

HOME FURNISHINGS OF A SELECTED GROUP OF WOMEN IN HOME  
DEMONSTRATION UNITS IN KANSAS IN 1952

by

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## INTRODUCTION

A home furnishings program for families reached by the Extension Service, if it is to be completely successful, must be designed to meet the needs of the people. Families should realize that the home as a whole must be considered, and not furniture or furnishings alone. Management and judgement in use of the basic art principles are essential in program planning. A plan which includes the appreciation of art principles and the achievement of skills necessary to do a creditable piece of work, should result in a well rounded program.

Home demonstration agents in almost every county provide a home economist within telephone distance of any family. The greatest contribution of these educators is to help people make satisfying decisions, whether it be that of refinishing a piece of furniture or buying a new piece, or painting or papering. The educator's real challenge usually can be found in the areas of aid for the low-income bracket families providing the highest possible satisfactions within the lowest means; also in assistance to the less well informed, so that their resources are used to the greatest advantage.

Changes in improvement of homes and facilities mark the progress of time. To aid homemakers in keeping abreast of the times, these sources carry information pertaining to all phases of home living. With careful application of the principles of art, magazine articles can be converted into ideas for interior decoration plans. Well trained salespeople, improved labeling and better information supplied by such widespread advertising agencies as magazines, newspapers, radio and television, with the help of the Home Demonstration Agent make a valuable contribution to a

more satisfying expenditure of the homemaker's money.

General world conditions have affected the economy of the nation as a whole and greatly influenced the continued improvement of housing and furnishings. It is important to be alert to developing situations and to keep abreast of progress.

A growing awareness for the need of improving housing has been evidenced by the amount of material available on that subject. This study was made to secure up to date information about furnishings used in Kansas homes, which could be applied in the development of a home furnishings program.

#### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Numerous housing studies have been made, but relatively few in the field of home furnishings. Hartel of Iowa developed a thesis entitled, "Demonstrations to Build the Homemakers Confidence in Selection of Color, Furnishings and Accessories for her Home", and Vann of Oklahoma has written on the subject of "Home Decorating Problems of the Homemaker". Martens (3) and Neal (4) both studied home furnishings as found in selected homes in Kansas in 1940.

Martens (3) studied the furnishings of 290 rural Kansas families and reported that money available for home furnishings was limited to necessities, but that only 20 percent of the families budgeted their funds. Radios headed the list of purchases made within the last three years before the study was made. Wallpaper was the most frequently used wall finish and the median price per single roll for living room was 15 cents. Patterned rugs were used in 47.59 percent of the living rooms and patterned linoleums in 48.28 percent of the dining rooms. Much of the furniture had been purchased second hand. Accessories were limited; drab colors were commonly used.

Neal (4) interviewed 70 Kansas families and her findings were very much like Martens. There was nothing in her study to contradict Martens' data.

Raper (5) did a study on population trends and on uses of electricity and radios. His report showed 78 percent of rural families having electricity in 1950. Flagg and Longmore (2) reported the same number with an observation that the proportion of farms electrified had increased at an average rate of 4.5 percentage points per year since 1940 and 6 percentage points since 1945.

Rokahr (6) reported from the 1950 United States Census that the number of households had increased 12 times since 1860, but the population had increased only 6 times, which accounted for the popularity of the small house. Census figures also showed that 32 percent of girls between the ages of 18 and 19 were married, which helped account for the relatively few girls left in the parental homes.

Rokahr (6) also reported an increase in casual living as indicated by the extensive use of the ranch type house, bigger windows, simpler furniture and more plants in the houses. All of these things were brought to the attention of the writer during the preparation of the data for this report, and especially the lack of difference in standards of levels of living between farm and city families when judged on the bases of electricity, radios, running water and television.

The author of the Rural Family Living Chart (7) makes an interesting observation in this area.

The installation of running water in farmhouses is repeating the history of farm electricity. At the present time, installation of running water is about 5 years behind electrification. The percentage of farm houses with running water in 1950 was about the same as the percentage of farms with electricity in 1945.

It seemed unfortunate that data on home furnishings compiled by Correll (1) included equipment so that it could not be used as a basis of comparison; however, her data on finances was pertinent, as she showed 22 percent of the families operating at a loss in 1952. In her observations she stated that there was no relationship between income and expenditures for family living, which seemed very evident in the lack of planning by the Martens study (3) and the data on this subject collected by the author.

#### METHOD OF PROCEDURE

The data for this study were secured by means of questionnaires checked by home furnishing leaders from Extension Units or 4-H Clubs in the state of Kansas. Cooperation for the distribution of the questionnaires was secured from the Home Demonstration Agents or County Agents. The counties selected were those on the winter schedule of the Home Furnishings Specialist. Those counties represented a good geographical cross section of the state.

Three-hundred forty-nine questionnaires were checked from the following counties: Brown 24, Comanche 25, Cowley 40, Edwards 25, Marshall 25, Miami 24, Montgomery 28, Osborne 18, Pratt 22, Reno 25, Rice 16, Sheridan 16, Sherman 30, and Thomas 34.

These data were tabulated, analyzed and evaluated, and comparisons made with the study made by Martens in 1940, (3).

#### FINDINGS

All of the questionnaires used in this survey were answered by home furnishing leaders in fourteen Kansas counties. Two-hundred fifty-eight of that number or 85.1 percent lived on farms and 91 or 14.9 percent were

non-farm residents.

In Martens 1940 study (3), 91 percent of the families lived on farms. This decline in farm population was in accordance with the general trend in the United States. According to Raper (5), the population in the open country showed a marked decline from 57 percent of the total population in 1890 to 35 percent in 1950.

Table 1. Comparison of farm and non-farm families.

	1952		1940		1952-1940
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Farm	258	85.1	264	91.03	5.93
Non-farm	91	14.9	26	8.97	-5.93

Homes were owned by 69.9 percent of the families. This represents a decline in ownership of 9.5 percent as compared with the Marten study in 1940 (3).

Table 2. Comparison of home ownership 1952 with 1940.

	1952	1940	1940*	1952-1940
Number of families studied	349	290	290	59
Percent of ownership	69.9	77.9		- 9.5
Percent of non-ownership	30.1	20		9.5
No reply	0	2.1		

\*The table has been corrected for the "No reply", assuming that the "No reply" was in the same ratio as replies. All tables were corrected by this method.

The writer believes home ownership should have a tendency to improve buymanship habits, because of the advisability of developing a long time plan. Home furnishings purchased for a particular room, that will be a part of the family living area for years to come, should have a stabilizing influence on the type of selection. People, who move about rather regularly, buy differently since the floor space and decoration plan of each house present a new set of problems, both in a financial and decorative way. Renters hesitate to improve floors, woodwork or storage space when neither the money nor time and energy spent may ever become a part of their next home. However, it is important to the welfare of the family that its living quarters be as comfortable and pleasant as possible. Quick, easy and inexpensive home improvement methods should be developed for this group of homemakers.

The average number of persons living in homes was 3.6 which was .6 person under Martens' study (3). The 1952 study included outside persons living in the homes. Table 3 shows that there were 24 families without husbands. A few of the homes were small apartments occupied by one woman with just enough space to take care of her own needs.

There were only 59 persons aside from husbands, homemakers, sons and daughters among the 349 families. That number included a few wives and children of men in military service, boarders, and hired men. This would lead to the belief that these families were not generally faced with the problem of caring for the aged.

Military service, early marriages, colleges and high wages may account for the relatively few older boys and girls remaining in the home. Table 4 shows that 80.2 percent of the children are 15 or under which accounts for

Table 3. Facts concerning families studied.

	1952	:	1940
Number of Families	349		290
Husbands	325		280
Homemakers	349		286
Boys	275		316
Girls	255		261
Others	59		48
Mean number of persons	3.6		4.2

Table 4. Comparison of ages of children.

		1952			:	1940		
		Number:	Percent:	Mean per	:	Number:	Percent:	Average
		:	:	family	:	:	:	per family
Age 0-15								
Boys	200							
Girls	225							
Total	425	82.2	1.20			370	61.3	1.28
Age 16-20								
Boys	67							
Girls	25							
Total	92	17.3	0.48			168	27.7	0.58
Age 21 or older								
Boys	8							
Girls	5							
Total	13	2.5	0.19			67	11.0	0.23

20 percent more children in that age level than Martens' 1940 study (3). Relatively few older youth were in the parental home.

This is a progressive trend and long time housing plans need to give it consideration. Most boys and girls past 15 will seemingly need only short time housing.

Rokahr (6) states that 32 percent of girls between ages 18 and 19 are married. Boys marry somewhat later than girls which may help to account for the fact that there were 75 boys and 25 girls over 15 in the homes. There is little opportunity for girls to earn a living in a small town or on a farm but boys are essential, especially where farm operations are on a large scale as they often are in Kansas.

In the 349 homes studied in 1952, housing was adequate, averaging 6.3 rooms per family. Among these homes, 353 living rooms were reported (Table 5), some of which were living and dining combinations. Two-hundred twenty four or 64 percent of the families reported having a separate dining room and a few reported kitchen-dining areas or a dining nook. Sixty-nine and three-tenths percent of the families had one or more halls and there was an average of 2.7 bedrooms and 2.8 closets which was high since the family membership averaged 3.6 persons per house. The 1940 study (3) showed an average of 2.9 bedrooms and 2.6 closets, but the average family membership was 4.2 persons per home.

One of the greatest improvements noted was in the addition of the modern bath. Seventy nine percent of the families studied had one or more modern bathrooms and 9 percent had everything except the water or septic tank. The 1940 study reported 27 percent of the families with modern baths and the Rokahr address (6) states that 75 percent of all homes in the United

Table 5. Comparison of total rooms in house.

Rooms	1952		1940	
	:	Mean	:	Mean
	: Number	: per house	: Number	: per house
Hallway	242	0.70	164	0.57
Living room	353	1.01	271	0.93
Dining room	224	0.64	215	0.74
Bedroom	950	2.70	668	2.98
Breakfast nook	40	0.11	23	0.08
Kitchen	350	1.01	274	0.94
Closets	982	2.81	766	2.64
Bath (modern)	277	0.79	77	0.27
Bath (not modern)	32	0.09	51	0.18
Washroom	55	0.16	65	0.22
Storeroom	98	0.28	136	0.47
Utility	100	0.28	-	-
Finished basement	110	0.29	104	0.36
Finished attic	15	0.03	98	0.34
Recreation room	26	0.07	-	-
Other	21	0.06	22	0.08
Average number of rooms		6.30		-

States and 28 percent of rural farm homes have flush toilets. All of Kansas urban homes in the 1952 study and 72 percent of the rural homes had modern baths.

