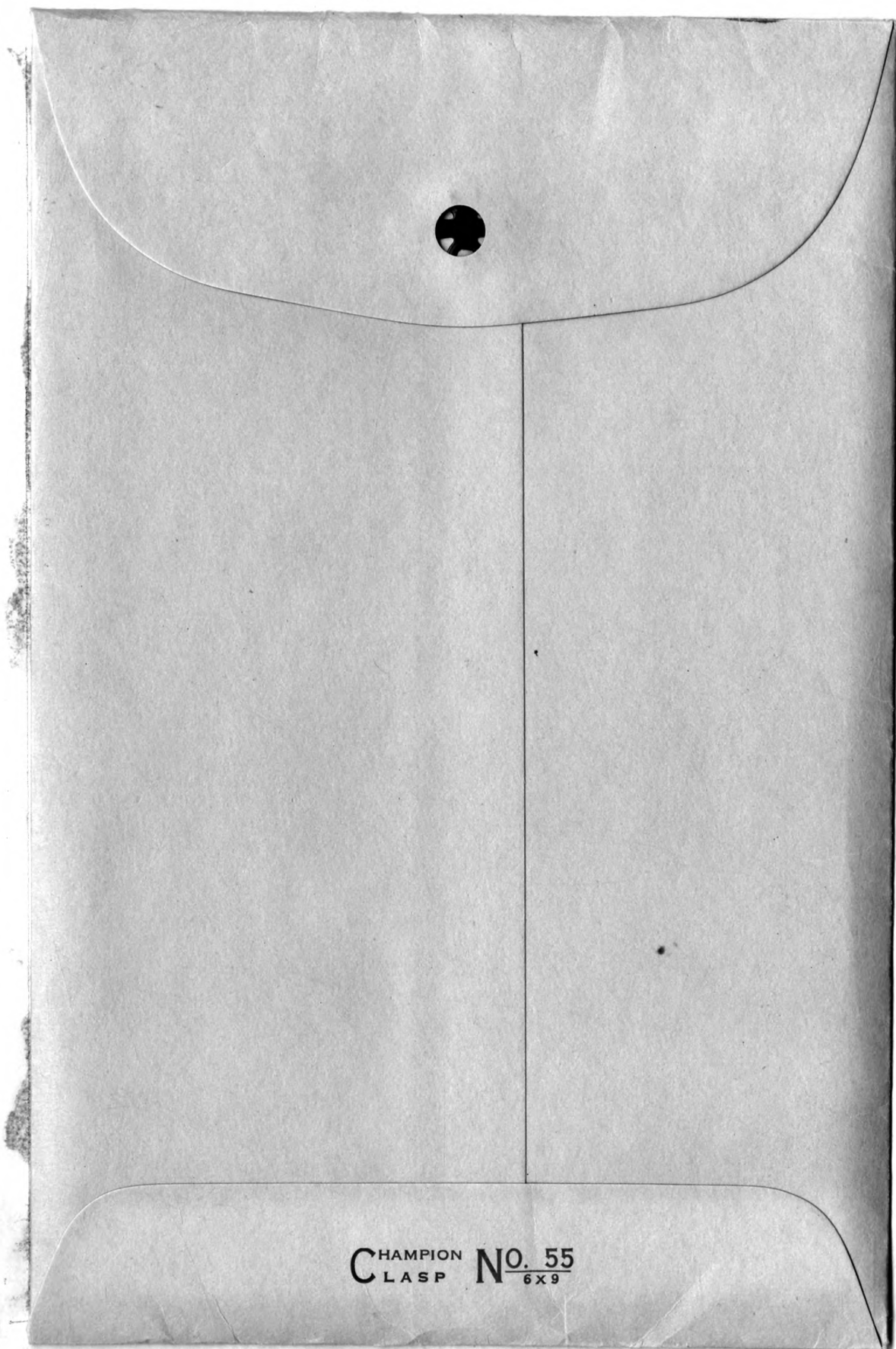
Acknowledgment is made to Mrs. Winifred Slagg, interviewer for the project, for her time, effort, and helpful interest; to Mr. Glen Klopfenstein, Linn County Clerk, for making available the Enumeration books of Linn County, Kansas, and to the couples interviewed for this study.

