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THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
GRADUATE COLLEGE

ANALYSIS OF ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES
RESIDING IN COMMUNITY CAMP,
OKLAHOMA CITY, 1941.

A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE FACULTY
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
degree of
MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

BY
RUTH FISHER LOWRY
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
1945

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A THESIS

APPROVED FOR THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

BY

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GENERAL

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ANALYSIS OF ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES

RESIDING IN COMMUNITY CAMP,

OKLAHOMA CITY, 1941

CHAPTER I

THE STUDY - ITS NATURE AND SCOPE

Community Camp, the setting of this study, is in the southwestern section of Oklahoma City. The data were compiled from information obtained from one hundred families, comprising 366 persons, represented approximately one-third of the families residing in the area. The household heads living in the sixty-five acre area included married couples, those with or without children, and single persons.

The data were collected through the use of a schedule. Information was also gathered from close personal observation. City and County officials, various members of civic organizations, and key laymen in the district cooperated in helping to make available the necessary materials. Information obtained included factors of a social, religious, educational, and economic nature. The data secured regarding the social and economic background of the families included the place of birth, marital status of the economic heads of households, sex and age, State of marriage, age at the time of marriage, and the number of times previously married.

Information was also secured with respect to the family situation, including the proportion of all families in which both parents were not living in the home, the number of persons per family, the number of children under twenty-one years of age residing in or away from the home, and the number of relatives living in the home.

In addition to the educational status of the family heads, the age, sex, and school attendance of all children were included.

Data with regard to the heads of the households, church affiliations, civic activities, lodges, clubs, and voting were also secured.

The information obtained on the economic and housing conditions included the occupation, monthly income, and residence in the state, in Oklahoma City, and in Community Camp. The number of families receiving relief, and the number owning vehicles, livestock and pets was also secured. Additional data included the number of families owning, buying or renting homes; type of structure of the dwelling; the rating and value of the dwelling; the number of rooms; the method of heating and lighting; the type of water system; bathing and toilet facilities; and household furnishings and conveniences.

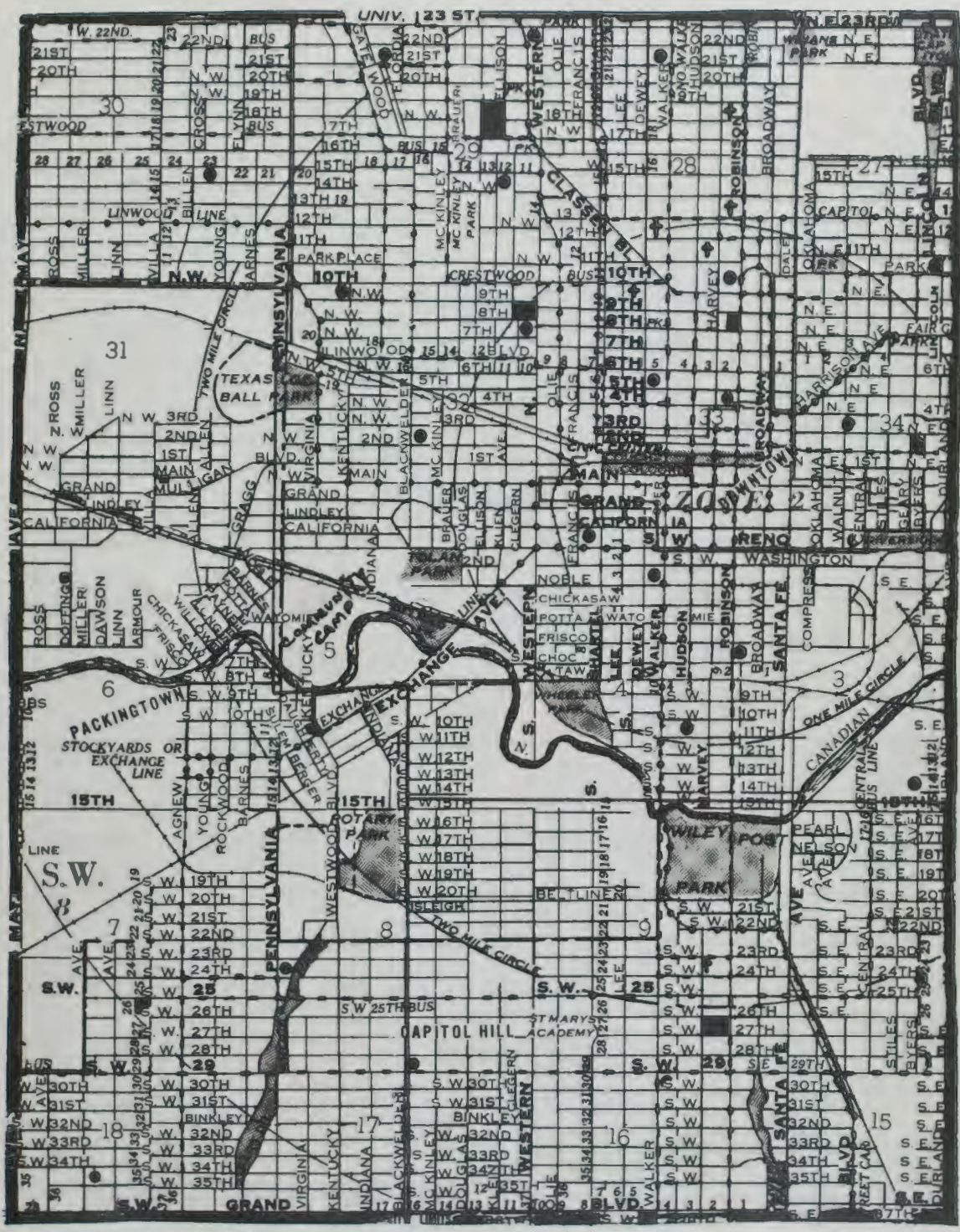


Fig. 1.--Map of Community Camp in 1941

CHAPTER II

THE HISTORY OF THE CAMP AND ITS PEOPLE

Community Camp, an area covering about thirty city blocks, is located in the North Canadian River bottom in southwest Oklahoma City. The district has received in the past decade national publicity, none of which has been very favorable.

The Camp, with a little over three hundred families, is only a small part of the entire urban area, the background and growth of which has been quite different from most cities of similar size. Relatively few people are aware of the fact that Oklahoma City is one of the three or four cities of its size in the United States which has experienced an unusually rapid growth. In the short space of about a half-century it has grown from a prairie village to a metropolitan community of over 200,000. Until 1928 its growth was due primarily to its central location as a trade center. In that year, however, one of the largest oil fields in the world was discovered at the southeastern edge of the community. In a short time after the discovery of oil more than ten thousand new residents were added. From 1928 to 1935 there was an average addition of about 6,500 persons per year. When the oil field was extended to the eastern side of the area in 1935, an additional 10,000 persons became residents of Oklahoma City. In other words, when the United States was experiencing a serious economic depression, Oklahoma City was

starting on a local boom, caused by the discovery of oil, which doubtless added later to the relief and unemployment problems.

Another industry playing a large factor in the City's steady growth and development is the meat packing industry, with plants located just southwest of the Community Camp. The Armour and the Wilson & Company plants occupy approximately sixty acres within the Oklahoma National Stockyards. These plants employ about three thousand workers. The companies' receipts for 1940 were around \$30,536,750.00.¹ Many people living in the Camp have found employment at either the Stockyards or in the packing plants, depending on the availability of jobs for unskilled workers.

In view of the rapid growth it should be apparent that the housing problem for such an increase in population would constitute a major difficulty, necessitating a continuous building program on a large scale and creating many new problems associated with rent adjustment and transiency.

Community Camp, a densely timbered spot, was known earlier as "Bob's Camp." The section was leased in 1928 and 1929 to a Bob Sanders for \$8.00 per month. A Mr. Irby rented the ground in 1930 and in 1931, paying the same rental.

This was the beginning of Community Camp, an unfavorable white settlement on the fringe of a large and growing metropolis. Its present sixty-five acres was a part of J. A. J. Baugus' 127 acre homestead in

1. The materials in this chapter were secured through interviews with agency executives, lay people, City and County officials and from published and unpublished reports on the Camp.

1889, designated in section 5, Township 11, Oklahoma County. Hence the inhabitants of this area changed in the past fifty years, one might say, from the pioneer family or the so-called homestead family to urban families.

Mr. Baugus came to Oklahoma City from Blue Springs, Nebraska, in April, 1889. He was the first County Superintendent of Schools of Oklahoma County, having been appointed to this office by Governor Steele in 1891. Dr. A. C. Scott, in his Story of Oklahoma City, speaks of Mr. Baugus as "a true and faithful servant to education, if there ever was one."

Mrs. Baugus taught in the first one-room school, located on Broadway at Fifth Street. She tells of a crowded school room then as now, and also of the many subjects taught by one teacher. Arithmetic was put on the board while listening to the spelling lessons. Then too, the older girls assisted with the lessons of the younger children.

When questioned as to her mode of transportation from the homestead to the school she replied, "I walked." However, during the bad winter weather she sometimes found it necessary to remain in town.

The Baugus' first home was located on Reno Street a block or two north of the present boundary of Community Camp. As long as Mrs. Baugus can remember, campers have used the timbered area near the river. Other than some pasture land the general area now occupied by Community Camp has never been very well adapted to farming.

The area comprising Community Camp is in the general form of a triangle. It is bounded on the North by Lime Creek and on the East by the North Canadian River. The southern boundary is the North side of

Eighth Street and the western boundary is formed by Pennsylvania Avenue.

The people in the Camp today live under very different conditions from that of the early day folk. The groups are similar in that both attempted to establish homes under adverse circumstances. While the pioneers came of their own free will, the present residents claim they are there because of the economic depression. They differ mainly in that the early day settlers had varied interests while the Community Camp residents manifest relatively little interest in any event.

Since conditions have been improved considerably within the past decade, there is some evidence of a developing community pride. For example, they prefer to be known as residents of Elm Grove rather than of Community Camp.

Across the Canadian River and railroad track to the northeast is the City Market. To the East of the area is the City Dump ground. To the South is a small plot of tillable land. The land across Pennsylvania Avenue following the Canadian River to the West and along the Rock Island tracks is out of the City limits. In these lowlands are found other camps and the feed pens of the stockyards. Some of the "old timers" in the Camp will tell you that formerly at nightfall young men and women with their buckets on their arms could be seen walking down to the stockyards feed pens to find some cow that would stand for milking. The proximity to the City Market affords another means of securing food at nominal cost. Many of the residents of the Camp make daily visits to the refuse heaps of the City Market.