Twenty eight percent of the homes had utility rooms with an additional 16 percent having wash rooms. Only 28 percent of the families had finished basements as compared to 36 percent in 1940, which showed the modern building trend.

Twenty eight families built new homes during the past five years as compared with no new homes in the Martens study (3). One hundred sixty four families remodeled their homes. Therefore, it is assumed that 55 percent of the families had improved their living quarters as indicated in Table 6.

Table 6. Improved condition of homes.

	Number	:	Percent
New homes	28		8.0
Remodeled homes	164		47.0
Total improved homes	192		55.0

A comparison with the Marten's study (3) revealed that family recreation had changed very little. Radio held first place in the 1952 study and second place in 1940, with silent reading in second place in 1952 and in first place in 1940. Handicraft held third place in both studies. The study also showed that in 1952 more people played cards and enjoyed a hobby, than those in the 1940 group. Checkers, monopoly, table tennis

and caroms were the most popular games. It was noted that crossword puzzles were not mentioned by the 1952 group although in the Marten study (3) it was a popular form of recreation.

Table 7. Comparison of family recreation.

Item	1952			:	1940		
	Number	Percent	Rating		Number	Percent	Rating
Radio programs	310	88.8	1		230	79.3	2
Reading silently	268	76.8	2		249	85.9	1
Handicraft	265	75.9	3		220	75.9	3
Hobbies	243	69.6	4		101	34.8	7
Cards	234	67.0	5		168	57.9	5
Indoor games	163	46.7	6		186	64.1	4
Reading aloud	130	37.3	7		107	36.9	6
Outdoor games	130	37.3	8		88	30.3	8
Family singing	86	24.9	9		79	27.2	9
Other	23	6.6	10		27	9.3	10
None	17	4.6	11		1	0.3	11

Crocheting was the number one handicraft, but knitting was not mentioned, whereas it rated high in the Marten's study (3). It was gratifying to note that a few families listed home workshops where the families worked together building furniture and toys.

Hobbies were varied but the collecting of objects was most common. Several persons listed ceramics, water color painting, oil painting, reading, sewing, square dancing, music and nature study as a hobby.

More families played outdoor games in 1950 than in 1940. Basketball, horseshoe, and tennis were listed most often but horseback riding, roller skating and golf appeared on some check sheets.

The most popular recreation provided for guests as indicated in Table 8 was the serving of meals. It had become even more important as indicated by the 92.8 percent of families reporting in 1952 as compared with 87.6 percent in 1940.

Table 8. Comparison of recreation for guests.

Item	1952			1940		
	Number	Percent	Rating	Number	Percent	Rating
Serve meals	324	92.8	1	254	87.6	1
Conversation	300	85.7	2	248	85.5	2
Cards	265	75.8	3	176	60.7	3
Indoor games	81	23.5	4	132	45.5	5
Outdoor games	55	15.8	5	102	37.2	6
Radio	40	11.5	6	164	56.6	4
Television	28	8.0	7	-	-	-
Dancing	27	7.7	8	23	7.9	8
Other	-	-	-	27	9.3	7

The one drastic change in the field of entertainment was the drop in popularity of the radio as a means of entertainment for guests, from 56.6 percent in 1940 to 11.5 percent in 1952.

Conversation rated second in both studies. To facilitate ease in conversation, viewing television, and convenience in serving meals

Kansas families need help in furniture arrangement.

All of the women in the 1952 study belonged to one or more clubs, which necessitated a certain amount of entertaining. Forty percent of the families found it necessary to borrow chairs when entertaining the members of their Extension Units, but only 22 percent borrowed dishes and 17.7 percent silver. Table 9 indicated that most of the families were well supplied with everything except extra chairs.

Table 9. Borrowing for entertainment purposes, 1952.

	Number	:	Percent
Chairs	142		40.7
Dishes	77		22.0
Silver	62		17.7
Linen	7		2.0

The living room was the favorite study area among the school children in the 1952 study. A discrepancy in the 1940 and 1952 figures was noted in Table 8. Marten (3) used all families studied as the base for figuring the percentages while the 1952 study based the percentages on the number of families reporting children studying in the home, which was 170. Since most families reported children studying in more than one area, these percentages total to more than 100 percent.

It is believed that more families need to be encouraged to provide the growing child with a desk of his own that will fit his growing body and aid in building good posture habits as well as providing adequate storage space for school supplies. A pleasant, comfortable study area is conducive

Table 10. Comparison of study areas for children.

Item	1952			1940		
	Number	Percent	Rating	Number	Percent	Rating
Living room	104	61.2	1	43	14.8	2
Dining table	101	59.4	2	122	42.1	1
Kitchen table	66	38.8	3	41	14.1	3
Family business desk	49	28.8	4	24	8.3	6
Own desk	38	21.2	5	28	9.7	4
Other	7	4.1	6	25	8.6	5

to good study habits.

Table 11 shows that fewer families in 1952 were using their dining rooms as living rooms, than Martens' 1940 group (3). Marten reported 58.28 percent of the families using the dining room as a living room, giving as the main reasons lack of sufficient lamps and poor heating facilities.

The 1952 study found only 15.42 percent of the families using the dining room for living purposes which is 42.86 percent under the 1940 study. Most of the families again reported a lack of heat, but no one mentioned a shortage of lamps. Table 29 giving statistics on lighting, showed the change over from kerosene to electricity which accounted for this difference.

Most of the families used their living room throughout the year (Table 12). Some families reported that their living rooms were too hard to heat, but others enjoyed living in their dens or dining rooms. However, only 6.88 percent of the families reported not using their living room all of the time compared with 22.41 percent in the Martens (3) study. It is concluded that the new and remodeled homes were responsible for this change.

Table 11. Dining room used as living room.

	: 1952 :		: 1940 :			
	:		: Corrected:			1952-
	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Percent	1940
Yes	54	15.48	143	169	58.27	-42.79
No	295	84.52	102	121	41.73	
No reply	0		45			

Table 12. Uses of living room throughout year.

	: 1952 :		: 1940 :			
	:		: Corrected:			1952-
	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Percent	1940
Yes	325	93.12	199	125	77.59	15.53
No	24	6.88	57	65	22.41	
No reply	0		34			

Table 13 shows that there had been little or no change in the rest habits of the homemakers in the compared groups. Each group reported about 79 percent using the living room for rest during the day.

Table 13. Living room used for rest during day.

	: 1952 :		: 1940 :			
	:		: Corrected:			1952-
	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Percent	1940
Yes	277	79.37	201	229	78.96	.41
No	72	20.63	53	61	21.04	
Not reported	0		36			

During 1952, Kansas incomes were high, but uncertain. Table 14 shows that only 5.44 percent of the families planned ahead for home furnishings expenditures. They gave as their reasons for not planning ahead, the uncertainty of crops and cattle prices. In the Marten study (3) 9.66 percent of the families indicated that they planned ahead. Their income, however, was low and also uncertain.

Table 14. Comparison of furniture expenditures budgeted ahead.

	: 1952 :		: 1940 :			
	:	:	:	:Corrected:	:	: 1952-
	: Number:	Percent:	Number:	Number	:Percent	: 1940
Yes	19	5.44	25	28	9.66	-4.22
No	330	94.56	233	262	90.34	
No reply	0		32			

Only 16 families, according to Table 15, indicated how much money they budgeted for home furnishings, the highest amount being \$500 and the smallest \$10, with a mean of \$181.25. The Martens study (3) covered 7 families with a mean of \$32.14 in 1940.

According to Table 16, 41 percent of the 1952 families had planned ahead for their home furnishings, in comparison with 29 percent in the 1940 study (3). This indicated a healthy trend because planning for home furnishings needs to include more than just money. Color, style, size and suitability, to mention a few items should enter into the planning. Hasty selections with little thought back of the purchase might result in unsatisfactory groupings of furnishings, involving a waste of time, energy, money and satisfactions.

Table 15. Dollars budgeted ahead for home furnishings, 1952, (16 families).

Dollars	Frequency	Dollars	Frequency
500-549	2	200-249	
450-499		150-199	3
400-449		100-149	1
350-399		50-99	4
300-349	3	0-49	2
250-299	1	Mean \$181.25	

Table 16. Comparison of plans for purchases made 3 years ahead.

	1952		1940		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	1952-1940
Yes	143	40.98	84	28.97	11.10
No	181	51.89	170	58.62	- 6.73
No reply	25	7.13	36	12.41	- 4.28

Estimated amounts of expenditures were reported by 261 (Table 17) families ranging in amounts from \$10 to \$300 with a median of \$84.65. In the Martens study (3) 130 families reported estimated amounts between \$1 and \$75 with a median of \$10.36. Neal (4) in 1940, reported a range of from \$10 to \$100 spent by 70 Kansas families. No comparison could be made with the Kansas Farm Management families study (2) because the item on home furnishings included equipment. The Rokahr (6) study allows \$231

Table 17. Comparison of estimated amount spent for furnishings.

:No. Families :			:No. Families :			:No. Families :		
Dollars :1952 : 1940 :			Dollars :1952 : 1940 :			Dollars :1952 : 1940 :		
749-800	2	-	351-400	3	-	51-75	11	9
701-750	1	-	301-350	1	-	26-50	61	15
651-700	0	-	251-300	13	-	21-25	15	17
601-650	0	-	201-250	8	-	16-20	6	11
551-600	2	-	151-200	31	-	11-15	6	12
501-550	0	-	126-150	18	-	6-10	11	36
451-500	11	-	101-125	4	-	0- 5	-	30
401-450	1	-	76-100	56	-			
Total families			1952			1940		
			261			130		
Median in dollars			84.65			10.36		

to include home furnishings and equipment so it is not feasible to make a comparison as to how the Kansas families rate.

Table 18. Comparison of furniture stores patronized.

	: 1952 :		: 1940 :		: 1952-1940 :
	: Number:	Percent	: Number:	Percent	
Local stores	281	80.51	183	63.10	12.41
Nearby city	191	54.72	108	37.24	17.48
Mail order house	92	26.33	57	19.65	6.68

Table 18 shows that 80.51 percent of the home makers in the 1952 study patronized their local market in comparison with 63.10 percent by the home makers in the Martens study (3). More 1952 families also patronized nearby city markets and used the mail order catalog.

It is believed that the increase in catalog use was due to the study including the far western counties where local markets and cities are not easily reached. Comanche County reported 14 of its 17 families using the mail order catalog.

Table 19. Comparison of amounts spent for wallpaper.