LITERATURE CITED

- (1) Agan, Tessie.
The house. New York: Lippincott. 1948. 720 p.
- (2) American Public Health Association, Inc.
Committee on the hygiene of housing. Housing an aged population. 1790 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y. 1953. 92 p.
- (3) Anderson, Elinor M.
Existing and preferred housing of aged couples of moderate income in Manhattan, Kansas. Unpublished Master's Thesis, Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas. 1952.
- (4) Breckinridge, Elizabeth, project director.
Community services for older people the Chicago plan. The Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago. Chicago: Wilcox and Follett Company. 1952. 240 p.
- (5) Cowles, May L.
Housing and associated problems of the rural-farm aged population. Unpublished manuscript from Wisconsin Experiment Station. 1955.
- (6) Cowles, May L., and Margaret H. Irwin.
Factors affecting farm housing in the North Central Region. Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station Bul. 499. February, 1953.
- (7) Donahue, Wilma, editor.
Housing the aging. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. 1954. 280 p.
- (8) Donahue, Wilma, and Clark Tibbitts, editors.
Planning the older years. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. 1950. 248 p.
- (9) Federal Security Agency Committee on Aging and Geriatrics.
Fact book on aging. Washington 25, D. C. October, 1952. 62 p.
- (10) Federal Security Agency First National Conference on Aging.
Man and his years. Health Publications Institute, Inc. Raleigh, North Carolina. 1951. 311 p.
- (11) Frank, Lawrence K.
Aging - scope and perspectives. Merrill - Palmer Quarterly. 1:18-22. Fall, 1954.

- (12) Governor's Commission to Study Problems of Aged, Providence. Old age in Rhode Island. 40 Fountain St., Providence, Rhode Island. July, 1953. 143 p.
- (13) Kraus, Hertha. Older persons have special housing needs. Journal of Housing 7:36. January, 1950.
- (14) Linn County Enumeration Books. Linn County, Kansas. 1954.
- (15) Massachusetts State Housing Board. Standards of design housing for the elderly. Boston, Massachusetts. March, 1954. 17 p.
- (16) McGinnis, Esther. Age is meant for living. Journal of Home Economics 42:9-12. 1950.
- (17) Pollak, Otto. Social adjustment in old age. A Research Planning Report. Social Science Research Council Bul. 59. 1948.
- (18) Tibbitts, Clark, editor. Living through the older years. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. 1949. 193 p.
- (19) United States Bureau of the Census. U. S. Census of Housing: 1950. Vol. I, General Characteristics, Part 1: U. S. Summary. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 1953.
- (20) United States Bureau of the Census. U. S. Census of Population: 1950. Vol. II, Characteristics of the Population, Part 1: U. S. Summary. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 1953.
- (21) United States Bureau of the Census. U. S. Census of Population: 1950. Vol. II, Characteristics of the Population, Part 16: Kansas. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 1952.
- (22) Valaoras, Vasilios. Patterns of aging of human population. Social and biological challenge of our aging population. New York: Columbia University Press. 1950. 306 p.
- (23) Wickenden, Elizabeth. The needs of older people and public welfare services to meet them. American Public Welfare Association, Inc., 1313 East Sixteenth Street, Chicago 37, Illinois. 1953. 146 p.

APPENDIX



CHAMPION NO. 55
CLASP 6x9

Map of Linn County, Kansas.

LINN COUNTY, KANSAS.

KANSAS BLUE PRINT CO.
BLUE PRINTING • PHOTOSTAT WORK • OIL MAPS & FORMS
ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS SUPPLIES
141 North Market St.—Wichita, Kansas