Several years ago the squatter problem became so acute in the lowlands around Oklahoma City that the people owning the lands filed

complaints with the Oklahoma City authorities. The discovery of oil and the rapid development in the industry necessitated the moving of the squatters into the Camp area on South Robinson. A number of people had dug huts along the west side of the Santa Fe tracks. The inhabitants called it "Peanut Ridge". City social workers called it "Peanut Row". No one seems to know the origin of the name. Even the railroad officials complained of the dangers these people were creating along the right of way.

In view of the fact that there were over five hundred families in these undesirable spots dotting the City's outlying areas, the local city government was finally forced to take action in 1931. Assistance in the problem of moving the squatters from various outlying areas to a central location came through the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. The site selected for the purpose of providing one permanent location for the squatters and the transient element was the area now known as Community Camp. Before the change of residence could be made, however, all those living in the lowlands were visited by an inspection committee. This committee was composed of a sanitation officer from the City Health Department, building inspector, fireman, police officer, two social workers from the various city agencies, and a representative from the Federal Emergency Relief Agency.

The representatives who worked in groups, made a house to house canvass and informed the people of the plans for moving them to Community Camp. The Health Department ordered every family who was living in a tent or unsanitary shack to move into the City Camp, or into a regular dwelling house, or to leave Oklahoma City. About 350 families

moved to the Camp. Nearly one hundred families moved into houses in other parts of the City and 125 families left the City.

When moving time came, the shacks that would hold together, were moved on the Central Fire Station's flat trucks. The County furnished well constructed tents with floors for those families without homes. Garden spots were also available to each family in the Camp. Men were permitted to work in return for moving costs and for payment of rent.

After a few months in the new surroundings, it appeared that the entire river bottom was becoming a filthy area. The city officials met again and studied the conditions. With the aid of the Federal government plans were worked out for a project to make a sanitary camp site.

The city had the sixty-five acres surveyed. Eight streets were laid out in an east-west direction. Four streets ran north and south. Lots measured fifty feet by one hundred feet. A sewerage system was installed. Two toilets, one for each sex, were placed in each block. Hydrants were put at nearly every street intersection; thus no one was as far from the water supply as had been the case heretofore.

The city government provided free garbage service every other week and provided each family with a garbage container. Six modern shower baths were constructed for the people. Electricity was provided. Adequate police protection was also extended to the Camp.

The Camp was then operated under a sub-lease from the individual who had been renting the land before the city decided to move the squatters to the Camp. This arrangement was necessary because the city officials claimed the city could not charge individuals for living in the

Camp. The lease was therefore taken under the name of the person who was the manager of the unemployment relief committee. The amount of the lease was \$250.00 per year. An additional agreement was made whereby the original owner of the lease was to be given work with the city for a year at \$100.00 per month and a place to live in the Camp. After several months this individual was relieved of his position. It was, however, during this time that most of the improvements in the Camp were made.

In view of the fact that no records are available showing the exact amount spent on the Camp, the total cost of the project could not be determined. The machinery used in making these improvements was donated by Oklahoma City.

At that time the front rows of tents along Pennsylvania avenue were of uniform construction. This gave the Camp a fairly neat appearance. But, further back in the Camp, one could find most any kind of indescribable living abode. Here children were often found playing in shallow pools of water about the hydrants. The children played in the streets in Community Camp. Most of the children were dirty. One mother stated that it is hard to keep clean in a place where there is no grass or no sidewalks. The houses were damp and dark. Screenless doorways swarmed with flies. Very few of these dwellings had the windows screened.

It was not an uncommon sight to see women walking down the street with a baby and a stick of wood in one arm and carrying a pail of water in the other hand.

In January of 1932 the Camp had a population of approximately 2,000. Six months later about 500 of the original 2,000 had left the

Camp because of high water from the North Canadian River. In February of 1932 the Administration Building was completed and a new Camp Manager was employed. Special Health Clinics were opened. All tenants were required to pay one dollar a month rent. Those unable to pay could work eight hours for their rent.

The three-room Camp school which had been completed accommodated approximately 175 children. Work was offered through only the fourth grade. Other grade school children had to go across the river to Westwood School in Packingtown; junior high school students went to Jackson School; and senior high school students went to Roosevelt High School some distance away from the Camp. At this time there were approximately 360 children in the Camp under twelve years of age and 168 from twelve to sixteen years old. Although it was reported that the average scholastic advancement of children in Community Camp was below normal, they were found to be average in view of their limited opportunities. The teachers had two elements with which to deal; those who strove for an opportunity to learn, and those who did not. The majority of those below the average for their grades were children of parents who spent several months each year picking cotton.

The camp superintendent was of the opinion that those in the Camp fell definitely into two groups; those who were willing to work and those who were not willing to work. He stated that those who were not willing to work should be required to do work in the Camp and be denied certain privileges at the same time in the hope that their attitude could be changed. He estimated that from 35 to 45 per cent of the men would not work. He was also of the opinion that the community was supporting many

people who would not work under any circumstances.

It was quite evident that people then living in the Camp thought nothing of the fact that they were living through the generosity of others. They openly claimed that society owed them a living.

Early in June of 1932 the Camp was inundated by the flood waters of the North Canadian River. Fifty per cent of the dwellings and tents erected in the Camp were completely destroyed by the flood. Residents were removed to a general relief headquarters. For days boats patrolled the vicinity amid salvaged goods floating on the water. As soon as the water receded the families were back in the Camp, again taking up the life in the area where the flood waters only a few weeks previously had disrupted it. While the Camp residents were going back to their old home sites, Federal, city, and county officials, and leaders in various civic organizations were trying to work out a plan to eliminate all squatter areas, and place the families under controlled conditions. Some of the outlying squatter areas had acquired a new population since the areas had been cleared a few years previously.

A new search was started for a permanent Community Camp. However, the efforts to start a new project subsided when the authorities stated that the Camp would not be moved. In order to retain the original site, a new lease was drawn up for another year. The city, the county and the Federal government cooperated in a project to make a clean and sanitary tent city out of the camp site.

During 1932 a Boy Scout Troop was organized. The fathers were organized into a troop committee to encourage Boy Scout training. Weekly meetings were held. Boys were employed around the camp in order to pay

for their trips to the summer camp.

The activities of the Community Fund agencies serving the boys and girls at the Camp were enlarged during the latter part of the year through the organization of the Girl Reserve Clubs by the Young Women's Christian Association. Several hundred children had two months' supervised recreation on the Lowell School playgrounds during July and August. The Young Men's Christian Association offered eighty-seven memberships to boys in the Camp.

In the fall of 1932 a sewing room project of the Works Progress Administration was established at the Camp. By the first of the next year more than 500 garments had been distributed in the Camp. A bath house was installed. An office building and church were constructed. A milk storage house was built where families could obtain a gallon of milk daily on tickets issued to the needy. The County Welfare Board, the agency responsible for aid to chronic dependents, administered surplus commodities. Works Progress Administration projects were open to those able to work who had been residents of the State for at least one year.

During this interval, due to the Camp's widespread publicity and criticism, men in different fields of work over the nation came to Oklahoma City in order to obtain a first-hand picture of the City's squatter problem. The Associate National Director of the Community Fund made a written report of the Camp experiment to the National Fund Office in July of 1932. In this report he predicted that the Oklahoma City plan would be used extensively by other cities during the winter of 1933.

In March of 1933 an official of the American Red Cross recom-

mended that the Camp be placed under the United Provident Association. This is the family welfare agency in Oklahoma City supported by the Community Fund. The Red Cross official also expressed the belief that the injudicious distribution of food, clothing and other supplies could be remedied by placing the Camp in the hands of trained social workers. He also approved the plan to use the Camp only as a temporary detention camp for indigent families and recommended the eventual abolishment of the Camp. The same official criticised the practice of prescribing an area for the indigent on the ground that eventually they would regard public relief as due them. He recommended the retention of a Camp Manager but the elimination of the police service. Sanitary facilities and living conditions in general were found superior to those in most camps of this nature. The Camp school, though greatly in need of supplemental vocational and recreational facilities, received especial commendation. The same person stated, after a study of the case histories of 203 persons in forty-eight family groups, that their living standards were comparable to those of the average family among the laboring class. The average education found was equivalent to the fifth grade. A number had had no schooling. On the other hand, one man had graduated from college.

Of 203 persons in this study, 124 or about two-fifths of the total, were native Oklahomans. Thirty-two were born in the vicinity, while two-thirds of the group claimed Oklahoma or adjoining states as their birthplace. In addition to the normal family groups, there were seven widows, one deserted wife, one man who had never married, one person who had separated from her husband. Among twenty-four listed oc-

cupations were a detective, a practical nurse and nine photographers.

The City Manager, following the report of the survey, claimed that while the city officials' chief interest in the Camp conditions was primarily one of sanitation, he doubted the advisability of abolishing the Camp under the existing economic conditions. He also expressed doubt about the advisability of relinquishing all control over the Camp. Some objection was also made to placing complete responsibility in the hands of the social agencies.

The city officials claimed their only expenditures in connection with the Camp had been limited to governmental routine, and included police supervision, sanitary regulations, and laying of water mains. All public buildings, with the exception of the school, were built with lumber that was donated. By the middle of the summer of 1933, the Camp seemed to take on new life as evidenced by the interest residents were showing in their homes. Six new bath houses were added to the Camp in the spring, three for men and three for women. New playground equipment was installed on the school grounds. Two playground supervisors were placed in charge. A rock garden added to the landscaping of the main office building. The clubroom for women was redecorated. Most important of all, new attitudes seemed forthcoming. People were expressing a desire to change the Camp name to "Settlement Residents" claiming that "Community Camp" had too many earmarks of the transient.

By November of 1933 the city, county and Federal relief units were combined under the Federal Emergency Relief Administrator, who had visited the Camp and said the place was a disgrace. Soon all people receiving Federal aid were requested to evacuate. The soup kitchen was

then abolished. The relief administrator next planned for the families to move into houses in a residential part of the city where rent would be not more than six dollars a month. Each family was to be given work relief to provide rent money and to pay the grocery bill. The authorities of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration felt that if all these Camp families were made too comfortable in the Camp, they would never move out. Because of the influence exercised by the relief administration, a general exodus from the Camp occurred shortly afterwards.