Dollars	: <u>Living room</u>		: <u>Dining room</u>		: <u>Bedroom</u>		: <u>Kitchen</u>	
	: 1952	: 1940	: 1952	: 1940	: 1952	: 1940	: 1952	: 1940
151-175	12	-	3	-	4	-	4	-
126-150	11	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
101-125	10	-	5	-	1	-	4	-
96-100	24	-	6	-	20	-	0	-
91- 95	0	-	18	-	0	-	12	-
86-90	8	-	6	-	4	-	6	-
81-85	6	-	3	-	3	-	1	-
78-80	4	-	3	-	10	-	5	-
71-75	10	-	8	-	11	-	9	-
66-70	4	-	3	-	3	-	1	-
61-65	2	-	0	-	2	-	3	-
56-60	10	-	10	-	13	-	7	-
51-55	2	-	2	-	1	-	2	-
46-50	33	-	15	-	24	-	22	-
41-45	10	-	4	-	6	-	4	-
36-40	16	-	16	-	15	-	17	-
31-35	6	-	6	-	16	-	16	-
26-30	3	-	2	-	8	-	14	-
21-25	1	-	4	-	5	-	6	-
16-20	1	-	1	-	5	-	6	-
11-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6-10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0- 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	174	-	116	-	149	-	140	-
Total in percent	49.85	56.16	33.24	45.83	42.69	48.96	40.11	48.59
Median in dollars	69¢	15¢	59¢	14¢	54¢	12¢	.469¢	10¢

About half of the families reported the use of wallpaper in one or more rooms which was about what Martens found in 1940 (3). The 1952 group paid about four times as much per roll as the 1940 group, (Table 19). The highest price paid by any family in 1940 was \$0.50 but in 1952 we find 12 families paying more than \$1.75 per single roll for living room paper. The largest number reporting the same cost was the 33 families in the 46-50 bracket. In 1940 the largest number bought in the 11-15 cent bracket.

More families used light than dark background colors in their wall paper. Large patterns were more popular than small ones in the living and dining rooms. Striped paper was more popular than plain except in the dining room.

Combinations of different papers and paints were used in 20 percent of the living rooms, in 15 percent of the kitchens, 14 percent of the bedrooms and 12 percent of the dining rooms.

Home makers were making an effort to introduce something different and interesting into their interior decoration plans. In view of the many large figures, more information on the effect of design on walls would help the home maker obtain more pleasing results.

Wallpaper was the most frequently used finish for walls in all of the rooms in the house (Table 21), as it was in the Martens study (3). However, the 1952 study was slightly under the Martens study in each case, and oil and water base paint had increased in importance. A few families were using rubber base paints in all rooms. Wall board remained relatively unimportant as a wall finish.

An extension home furnishings program needs to provide adequate information upon the merits of the various types of wall finishes, as to their

Table 20. Types of wallpaper (in percent) - 1952.

	Living	Dining	Bedrooms	Kitchen
Light background	44.41	28.94	39.82	31.80
Dark background	10.32	7.74	5.44	2.00
Large pattern	21.51	16.04	11.17	7.16
Small pattern	11.75	10.89	34.69	20.66
Stripes	7.16	4.30	4.30	2.58
Plain	6.59	5.16	2.00	0.28
Combinations	20.06	11.73	14.89	15.19
plain and pattern	9.17	5.44	8.02	6.88
plain and stripes	5.16	0.28	1.72	1.43
stripes and pattern	2.58	3.15	2.29	0.86
paint and wallpaper	3.15	2.86	2.86	6.02

Table 21. Comparison of wall finishes in the home.

	Living room		Dining room		Bedroom		Kitchen	
	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940
Wallpaper	64.67	70.00	41.37	57.93	66.47	72.05	51.00	52.76
Oil base paint	20.63	16.20	16.62	16.55	20.91	17.59	30.94	33.10
Water base paint	11.17	2.09	8.02	2.09	19.19	4.14	10.89	3.10
Rubber base paint	6.3	0.00	5.16	0.00	5.16	0.00	6.59	0.00
Wall board	0.90	0.69	1.74	0.69	1.32	1.03	0.90	0.34

durability, ease of application, care and their particular decorative value. Paint companies have done considerable research that would be of value in such a program.

Table 22 shows that paint had taken precedence over varnish as a woodwork finish. It is believed that this is a result of the present style trend of matching walls and woodwork.

Table 22. Comparison of woodwork finishes.

	<u>Living room</u> :		<u>Dining room</u> :		<u>Bedroom</u> :		<u>Kitchen</u>	
	1952 :	1940 :	1952 :	1940 :	1952 :	1940 :	1952 :	1940
Paint	69.54	34.48	42.69	31.72	56.73	36.90	75.35	65.17
Varnish	36.39	49.31	26.36	29.66	34.67	48.28	9.73	20.34
Shellac and varnish	7.44	5.86	5.44	4.83	8.02	4.83	5.73	4.83
Wood seal	1.14	0	1.14	0	1.32	0	1.14	0
Oil	1.32	1.03	0.90	0.69	0.90	1.03	1.74	0.34
Shellac	0.90	0.69	1.14	1.38	0.90	1.03	1.14	0.34
Wax	0.90	0.34	0.28	0.34	1.14	0.34	1.32	0.34
Other	2.29	0.69	0.90	0.34	0.28	0.34	3.72	0.34

Wood seal as a woodwork finish did not appear in the Martens (3) study and only in a rather minor way in the 1952 study. However, it did make a start. Oil, shellac and wax also appeared in a few homes.

Shellac and varnish (Table 23) was the most commonly used floor finish in the living room, with wax only, rating in second place and floor seal in third. The Marten's (3) study reported varnish just

slightly above paint except in the kitchen where paint was used in 13 percent of the homes. The 1952 study found very little paint on floors except for 12 percent in bedrooms. This indicated a trend toward better floors and better treatment of floors. The use of floor sealer in bedrooms had increased from an average 2 percent in 1940 to 20.66 percent in 1952. The writer believed this indicated the use of floor sealer on soft woods, instead of paint.

Table 23. Comparison of floor finishes (in percent).

Item	Living room		Dining room		Bedroom		Kitchen	
	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940
Shellac and varnish	27.78	4.83	13.18	4.48	21.20	4.48	1.14	1.72
Wax only	23.78	7.59	32.95	7.24	36.96	7.24	84.81	7.93
Floor sealer	18.62	2.09	14.04	2.41	20.66	1.38	1.43	1.03
Paint	7.13	18.62	4.29	15.17	12.32	20.69	2.00	12.76
Shellac	3.44	1.03	-	2.09	3.12	1.72	0.57	0.69
Other	0.28	3.10		3.45	0.28	3.10	0.86	8.62

Table 24 shows that the patterned fabric rug was the most commonly used floor covering in the living room followed closely by the plain fabric rug. Twelve percent of the families were using wall to wall carpeting. Printed linoleum was being used in 18 percent of the homes as compared with 25 percent in the 1940 study (3). The reduction in the use of printed linoleum was evident everywhere except the bedroom where an increase was found. Evidently printed linoleum was being used to cover bare floors, as

Table 24 showed a reduction in the number of bare floors. An increased use in the number of throw rugs was reported in 1952. It is believed that the cotton shag rug was responsible for this trend.

Table 24. Comparison of floor coverings.

	<u>Living room</u>		<u>Dining room</u>		<u>Bedroom</u>		<u>Kitchen</u>
	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952
Printed linoleum	18.05	25.17	31.80	48.28	37.53	20.69	39.40
Inlaid linoleum	2.86	1.03	8.31	3.10	5.16	0.69	45.84
Plastic linoleum	0.86		1.74		1.43		2.29
Asphalt tile	1.14		1.43		1.43		5.44
Rubber tile	0.86		0.28		0.28		4.01
Plain fabric rug (8x10 or larger)	20.06	8.97	6.30	1.72	6.30	4.48	-
Patterned fabric rug (8x10 or larger)	26.07	47.59	6.59	12.76	11.17	15.52	-
Wall to wall carpet	12.03		3.44		2.58		
Throw rugs	24.35	8.28	9.45	5.86	63.64	52.76	5.44
Other			0.57		0.28		0.86
Bare floor	2.00	2.09	6.30	6.20	14.33	17.59	0.57

Considering the amount of patterned rugs and wall paper being used by these families (Table 24), the Extension program needs to emphasize the use of design and combinations of designs.

Most of the homes used glass curtains and side draperies with glass curtains alone, in second place. These conditions were reversed in

Table 25. Comparison of window curtaining of living room.

	1952		:	1940	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Glass curtains	88	25.21		172	59.31
Nylon	36	-		-	-
Orlon	3	-		-	-
Rayon	34	-		-	-
Fiberglass	7	-		-	-
Cotton	8	-		-	-
Draperies and glass curtains	186	53.29		62	21.38
Lined draw draperies	41	11.74		10	3.45
Unlined draw draperies	29	8.31		-	-
Side draperies	146	41.83		-	-
Cafe curtains	5	1.43		-	-
Paper shades	51	14.61		64	22.06
Cloth shades	130	37.25		162	55.86
Plastic shades	15	4.29		0	0
Venetian blinds	101	28.94		0	0
Other	4	1.14		0	0

Martens' study (3). Home makers did not accept the new curtain fabrics too readily. Only three families reported the use of orlon and seven fiber glass, although both of these fabrics had been on the market in price ranges comparable to nylon, for a year or more. Nylon was used by 34 families and rayon by 36 with only 8 using cotton (Table 25).

The fabric mentioned most frequently for draperies was cotton. Lined draw draperies gained in popularity and unlined draw draperies were too insignificant in number to mention. It is believed that the popular use

of casement cloth as unlined draperies was, in part, responsible for this figure. Cafe curtains remain rather unpopular with Kansas homemakers, for living room use.

Cloth shades lost in popularity as did paper shades; however, venetian blinds, that were not mentioned in the Marten's study (3) were used in 28.94 percent of the homes. Plastic shades made their appearance in 4.29 percent of the living rooms.

Table 26 shows more new beds were purchased by the 1952 group than any other single item, with upholstered chairs and radios ranking second and third. Only three families purchased pianos and all were new, compared with the 1940 study (3) when twelve pianos were purchased, but only one was new.

Only 26 or 7.44 percent of the 1952 families had television. Many families are ready for television as soon as Kansas develops enough stations so that reception can be guaranteed. Twenty of the twenty-six sets were found in Brown, Miami and Montgomery counties, where reception is good out of Kansas City and Tulsa. Twenty or 5.7 percent of the sets were on farms.

Flagg and Longmore (2) reported that in 1950 only 3 percent of the rural population had television and that centered around large cities. Kansas rural families were slightly above the national average.