GEORGE W. HUFF & CO.
ABSTRACTERS
MOUND CITY, KANSAS

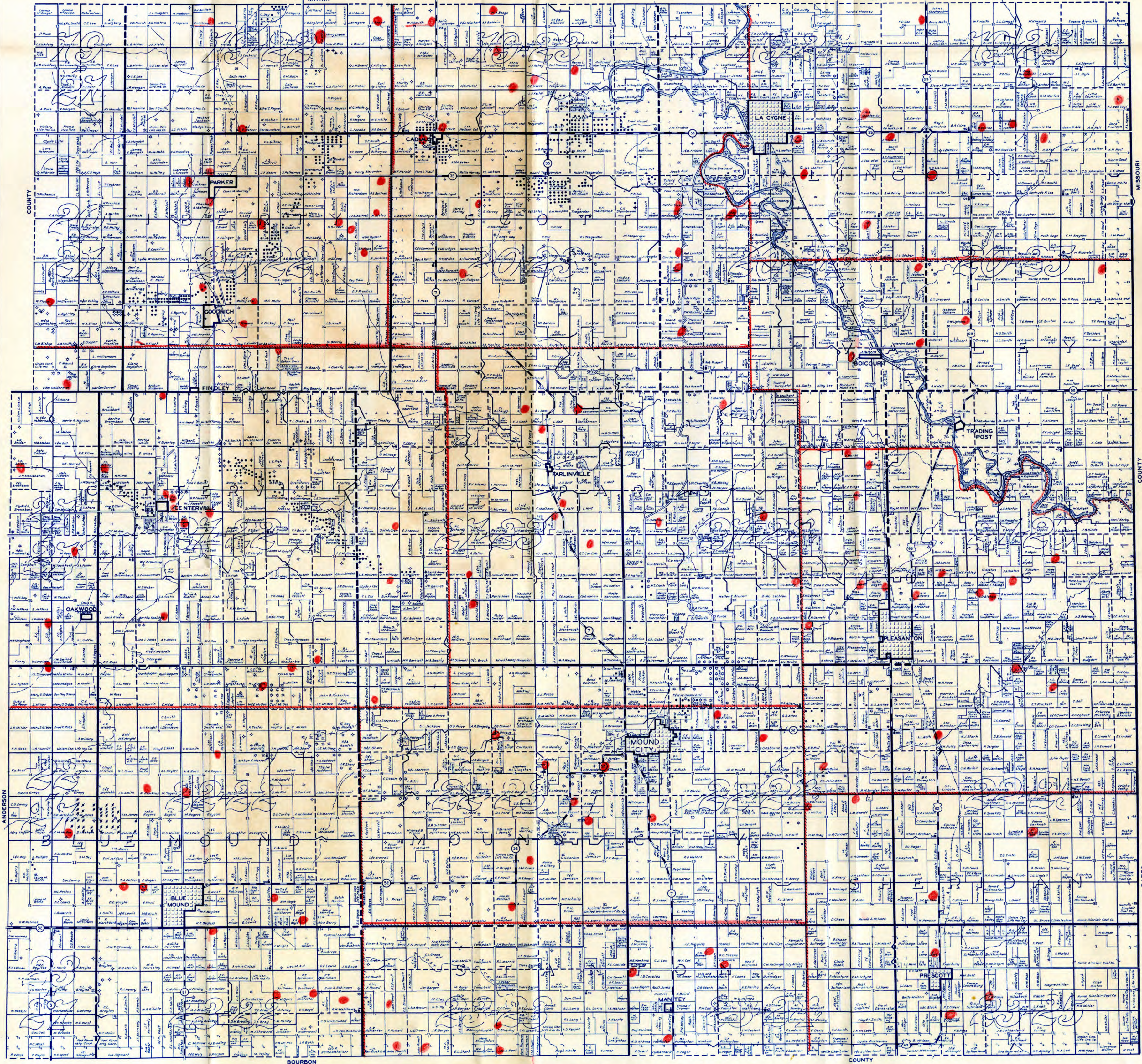
LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|--------------------|
| ○ | LOCATION | — | STATE & FED. ROADS |
| ● | OIL WELL | — | COUNTY ROAD |
| ⊙ | GAS WELL | — | OPEN ROAD |
| ⊖ | DRY | — | NO ROAD |
| ⊕ | COAL MINE | — | RAILROAD |
| ⊘ | SCHOOL | — | CHURCH |

COPYRIGHT 1951
KANSAS BLUE PRINT CO.

MIAMI

COUNTY



BOURBON

COUNTY

KANSAS STATE COLLEGE
 KANSAS EXPERIMENT STATION

Project RRF - 288

Fiscal Year - 1954-1955

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS OF THE
 RURAL-FARM AGED POPULATION OF LINN COUNTY, KANSAS

INTERVIEWER'S REPORT

1. Family Number _____
2. Family Name _____
3. Type of Family
 - A. Couple: _____ Both 65 or older
 _____ One 65 or older
 - B. Aged maintaining independent living
 quarters: _____ One alone
 _____ More than one
 - C. Aged living with others:
 - _____ One or more aged with family
 - _____ One or more aged with others
 - _____ Aged head of the family
4. Address _____
5. Township _____
6. Date of Interview _____
7. Length of Interview _____
8. Field Worker _____

TYPE of Family: _____

Person (s) Interviewed: _____

I. Domicile

A. 1. Living on own farm: Yes _____ *No _____

a. *If no, do you own the house? Yes _____ No _____

2. Number people in home _____

3. Number generations _____

B.	Aged Spouse Other	Age	Sex	Relation-ship	Where Born	Church Preference	Occupation
a.							
	Father						
	Mother						
b.							
	Father						
	Mother						
c.							
	Father						
	Mother						

C. Other members of household (living at home)

1.	Family	Age	Sex	Occupation	No.yrs.in family	State of Health
a.	Husband		XX		XX	
b.	Wife		XX		XX	
c.	Children (19 or more)				XX	
					XX	
					XX	
d.	Children (18 or less)				XX	
					XX	
					XX	
					XX	
e.	Others (who)					