Complaints were made by city officials against the transference of the families. It was claimed that the indigents were a menace to the city, and that they violated health and fire ordinances.

Following differences between the City and Federal Emergency Relief Administration, the city authorities removed the electricity. The Camp was therefore without adequate lighting equipment. All hydrants, except one, were also removed. The shower baths were taken out. Police patrol was discontinued. Clinics were closed. The Camp was again on its own resources. The city officials did not renew the lease for the ground and the property was returned to the owner. The owner, however, continued to run the camp. Lots were rented at one dollar per month per family. About forty families had refused to move even when the relief authorities had so ordered.

The plan of dispersing Camp residents throughout the entire Oklahoma City area lasted about one month. When the rent payments fell behind, the landlords requested prompt settlement. In case the rent remained unpaid the occupants of the dwellings were requested to leave. The inability to meet the rentals, therefore, started another migration

which culminated in the establishment of a second camp some distance to the north and west of the original site.

The attitude of the people in the Camp seems to have remained unchanged from the time of the origination of the Camp to the present. They do not believe anybody cares about them, and the majority have decided to remain in the Camp until they are convinced otherwise. It should also be observed in this connection that a second generation, the children of the present Camp residents, is growing up with more or less the fixed attitude of not belonging to the larger world. Statements are made, for example, that the only time office holders visit the Camp or otherwise show an interest in the Camp is during election years.

During 1933 the city health officials estimated that 20 per cent of the adult population had either pellagra or tuberculosis. Two per cent of the children were undernourished. There was little typhoid, since most of the inhabitants of the camp had been inoculated with the typhoid serum. The incidence of communicable diseases was kept at a minimum, either by preventive measures or by isolation as soon as a case of this type made its appearance. The city medical bill was no small item for colds alone. Pneumonia was frequent during the fall and winter. A city nurse spent at least an hour a day in the Camp.

During 1934-1935 and 1936 the solution of the Community Camp problem still loomed as a major program for city and county. While the city could not find any legal method to share expenses with the county, an attempt was made to have the Camp designated as a menace to health. For this reason an effort was made to include a health budget for the camp in the budget of the City Health Department. The attempt to set

aside funds for this purpose was not popular and was discarded shortly afterward.

The committee of five persons appointed to study procedure recommended that all squatter camps should be abandoned and that the city should establish a permanent community camp. This camp was to be a model. Facilities were to include floored tents, city water, and garbage disposal. Detailed case studies were then made of every family to determine the cases for which the city government was responsible and the cases for which the county was responsible. Transients were to be sent back to their homes. Immediate evacuation of the lowlands was recommended. A temporary camp was recommended until a permanent site could be selected. The city and county were each asked to set aside \$15,000.00. However, legal authority to use city funds for this purpose was not forthcoming, and conditions remained more or less in the same state as formerly. Because of the inundating of the Camp in 1935 by waters from the North Canadian River, many of the Camp residents were forced to leave home. Food and tents were immediately made available. Temporary abode for the group was established in Northwest Park. Intensive case work was done by the Red Cross. The City Fire Department handled all details. The City Health Physician was in charge of sanitation. For three days 617 persons were fed at a cost of \$329.54. The average cost per meal was 5.6 cents. The members of the committee of five quit because all they could get from the city manager was a promise to clean up the Camp. Finally the city authorities agreed to help in financing the project on condition that the Camp be handled as a charitable or philanthropic property.

Under the terms no part of the Camp could remain under private control.

The Elm Grove Foundation, composed primarily of members of the Christian Church in Oklahoma City, took over the management of the Camp in January of 1937. This organization found the Camp problems to be strictly a charity job which, aggravated by general economic conditions, was beyond the financial resources of the foundation. The owner of the land was paid a rental of \$150.00 per month. Only one water faucet was still available to furnish water to all of the families for drinking, cooking, laundry and bathing purposes. The Camp was without a sewerage system or garbage service. The open, outside toilets were not clean. There was no police protection. All day long there was a steady pilgrimage to the single water faucet at the west edge of the Camp. People came with cans, pans, or buckets. Some water was hauled. The majority of residents were receiving about \$4.50 per month from the Oklahoma Emergency Relief Administration. The aged and the physically handicapped received \$10.00 per month from the county. Several family heads had sons in the Civilian Conservation Camp, in which instances the family was allotted \$25.00 per month. The inhabitants of the Camp were conscious of their surroundings and the majority seemed eager to improve their situation.

In June, 1937, a new principal of the grade school was employed. This man took considerable interest in the social problems within the Camp and spent the summer of 1937 in making a thorough study of the situation. His greatest effort, however, centered in the task of providing the children of the Camp with an educational opportunity somewhat com-

parable to the opportunity enjoyed by children in working class families in general. A wholesome place in which to live was regarded as an essential basis for a sound educational program. At a meeting composed of city officials, school board members, and representatives of the Parent-Teachers' Association, plans for a model camp were considered. The principal of the school asked for twenty model houses as a part of the proposed project. Under the plan, a tentative arrangement had been made whereby private interests would furnish \$5,000.00 if the city and county officials would contribute a similar amount. Most of the construction was to be done by men in the Camp. It was believed that \$125.00 would cover the total indebtedness on each dwelling, if the maximum use were made of local labor in the construction of the dwellings. Under the plan the dwellings would be sold to the people on the basis of a small monthly payment for the retirement of the portion of the cost not covered in the arrangement for construction by the local people. The plan that was outlined also called for water to be furnished by the city and a hydrant to be placed at each store. The city was also requested to provide street lighting, to enforce sanitation, and to provide police protection.

The county was asked to loan the Camp the power and equipment to build a levee along the Canadian River as a protection against floods and to take steps to keep the river running under the Pennsylvania avenue bridge. The county was also requested to furnish 160 acres of land for gardens and for the cultivation of cotton. It was thought that the cotton crop should help materially in defraying the total cost of the camp project. The plan also called for enlargement of the school.

At that time space was available for half-day sessions per pupil. No kindergarten was being offered. The school board was also asked to place a fence around the school ground and to provide the grounds with lighting equipment. A park site near the camp, in which playground equipment should be placed, was also suggested. A number of shower baths were also requested.

The First Christian Church had promised to build a small church in the Camp. The church was to be used as a community center.

The County Commissioners had no plans for the control of the river channel in spite of the fact that during the last rainy season the river absorbed twelve acres of land near the bridge. The School Board promised to build an addition to Lowell School if the river channel could be straightened. The Parent-Teachers' Association voted to provide a meal a day for the undernourished school children in the Camp. Lowell School was the only school in the city in which such provision had not been made.

Manual arts was added to the school. The principal was optimistic about his program. He maintained that a wholesome community could be developed around Lowell School. City officials, however, were inclined to question the practicability of any plan calling for the renovation of the Camp which did not at the same time attack the entire squatter problem. On its part, the Foundation constructed 200 sanitary toilets. This was the first real step toward eliminating the health menace of the Camp to the rest of the city. This work was supervised by the Assistant State Director of Community Sanitation, a branch of the United States Public Health Service. The project had the approval of

State Health and City Health directors. The city furnished a large part of the materials used in construction and the Works Progress Administration provided the labor. That project ended one phase of the fight to clean up the Camp. The Foundation removed undesirables in the Camp by filing eviction suits for non-payment of rent. Among other improvements realized was a full-day session of school for all children. School attendance increased both in total attendance and in regularity. Attendance at Sunday school also increased materially. Play groups were organized. The Camp was transformed from the worst example of its kind in Oklahoma County to a comparatively high degree of cleanliness. Flowers were planted, whereas formerly no attempt had been made to beautify the yards.

An arrangement was made whereby Camp children could attend junior high school. The Parent-Teachers' Association served hot lunches and assisted in many other ways. The "Elm Grove News", was a special project that was begun by the principal of the school. This little four-page weekly was published on Fridays. A volunteer staff did the work. The press office was in the basement of the First Christian Church. The paper carried short statements from the editor, such as "A handy way to clean up before coming to school is to use a little soap". "Mr. and Mrs. John Swindell are new residents in the Camp. They came from Oskaloosa. They have a daughter, Jamie, nine years old, who will enroll in Lowell School". "Georgie Bell brought his new goat over to see the professor yesterday evening."² Unfortunately for the best interests of Community Camp and

2. Names used are fictitious.

its inhabitants, the school principal died in 1938. Following his death, conditions in the Camp lapsed generally into the former state of indifference.

The years 1939 to 1941 brought some new faces to the Camp, but the general structural pattern of the community did not change a great deal. The summer brought the usual number of workers out to put roofs of their houses in condition to withstand the winter rains and snows. Winter brought a search for wood. It was no uncommon sight to see women wielding axes and children picking up twigs or dragging boxes down the streets. Men hauled limbs on old trucks or maybe in a push cart. The young and able-bodied shifted for themselves, but the county still provided fuel for their clients, mainly the old and unemployable.

Some of the houses were of little protection; most of the shacks leaked; the majority were still dark and musty. Few of them had foundations, and frequently they were banked with dirt. They were built of tin, beaver board, scrap lumber, or sheet iron. Windows were ordinarily half-windows, either of the sliding variety or of the type which had to be supported by a stick. Some windows had glass, others did not; some were boarded, while others were covered with gunny sacks. Most windows and doors were screenless. There were a few screens, but they usually had holes patched with old rags.

A typical shack was built of a combination of soft drink signs and shingles, with a partially shingled roof. There were two small windows, one with a red and gray awning over it and the other with dirty curtains flying out. The floor consisted of old boards placed on the ground and a covering of papers and old pieces of carpet and linoleum.



Fig. 2.--Picture of a Camp Dwelling in 1935

A water bucket was placed upside down over the stove pipe to keep out the rain.

There were some houses of a better type of construction, but few had finished interiors, shingled roofs, or a coat of paint. All dwellings were surrounded by ample yard space. Renters in the camp still had the privilege of building any kind of dwelling they wanted. Ground rent was still one dollar per month. The owner of the land had several houses which rented for two or three dollars per month, the difference in price depending upon the type and location of the house.