The living room suite of two pieces of furniture was used by 42.4 percent of the families as compared with 19 percent of those in the Marten's study (3). This may have represented better salesmanship methods, instead of better judgement on the part of the homemaker. In each study about 40 percent of the homes had davenports not as a part of a suite of furniture.

Table 26. Comparison of furniture purchased in last 3 years.

Item	1952			Percent of			1940			Percent of : Difference in	
	: Second :			: Purchase :			: Second :			: Purchase : Percent	
	: New	: Hand	: Total	: Per Family	: New	: Hand	: Total	: Per Family	: 1952-1940		
Radio	107	16	123	35	56	9	65	22	13		
Television	26	2	28	08	0	0	0	-	08		
Bed	154	31	185	53	29	15	44	15	38		
Studio Couch or Divan	91	9	100	29	30	13	43	15	14		
Dining Table	85	20	105	30	8	7	15	05	25		
Sets of Dining Chairs	78	20	98	26	30	11	41	14	12		
Dresser or Chest	121	17	138	39	11	5	16	06	33		
Piano	3	0	3	08	1	11	12	04	04		
Upholstered Chair	119	19	138	39	8	3	11	04	35		

The Marten's study reported more than twice as many day beds in living rooms as were used by the 1952 group. Table 27 shows median numbers of pieces of furniture per family remained the same except in the case of the straight chair which dropped to one piece instead of three. The age of the furniture showed no drastic change; however, the price showed a marked change except in the case of the pianos which remained about the same. Television was the highest priced item in the living room at a median price of \$379.50. The living room suite was in second place with a median price of \$199.31 as compared with Martens (3) median of \$92.49. Upholstered chairs changed from a median of \$17.49 to \$53.85 and radios from \$43.75 to \$37.06, (Table 27). /

Little change could be noted in the buying habits, as to new and second hand furniture between the two groups. Pianos rated 60 and 63 percent as being purchased second hand. Day beds rated in second place with 42 percent in 1952 and 53 percent in 1940. The greatest change was in upholstered chairs with only 18 percent in 1952 as compared with 37 percent in 1940.

With the increased income homemakers added articles of extra comfort, such as upholstered chairs, more end tables, lamps, coffee tables and radios, to their living rooms.

Three piece suites of furniture were the most popular way of furnishing the bedroom in the 1952 study; however, many families reported buying single pieces of furniture. More families bought chests of drawers than any other single item.

Table 28 shows that the bedrooms seemed rather inadequately furnished lacking chairs and bedside tables particularly. Dressers were used less

Table 27. Comparison of living room furniture.

	: Number of :		: Median :		: % bought :		: second- :		: hand :	
	: families :		: Pieces per :		: Price :		: Age :		: 1952:1940 :	
	: reporting :		: family :		: 1952 : 1940 :		: 1952:1940 :		: 1952:1940 :	
	1952:1940	1952:1940	1952:1940	1952:1940	1952	1940	1952:1940	1952:1940	1952:1940	1952:1940
Livingroom set	148	57	2	2	199.31	92.49	7	6	15	12
Sofa	150	128	1	1	91.31	53.32	7.4	10	30	30
Day bed	29	63	1	1	40.00	12.85	4.3	6	42	53
Upholstered chair	284	105	1	1	53.85	17.49	7.6	9	18	37
Rockers	205	202	2	2	25.25	9.13	11.6	13	21	29
Straight chairs	101	142	1	3	12.27	3.05	10.4	10	35	27
Footstools	121	94	1	1	8.21	1.62	5.7	6	07	16
Piano	109	136	1	1	104.22	102.49	17	18	60	63
End tables	204	99	1	1	14.00	3.96	7.1	5	10	07
Coffee table	122	11	1	1	16.10	4.99	5.4	2	09	00
Magazine rack	99	129	1	1	6.84	1.96	6.8	5	06	12
Desk	99	60	1	1	31.75	14.28	7.5	10	22	24
Book cases	73	84	1	1	20.12	6.74	7.17	10	31	28
Radio	205	133	1	1	43.75	37.06	3.5	3	15	20
Television	28	-	1	-	379.50	-	2	-	7	-

Table 28. Comparison of bedroom furniture.

	No. families re- porting				Median Price				Percent Bought ; Second hand	
	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940
Bedroom suite	189	63	3	3	165.93	78.80	5.11	8.5	6	9
Bed	132	215	1	1	37.00	21.13	10.4	13.5	38	35
Bedside table	82	30	1	1	15.56	2.30	6.83	7	22	54
Chest of drawers	155	91	1	1	34.71	12.39	7.96	19.5	24	44
Dresser	90	159	1	1	32.50	13.77	15.33	19.5	37	56
Vanity dresser	49	60	1	1	16.00	18.00	17.00	8.0	20	33
Dressing table	23	-	1	-	16.00	-	7.0	-	21	-
Chair	72	115	1	1	10.83	2.95	10.39	13.5	38	58
Cedar chest	98	74	1	1	36.64	17.07	17.57	13.0	8	22
Wardrobe	28	43	-	1	19.50	15.20	6.64	10.5	28	35
Desk	14	12	1	1	17.50	11.33	6.16	10.5	50	60

in 1952, being replaced by the chest of drawers, vanity dresser and dressing table (Table 28).

The ages of bedroom furniture on the two studies showed little difference. The suites were newer, cedar chests and vanity dressers older. Costs were very different. The bedroom suite median had more than doubled, and in every instance except in the case of the vanity dresser, prices were considerably higher. There are more home made and unfinished dressing tables today than

there were twelve years ago. It became a popular project among 4-H Club members for their home improvement work. The wardrobe decreased in popularity undoubtedly as a result of the increase in the number of closets (Table 5). In most instances the 1940 study (3) revealed more second hand bedroom furniture than in 1952.

Table 29. Comparison of dining room furniture.

	Number of :				Median		: % bought			
	families		: Pieces per :		:		: second-		:	
	reporting		: family		: Price		: Age		: hand	
	1952:	1940	1952:	1940	1952 :	1940	1952:	1940	1952 :	1940
Dining room set	186	77	7	-	107.00	71.33	9.3	10	25	16
Table	42	196	1	1	26.77	10.26	13.3	17.5	24	53
Chairs	35	169	6	6	5.50	2.08	12.6	13.5	30	38
Buffet	26	85	1	1	24.50	14.90	13.1	15.5	20	50
Chest of drawers	29	17	1	1	20.50	5.10	6.6	15.5	27	70
China closet	24	55	1	1	22.35	5.56	13.4	13.5	24	72
Day bed	37	46	1	1	28.67	8.40	12.0	10.0	20	29
Rocker	38	90	1	1	18.59	3.90	11.8	13.5	24	42
Easy chair	28	27	1	1	43.50	17.40	8.1	10.0	25	45
Radio	59	62	1	1	32.73	36.98	5.9	3	08	16
Desk	36	32	1	1	29.50	43.65	9.5	10	25	41

Dining room suites (Table 29) were reported by 186 families in the 1952 study and by 77 in the 1940 (3) group. The 1940 group reported 196 families as having unmatched table and chairs, whereas, in the 1952 group

only 42 families reported mixed dining room furnishings. The rocker lost popularity as a piece of dining room furniture, as did the buffet, china closet and daybed.

The age of the furniture in each group was very much the same but the percentage of second hand furniture ran higher in the 1940 (3) group.

Table 30. Lighting - 1952.

	Number of families reporting	:	Percent of families reporting	:	Lamps
Electricity (high line)	344		98.56		
Floor lamps					400
Table lamps					877
Other lamps					253
Electricity (home plant)	1		.39		
Kerosene	2		.57		
Natural gas	2		.57		

One of the greatest changes from the 1940 study (3) was in the field of lighting (Table 30). Martens reported a majority of kerosene lamps. Her study did not reveal the number of families using kerosene, but it was significant to note that in the 1952 study 344 of the 349 families were using the high line, one a home electric plant and only two, kerosene and two natural gas.

This was the most significant change in the whole study. Electricity has done so much to bring the homemaker's tasks out of the drudgery type of work. It has brought added comfort in the possibility of bathrooms, and added labor saving devices. Electric radios, too, are more satisfactory

than battery types and it made television possible as well as better home lighting conditions. Flagg and Longmore (2) reported 78 percent of the farms electrified in 1950.

Original paintings were reported by 53.29 percent of the homemakers in the 1953 group. Most of these had been painted by a member of the family or were a gift. Very few families reported the purchase of a painting (Table 31). Calendar pictures were reported by 44.98 percent as compared with 73.11 in the 1940 study (3), but prints had dropped from 48.39 percent to only 28.94 percent in 1952. Photographs climbed to the high of 85.09 percent as contrasted with 44.15 percent. It is believed that this is a very fertile field for a good educational program in picture study.

The greatest change noted in the use of accessories was in the added amounts found in the 1952 homes. The percent of families reporting the use of various decorative objects were larger than the amounts in the Marten's study (3). This trend is partly the result of added income and partly due to the study of current magazines as shown in Table 40.

Table 32 shows that clocks rated first in decorative objects giving the number one position to a utilitarian type of object. The 1952 study then revealed a shift of importance to the purely decorative type of things with vases, potted plants and doilies rated in that order. The next group were of the utilitarian type with books, mirrors, sofa pillows and ash trays in that order.

Many of the 1952 group reported collections of vases which might account for the large percentage found. Growing house plants was listed as a hobby in Table 7, which might have had a tendency to increase this

Table 31. Comparison of pictures in the home (in percent).

		Calendar		: Hand Painted		: Prints		: Photographs		: Mottos		: Magazine		: Other	
		1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940
11 or more				0.57	0.69	0.57	1.38	5.15	0.69	0.28	-	-	-	0.57	0.34
7 - 10				2.00	2.76	3.43	6.65	11.17	1.38	-	-	-	0.69	0.85	1.72
6	0.85	3.45	0.85	0.69	2.00	4.14	12.69	1.38	0.28	0.34	-	0.34	2.86	1.38	
5	0.28	3.45	1.43	0.69	1.43	3.79	10.88	1.03	0.28	0.69	-	0.34	0.28	1.38	
4	0.85	7.93	2.57	4.48	1.43	5.86	11.74	5.17	1.43	1.38	0.28	1.03	1.71	2.76	
3	4.29	14.14	4.01	6.65	1.43	7.93	11.74	9.66	2.00	2.09	2.29	2.41	4.29	3.45	
2	12.60	20.00	10.31	9.66	9.74	7.24	13.46	11.72	7.16	10.69	6.58	6.20	7.16	3.79	
1	26.33	20.69	31.51	21.38	8.85	9.31	8.56	11.03	22.63	15.86	5.44	5.17	5.44	5.86	
Total families reporting per-															
cent	44.98	73.11	53.29	49.76	28.94	48.39	85.09	44.15	34.41	34.15	21.50	17.56	23.20	20.06	

Table 32. Comparison of accessories in the home.