2. Who is head of family? Aged _____ Son _____ Daughter _____ Other _____

II. General Housing Facilities:

A. Living accommodations:	Main Floor						Second Floor			Other	Total
	K	DR	LR	BR	Bath	Other	BR	Bath	Other		
1. House											
2. Apartment											
3. Light house-keeping rooms											
4. Number and type of rooms used by aged											

5. Number of stories? _____ Basement? _____

B. Stairs	Inside			Outside			
	Second floor	Attic	Basement	Front	Side	Back	Cave
1. Number of risers							
2. Height of risers							
3. Width of tread							
4. Winders							
5. Hand rails							
6. Lighted							
7. Condition							

8. How often do you climb them daily? _____

9. Do you find them difficult? Yes _____ No _____

C. Floors:

1. Smooth _____ Uneven _____

2. Bare _____ *Covered _____

a. *If covered, Carpets _____ Linoleum _____ Other _____

3. Are they waxed? Degree _____

D. Porches:	Front	Side	Back	Other
1. Open				
2. Screened				
3. Glassed				

KIII. Do you have (Facilities)

A. Central heating. *Yes _____ **No _____

A. _____

1. *If yes,

a. What kind is it? _____

b. What fuel do you use? _____

c. Is it automatically controlled? Yes _____ No _____

d. Who controls it? _____

e. Is the control within the reach of aged? Yes _____ No _____

2. **If no, what type of space heaters do you have? _____

3. Is the temperature comfortable for all members of family? Yes _____ *No _____

a. *If no, who is not satisfied? _____

b. Why not satisfied? Too hot _____ Too cold _____

B. Air-cooling devices. *Yes _____ No _____

B. _____

1. *If yes, what kind? _____

C. Telephone. Yes _____ No _____

C. _____

D. Radio. Yes _____ No _____

D. _____

E. Television. Yes _____ No _____

E. _____

F. Electric lights. Yes _____ No _____

F. _____

1. Other lighting. _____

G. Running water. *Yes _____ **No _____

G. _____

1. *If yes, Hot _____ Cold _____

2. **If no, other source _____

H. Refrigeration. *Yes _____ No _____

H. _____

1. *If yes, Mechanical _____ Ice _____

IV. Activities.

A. Meal preparation:

1. What type of cooking fuel? Electricity ___ Gas ___ Wood ___ Coal ___ Other ___
2. Do you prepare your own meals? *Yes ___ **No ___
 - a. *If yes, in own kitchen ___ In family kitchen ___
 - b. **If no, who does? _____
3. Who washes the dishes? _____
4. Where do you eat? In kitchen ___ In D.R. ___ Other ___
5. With whom do you eat? _____

B. Company meals:

1. Do you serve company meals? Yes ___ No ___

2. Company meals	Number Served			How many times a:		
	5 or less	6 or more	Other	Week	Month	Year
a. Serve						
b. Prepare						

- d. Do you have help with company meals? Yes ___ No ___ Who _____

C. House work for all aged:

	<u>Inside</u>	<u>Woman</u>	<u>Man</u>	<u>Outside</u>	<u>Woman</u>	<u>Man</u>
Regular:						
Cleaning				Farm work		
Cooking				Chores		
Baking				Lawn		
Washing dishes				Flowers		
Washing				Garden		
Ironing				Walks		
Mending				Repairs:		
Other sewing				Fences		
Seasonal:				Machinery		
House-cleaning				Cars		
Windows				Other		
Screens removed						
Storm windows put on						
Food preservation						
Inside repairs						

D. Quiet activities:

1. Sleeping:

a. In what room(x) do you sleep? _____ What floor? _____

b. If living with others:

Do you share your room? *Yes ___ No ___ *If yes, with whom? _____

2. Bathroom.

a. Where is the bathroom in relation to your sleeping quarters? _____

b. Do you have toilet facilities on the first floor? Yes ___ No ___

c. Flush toilet. Yes ___ **No ___ Would you like one? _____

1) **If no, other: Chemical ___ Outdoor ___ Other ___

d. Bathing facilities. *Type _____

1) What type would you like? Tub ___ Shower ___

2) *If tub or shower, does it have: Grab rail. Yes ___ No ___
Rubber mat. Yds ___ No ___ Bath rug. Yes ___ No ___

3) Bathroom floor waxed or slick? Yes ___ No ___

3. Dressing:

a. Where do you dress and undress? _____ Do you like it? Yes ___ No ___

b. Is your dressing space heated? Yes ___ No ___ Would you like it? Yes ___ No ___

c. If living with others, is your dressing space shared? Yes ___ No ___

4. Storing possessions:

a. Do you have closet and drawer space? Yes ___ No ___

b. Do you share them? Yes ___ No ___

c. Have you space for other possessions? (Keep-sakes, pictures, books, etc.)
Yes ___ No ___