In most homes there was some attempt at decoration. Paper flowers in brilliant shades were very common. A large picture of a fraternity in a state institution of higher learning hung on the wall of one dwelling, but pictures usually seen reminded one of the motion picture industry. Old lace curtains often hung at the side of the windows.

The stoves in many homes stood out quite prominently. They ranged from makeshift oil cans to any worn-out variety of cheap range. Many were home-made stoves of sheet iron set on bricks, used for heating and cooking. This latter variety smoked badly, but did throw out considerable heat. Cooking utensils were numerous but of poor quality. Lard can tops were the most popular cooking utensil. On one teakettle a spool of thread served as a knob on the lid.

There was still no sewerage system, and one water hydrant served the whole Camp. The lone water faucet by the corner grocery also served as the community meeting place or gossip center. Here could be seen almost any time of the day water containers of all descriptions, from

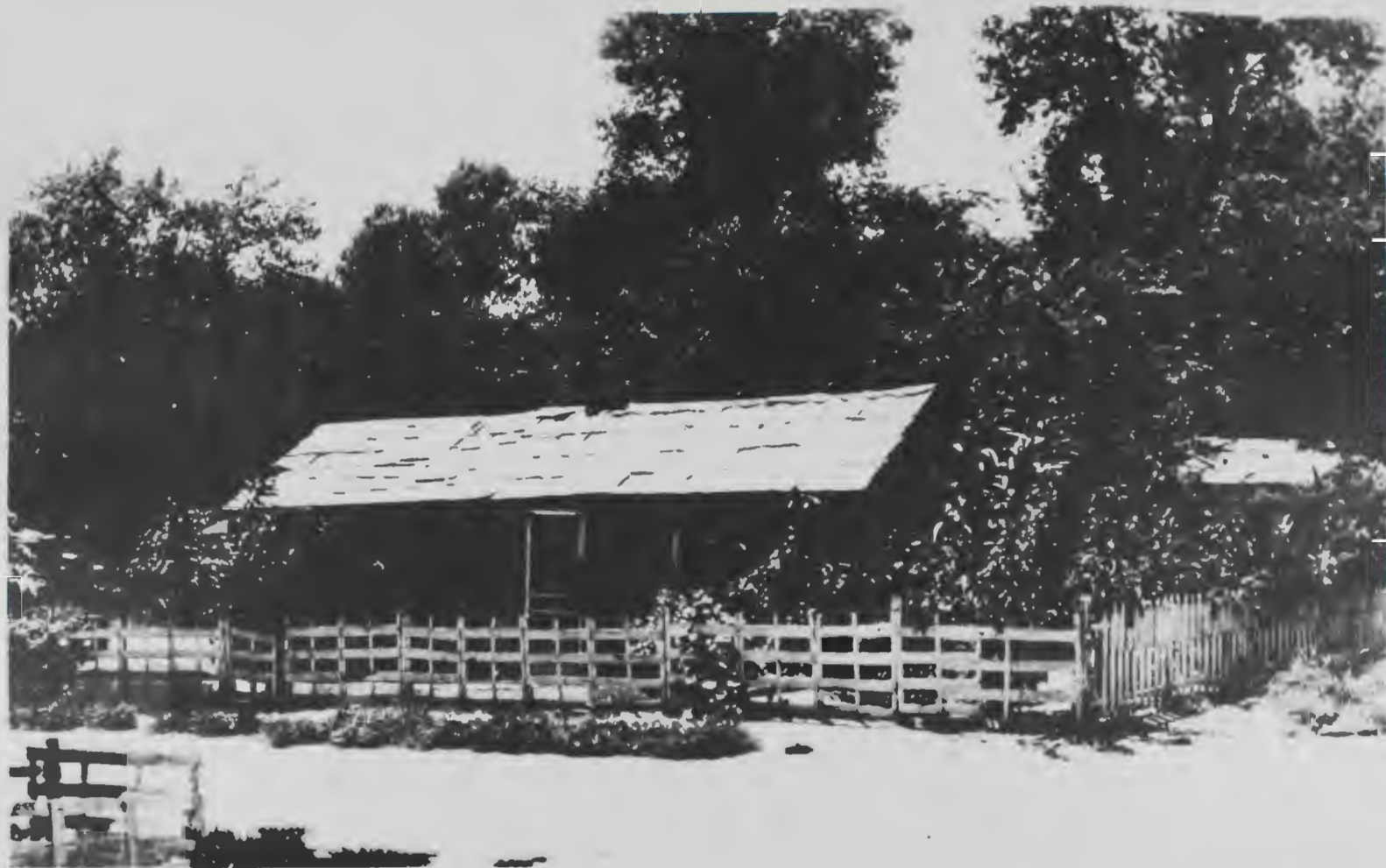


Fig. 2.--Picture of a Camp Dwelling in 1940

gleaming pails to greasy lard cans or filthy, dirty old barrels. One camp resident hauled water for ten cents a barrel. He averaged twenty-eight barrels per day. He hauled for two classes, those too old and those too lazy. No one could afford the service. A barrel of water ordinarily lasted a family a week for drinking, cooking, and washing. The barrels were often in close proximity to garbage containers which were covered with an old tin or gunny sack. It was no uncommon sight to see women wiping out with dirty potatoe sacks the barrels used for drinking water. Also, children at play frequently put dirty sticks into the water in the barrels.

Clotheslines were rarely seen. Trees, fences, or even weeds served for support of freshly washed clothes placed out to dry.

One element of the Camp population was making some effort to lift itself out of the situation brought on by the prolonged depression. The other element had ceased to struggle or to care for better surroundings.

The influences instituted in the lives of children who are forced to live under such circumstances are incalculable. There is, however, some hope of a better world for these children because of the work of the Parent-Teachers' Association.

Personal hygiene among the children of school age is better than among their parents. This is a rather clear indication that the children have benefitted from attending school, though much remains to be done to help these children. The school is exercising a marked influence for good. Now it is the community center about which various social activities center. Most troubled parents see the school principal for help and advice when trouble first looms. The teachers speak of the majority

of the children as being of average intellect, having been forced with their parents into the camp at the beginning of the depression following World War I. The majority of those below the average for their grades are children of parents who spend the fall of the year in the cotton fields. In large measure, prolonged absence from school is the chief cause of the scholastic retardation of children in Community Camp.

A former school principal required his teachers to visit at least once each year in the home of each child attending their classes. One teacher stated that those visits were of great value in working with her pupils. In 1945 the educational plant in the Community consists of five buildings located on a block of ground. The site is leased by the school board. Seven grades of work are offered. No child over thirteen years of age is permitted to attend Lowell School. If he is retarded for his age he is referred to Franklin, the opportunity school. No kindergarten is available; however, later plans call for a program covering one-half day.

The school nurse visits the community each Wednesday. She and the city nurse, who makes daily calls in the Camp, work together regarding problems of health and sanitation in the district.

The school auditorium is open and supervised by the principal on Monday and Friday evenings for leisure time activities for those children who have attended Lowell School. Camp Fire and Boy Scout activities groups are well attended. Games of ping pong, shuffle board, ring toss, checkers and dominoes are usually enjoyed. The younger children now have a recreational period following the school hours each Monday and Friday. The teachers rotate in the supervision of the play-

ground. Because of financial limitations, funds have been available to offer only two months of playground supervision each summer. It is hoped that recreational programs in the City Parks will be again available in the near future.

Churches are numerous in the Camp for the size of the district. The churches started by the people in the Camp are usually known as the "Peoples' Mission." Sometimes the church takes the name of the local organizer. Few preachers are ordained. Religion is of the demonstrative type; often children take part in the services. Meetings are held whenever someone in the Camp is found who can play a musical instrument. There are, in general, two types of churches in the Camp: those founded and built by the people, and those established by religious denominations working in the Camp. One of the churches started by the people is particularly outstanding. It is located at the east end of the Camp across from the City Dump. It is built of old boards and torn-up cardboard boxes, and is not painted. The pulpit is an old box; the seats are of rough planks. Instead of a Bible, the worshippers take along a stick of wood to add to the fire. A statement commonly heard in the winter is that "there is no need to sit at home in the cold when you can go to Church." An old oil barrel serves as a stove, and a gasoline lamp provides the light. An early model organ in one corner adds to the scene. A fairly large congregation is generally in attendance. The people are clean and very friendly in spirit. This church seems to be the answer to the people's own misery and surroundings. One other large church is the Marantha Mission, established by a city music teacher and supported by a class at the First Baptist Church in

Oklahoma City. Services are held on Sunday and at mid-week. Classes for mothers and occasionally for boys and girls are held during the week. The pulpit is filled by invitation each Sunday. This church and the one sponsored by the Christian Church in the Lowell School building has done much to further Christian education in the community and to assist families with their social and economic problems.

The Camp is now served by six stores, with a combined stock valued at less than one thousand dollars. Three of these establishments also serve as the homes of the owners. People seen leaving the stores usually are carrying a loaf of bread, a pint of milk, perhaps some unrationed meat, and possibly a can or two of some vegetable. All of the stores sell soda pop, and young and old drink it.

Any description of the Camp would be incomplete if it failed to include some reference to the private office of the individual who owns the Camp site. This woman is usually in her office in the afternoon of each week-day. The structure is quite in keeping with its surroundings. In its better days the building served as a street-car for the Oklahoma Railway Company. It was retired to its present spot during the Elm Grove Foundation regime. On one of the four large cottonwood trees in front of the office is a large black and white sign which reads, "Elm Grove Camp, Rates \$1.00 per month". The word "Office" in large green and black letters is printed on the front window. The building is surrounded by an unpainted picket fence. In summer an asparagus hedge, petunias in bloom, and a small garden attract the attention of the visitor. The seven windows in the car are dressed in tan paper shades, in keeping in color with the floor covering of linoleum. The

furnishings consist of a coal stove, a built-in desk, a long bench along one side to accommodate the Camp customer who either comes to pay his rent or to plead for a "little more time". One old fellow, who very seldom pays his rent when due always comes by on the tenth and tells the owner he "ain't got it today, but you know I'll pay you when I can, I always do". Her busiest days are the first of the month when the old age pensioners receive their checks and on the tenth of the month when the checks for aid to dependent children and blind are received. The owner has apparently developed considerable good will among the population of the camp because they speak of her as their friend.

Finally, it may be stated that in the spring of 1945 little change could be observed in the general surroundings. It is still the community of cheap, dirty shacks, of hovels where games of chance are still popular; a place where intoxicating liquor is made and sold; and an area of sandy streets in dry weather and of muddy streets during the rainy season.