	Potted plants										Decorative ash trays										Family heirlooms										Mirrors										Sofa pillow										Figurines										Whatnots										Artificial flowers										Afghans										Wall hanging										Whatnot shelves																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
	Vases		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		1952 : 1940		195	

\*Figures quoted are in percentage.

figure. Crocheting rated high in the handicraft figures and most of the doilies listed were crocheted (Table 7). Many women were painting figurines as a handicraft hobby which was reflected in the increased number of figurines used, from 10.67 percent in 1940 to 47.85 in 1952. Sofa pillows increased slightly in number and that might have reflected the trend of using pillows for added color in the living room.

The heirlooms owned by the 1952 group consisted largely of furniture, dishes and quilts. Several families listed clocks, silverware and jewelry (Table 32).

The 1952 study showed that families were using a great many accessories of the non-useful type. Extension could do a valuable service in providing information on the wise selection of accessories that would meet the family needs. Homes need accessories, but it is an easy matter to overdo, with trivial rather useless articles that have little beauty or lasting value.

Table 33 shows that sixty-two families reported having unsatisfactory furniture. Plastic covered chairs were reported more often than anything else with two common failures in that they were neither comfortable nor durable. Rockers rated second highest being largely uncomfortable and not suited to the rest of the furniture. Davenports were reported as uncomfortable by twelve families and too hard to care for by five. Six families reporting dining room suites as being not durable. Three found their end tables too fragile. The Extension program needs to develop a more extensive consumer education program to include better buymanship principles in all kinds of furniture.

Table 34 indicates that in 1952 the most used color for living room walls was green, for woodwork and curtains white, for rugs gray, upholstered

Table 33. Unsatisfactory furniture.

	Families : reporting:	Uncom- fortable:	Not durable:	Hard to care for:	Does not match	: Other
Plastic chairs	18	13	10	-	1	-
Rockers	14	8	2	1	5	-
Sofa	12	9	2	5	3	-
Dining room suite	6	-	6	-	-	-
End tables	5	-	2	-	3	-
Beds	2	2	-	-	-	-
Day beds	2	2	-	-	-	-
Coffee table	2	-	-	-	-	2
Desk	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total	62	36	22	6	12	3

furniture red and green, and accessories green. In 1940, tan rated highest for walls, woodwork and accessories, brown for rugs and furniture, white for curtains. This table represents rather a marked change in the use of color. Families need help in color and design combination and in psychological effects of colors in order to make their homes more satisfying places in which to live and rear children.

Rather gay colors were being used in the 1952 kitchens, according to Table 35. Yellow was the most popular wall coloring with red rugs, white curtains and red accessories. Green was the second most popular wall coloring choice and gray for rugs, red for curtains and white for accessories. No comparison could be made with the Martens study as kitchen colors were not reported.

Table 34. Comparison of living room colors.

	<u>Wall</u>		:		<u>Woodwork</u>		:		<u>Rugs</u>		:		<u>Curtains</u>		:		<u>Furniture</u>		:		<u>Accessories</u>	
	1952	: 1940	1952	: 1940	1952	: 1940	1952	: 1940	1952	: 1940	1952	: 1940	1952	: 1940	1952	: 1940	1952	: 1940	1952	: 1940	1952	: 1940
Green	32.37	3.10	3.72	0.34	12.89	4.48	14.61	-	22.35	6.20	20.34	0.90										
Gray	19.19	2.41	5.16	2.41	15.78	13.10	9.74	-	10.32	6.65	1.71	0.90										
Tan	14.09	27.59	31.23	38.62	15.44	13.45	10.32	5.17	11.74	5.17	6.87	4.52										
Blue	11.75	3.10	0.28	0.34	8.03	6.89	4.01	2.41	12.89	4.14	6.30	0.89										
Rose	9.74	1.72	1.14	-	13.46	2.41	7.45	0.69	16.04	2.41	10.03	0.26										
White	9.13	2.41	38.68	6.55	4.29	2.76	39.25	52.76	2.87	0.34	12.89	3.75										
Red	4.01	-	-	-	10.60	1.72	9.74	1.38	21.20	2.76	18.34	0.33										
Yellow	3.72	-	0.57	0.34	1.15	-	4.01	1.72	4.58	-	5.73	0.22										
Pink	3.15	-	0.57	-	1.43	-	-	-	3.15	-	4.01	-										
Brown	2.00	-	14.04	11.72	10.03	15.86	2.29	0.69	26.64	15.17	4.01	1.94										

Table 35. Colors used in kitchens.

		: Wood- Walls : work :	: Rugs :	: Curtains :	: Furniture :	: Accessories
Yellow	30.08	1.43	5.73	9.14	6.02	7.16
Green	27.50	3.44	8.77	7.74	5.73	6.30
Red	15.44	0.28	12.61	22.63	8.85	16.61
White	14.04	53.86	0.86	35.53	35.53	10.32
Blue	12.32	1.72	9.14	5.73	2.01	6.30
Gray	6.02	2.29	11.46	1.72	2.29	1.15
Tan	3.15	10.03	9.14	1.72	6.88	0.57
Pink	2.58	1.15	1.43	1.15	0.86	1.43
Brown	0.57	1.72	2.58	1.43	1.43	0.28

This report shows that most Kansas kitchens were rather colorful, pleasant places in which to work. The homemaker used warm active colors, which, according to psychologists, have a tendency to make the worker feel happier.

Bedrooms in 1952 were more colorful than those in the Marten's study (3). Blue bedroom walls were found to be most popular (46 percent), white woodwork (45 percent), blue rugs (21 percent), white curtains (65 percent), brown furniture (49 percent), and white accessories (3 percent). Green, rose, yellow, and pink were the next favored colors for walls, gray and tan rugs were popular and blue accessories (Table 36). The most popular bedroom colors in 1940 were, walls white (55 percent), tan woodwork (76 percent), tan rugs (18 percent), curtains white (71 percent),

Table 36. Comparison of bedroom colors.

	<u>Walls</u>		:		<u>Woodwork</u>		:		<u>Rugs</u>		:		<u>Curtains</u>		:		<u>Furniture</u>		:		<u>Accessories</u>	
	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940	1952	1940
Blue	45.84	24.48	6.02	2.09	20.34	14.14	8.85	5.86	0.85	1.38	9.42	7.93										
Green	25.78	8.97	3.43	2.09	11.17	5.86	10.89	4.14	1.43	3.79	6.88	6.89										
Rose	20.66	-	0.85	-	3.72	-	7.16	-	1.43	-	4.87	-										
Yellow	19.77	8.97	1.43	1.03	9.14	1.72	8.30	3.79	2.57	1.03	5.44	7.59										
Pink	17.76	19.31	0.28	0.69	5.16	7.24	5.16	23.79	0.85	0.69	6.88	12.41										
White	12.03	55.17	45.27	43.10	9.43	2.09	65.33	70.69	9.43	16.53	12.61	5.86										
Tan	6.88	14.14	36.68	75.86	10.89	17.93	7.45	4.48	25.21	37.24	6.88	1.03										
Gray	6.30	3.45	5.44	3.45	12.61	5.86	1.15	-	8.85	0.34	1.43	0.34										
Brown	2.57	-	17.12	5.86	10.03	1.03	1.43	-	49.28	41.03	0.28	0.69										
Red	1.14	2.76	-	2.76	4.87	2.09	2.57	0.34	.57	0.34	5.44	0.34										

furniture brown (41 percent) and accessories pink (12 percent). The pink and blue bedrooms of 1940 seemed to be a thing of the past. Most families indicated that they were using light colors in their bedrooms. The study indicated a strong trend toward the use of more color.

Table 37. Kinds of sheets in percent.

	Families	:	Percent
Muslin	278		79.65
Percalé	231		66.19
White	314		89.97
Colored	86		24.63
Plain	217		63.46
Decorated	73		20.93

More of the families in the 1952 group used muslin than percale sheets and the same was true about white and colored, plain and decorated sheets. Only twenty-one percent of the families reported owning a decorated sheet. Handwork had shifted away from the sheets and pillowcases, (Table 37).

Table 38 reported that almost every family had two chenille bedspreads and 92 percent had quilts that they used for spreads. Heavy cottons other than chenille were used by 63 percent of the families and candlewick by 22 percent. The trend is definitely away from crocheted, rayon satin and rayon taffeta that were reported as popular in the Marten's study (3).

Table 39. Bedspreads (in percent) - 1952.

	Families	:	Percent
Chenille	682		195.41
Quilts	322		92.26
Heavy cotton	216		63.18
Candlewick	80		22.92
Crochet	34		9.74
Rayon satin	31		8.85
Rayon taffeta	26		7.45

Coil springs and innerspring mattresses were the most popular sleeping units among the families studied (Table 39). About one-third of the families reported having box springs.

No family reported having more than one foam rubber mattress and they were not all well pleased with their buy. No family reported wanting another one. Some families reported an unpleasant odor, other said they were not comfortable and others reported them too expensive to have more than one.

The Marten's study made no mention of sheets, bedspreads, springs and mattresses.

By far the most important source of decorating ideas was magazines in 1952 according to Table 40. This can be attributed to the fact that many more magazines in the lower price bracket carry good home furnishings information. People next turned to the Extension Service, then to their

Table 39. Springs and mattresses (in percent).

	Number of families	Percent
Coil springs	307	87.96
Box springs	119	34.09
Link springs	82	23.49
Inner spring mattress	291	83.41
Cotton mattress	227	65.04
Foam rubber mattress	11	3.15

Table 40. Comparison of sources for decorating ideas.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	Total Reporting 1952	1940
Magazines	71.91	16.32	6.59	2.29	0.28	0.86	98.25	77.23
Extension Service	9.74	33.23	13.47	12.61	8.85	6.30	84.20	67.59
Friends homes	5.16	13.47	22.35	18.34	12.03	6.02	77.37	63.79
Local stores	3.44	10.03	11.17	14.33	13.18	13.47	70.62	24.26
Mail order catalog	2.00	10.03	14.04	11.17	13.18	9.43	59.85	32.41
City stores	1.43	8.31	15.16	14.04	14.33	13.75	41.25	23.44
Newspapers	0.28	5.16	7.45	6.02	9.74	11.17	39.82	25.17
Interior decoration	4.30	2.00	4.87	4.87	6.88	6.03	28.95	

friends, then local stores, the mail-order catalogs, city stores, newspapers and 29 percent reported using an interior decorator. In the 1940 study revealed almost the same data. The percentage of families reporting was much smaller than the 1952 study.