E. Leisure time activities at home. (Includes hobbies, crafts, wood-working, games, etc)

Who	Type of activity	Where done	Facilities provided (table, storage space, work bench)

V. Providing for over-night guests:

- A. Do you have over-night guests? Yes _____ No _____
- B. Relationship _____
- C. How many at a time? _____
- D. How often? _____
- E. Where do they sleep? _____

VI. Improvements desired:

- A. How long have you lived in this house? _____
- B. Did you build this house? *Yes _____ No _____
1. *If yes, when? _____
- C. Would you change the plan of this house if you were building it now?
*Yes _____ No _____
1. *If yes, how?
- a. More rooms _____ Fewer rooms _____
- b. One floor _____ Two floors _____
- c. Other _____
- D. Number and type of rooms preferred by aged.

Main Floor						Second Floor			Other	Total
K	DR	IR	BR	Bath	Other	BR	Bath	Other		

- E. Would you prefer to move to other quarters? *Yes _____ No _____
1. *If yes, in this house? _____ to another house _____
- F. Do you plan to build in the future? *Yes _____ No _____
1. *If yes, what type of house? _____
2. Where? _____

C. Resting during the day:

1. Type of rest:

a. Do you lie down?

Husband or Man	Yes _____	No _____	Time _____	Where _____
Wife or Woman	Yes _____	No _____	Time _____	Where _____
Other	Yes _____	No _____	Time _____	Where _____

b. Do you sit down to rest?

Husband or Man	Yes _____	No _____	Time _____	Where _____
Wife or Woman	Yes _____	No _____	Time _____	Where _____
Other	Yes _____	No _____	Time _____	Where _____

1) If you sit to rest, is it in front of a window?

Husband or Man	Yes _____	No _____
Wife or Woman	Yes _____	No _____
Other	Yes _____	No _____

2. What is the view from your window?

Husband or Man	_____
Wife or Woman	_____
Other	_____

3. Are you satisfied with arrangements for day rest?

Husband or Man	Yes _____	No _____
Wife or Woman	Yes _____	No _____
Other	Yes _____	No _____

IX. Support: All aged:

A. 1. Is aged self-supporting? Entirely _____ Partly _____ Not at all _____

2. Source _____

3. Range of income:

a. \$	0 - \$ 599.	_____
b.	600 - 1499.	_____
c.	1500 - 2999.	_____
d.	3000 - 4999.	_____
e.	5000 - 7499.	_____
f.	7500 - 9999.	_____
g.	10,000 - or over	_____

B. If living with others, does aged pay - Board? _____ Room? _____

X. Retirement Pattern

A. For retired _____ or semi-retired _____ persons:

1. When did you stop your full-time work? _____

2. Why? _____

3. Disposal of farm:

a. Are you renting your farm? *Yes _____ No _____

*If yes, to whom? Son _____ Daughter _____ Other _____

What portion is being rented to others? _____

Type of agreement _____

b. Have you sold all or part of your farm? *Yes _____ No _____

*If yes, to whom? Son _____ Daughter _____ Other _____

What portion is sold? _____

Payment terms _____

c. Other disposition. State: _____

B. For persons not retired _____ and those semi-retired _____.

1. Do you plan to stop work entirely? *Yes _____ No _____

*If yes,

a. When? _____

b. Where will you live after retirement? _____

c. If you move to town, give reason: _____

d. How do you expect to dispose of the farm when you retire?

Sell _____ Rent _____ Other _____

Agreement terms _____

Table 35. Number of stories in the house by income range.

	Range of income							
	Total		\$0-1499		\$1500-4999		\$5000 and over	
Number of stories	No.:	Pct.	No.:	Pct.	No.:	Pct.	No.:	Pct.
One story	24	41.4	15	48.4	8	38.1	1	16.7
Two stories	33	56.9	16	51.6	12	57.1	5	83.3
Three stories	1	1.7	-	--	1	4.8	-	--
Total	58	100.0	31	100.0	21	100.0	6	100.0

Table 36. Number of rooms in house by range of income.