Efforts to improve the sanitary conditions of the Camp have done little more than help to preserve those conditions. Without doubt, the first and greatest need of the people is regular employment and the feeling of security that goes with a regular job.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS OF THE
ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES IN COMMUNITY CAMP

CHAPTER III

In analyzing the composition of the one hundred families residing in Community Camp, the birthplace and sex of the family heads, as shown in Table I, was of first concern. Only two persons, one male and one female, did not know their place of birth. With the exception of one woman, all were born in the United States. She was born in Canada of English parentage, but had lived in the United States since infancy.

Nearly one-third of the family heads gave Oklahoma as their native state. Of this number 39.5 per cent were females and 25 per cent were males. One man was born in the Indian Territory, before Oklahoma was admitted to the Union. States adjacent to Oklahoma were represented most frequently as the place of birth of family heads. About one-fifth claimed Texas as their birthplace. Of this number 22.4 per cent were males and 16.5 per cent were females.

Arkansas was claimed as the birthplace of 11.7 per cent, and ranked third among the states as to place of birth. Proportionally more men than women were born in Arkansas. Approximately one family head in twelve gave Missouri as the state of birth. More women than men were natives of Missouri. Tennessee ranked fifth, with 5.2 per cent originally from that state. Illinois, Kansas and Kentucky followed in the

TABLE I
 FAMILY HEADS CLASSIFIED BY PLACE OF BIRTH AND SEX

Place of Birth	Sex of Family Heads					
	Number			Per cent		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	171	80	91	100.0	100.0	100.0
Oklahoma	56	20	36	32.7	25.0	39.5
Texas	33	18	15	19.3	22.4	16.5
Arkansas	20	11	9	11.7	13.7	9.9
Missouri	15	7	8	8.8	8.7	8.8
Tennessee	9	6	3	5.2	7.5	3.3
Illinois	6	3	3	3.5	3.7	3.3
Kansas	6	2	4	3.5	2.5	4.4
Kentucky	5	2	3	3.0	2.5	3.3
Alabama	3	1	2	1.8	1.3	2.2
Mississippi	3	3	0	1.8	3.7	0.0
Nebraska	3	2	1	1.8	2.5	1.1
Michigan	2	1	1	1.1	1.3	1.1
Pennsylvania	2	1	1	1.1	1.3	1.1
Canada	1	0	1	.6	0.0	1.0
Georgia	1	0	1	.6	0.0	1.1
Iowa	1	0	1	.6	0.0	1.1
Louisiana	1	1	0	.6	1.3	0.0
Minnesota	1	0	1	.6	0.0	1.1
New Jersey	1	1	0	.6	1.3	0.0
Unknown	2	1	1	1.1	1.3	1.1

order named. It is quite interesting that not a single western state was represented in the birthplaces of the 171 family heads.

When grouped on the basis of geographic division, it was found that 32 per cent were born in the northeastern states, 40 per cent in the middle western states, and 28 per cent in the southern states.

The marital status of the economic head of each household is given in Table II. Nearly three fourths, 71 per cent, were listed as married couples. Twelve per cent of the men and women were widowed, 3 per cent were widowers and 9 per cent were widows. The divorced comprised 8 per cent and the separated 5 per cent.

In the case of one married couple, the woman stated that her husband was out of the home a great deal as "he hired out in the country most of the time, coming home whenever he felt like it."

In twenty households women were the economic heads. This situation was due to death, divorce or separation. The one single woman claimed her status was not necessarily one of her own choosing. In nine households the man was the lone head. In this group there were seven widowers; of these two were due to death, four to separation, and one to divorce. The two unmarried men maintained they were contented with their way of life.

In 29 per cent of the homes either the male or female head was not living at home. Sixteen per cent of the group were childless couples.

Table III gives the classification of the ages at which the family heads married. Of the 171 family heads, eighty males and ninety-one females, 51.6 per cent of the women were married by the time they were twenty-one years of age as compared with 28.8 per cent of the men. Only five males married between the ages sixteen and eighteen as compared to

TABLE II

MARITAL STATUS OF ECONOMIC HEADS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES

Marital Status	Number of Families
Total	100
Married	71
Widow	9
Divorced	8
Separated	5
Single	3
Widower	3
Deserted	1

twenty females.

As indicated in the table 13.1 per cent of the women married before they were fifteen years old, and two married at the age of thirteen.

Forty and nine-tenths per cent of the family heads married between the ages of twenty-two and thirty-three, and 11.8 per cent between thirty-four and forty-five.

Those marrying after they became forty-five years of age comprised about 12 per cent of the total.

In only two instances was the man over eighty years of age at the time the survey was made. One stated he was eighty-four and the other eighty-one. The present marriage was the second for both men. In another instance the wife was many years the husband's senior. She gave her age as seventy-one and her husband's age was forty-three. This was the woman's third marriage and the husband's first. Camp gossip was to the effect that "he married the old woman for her pension." Seven other cases were found where the wives were somewhat older than their husbands.

The earliest marriage reported was in 1881. Eight children were born to this couple. The mother, now seventy-five years of age, still maintains a home for a widowed son of fifty-six. This aged mother boasted of never having been on relief until she received her first old age assistance check in 1936. Seven per cent of the men and women, four males and eight females, were unable to recall their ages at the time of marriage.

As given in Table IV, 97 per cent of the family heads included in this study had been or were married. Of this number three-fourths

TABLE III
AGE AT WHICH FAMILY HEADS MARRIED

Age	Number			Per cent		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	171	80	91	100.0	100.0	100.0
13-15 years	12	0	12	7.0	0.0	13.1
16-18 years	25	5	20	14.6	6.3	22.0
19-21 years	25	10	15	14.6	12.5	16.5
22-24 years	22	13	9	12.9	16.3	9.9
25-27 years	10	8	2	5.8	10.0	2.2
28-30 years	11	7	4	6.4	8.8	4.4
31-33 years	10	5	5	5.8	6.3	5.5
34-36 years	7	4	3	4.1	5.0	3.3
37-39 years	3	3	0	1.8	3.8	0.0
40-42 years	2	1	1	1.2	1.2	1.1
43-45 years	8	2	2	4.7	7.5	2.2
46-48 years	4	3	1	2.3	3.8	1.1
49-51 years	2	1	1	1.2	1.2	1.1
52-54 years	3	2	1	1.8	2.5	1.1
55-57 years	2	0	2	1.2	0.0	2.2
58-60 years	2	1	1	1.2	1.2	1.1
61-63 years	2	2	0	1.2	2.5	0.0
64-69 years	11	1	0	.5	1.2	0.0
70-75 years	2	0	2	1.2	0.0	2.2
76-81 years	2	1	1	1.2	1.1	1.1
82-86 years	1	1	0	.5	1.2	0.0
Single	3	2	1	1.3	2.5	1.1
Unknown	12	4	8	7.0	5.0	8.8

TABLE IV

FAMILIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE STATE IN WHICH THEY WERE MARRIED

Place of Marriage	Number of Families
Total	100
Oklahoma	76
Arkansas	7
Missouri	4
Texas	3
Kansas	2
Nebraska	2
Michigan	1
Tennessee	1
None	3
Unknown	1

were married in Oklahoma; seven in Arkansas; four in Missouri, three in Texas; and two each in Kansas and Nebraska. Michigan and Tennessee were represented with one marriage each.

In studying the number of previous marriages of the 171 family heads, it was found that 59.1 per cent had never been married previously. Of the remaining 40.9 per cent, one-fourth had been married once before, one in fourteen twice, and one in fourteen three times. This data is shown in Table V.

A valuable part of the study included information regarding the home environment. A summary of the findings with respect to home circumstances is given in Table VI. In approximately one-half of the families the home life may be described as normal, in that both parents were residing in the home. In one-fifth of the cases there were no children in the family, or the children were living elsewhere. Approximately one home in seven may be described as broken, in that either the father or the mother was not living in the home. The broken homes were the result of death, divorce or desertion. The most common cause of the broken home situation was divorce. In only one instance, in which the father was keeping the family intact, had the home been broken by the death of the mother. In this instance the father was left with three children, two girls and one boy, all under thirteen years of age. The man admitted he was having a very difficult problem to adjust himself to the role of both economic and social head of the household. It was particularly interesting to note that there was at least a desire to try to fulfill this responsibility, and with the aid of a few members of the Baptist Church Circle conditions appeared to be adjusting fairly well.

TABLE V

FAMILY HEADS CLASSIFIED BY SEX AND NUMBER OF PREVIOUS MARRIAGES

Number of Previous Marriages	Sex of Family Heads					
	Total	Number		Total	Per cent	
		Male	Female		Male	Female
Total	171	80	91	100.0	100.0	100.0
One	44	21	23	25.7	26.3	25.3
Two	10	3	7	5.9	3.7	7.7
Three	12	5	7	7.0	6.3	7.7
Four	4	3	1	2.3	3.7	1.1
None	101	48	53	59.1	60.0	58.2

TABLE VI

TYPES OF FAMILIES

Types of Families	Number
Total	100
Unbroken Families	
Husband and Wife Living together	
With children	51
No children	20
Broken Families	
Father and children	3
Mother and children	12
One Person Families - Living Alone	
Male	7
Female	7

The one person families comprised 14 per cent of the total. These persons were either single, widowed, separated or divorced. One desertion was listed. The number of relatives living in the households of the families included in the study is given in Table VII. In only nine homes were relatives living with the family. Of this number, eight were under twenty-one years of age. Five of the relatives were males and four were females. No family had more than one relative living in the home.

In two households there were two daughters-in-law. Each had a child. Harmony seemed to prevail within the home. Each child's father contributed toward the expenses of his own family in his parents' home.

Another case of a relative in the home was one in which there was a three-year old granddaughter. The child's mother was employed as a waitress in a small cafe while the paternal grandmother cared for the child. This child had three uncles who also were living in the home, making a seven member household in a two-room hut.

A young widowed mother with two small daughters no doubt welcomed the additional support of her twenty year old half-brother. This youth attended school regularly, but managed to get in a few hours' work each day at a neighborhood grocery. This, added to the mother's monthly aid to dependent children check, constituted the monthly income for the family of four. No relative was found living with a family where there were four or more children in the household. There appeared to be in general closely knit family groups. Relatives were encountered so infrequently that it is quite evident the findings are somewhat contrary to public opinion.