Table 41 shows rather drastic changes in the type of magazines used for home furnishings information. Sixty-five percent of the families reported using "Better Homes and Gardens". The "Farm Journal" was not mentioned in the 1940 study, but was reported in second place in the 1952 study with 30 percent of the families using it. The "American Home", "Household", "Successful Farming", "Ladies Home Journal", "Woman's Home Companion", "Good Housekeeping", "House Beautiful", "McCalls", "Country Gentleman", "Living for Young Homemakers", "Today's Woman", and "Capper's" appearing in that order.

The addition of interior decoration to some of our farm magazines has been very helpful to our homemakers in rural areas.

Sixty-three percent of the families indicated a need for additional storage for clothing. Closet space had increased over the 1940 study and yet their greatest storage need was for more clothing storage. In 1952 lack of storage was reported for clothing, bedding, toys, linens, dishes and glassware, magazines, card tables, books, table linen, luggage, hobbies and silverware in that order (Table 42).

Home owners need to be advised as to ways of providing adequate storage space for everything used by the family. Built in cupboards under stair wells, in halls and better closets in general would help to solve these problems. Families need to be encouraged to dispose of useless and unnecessary clutter to provide space for necessary items.

Table 41. Comparison of magazines used for information.

	Number of times checked				Total times:		Percent	
					checked			
	1st :	2nd :	3rd :	4th :	:	:	:	:
	Choice:	Choice:	Choice:	Choice:	1952:	1940	1952 :	1940
Better Homes and Gardens	157	49	19	3	228	73	65.33	25.17
Farm Journal	23	32	32	19	106	-	30.31	-
American Home	35	37	18	9	99	41	28.39	14.14
Household	15	28	30	16	89	40	25.49	13.79
Successful Farming	21	24	30	13	88	27	25.21	9.31
Ladies Home Journal	11	30	22	18	81	56	23.20	19.13
Woman's Home Companion	11	15	18	17	61	49	17.48	16.89
Good House-keeping	22	16	17	2	57	58	16.32	20.00
House Beautiful	19	17	11	7	54	-	15.44	-
McCalls	6	26	14	7	53	52	15.16	17.93
Country Gentleman	6	9	16	19	50	85	14.33	29.31
Living for Young Homemakers	7	10	8	6	31	-	8.85	-
Today's Woman	1	1	0	4	6	-	1.72	-
Capper's	1	2	3	0	6	40	1.72	13.79

Table 42. Comparison of storage space needed.

	Numbers	Percent	
		1952	1940
Clothing	216	63.18	42.76
Bedding	173	49.57	55.86
Toys and recreation equipment	125	35.81	23.10
Bed linen	117	33.52	27.93
Dishes and glassware	101	28.94	31.03
Magazines	89	25.49	—
Card tables	81	23.20	—
Books	78	22.35	—
Table linens	78	22.35	17.93
Luggage	74	21.20	14.48
Hobbies	53	15.16	—
Silverware	47	13.47	6.20
Other	20	5.73	20.69

Table 43 shows that many of the needs of the homemakers could be classified as luxury pieces, rather than actual necessities. Such items as television, accessories, radios and electric clothes driers were listed in the 1952 study and rugs and china closets in 1940 as important needs.

Eighteen percent of the 1952 group listed suites of furniture, either living room, bedroom or dining room. Part of our educational program could well include information regarding the advisability of

Table 43. Comparison of furniture needed.

		Percent	
		1952	1940
Easy chair	43	12.32	5.86
Rug	33	9.43	16.89
Accessories	30	8.57	-
Chest of drawers	28	8.02	6.65
Dining room suite	26	7.45	5.17
Bedroom suite	25	7.16	5.86
Bed	22	6.30	8.28
Breakfast set	22	6.30	--
Deep freeze	20	5.73	
Television	16	4.58	
Living room suite	16	4.58	7.93
China closet	14	4.01	10.00
Divan and studio couch	11	3.15	--
Drier	10	2.86	--
Sewing machine	9	2.58	--
Radio	8	2.29	--
Desk	7	2.00	4.48
Mattress	7	2.00	9.66
Other	14	4.01	16.20

purchasing pieces, rather than suites, in most instances.

Color again ranked first among the requests for further information as it did in the 1940 study (3), with furniture arrangement placing second in both studies (Table 44). Selection of accessories was in third place and selection of good design in fourth place in the 1952 study, but were reversed in the 1940 study.

Requests for information indicate areas of interests but not necessarily real needs. This statement is substantiated by information found in Table 33 dealing with unsatisfactory furniture. Homemakers most frequently failed to recognize qualities of comfort and durability and yet requests for information in these particular areas rated in negative positions in the request for information chart.

In the use of color, homemakers evidently recognized the advantages of a knowledge of color in making their homes more attractive since color appeared as the number one request for assistance.

#### SUMMARY

The study of the home furnishings in 349 Kansas homes made in 1952 was compared with a similar study of 290 Kansas homes in 1940. In both instances the major portion of the families lived on farms. Sixty-nine and nine tenths percent of the 1952 group and 77.9 percent of the 1940 group owned their own homes. The mean number of persons per family in 1952 was 3.6 persons which was a decline of .6 persons since the 1940 study.

Housing in 1952 was very adequate averaging 6.3 rooms per family, with 2.7 bedrooms and 2.8 closets. Seventy-nine percent of the families

Table 44. Information desired (in percent) - 1952.

	Choices															Total
	1st :	2nd :	3rd :	4th :	5th :	6th :	7th :	8th :	9th :	10th :	11th :	12th :	13th :	14th :	15th :	
Color	31.51	10.89	6.59	5.44	4.30	3.72	2.00	1.72	1.15	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	1.43	1.72	73.91
Furniture arrangement	16.61	16.04	8.57	4.87	6.59	4.58	2.58	3.44	2.58	1.72	2.29	0.86	0.57	0.86	2.00	73.86
Selection of accessories	8.31	6.88	10.31	8.85	5.73	4.87	5.73	3.44	4.01	2.86	1.72	2.00	1.15	0.57	0.57	66.99
Design in furniture	6.59	8.02	8.57	8.02	9.43	3.72	6.30	3.44	2.29	2.29	2.00	2.29	0.28	1.43	0.28	65.95
Curtains	5.73	10.60	10.60	9.43	6.88	4.01	5.73	4.01	2.00	1.72	4.01	1.72	2.29	1.43	0.57	70.73
Wall finishes	4.87	8.02	7.74	9.43	4.30	5.44	3.72	5.16	2.86	2.86	2.86	1.72	0.86	0.57	1.43	61.84
Flower arrangement	4.30	8.02	5.44	6.88	4.87	4.87	4.58	2.58	2.29	3.44	3.15	4.30	2.87	3.15	6.30	67.04
Selection of pictures	3.44	5.73	6.88	7.16	4.01	2.58	4.30	3.44	5.44	5.73	5.16	2.86	1.72	3.44	3.72	65.61
Selection of rugs	3.44	4.30	4.87	5.44	5.44	7.45	4.87	5.44	4.58	4.30	2.58	3.44	2.29	1.43	2.29	62.16
Selection of upholstered furniture	3.44	4.58	5.73	3.44	4.58	6.59	4.30	7.16	3.72	3.72	3.72	2.86	4.58	1.15	-	59.57
Textiles	2.86	2.86	4.58	2.58	4.87	5.44	0.57	2.86	3.44	4.87	4.30	2.58	4.58	6.30	3.15	55.84
Mattresses and springs	1.72	2.58	1.43	2.00	2.86	2.29	2.29	4.58	2.58	2.86	3.15	6.88	6.88	8.85	3.72	54.67
Selection of case goods	0.57	2.86	4.01	3.15	4.01	4.30	4.30	1.43	5.16	6.30	6.59	2.86	2.86	3.44	0.86	52.70
Selection of sheets and bedspreads	0.57	0.86	0.86	1.15	2.00	2.00	3.15	1.15	3.44	4.01	3.72	5.44	8.85	7.74	1.43	46.37
Selection of lamps and shades	0.00	5.16	4.30	4.01	4.30	5.73	5.44	3.15	6.40	4.01	4.87	6.88	3.15	4.58	1.72	63.60

had one or more modern baths as compared with 27 percent in 1940. Twenty-eight new homes were reported and 164 were remodeled.

Family recreation showed very little change. Television reception is limited and Kansas families were still dependent upon radio as their chief source of family recreation. Social activities included, meal service, conversation and card playing.

Fewer families in 1952 were using their dining rooms as living rooms, than in 1940. Lack of heat in living rooms was the chief reason for not using the living room the year round in both studies.

During 1952, Kansas incomes were high but uncertain, and only 5.44 percent of the families budgeted ahead for home furnishings expenditures. This was slightly under the 1940 study where 9.66 percent of the families reported budgeting for home furnishings. The mean amount budgeted in 1952 was \$181.25 compared with \$32.14 in 1940.

Estimated yearly amounts of expenditures were reported by 261 families ranging in amounts from \$10 to \$800 with a median of \$84.65 in 1952 as compared with 130 families reporting amounts between \$1 to \$75 with a median of \$10.36 in 1940. Both groups made most of their purchases at their local markets.

Wall paper was the most frequently used finish for walls in both studies. The 1952 group were using light backgrounds large floral and striped paper rather than plain and some combinations of paint and wall paper. Extension needs to provide more widespread information on the merits of various types of wall finishes as to their cost, durability, care, ease of application and their particular decorative value.

Paint took precedence over varnish, for woodwork, which was a change

and it showed a marked decline as a floor finish. There was a 19 percent increase in the use of floor seals.

The patterned fabric rug was the most commonly used floor covering for living rooms in both studies. Twelve percent of the 1952 families were using wall to wall carpeting and printed linoleum was used by 18 percent as compared with 25 percent in the 1940 group. The reduction in the use of printed linoleum was evident in every room except the bedroom where an increase was found. Evidently printed linoleum is being used to cover bare floors, since there were fewer bare floors reported in 1952. Considering the number of patterned rugs and figured wall paper now in use, it is evident that emphasis needs to be placed upon better use of pattern.

In 1952 most of the homemakers reported using glass curtains and side draperies but in 1940 glass curtains without draperies were the rule. Homemakers were cautious in their use of the new fabrics. Only three families reported the use of orlon and seven fiber glass, although both of these fabrics had been on the market in a price comparable to nylon for a year or more. The fabric most frequently used for draperies was cotton. Venetian blinds and plastic shades made their appearance in the 1952 study replacing some of the cloth and paper shades reported in 1940.