	Range of income							
	Total		\$0-1499		\$1500-4999		\$5000 and over	
Number of rooms	No.:	Pct.	No.:	Pct.	No.:	Pct.	No.:	Pct.
3 rooms	6	10.3	2	6.5	4	19.0	-	--
4 rooms	6	10.3	5	16.1	1	4.9	-	--
5 rooms	14	24.1	9	29.0	3	14.3	2	33.3
6 rooms	8	13.8	3	9.7	4	19.0	1	16.7
7 rooms	13	22.5	8	25.8	5	23.9	-	--
8 rooms	7	12.1	3	9.7	2	9.5	2	33.3
9 rooms	3	5.2	-	--	2	9.5	1	16.7
10 rooms	1	1.7	1	3.2	-	--	-	--
Total	58	100.0	31	100.0	21	100.0	6	100.0

Table 37. Coefficient of density.

Numerical coefficient*	Number	Percent
0.1 - 0.49	46	79.3
0.5 - 0.74	12	20.7
Total	58	100.0

* 1.00 or less - adequate
 1.01 - 1.50 - crowded
 1.51 or more - overcrowded

Table 38. Number of rooms preferred by range of income.

Rooms preferred:	Total		Range of income							
	No.:	Pct.	\$0-1499		\$1500-4999		\$5000 and over			
	No.:	Pct.	No.:	Pct.	No.:	Pct.	No.:	Pct.		
3	6	10.3	3	9.6	3	14.3	-	--		
4	16	27.7	6	19.4	7	33.3	3	50.0		
5	27	46.6	15	48.4	9	42.8	3	50.0		
6	6	10.3	5	16.1	1	4.8	-	--		
7	2	3.4	2	6.5	-	--	-	--		
8	1	1.7	-	--	1	4.8	-	--		
Total	58	100.0	31	100.0	21	100.0	6	100.0		

Table 39. Number of rooms not used by family type and age of head of family.

Number of rooms	Total		Percentage* of family types and age			
	Number	Percent*	Both 65		One 65	
			65-75	:75 and over:	65-74	:75 and over
0	34	58.6	71.4	46.1	52.2	100.0
1	4	6.9	4.8	7.7	8.7	--
2	6	10.4	9.5	15.4	8.7	--
3	9	15.5	4.8	23.1	21.7	--
4	5	8.6	9.5	7.7	8.7	--
Total	58	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Percentages based on number in each group:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75 and over</u>
Both 65	34	21	13
One 65	24	23	1
Total	58	44	14

Table 40. Difficulty with which aged individuals climb stairs.

Difficulty with climbing stairs	Total				Percentage* of men and women			
	65-74		75 and over		Men		Women	
	Number	Percent*	Number	Percent*	65-74	75 and over	65-74	75 and over
Difficulty	34	45.9	10	55.6	45.5	35.7	46.7	25.0
Not difficult	36	48.6	8	44.4	47.7	64.3	50.0	75.0
No stairs to be climbed inside or outside	3	4.1	-	--	4.5	--	3.3	--
Do not climb stairs	1	1.4	-	--	2.3	--	--	--
Total	74	100.0	18	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Percentages based on number in each group:

	Total	65-74	75 and over
Men	58	44	14
Women	34	30	4
Total	92	74	18

Table 41. Features of inside stairs by family type.

Inside stairs	: Total		: Family type			
	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent
			Both 65		One 65	
Number of risers:						
10 or less	6	14.6	5	20.0	1	7.7
11 - 13	16	39.0	10	40.0	6	46.2
14 or more	16	39.0	10	40.0	6	46.1
Height of risers:						
6 - 7 inches	9	22.0	6	24.0	3	23.1
7 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 8 inches	22	56.1	14	60.0	8	61.5
8 $\frac{1}{2}$ or more inches	7	17.1	5	20.0	2	15.4
Width of tread:						
8 or less inches	7	17.1	4	16.0	3	23.1
9 inches	11	26.8	9	36.0	2	15.4
10 inches	10	24.4	6	24.0	4	30.8
11 or more inches	10	24.4	6	24.0	4	30.8
No information*	3	7.3				
Total having inside stairs	41	100.0	25	100.0	13	100.0

* Three families gave no information about inside stairs.

Table 42. Features of outside stairs by family type.

Outside stairs	: Total		: Both 65		: One 65	
	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent
Number of risers:						
1	8	14.5	4	12.1	4	18.2
2	27	49.1	16	48.5	11	50.0
3	17	30.9	11	33.3	6	27.3
4 - 6	3	5.5	2	6.1	1	4.5
7 or more	1	1.8	-	--	1	4.5
Height of risers:						
5 inches or less	7	12.7	6	18.2	1	4.5
6 inches	18	32.7	11	33.3	7	31.8
7 inches	9	16.4	2	6.1	7	31.8
8 inches	17	32.7	11	33.3	6	27.3
8½ inches or more	3	5.5	1	3.0	2	9.1
No information	2	3.6	2	6.1	-	--
Width of tread:						
8 - 9 inches	3	3.6	2	6.1	1	4.5
10 - 11 inches	4	7.3	4	12.1	-	--
12 inches or more	46	83.6	25	75.8	21	95.5
No information	3	3.6	2	9.1	1	--
Total having outside stairs	56	100.0	33	100.0	23	100.0

Table 43. Length of time in house by income range.