Table VIII gives the number of persons who were residing in the

TABLE VII

RELATIVES CLASSIFIED BY SEX AND AGE
LIVING IN THE HOUSEHOLDS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES

Age	Number and Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	9	5	4
Under 1 year	1	1	0
3 years	1	0	1
8 years	1	1	0
13 years	1	0	1
16 years	1	1	0
18 years	1	0	1
20 years	2	1	1
21 years and above	1	1	0

TABLE VIII
FAMILIES CLASSIFIED BY THE NUMBER OF PERSONS
PER FAMILY

Number of Persons	Number of Families
Total	100
1 person	15
2 persons	24
3 persons	16
4 persons	10
5 persons	11
6 persons	13
7 persons	8
8 persons	1
9 persons	2

home in the summer of 1941. Married children and those away from home were not considered.

There were 366 persons in the one-hundred families studied, or an average of 3.66 persons per family. This average is only 1.6 per cent higher than for the general population of the United States in 1940.¹ Twenty-four per cent of the families in the group reported families composed of two persons each; and 16 per cent three persons. The next largest per cent was the one person families. The majority of the two person families consisted of elderly couples whose children were married or were living away from home. There were a few young childless couples. In several cases the household was composed of a parent and a child.

One-tenth of the families had four persons per family and 11 per cent five persons. Thirteen per cent of the families had six members in the household and eight per cent had seven. One family had eight, and two families had nine members in the household.

In Table IX is given the sex and age distribution of the 171 family heads. In this group of family heads were eighty men and ninety-one women. The largest age group of family heads was from thirty-five to thirty-nine. The second largest age group was from forty-five to forty-nine. Ten men and twenty-one women were under thirty years of age, indicating as far as the early years of married life are concerned that women were younger than the men. On the other hand, only seven men were

1. United States Census Bulletin, Composition and Characteristics of the Population, 1940.

TABLE IX
FAMILY HEADS CLASSIFIED BY SEX AND AGE

Age	Sex of Family Heads					
	Number			Per cent		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	171	80	91	100.0	100.0	100.0
10-14 years	1	0	1	.6	0.0	1.1
15-19 years	6	3	3	3.5	3.8	3.3
20-24 years	10	3	7	5.8	3.8	7.7
25-29 years	14	4	10	8.2	5.0	11.0
30-34 years	16	3	13	9.3	3.8	14.2
35-39 years	24	12	12	14.0	15.0	13.2
40-44 years	11	6	5	6.4	7.5	5.5
45-49 years	22	10	12	12.9	12.5	13.2
50-54 years	15	8	7	8.8	10.0	7.7
55-59 years	9	7	2	5.4	8.8	2.2
60-64 years	16	11	5	9.3	13.7	5.5
65-69 years	9	6	3	5.3	7.5	3.3
70-74 years	10	4	6	5.8	5.0	6.6
75-79 years	5	1	4	2.8	1.2	4.4
80-84 years	1	1	0	.6	1.2	0.0
85-89 years	1	1	0	.6	1.2	0.0
90-95 years	1	0	1	.6	0.0	1.1

seventy years of age or over as compared with eleven of the women. This apparent contradiction of the preceding statement is accounted for by the fact that women tend to outlive men, especially in the upper ages of the life span.

Three men and three women were from fifteen to seventeen years old. One female was thirteen years of age. No male head of the household was under nineteen years of age. In about one-eighth of the households, the women were older than the men. The ages of the family heads did not vary to any great degree with the exception of one case. In this instance a forty-seven year-old veteran of World War I had married an old age assistance recipient seventy-three years of age. Thirteen couples, on the other hand, were of the same age.

The age classification of the children in the one hundred homes may be seen by referring to Table X. Included were 185 children from one to twenty years of age who were living in their own homes or that of a close relative. Ninety-seven of the children were boys and eighty-eight were girls. Forty per cent of the children were from eight to fourteen years of age. The second largest group, twelve, was composed of eleven year olds. Nearly one-fourth of the 185 children ranged in age from four through seven years. Within this category were twenty-three boys and twenty-one girls.

Children under one year of age and the two, three, fourteen, fifteen and sixteen year olds composed 29 per cent of the entire group. Girls outnumbered boys in those age classifications thirty to twenty-four. One-sixth of the entire group of 185 children were ten, eleven, or twelve years of age. The ages in which the largest number of girls

TABLE X
 CLASSIFICATION OF THE CHILDREN BY SEX AND AGE IN THE HOMES
 OF THE ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES

Age	Sex of Children in Homes					
	Number			Per cent		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	185	97	88	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 12 months	9	5	4	4.9	5.3	4.5
One Year	6	3	3	3.3	3.1	3.4
2 years	9	2	7	4.9	2.1	8.0
3 years	9	3	6	4.9	3.1	6.8
4 years	11	8	3	5.9	8.2	3.4
5 years	11	4	7	5.9	4.1	8.0
6 years	11	7	4	5.9	7.2	4.5
7 years	11	4	7	5.9	4.1	8.0
8 years	13	6	7	7.0	6.2	8.9
9 years	10	7	3	5.4	7.2	3.4
10 years	8	3	5	4.3	3.1	5.7
11 years	12	6	6	6.5	6.2	6.8
12 years	8	6	2	4.3	6.2	2.3
13 years	13	8	5	7.0	8.2	5.7
14 years	9	3	6	4.9	3.1	6.8
15 years	9	7	2	4.9	7.2	2.3
16 years	9	4	5	4.9	4.1	5.7
17 years	3	1	2	1.7	1.0	2.3
18 years	1	1	0	0.5	1.0	0.0
19 years	8	7	1	4.3	7.2	1.0
20 years	5	2	3	2.7	2.1	3.4

were grouped were the two, five and eight year olds. The ages in which the largest number of boys were grouped, on the other hand, were six, nine and nineteen. Those one year of age were evenly distributed as to sex, there being three males and three females. There were three more girls than boys in the age groups under ten years of age. On the other hand, there were more boys than girls from eleven to twenty years of age. As would naturally be expected there were fewer children in the higher age group in the home; the seventeen, eighteen and twenty year old groups accounted for only nine children. The percentage of boys and girls in these ages was practically identical. In only one group, that of the nineteen year olds, was there much difference in the ratio of males to females. In this group there was a total of eight children, the boys outnumbering the girls seven to one. This difference can be accounted for by relatively earlier marriage on the part of young women.

A classification of the children living in each home according to sex and age is shown in Table XI. Married children living at home and those over twenty-one years of age were not included in this table. There were more families, fourteen, with three children in the home, than any other number. However, there were thirteen families with four children. Twelve families reported one and two children. The five, six and seven children households composed one-tenth of the families. Of the 185 children included in the study, fifty-five were in households having five, six, or seven children. Families with one, two, and three children each had 130 of the 185 children included in the study. Thirty-nine per cent of the families were recorded as not having any children. This does not necessarily mean that those families were childless, since only those

TABLE XI

FAMILIES CLASSIFIED BY THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN LIVING IN THE HOME

Number of Children	Number of Families	Number of Children in the Home
Total	100	185
1 Child	12	12
2 Children	12	24
3 Children	14	42
4 Children	13	52
5 Children	7	35
6 Children	1	6
7 Children	2	14
No Children	39	0

children under twenty-one years of age and living in the home were included in the study. Sixteen per cent of the one hundred families reported children living outside of the home. In ten families one child was away from home, whereas five families reported having two children each out of the home. The other family had three living elsewhere, making a total of twenty-three children living away from their own homes. Of this number eighteen were males and five were females.

CHILDREN LIVING AWAY FROM HOME			
Age	Number and Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	23	18	5
16 years	4	3	1
17 years	1	0	1
18 years	4	2	2
19 years	4	4	0
20 years	7	6	1
21 years	3	3	0

Data on the formal education of the 171 family heads are presented in Table XIII. As is readily revealed, 20 per cent of the men and only 7 per cent of the women were unable to read or write. One male and four females had attended school for less than a year. Many were older men and women who talked of attending school. Most of them remarked, however, that times had changes so that the grade they had reached in school would not be comparable to the same grade today. Hence, the impression gained was that, if they could read and write it did not make much difference as to the grade one reached in school. This attitude can perhaps

TABLE XII

FAMILIES CLASSIFIED BY THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN LIVING AWAY FROM HOME

Number of Children	Number of Families	Number of Children Away from the Home
Total	16	23
1 Child	10	10
2 Children	5	10
3 Children	1	3

TABLE XIII

FORMAL EDUCATION OF THE FAMILY HEADS BY SEX AND GRADE

Grade	Sex of Family Heads					
	Number			Per cent		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	171	80	91	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 to 364 days	5	1	4	2.9	1.2	4.4
First	7	3	4	4.1	3.8	4.4
Second	10	4	6	5.8	5.0	6.6
Third	15	3	12	8.8	3.8	13.2
Fourth	26	14	12	15.2	17.5	13.2
Fifth	20	8	12	11.7	10.0	13.2
Sixth	14	7	7	8.2	18.8	7.7
Seventh	6	2	4	3.5	2.5	4.7
Eighth	25	12	13	14.6	15.0	14.2
Ninth	6	1	5	3.5	1.2	5.5
Tenth	1	1	0	0.6	1.2	0.0
Eleventh	3	0	3	1.8	0.0	3.3
Twelfth	5	4	1	2.9	5.0	1.1
1 Year of College	1	0	1	0.6	0.0	1.1
None	27	20	7	15.8	25.0	7.7

be characterized with the greatest accuracy as a defense reaction

One forty-two year old man could write only his name. The oldest Camp resident in the group, a ninety year old woman, claimed she could read the Bible and Christian Literature, but she could not write. Her formal education consisted of passing the second grade. Of the twenty-seven who had never attended school, one was a thirty-nine year old widow who seemed very proud of the fact that she was not interested in reading.

Twenty-six persons, or 15.2 per cent of the family heads, had a fourth grade education. Those who had completed the eighth grade composed 14.6 per cent of the entire group.

Those completing the third grade numbered fifteen, and those claiming more than six grades numbered fourteen or 8.2 per cent of the total. Only five persons, four males and one female, had completed the twelfth grade. One of these, a very young man, had one year at a local business college. The educational status of the women was somewhat higher than that of the men. Sixty-five per cent of the women had a fifth grade education, whereas only forty-one per cent of the men had completed this grade. One young widow had one year of college to her credit.