The living room suite of two pieces of furniture was used by 42 percent of the families as compared with 19 percent in 1940. This may have represented better salesmanship methods instead of better judgment in the part of the homemaker. In each study about 40 percent of the families had davenports, not as a part of a suite of furniture.

There were more new beds purchased by the 1952 group within the last

three years than any other single item with upholstered chairs and radios ranking second and third. Only three families purchased pianos and all were new compared with the 1940 study of twelve second-hand pianos. Only 26 families had television and of these 5.7 percent were found on farms.

In 1952, 62 families reported having some pieces of unsatisfactory furniture. Plastic covered chairs were reported more frequently than anything else with two common failures, in that they were neither comfortable nor durable. The Extension program needs to develop a more extensive consumer education program to include better buymanship principles in all kinds of furnishings.

One of the greatest changes from the 1940 study was in the field of lighting. In 1940 a majority of the families used kerosene lamps whereas in 1952, 344 of the 349 families were using the high line. One family reported a home electric plant, two used natural gas and two kerosene. This was the most significant change in the whole study. Electricity has brought added comfort in the possibility of bathrooms and added labor saving devices. Electric radios are more satisfactory than the battery type and it has made television possible as well as improved the home lighting conditions.

The study showed a need for a good educational program in picture study and use of accessories. The use of calendar pictures had dropped from 73 to 44 percent and photographs climbed to a high of 85 percent. The greatest change noted in the use of accessories was the added amounts of ornaments found in the 1952 homes. The percent of families reporting the use of various decorative objects was so much larger than before, and showed a shift to the purely decorative type of accessories with

vases, potted plants and doilies overshadowing everything else. Extension could do a valuable service in providing information on the wise selection of accessories that would meet the family needs. Homes need accessories, but it is an easy matter to overdo, with trivial useless articles that have little beauty or lasting value.

An important change was noted in the use of color. Greens and reds were found in almost every room replacing the drab tans and creams used in 1940. Kitchens became pleasant through the use of warm attractive colors replacing the institutional white.

In bedrooms, families showed a preference for plain white muslin sheets and chenille bedspreads, coil springs and innerspring mattresses.

By far the most important source of decorating ideas was magazines in 1952. The families then turned to the Extension Service, their friends, local stores and mail-order catalogs. The 1940 study revealed almost the same data. Rather drastic changes in the type of magazines used for home furnishings information was noted. Sixty-five percent of the families reported using "Better Homes and Gardens" and the "Farm Journal", not mentioned in the 1940 study, was reported in second place with 30 percent of the families using it. The addition of interior decoration to some of our farm magazines has been very helpful to our homemakers in rural areas.

Lack of sufficient storage remains as a constant problem for the homemaker. Home owners need to be advised as to ways of providing adequate storage. Built-in cupboards under stair wells, in halls and better closets in general would help solve these problems. Families need to be encouraged to dispose of unnecessary clutter to provide space for necessary items.

It was interesting to note that the reports showed luxury items as the important "needs" for family living. In 1942 the items included rugs and china closets, in 1952, television, clothes driers, and accessory items. Eighteen percent of the 1952 group listed a need for a suite of furniture. Part of our educational program could well include information regarding the advisability of purchasing pieces of furniture, rather than suites.

Color again ranked first among the requests for further information as it did in 1940, with furniture arrangement placing second in both studies. Better methods of teaching color need to be devised so that homemakers will develop enough of a feeling of security to enable them to willingly express themselves with color, instead of hiding behind a shield of what everyone else is doing.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made for the Kansas Extension program in home furnishings:

1. The program should provide more adequate consumer information about home furnishings.
2. The program should develop an appreciation of order, beauty and simplicity in everyday living.
3. The program needs to place more emphasis on design principles, stressing the use of pattern.
4. Better methods of teaching a workable use of color need to be devised to develop a feeling of security in order to enable homemakers to express themselves with color.
5. The program needs to provide information on wise selection of accessories.
6. Persons responsible for organizing the adult program should make frequent home visits, so that the material used will meet the needs of the people.

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**APPENDIX**



6 X

A study is being made at Kansas State College to secure information concerning Home Furnishings in Kansas homes. Will you help us by checking the enclosed blanks.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Post Office \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you live in the country? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you own your own home? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Are you a member of an Extension Unit? \_\_\_\_\_ For how many years? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many people live in your home? \_\_\_\_\_

Check ☒ \_\_\_\_\_

husband	_____
wife	_____
boys	_____ ages _____
girls	_____ ages _____
others	_____ ages _____

6. How many rooms in your home? \_\_\_\_\_

Room	:	Number
hallway. . . . .	:	_____
living room. . . . .	:	_____
dining room. . . . .	:	_____
bedrooms . . . . .	:	_____
breakfast nook . . . . .	:	_____
kitchen. . . . .	:	_____
closets (all kinds). . . . .	:	_____
bathroom (modern). . . . .	:	_____
bathroom (not modern). . . . .	:	_____
washroom . . . . .	:	_____
storeroom. . . . .	:	_____
utility room . . . . .	:	_____
finished basement. . . . .	:	_____
finished attic . . . . .	:	_____
recreation room. . . . .	:	_____
others . . . . .	:	_____

7. Have you built a new home within the last 5 years? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Have you remodeled your home with the last 5 years? \_\_\_\_\_ How? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Do you use your living room throughout the year? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, why? \_\_\_\_\_

Questionnaire - Home Furnishing.

- 2 -

10. Do you use your living room for rest during the day? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Does your family spend its evenings and Sundays in the dining room? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, why? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What type of activity do you use for family recreation? Check ✓

none \_\_\_\_\_

reading aloud \_\_\_\_\_

reading silently \_\_\_\_\_

family music -- instrumental \_\_\_\_\_

vocal \_\_\_\_\_

radio programs - list programs to which you listen regularly \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

television - list programs to which you listen regularly \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

indoor games - list \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

outdoor games - list \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

hobbies - list \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

handicraft - list \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

family outings \_\_\_\_\_

cards \_\_\_\_\_

others \_\_\_\_\_

13. Do you belong to clubs, circles or societies? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If you entertain the members in your home do you borrow? ✓ silver \_\_\_\_\_

dishes \_\_\_\_\_

linen \_\_\_\_\_

chairs \_\_\_\_\_

## 14. How do you entertain guests?

serve food \_\_\_\_\_  
 conversation \_\_\_\_\_  
 indoor games (list kinds) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
 outdoor games (list kinds) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
 radio \_\_\_\_\_  
 television \_\_\_\_\_  
 cards \_\_\_\_\_  
 dancing \_\_\_\_\_

## 15. Where do the children study?

in the living room \_\_\_\_\_  
 at dining room table \_\_\_\_\_  
 at the kitchen table \_\_\_\_\_  
 at their own desk \_\_\_\_\_  
 at the family business desk \_\_\_\_\_  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

16. For which of the following do you need more storage space? Check ☒

clothing - - men's \_\_\_\_\_ women's \_\_\_\_\_ children's \_\_\_\_\_  
 bedding \_\_\_\_\_  
 bed linens \_\_\_\_\_  
 table linen \_\_\_\_\_  
 silverware \_\_\_\_\_  
 dishes and glassware \_\_\_\_\_  
 toys and recreational equipment \_\_\_\_\_  
 suitcases or luggage \_\_\_\_\_  
 magazines \_\_\_\_\_  
 books \_\_\_\_\_  
 hobbies \_\_\_\_\_  
 card tables \_\_\_\_\_  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

## 17. How many pieces of furniture have you purchased in the last 3 years? \_\_\_\_\_

Furniture		: Second- :	Furniture		: New :	Secondhand
	: New :	hand		: New :		
beds	:	:	radio	:	:	
chests of all kinds	:	:	television	:	:	
buffet & china closets	:	:	easy chairs	:	:	
dining & breakfast tables	:	:	day beds &	:	:	
chairs	:	:	davenports	:	:	

## 18. List the additional pieces of furniture which you need most now.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## 19. Do you allow a certain part of your income for furnishings at the beginning of each year? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Approximately how much \_\_\_\_\_

20. Approximately how much do you spend each year for home furnishing in rooms other than the kitchen? \_\_\_\_\_

21. Do you have a plan for purchases you wish to make within the next 3 years?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

22. Where do you buy your furniture? ☒

locally \_\_\_\_\_  
in near by city \_\_\_\_\_  
mail order house \_\_\_\_\_

23. What is the average amount you spend for wallpaper per single roll?

for living room \_\_\_\_\_ for bedrooms \_\_\_\_\_  
for dining room \_\_\_\_\_ for kitchen \_\_\_\_\_

24. How are windows curtained in your living room? Check   /  

glass curtains alone { fiber glass \_\_\_\_\_  
                          { nylon \_\_\_\_\_  
                          { orlon \_\_\_\_\_  
                          { rayon \_\_\_\_\_  
                          { cotton \_\_\_\_\_  
                          { plastic \_\_\_\_\_

draperies and glass curtains { fiber glass \_\_\_\_\_  
                                  { nylon \_\_\_\_\_  
                                  { orlon \_\_\_\_\_  
                                  { rayon \_\_\_\_\_  
                                  { cotton \_\_\_\_\_  
                                  { plastic \_\_\_\_\_

draw drapes { lined \_\_\_\_\_ side drapes \_\_\_\_\_  
                  { unlined \_\_\_\_\_ cafe curtains \_\_\_\_\_

shades { paper \_\_\_\_\_  
          { cloth \_\_\_\_\_

venetian blinds \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

25. What types of floor covering are used in the following rooms? Type   /  

Type	: Living Room	: Dining Room	: Bedroom	: Kitchen
wall to wall carpets _____	:	:	:	:
plain rug 8x10 or larger _____	:	:	:	:
patterned 8x10 or larger _____	:	:	:	:
inlaid linoleum _____	:	:	:	:
printed linoleum _____	:	:	:	:
plastic linoleum _____	:	:	:	:
throw rugs or small rugs _____	:	:	:	:
bare floor _____	:	:	:	:
asphalt tile _____	:	:	:	:
other _____	:	:	:	:

26. Check the furniture which you have in your living room giving the approximate cost: (If you bought a set of furniture put an X after the articles included in the set and give one cost and age.)