Length of time	: Total		: Range of income					
	: No.:	: Pct.	: No.:	: Pct.	: No.:	: Pct.	: No.:	: Pct.
			: \$0-1499	: \$1500-4999	: \$5000 and over			
20 years or more	30	51.7	16	51.6	10	47.4	4	66.6
10 - 19 years	8	13.8	4	12.9	4	19.0	-	--
6 - 9 years	6	10.4	4	12.9	1	4.8	1	16.7
4 - 5 years	4	6.9	2	6.5	2	9.5	-	--
2 - 3 years	5	8.6	3	9.7	2	9.5	-	--
1 year or less	5	8.6	2	6.4	2	9.5	1	16.7
Total	58	100.0	31	100.0	21	100.0	6	100.0

Table 44. Facilities and their preference by age of head of family.

Facilities	Percentage* of couples					
	65-74			75 and over		
	Have	Do not have		Have	Do not have	
		Want	:Do not want:		Want	:Do not want
Refrigeration	97.7	2.3	--	100.0	--	--
Radio	97.7	--	2.3	92.9	7.1	--
Electricity	88.6	11.4	--	100.0	--	--
Telephone	86.4	11.3	2.3	100.0	--	--
Air-cooling devices	75.0	22.7	2.3	71.4	14.3	14.3
Running water	47.7	50.0	2.3	35.7	57.2	7.1
Flush toilet	45.5	47.7	6.8	28.5	57.2	14.3
Tub or shower	43.2**	52.3***	4.5	28.5**	64.4***	7.1
Television	40.9	27.3	31.8	14.3	14.3	71.4
Central heating	18.2	50.0	31.8	14.3	42.9	42.8

* Percentages based on the number in each group: 64-75, 44; 75 and over, 14.

** Among those who had tub or shower, 16 had tube and 7 had showers. Among those with tubs, 4 preferred a shower.

*** Among those who did not have a tub or shower but wanted one, 20 wanted a tub and 12 wanted a shower.

Table 45. Facilities and their preference by family income.

Facilities	Percentage* of couples								
	\$ 0 - 1499			\$1500 - 4999			\$5000 and over		
	Have	Do not have	Do not want	Have	Do not have	Do not want	Have	Do not have	Do not want
	: Want	: want	:	: Want	: want	:	: Want	: want	:
Refrigeration	100.0	--	--	100.0	--	--	83.3	16.7	--
Radio	96.8	--	3.2	100.0	--	--	83.3	16.7	--
Electricity	97.1	12.9	--	95.2	4.8	--	100.0	--	--
Telephone	87.1	9.7	3.2	95.2	4.8	--	83.3	16.7	--
Air-cooling devices	29.0	64.5	6.5	33.3	61.9	4.8	66.7	33.3	--
Running water	32.2	61.3	6.5	57.1	42.9	--	66.7	33.3	--
Flush toilet	29.1	54.8	16.1	57.1	42.9	--	50.0	50.0	--
Tub or shower	25.8**	64.5***	9.7	57.1**	42.9***	--	50.0**	50.0***	--
Television	35.5	22.6	41.9	38.1	19.0	42.9	33.3	33.3	33.3
Central heating	9.7	48.4	41.9	28.6	38.1	33.3	16.7	83.3	--

* Percentages based on the number in each group: \$ 0 - 1499, 31
 \$1500 - 4999, 21
 \$5000 and over, 6

** See Table 44.

*** See Table 44.



Table 46. Duration and place of rest.

Rest	: Total :		: 65-74 :		: 75 and over	
	: Number:	: Percent:	: Number:	: Percent:	: Number:	: Percent:
Duration:*						
No rest	5	5.4	3	5.2	2	5.9
One hour or less	14	15.2	11	19.0	3	8.8
17 percent of the day	26	28.3	14	24.1	12	35.3
25 percent of the day	19	20.7	10	17.2	9	26.5
33 percent of the day	13	14.1	9	15.5	4	11.8
50 percent of the day	10	10.9	8	13.8	2	5.9
75 percent of the day	1	1.1	-	--	1	2.9
76 percent of the day or more	4	4.3	3	5.2	1	2.9
Total	92	100.0	58	100.0	34	100.0
Place for lying:						
Living room	57	62.0	38	65.5	19	55.9
Dining room	28	30.4	16	27.6	12	35.3
Bedroom	21	22.8	12	20.7	9	26.5
Kitchen	2	2.2	1	1.7	1	2.9
Porch	1	1.1	1	1.7	-	--
Basement	1	1.1	1	1.7	-	--
Do not lie down during the day	5	5.4	3	5.2	2	5.9
Place for sitting:						
Living room	59	64.1	40	69.0	19	55.9
Dining room	41	44.6	25	43.1	16	47.1
Kitchen	7	20.6	3	5.4	4	11.8
Bedroom	2	2.2	1	1.7	1	2.9
Den	2	2.2	1	1.7	1	2.9
Do not sit during the day.	5	5.4	2	3.4	3	8.8

* Percentages based on a 12-hour waking day.