Generally speaking, the variation between the sexes as regards the years of schooling received is small. There were eleven more women than men in the group studied, and this factor may account for some slight difference in the percentage. The largest percentage of both sexes, 15.2, had a fourth grade education. The educational status of the 171 family heads is lower than for the general population.²

2. United States Census Bulletin, Composition and Characteristics of the Population, 1940

The Bible was the most widely read publication. The newspaper ranked second as a source of reading. Only four families, one family with children under twelve years of age, and the other three families with children thirteen years of age and younger, reported checking out books from the school library.

One forty-five year old mother boasted of reading novels to her four children who ranged from eight to thirteen years of age. Other mothers possibly did the same thing, but they at least were not boastful of this accomplishment. One widower confessed he enjoyed what he called "moody books." He also read his Bible. An old age assistance recipient confessed that he was "doing well" to read an occasional letter from the home folks.

The Saturday Evening Post, Western Stories, True Confessions, Movie Magazine, Detective Story Magazines, D. L. Moody's Books of Religious Literature, Comic Books, and newspaper comics were observed in some of the dwellings. One young widow read Cosmopolitan, Good Housekeeping, and The American. Unity School Literature and the morning and evening daily newspapers were found in only three or four homes.

In Table XIV the number of children in school by sex and age are classified. Of the 120 attending school regularly, sixty-seven were boys and fifty-three were girls. Of the entire group, 15 per cent were in the first grade in school. This does not necessarily mean that it was their first year in school. As learned from close observation and from school attendance records, many of the parents were not cooperative with the school attendance officer when it came to encouraging their children either in school work or in regular attendance. Transportation was not a problem

TABLE XIV

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN SCHOOL CLASSIFIED BY SEX AND GRADE

Sex of Children in School						
Grade	Number			Per cent		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	120	67	53	100.0	100.0	100.0
First	18	12	6	15.0	17.9	11.3
Second	16	8	8	13.3	11.9	15.1
Third	17	9	8	14.2	13.4	15.1
Fourth	11	4	7	9.2	6.0	13.2
Fifth	10	7	3	8.3	10.4	5.7
Sixth	16	9	7	13.3	13.4	13.2
Seventh	6	4	2	5.0	6.0	3.8
Eighth	10	5	5	8.3	7.5	9.4
Ninth	8	4	4	6.7	6.0	7.5
Tenth	2	1	1	1.7	1.5	1.9
Eleventh	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Twelfth	1	0	1	.8	0.0	1.9
Unknown	5	4	1	4.2	6.0	1.9

for the elementary grades. Doubtless the lack of finances prevented many parents from getting their children in school.

The second largest group, 14.2 per cent of the total, were in the third grade. Those in the second grade, 13.3 per cent, composed approximately one-seventh of the total number attending school. There were also 13.3 per cent in the sixth grade.

The first five grades accounted for 60 per cent of the children. Approximately a little over one third, 35.8 per cent, were enrolled from the sixth to the twelfth grades inclusive. Of these grades the eighth had 8.3 per cent. There was only one student enrolled in the twelfth grade.

Data in Table XIV reveals that as the children became older there was a marked tendency to discontinue formal education.

In comparing the grade education of the adults with the grades in which the children were enrolled it was found that 60 per cent of the 120 children had reached the fifth grade, while only 36.8 per cent of the 171 adults attained this grade.

As will be observed from Table XV, there were 131 children of school age, or from six to twenty-one years. Of this number, 120 were attending school.

The age group from six to thirteen years accounted for practically two-thirds of the 120 children in school. In this group of eighty-one children there were forty-five boys and thirty-six girls.

After the age of thirteen years the average school attendance decreased markedly. From the ages fourteen through twenty, only thirty-nine children were enrolled. Nine of this number were in the eighteen to nineteen year old group. Eight of this group were boys and only one was

TABLE XV

CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE IN THE ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES
CLASSIFIED BY SEX AND AGE: ATTENDANCE AND NON ATTENDANCE

Age	Number of Children Attending School			Number of Children Not Attending School		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	120	67	53	11	6	5
6 to 13 years	81	45	36	5	1	4
14 to 15 years	15	9	6	3	2	1
16 to 17 years	12	6	6	0	0	0
18 to 19 years	9	8	1	0	0	0
20 years and over	3	0	3	3	3	0

a girl. Their continuance in school was no doubt due, partly at least, to the encouragement given by the principal of the school, who made a special effort to interest boys and girls of this age in fitting themselves for some vocation. Nearly 50 per cent of the children accredited with non attendance fell in the six year old group. This was due to the fact they had not reached the age of six years at the beginning of the school term.

Some of the oldest children were out of school because of the need of financial assistance. In only one case did a mother report keeping her son out of school to help care for her. The husband was employed. The other children were in school. The mother was incapacitated and needed some one in the home to care for her.

The religious preference of the families may be seen by turning to Table XVI. Of the groups professing a given faith, protestants outnumbered those of any other faith. Among those of the protestant faith, the Baptist headed the list for the Camp as they do the State in general. The total belonging to the Baptist Church was 21.1 per cent. The Holiness and the Penecostal ranked second and third with percentages of 6.4 and 5.8, respectively. Over five per cent belonged to the Methodist Church. The Christian and Union Gospel each had 4.7 per cent. Members of the Church of Christ and Catholics each composed 1.8 per cent of the total. One woman stated that she had been recently converted and had joined the Nazarene Church. One rather significant fact was that on one was recorded as being a Presbyterian. Nearly half of the 171 family heads indicated no religious preference. Of this group 52.5 per cent were men and forty, 33.9 per cent, were women.

TABLE XVI

RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE OF THE HEADS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES

Religious Preference	Family Heads Having Given Preference According to Sex					
	Number			Per cent		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	171	80	91	100.0	100.0	100.0
Baptist	36	16	20	21.1	20.0	22.0
Holiness	11	5	6	6.4	6.3	6.6
Pentecostal	10	5	5	5.8	6.3	5.5
Methodist	9	4	5	5.3	5.0	5.5
Christian	8	3	5	4.7	3.8	5.5
Union Gospel	4	2	2	2.3	2.5	2.2
Catholic	3	1	2	1.8	1.2	2.2
Church of Christ	3	0	3	1.2	0.0	3.3
Church of God	2	1	1	1.1	1.2	1.1
Seventh Day Adventist	2	1	1	1.1	1.2	1.1
Nazarene	1	0	1	0.6	0.0	1.1
No preference	82	42	40	48.0	52.5	43.9

The religious services attended by the greatest numbers were the ones which appealed to the emotions. Services were held on any night that a preacher or some one to furnish the music for singing could be found. Whether the preacher had been ordained by a church did not seem to make a great deal of difference. One of the leaders of the meeting was a man who sold beer by day. He preached the gospel in a small building across the street from where he operated his business.

The usual occupation of the 171 family heads for the past five years is listed in Table XVII. As the data indicate, practically all of the occupations of the persons came within the unskilled or semi-skilled class. The lack of skill in some particular line of work was a basic cause for unemployment and relief. Most of the women were listed as housewives. In 29 per cent of the cases the woman was the economic head of the family. Six of these women were employed as housemaids or helpers in the local retail grocery stores. Two women were laundresses; another did practical nursing; and another was listed as a common laborer. This woman proudly stated that she "worked right along with her husband, picking holes or trucking". One would not be the least inclined to doubt her word for she was, from all appearances, the more physically able of the two.

Nineteen of the ninety-one women were listed as having no occupation. These were housewives who worked out of the home occasionally, either as a domestic or shelling peas at the nearby city market. Others were aged or unable to work.

Among the men, 48.9 per cent depended upon common labor for a livelihood. Within this category were men working at the city dump, the

TABLE XVII
USUAL OCCUPATION OF THE FAMILY HEADS DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS

Occupation	Family Heads With Given Occupation According to Sex					
	Number			Per cent		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	171	80	91	100.0	100.0	100.0
Housewife	62	0	62	36.2	0.0	68.1
Common Laborer	40	39	1	23.4	48.9	1.1
Farmer	4	4	0	2.3	5.0	0.0
Grocer	3	0	3	1.8	0.0	3.3
Houseworker	3	0	3	1.8	0.0	3.3
Trucker	3	3	0	1.8	3.9	0.0
Carpenter	2	2	0	1.1	2.5	0.0
Laundress	2	0	2	1.1	0.0	2.2
Box Maker	1	1	0	0.6	1.2	0.0
Butcher	1	1	0	0.6	1.2	0.0
Huckster	1	1	0	0.6	1.2	0.0
Plumber	1	1	0	0.6	1.2	0.0
Pool Hall Manager	1	1	0	0.6	1.2	0.0
Practical Nurse	1	0	1	0.6	0.0	1.1
Showman	1	1	0	0.6	1.2	0.0
Stock Buyer	1	1	0	0.6	1.2	0.0
Tireman	1	1	0	0.6	1.2	0.0
Water Well Driller	1	1	0	0.6	1.2	0.0
None	42	23	19	24.5	28.9	20.9

city airport, the city zoo, and at the Oklahoma Railway Company. Occupations also included a dairy worker, a cement worker, a trash hauler, a peddler, a cook, a pin setter at a bowling alley, yard workers, a dish washer, a baggage-man, and common laborers at the two packing plants. Others did pick and shovel work and were on the city payroll from time to time. Of the men listed with a definite occupation, four were farmers, three were grocers, three were in the trucking business, and two were carpenters. One each listed his occupation in the following lines: box maker, butcher, huckster, plumber, pool hall manager, showman, stock buyer, tire man, and water well driller. The 28.9 per cent listed under "No Occupation" were composed primarily of the aged, the sick, and the blind. The work history was too intermittent for purposes of tabulation. The few occupations listed were only those where employment was fairly steady. On the Works Progress Administration projects the work had been very intermittent. The men and women participating in this program are given in a following table under types of Assistance Programs.

Those with fairly steady employment were not well paid for their services. If the general outlay of the surroundings were any criterion at all, evidence would substantiate the foregoing statement. Many stories were heard from the men of being the last on a job and the first to be dismissed. Particularly was this true on the public work projects.