	: Number : of : pieces	: Approximate : cost : of each	: Approximate : age	: Bought new : or : Secondhand
sofa . . . . .	:	:	:	:
day bed. . . . .	:	:	:	:
upholstered chairs . . . . .	:	:	:	:
rockers. . . . .	:	:	:	:
straight chair . . . . .	:	:	:	:
foot stool . . . . .	:	:	:	:
piano. . . . .	:	:	:	:
end tables . . . . .	:	:	:	:
coffee table . . . . .	:	:	:	:
magazine rack. . . . .	:	:	:	:
desk . . . . .	:	:	:	:
book cases . . . . .	:	:	:	:
radio. . . . .	:	:	:	:
television . . . . .	:	:	:	:
other. . . . .	:	:	:	:
<u>Dining Room</u>	:	:	:	:
desk . . . . .	:	:	:	:
table. . . . .	:	:	:	:
chairs . . . . .	:	:	:	:
buffet . . . . .	:	:	:	:
chests . . . . .	:	:	:	:
china closet . . . . .	:	:	:	:
day bed. . . . .	:	:	:	:
rocker . . . . .	:	:	:	:
easy chair . . . . .	:	:	:	:
radio. . . . .	:	:	:	:
television . . . . .	:	:	:	:
other. . . . .	:	:	:	:
<u>Bedroom</u>	:	:	:	:
beds . . . . .	:	:	:	:
bedside table. . . . .	:	:	:	:
chest of drawers . . . . .	:	:	:	:
dresser. . . . .	:	:	:	:
vanity dresser . . . . .	:	:	:	:
dressing table . . . . .	:	:	:	:
chair. . . . .	:	:	:	:
cedar chest. . . . .	:	:	:	:
wardrobe . . . . .	:	:	:	:
desk . . . . .	:	:	:	:
other. . . . .	:	:	:	:

27. What kind of light are you using

	Number of lamps			Direct or indirect lighting
	floor	table	other	
kerosene . . . . .	:	:	:	
electric (high line) . . . . .	:	:	:	
electric (home plant) . . . . .	:	:	:	

28. What kind of pictures are you using?

	Number	Framed	Unframed
calendar . . . . .	:	:	:
magazine . . . . .	:	:	:
mottos or verses . . . . .	:	:	:
photographs . . . . .	:	:	:
etchings, lithographs . . . . .	:	:	:
woodcuts . . . . .	:	:	:
reproductions . . . . .	:	:	:
handpainted: (was it done by someone in your family?) . . . . .	:	:	:
Was it a gift from someone outside the home? . . . . .	:	:	:
Did you purchase it? . . . . .	:	:	:
Other . . . . .	:	:	:

29. What other accessories are you using in your home?

Accessory	Number	Description
vases . . . . .	:	:
artificial flowers . . . . .	:	:
potted plants . . . . .	:	:
books . . . . .	:	:
clocks . . . . .	:	:
family heirlooms . . . . .	:	:
mirrors . . . . .	:	:
doilies . . . . .	:	:
sofa pillows . . . . .	:	:
afghans . . . . .	:	:
figurines . . . . .	:	:
wall hangings . . . . .	:	:
what-not shelves . . . . .	:	:
decorative ash trays . . . . .	:	:
desk sets . . . . .	:	:
other . . . . .	:	:

30. What type of bedspreads are you using?

candlewick \_\_\_\_\_  
 chenille \_\_\_\_\_  
 quilt \_\_\_\_\_  
 rayon-tafeta \_\_\_\_\_  
 rayon-satin \_\_\_\_\_  
 heavy cotton (not mentioned before) \_\_\_\_\_  
 crochet \_\_\_\_\_

31. What type sheets do you use?

muslin \_\_\_\_\_  
 percale \_\_\_\_\_  
 white \_\_\_\_\_  
 colored \_\_\_\_\_  
 plain \_\_\_\_\_  
 decorated \_\_\_\_\_

32. What type mattress do you use?

inner spring \_\_\_\_\_  
 foam rubber \_\_\_\_\_  
 cotton \_\_\_\_\_

33. What type springs do you use?

box spring \_\_\_\_\_  
 coil spring \_\_\_\_\_  
 link springs \_\_\_\_\_

34. Check the wall finish you have in the following rooms:

	Living Room	Dining Room	Bedroom	Kitchen
oil base paint. . . . .	:	:	:	:
wallpaper . . . . .	:	:	:	:
water base paint. . . . .	:	:	:	:
wall board. . . . .	:	:	:	:
other . . . . .	:	:	:	:

35. Check the woodwork finish in the following rooms:

	Living Room	Dining Room	Bedroom	Kitchen
oil only. . . . .	:	:	:	:
wax only. . . . .	:	:	:	:
shellac . . . . .	:	:	:	:
varnish . . . . .	:	:	:	:
shellac and varnish . . . . .	:	:	:	:
paint . . . . .	:	:	:	:
wood seal . . . . .	:	:	:	:
other . . . . .	:	:	:	:

36. Check the finish used on floors:

	Living Room	Dining Room	Bedroom	Kitchen
oil only. . . . .	:	:	:	:
wax only. . . . .	:	:	:	:
shellac . . . . .	:	:	:	:
shellac and varnish . . . . .	:	:	:	:
floor sealer. . . . .	:	:	:	:
paint . . . . .	:	:	:	:
other . . . . .	:	:	:	:

37. Where do you get new ideas for improving your home? (List in order of importance 1,2,3 etc.

magazines	_____
Extension Service	_____
mail order catalog	_____
newspapers	_____
city stores	_____
friends homes	_____
local stores	_____
interior decorators	_____
other	_____

38. List in order of importance the names of magazines from which you gather most suggestions for Home Furnishings.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

39. Check the colors that predominate in your:

Living Room:

	walls	woodwork	rugs	curtains	furniture	accessories
red . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
blue . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
green, light . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
green, dark . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
yellow . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
rose . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
pink . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
tan . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
grey . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
brown . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
other . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Bedroom

red . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
blue, light . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
green . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
yellow . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
rose . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
pink . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
tan . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
grey . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
brown . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
other . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Kitchen

red . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
blue . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
green, light . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
yellow . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
pink . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
tan . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
gray . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
brown . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
other . . . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

	Living Room	Dining Room	Bedroom	Kitchen
light background. . . . .	:	:	:	:
dark background . . . . .	:	:	:	:
large pattern . . . . .	:	:	:	:
small pattern . . . . .	:	:	:	:
stripes . . . . .	:	:	:	:
plain (tweed) . . . . .	:	:	:	:
combination of plain & pattern:	:	:	:	:
combination of plain & stripes:	:	:	:	:
combination of stripe & pattern:	:	:	:	:
combination of paint & wall	:	:	:	:
paper. . . . .	:	:	:	:

[illegible]

How to use color effectively in my home \_\_\_\_\_

How to select furniture of good design \_\_\_\_\_

How to arrange my furniture more conveniently \_\_\_\_\_

How to select the correct finish for my walls \_\_\_\_\_

How to make and select curtains and drapes \_\_\_\_\_

How to select rugs \_\_\_\_\_

How to buy upholstered furniture \_\_\_\_\_

How to buy wood furniture \_\_\_\_\_

How to select good pictures \_\_\_\_\_

How to select and arrange accessories in my home \_\_\_\_\_

How to select bedspreads, sheets \_\_\_\_\_

How to buy mattresses and springs \_\_\_\_\_

How to use textiles in my home \_\_\_\_\_

How to select lamps and shades \_\_\_\_\_

How to arrange flowers \_\_\_\_\_

HOME FURNISHINGS OF A SELECTED GROUP OF WOMEN IN HOME  
DEMONSTRATION UNITS IN KANSAS IN 1952

by

WINONA M. STARKEY

B. S., Kansas State College of Agriculture  
and Applied Science, 1947

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AN ABSTRACT OF A THESIS

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submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Art and Home Economics

KANSAS STATE COLLEGE  
OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE

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## INTRODUCTION

A home furnishings program for families reached by the Extension Service, if it is to be completely successful, must be designed to meet the needs of the people. Management and judgment in use of the basic art principles are essential in program planning. A plan which includes the appreciation of art principles and the achievement of the skills necessary to do a creditable piece of work, should result in a well-rounded program.

A growing awareness of the need for improving housing has been evidenced by the amount of material available on that subject. This study was made to secure up to date information about furnishings used in Kansas homes, which could be applied in the development of a home furnishings program.

## METHOD OF PROCEDURE

The data for this study were secured by means of questionnaires, checked by home furnishings leaders from Extension Units or 4-H Clubs in the state of Kansas. The counties selected were those on the winter schedule of the Home Furnishings Specialist. Those counties represented a good geographical cross-section of the state.

Three hundred forty-nine questionnaires were checked, data tabulated, analyzed and evaluated and comparisons made with the study made by Martens in 1940.

## SUMMARY

The study of the home furnishings of 349 Kansas homes in 1952 was compared with a similar study of 290 Kansas homes in 1940. In both

instances the major portion of the families lived on farms. Seventy percent of the 1952 group and 73 percent of the 1940 group owned their own homes.

Seventy-nine percent of the 1952 families had one or more modern baths as compared with 27 percent in 1940. Fewer families in the 1952 group were using their dining rooms as living rooms.

Estimated yearly amounts of expenditures for home furnishings were reported by 261 families ranging in amounts from \$10 to \$800, with a median of \$82.65 in 1952 as compared with 130 families reporting amounts between \$1 to \$75 with a median of \$10.36 in 1940.

Wallpaper was the most frequently used finish for walls in both studies. The patterned fabric rug was the most commonly used floor covering. Twelve percent of the 1952 families were using wall to wall carpeting. Eighteen percent were using printed linoleum, as compared with 25 percent in the 1940 group. There were more new beds purchased by the 1952 group within the last three years than any other single item, with upholstered chairs ranking second. Only three pianos, and all new, were purchased by the 1952 group, compared with the twelve second hand pianos in 1940. Twenty-six families had television and of these 5.7 percent were found on farms. In 1952, 62 families reported having some pieces of unsatisfactory furniture. In this group, plastic covered chairs were reported more frequently than anything else.

One of the greatest changes from the 1940 study was in the field of lighting. In 1940 a majority of the families were using the kerosene lamps, whereas in 1952, 344 of the 349 families were using the high line. Electricity has brought added comforts by making it economically possible

to have bathrooms, added labor saving devices and improved home lighting conditions.

An important change was noted in the use of color. Values of greens and reds were predominating in almost every room, replacing the drab tans and creams of 1940.

The percent of families reporting the use of various decorative objects was much larger in 1952 than in 1940, with vases, potted plants and doilies overshadowing everything else.

In 1952, magazines were the most important source of decorating ideas. Other sources were Extension Service, friends, local stores and mail order catalogs. The 1940 data revealed almost the same results.

Color again ranked first and furniture arrangement second in requests for further information as they did in 1940.