Table 47. Possession and operation of an automobile by age of head of family.

Item	: Total :		: 65-74 :		: 75 and over :	
	:Number:	:Percent	:Number:	:Percent	:Number:	:Percent
Number owned:						
None	4	6.9	3	6.8	1	7.1
1 car	38	65.5	27	61.4	11	78.6
2 cars	15	25.9	13	29.5	2	14.3
No information	1	1.7	1	2.3	-	--
Total	58	100.0	44	100.0	14	100.0
Persons driving:						
No one	4	6.9	3	6.8	1	7.1
Both	22	37.9	20	45.5	2	14.3
Man	30	51.7	21	47.7	9	64.3
Woman	2	3.5	-	--	2	14.3
Total	58	100.0	44	100.0	14	100.0

EXISTING AND PREFERRED HOUSING OF RURAL-FARM
AGED COUPLES IN LINN COUNTY, KANSAS

by

JOAN ELLEN CARROLL

B. S., Hunter College
of the City of New York, 1954

AN ABSTRACT OF A THESIS

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Household Economics

KANSAS STATE COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE

1955

Provision for adequate housing is one of the foremost problems in an aging population. Since many rural-farm people remain on their farms after reaching the age of 65 it seemed desirable to investigate their housing needs. Such investigations were made at the Wisconsin and Kansas Experiment stations in which low and high income counties were studied. The purpose of this thesis was to study housing needs and preferences of rural-farm couples over the age of 65 years residing in Linn County. Linn County represented the low income county in Kansas. Data were collected from 58 couples.

Because rural-farm dwellings are often occupied by families through all phases of the life cycle the houses should be easily adapted to meet the needs of the families throughout the cycle. Thus, if satisfactory housing were provided, aged couples could maintain their homes for a relatively long period. Life on the farm was preferred to any other living arrangement by 81 percent of the couples because they were reluctant to face the problem of where to live in the event that remaining on the farm was no longer feasible. More than 85 percent of them were entirely self-supporting, and a similar number owned their farms. More than 80 percent of the men were still active in farm work, and almost 40 percent operated their farms alone or with a married son or daughter.

According to needs and preferences expressed by the couples interviewed a satisfactory dwelling for this group could apparently be one-story, composed of four or five rooms chosen from a kitchen, living room, bathroom, one or two bedrooms, and a dining

room. Comfort features and facilities should include running water, a complete bathroom, electricity, refrigeration, a telephone, and a radio, because over 95 percent of the couples studied had or desired these conveniences. Television was possessed or desired by about 60 percent. Central heating was not necessary for the maintenance of comfortable indoor temperatures in this latitude, however, air circulating and cooling devices were highly prized.

Many changes in regard to housing features were desired as only two houses were satisfactory as they were. Over three-fourths wanted more storage space in terms of closets or built-ins. About 70 percent were dissatisfied with the number of rooms. Other changes desired were: additions of a bathroom and a utility room, rearrangement of floor plans, larger rooms, elimination of door sills and other two-level arrangements, improvement or addition of a porch, better construction, and provision for more sun and fresh air in the house.

The number and kind of activities done in a house are criteria of the kind and amount of space needed. The wives in this study did their own housework and over two-thirds of the husbands helped them. Space for two to work and eat in the kitchen was needed since the husbands were often involved in meal preparations and service and 93 percent of the couples ate in the kitchen.

All but one of the couples had guests to meals with approximately three-fifths serving six or more persons, and the others serving five or less guests. Over 96 percent of the couples had overnight guests with nearly three-fifths having them one or more

times monthly. Approximately 70 percent had guest bedrooms and over a fourth opened unused upstairs rooms for their guests.

Leisure activities in the home included reading, listening to the radio, watching television, doing handicrafts and needlework, and resting. In a rural-farm situation, activities away from the home require some means of private transportation, and over 90 percent of these couples had at least one car. Their away-from-home activities included visiting, travel, going to town, shopping, activities involving church, clubs, and other organizations.