Two cases will serve to illustrate the type of individual living in the Camp. One woman who married after reaching the age of sixty was employed regularly as a shirt ironer at a large laundry in the Packing-town district. The husband, as equally industrious as the wife, though physically not as strong, policed the city dumping ground a few blocks

east of their home. His daily wage was fifty cents, while that of his wife was four times this amount. They had carried practically every piece of lumber from the dump to build their house. Their home was one of the better type of houses in the Camp. It was built on a corner lot. The yard was enclosed with an unpainted picket fence. Attempts had been made to plant grass in the yard. Several fruit trees were in evidence and a garden had been planted.

The head of another household, a showman by trade, had travelled extensively. His business was that of following a carnival route exhibiting a human freak. The family consisted of three small daughters, the wife, and the husband. The family was living in a small two room shack near the main entrance of the Camp. This man was unable to work. He visited the City Venereal Disease Clinic weekly for treatment for syphilis. The wife, three daughters and the two male members of the household eked out an existence on an aid to dependent children grant. The woman complained of the cruelty of her husband to her and the children. The man, who was confined to his bed most of the time when the survey was made, would present a critical nursing problem in a well regulated home or hospital. This one family alone could add an interesting though depressing chapter to Riis' "How the Other Half Lives".

As will be noted by reference to Table XVIII the incomes of the one hundred families were small. Only eight families reported incomes above \$50.00 per month. In the case of the one couple with the \$90.00 per month income, the husband was a grocer, who with his wife had lived in the Camp only two weeks. The three families in the \$70.00 per month bracket comprised families of four members, six members and seven members

TABLE XVIII

MONTHLY INCOME OF THE ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES

Income	Families
Total	100
\$ 6.00 to \$10.00	9
\$11.00 to \$15.00	9
\$16.00 to \$20.00	15
\$21.00 to \$25.00	10
\$26.00 to \$30.00	15
\$31.00 to \$35.00	4
\$36.00 to \$40.00	5
\$41.00 to \$45.00	3
\$46.00 to \$50.00	9
\$51.00 to \$55.00	1
\$56.00 to \$60.00	3
\$61.00 to \$65.00	0
\$66.00 to \$70.00	1
\$71.00 to \$75.00	2
\$76.00 and above	1
Unknown	13

respectively. In the six person household the father was a carpenter and a willing worker. This family had resided in the Camp for three years and appeared to be much above the average family in the community.

Two families reported a \$60.00 per month income. In one of these families there were no children. In the other there were five children. The mother of this household supplemented the father's \$30.00 monthly pension check from the Veterans' Administration with what she termed "odd light jobs." The husband had an arrested case of tuberculosis, but was still unable to work. The other family, a young couple, aged twenty-three and twenty-one years, had never been on relief. They had lived in the Camp for three and one-half years.

The two families having an income of \$50.00 a month were five and six person households. The parents in both families were fifty years of age, and had maintained residence in the Camp four and eight years, respectively. The head of one of these families had been a Works Progress Administration sub-foreman since the beginning of the program. His usual occupation was well drilling. The father in the other family was doing common labor at the city airport. In this family was one of the two sets of male twins in the Camp. They were thirteen years old.

Of the eight families receiving above \$50.00 per month, two had never been on the relief rolls. Two had received county assistance at some time or other. Four families had availed themselves of the surplus food commodities.

Thirty-six families reported incomes between \$26.00 and \$50.00 per month while forty-three families had monthly incomes ranging from \$6.00 to \$26.00.

With an average monthly income per family of \$30.58 and with nearly half of the families earning a monthly income less than \$27.00, it is not surprising that only five of the one hundred families had never received relief. Of the five families that had never received relief three were young childless couples; one was an unmarried man living alone, and one an aged couple sixty years old. The brother of the man in this household was regularly employed.

In most instances it was impossible to learn the exact monthly income of the families. This was due mainly to two factors. Employment was generally irregular. The other factor was one of suspicion toward "investigators." Many persons at the relief level had learned that the family might be allowed a small increase on the next assistance check if they could show a very low income.

An attempt was made to determine whether or not the families had accumulated any cash reserve. This information was sought in part to ascertain the attitude toward the habit of saving for emergencies. Many expressed a desire to save but added "how can one when there is nothing to save." As far as could be determined, the total savings of the one hundred family groups was \$625.00.

A short time before the survey was made the young man with the business college background had sold his grocery store which was located across the street from the Camp. He and his wife were leaving the Camp. They were moving to a more desirable district in Oklahoma City as soon as they could find a house.

As indicated in Table XIX the people in Community Camp were not of the migratory type. Information collected showed that the majority of the

TABLE XIX

FAMILIES CLASSIFIED BY NUMBER OF YEARS RESIDENCE IN OKLAHOMA

Number of Years in Oklahoma	Number of Families
Total	100
Under 4 Years	3
5 Years to 9 Years	3
10 Years to 14 Years	26
15 Years to 19 Years	5
20 Years to 24 Years	16
25 Years to 29 Years	7
30 Years to 34 Years	8
35 Years to 39 Years	14
40 Years to 44 Years	4
45 Years to 49 Years	3
50 Years to 54 Years	3
55 Years to 59 Years	3
60 Years to 64 Years	2
Unknown	3

families had lived in Oklahoma many years. Five families were territorial residents, having lived in the Indian Territory before Oklahoma was admitted as a state. Eight families had been residents of Oklahoma from fifty to sixty-four years, and seven families had been in the State from forty to forty-nine years.

Thirty-seven per cent of the families included in the study claimed residence in the State for thirty years and over, and 33 per cent from twenty to twenty-nine years. Thirty-one per cent had lived in the state from ten to nineteen years. Only six per cent had been state residents for less than ten years. Of the six families having lived in the state less than ten years, only three had been in the State less than four years.

Table XX gives the length of residence in Oklahoma City for the one hundred families. Eight per cent of the families had spent from twenty-seven to thirty-five years in Oklahoma City. Two families had lived in this locality over thirty-six years. Fifteen to twenty-six was the length of residence in Oklahoma City of 11 per cent of the families. Only 25 per cent of the group had lived in the City for less than five years. Four families had a residence of less than one year and fourteen less than three years. Twenty-four per cent claimed to have lived in Oklahoma City from five to ten years, eight per cent from eleven to twelve years, and seven per cent from thirteen to fourteen years.

Fifty-one years, the longest City residence, was reported by a widower. Data on Oklahoma City residence were unobtainable for 15 per cent of the families.

In Table XXI, the Camp residence of the one hundred households is given. The largest number of families, 29 per cent, had lived in the

TABLE XX

FAMILIES CLASSIFIED BY NUMBER OF YEARS RESIDENCE IN OKLAHOMA CITY

Number of Years in Oklahoma City	Number of Families
Total	100
Under One Year	4
1 Year to 2 Years	10
3 Years to 4 Years	11
5 Years to 6 Years	7
7 Years to 8 Years	4
9 Years to 10 Years	13
11 Years to 12 Years	8
13 Years to 14 Years	7
15 Years to 18 Years	2
19 Years to 22 Years	5
23 Years to 26 Years	4
27 Years to 30 Years	2
31 Years to 35 Years	6
36 Years and Over	2
Unknown	15

TABLE XXI

FAMILIES CLASSIFIED BY NUMBER OF YEARS RESIDENCE IN
COMMUNITY CAMP

Number of Years in Community Camp	Number of Families
Total	100
Under 11 Months	23
1 Year to 2 Years	15
3 Years to 4 Years	29
5 Years to 6 Years	15
7 Years to 8 Years	9
9 Years to 10 Years	7
11 Years and Over	1
Unknown	1

Camp for a period of three to four years. The second largest group, 23 per cent, had been there eleven months or less. Of this number ten had lived in the Camp six months or less. Fifteen families had lived in the Camp from one to two years, and fifteen from five to six years.

Of the remaining seventeen, one family had resided in the Camp thirteen years; seven had been there from nine to ten years, and nine families had spent seven to eight years in this area. Only one family was unable to specify the period of residence in the Camp.

The majority of the families apparently had moved directly to the Camp from some other section of Oklahoma or from some other state. The few who had first moved to another district in Oklahoma City and then to the Camp gave lower rents as the reason for transferring to the Camp. Several of the old age assistance recipients stated they had taken up residence in the Camp for the same reason.

The purpose of recording statistics as shown in Table XXII was to see to what extent, if any, the family heads were interested in activities of a civic nature. Data in the table were collected from the 171 family heads voting within the last ten years. The city primaries are held during the month of March of the odd years and the general elections during the following month of April. The federal and state primaries are held in July and the general elections in November of the even years. Only five special elections in which the people in the Camp were eligible to vote were held during this decade, as most of the special elections required that those voting had to be property owners. There were eighteen city, state and federal elections held during the ten year period, making a total of twenty-three elections; five special elections, four for the

TABLE XXII

NUMBER OF TIMES HEAD OF ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES
HAVE VOTED IN LAST TEN YEARS

Times Voted	Sex of Family Head Voting					
	Number			Per cent		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	171	60	91	100.0	100.0	100.0
One	5	1	4	2.9	1.3	4.4
Two	7	2	5	4.5	2.5	5.5
Three	10	3	7	5.8	3.8	7.7
Four	14	7	7	8.2	8.7	7.7
Five	31	21	10	18.1	26.2	11.0
Six	2	1	1	1.2	1.3	1.1
Seven	3	2	1	1.8	2.5	1.1
Eight	2	0	2	1.2	0.0	2.2
All Elections	47	25	22	27.5	31.2	24.2

city and one for the state, in which the Camp residents could cast a vote. Lack of interest in voting was evidenced to a marked degree. Many of the "old timers" in the Camp said they had lost their desire to vote, because the voting was controlled principally by the politicians, especially those who had been in office too long. They added that the politician making the biggest promises and paying the most quarters usually won. Some bitterness was also evidenced toward the county officials who had promised the Camp so many things, none of which ever materialized. Many Camp residents had learned to regard anyone with suspicion who entered the Camp, especially around election time, until they found out their purpose. A large number of the oldest leaders in the Camp have learned to play the politicians' own game and have aligned themselves with certain political henchmen, even naming workers or "investigators", for the County Welfare Department. They take all of the cash they can collect and then vote as they please. Election times, as seen in the Camp, present an opportunity to get together and provide something new for conversation. Key men or the few politically minded in the Camp gather at the grocery store, whittle, chew, spit and elect the "feller" whom they know will get them an increase in the old age stipend. Within about a month after election day, these old men will say to you, "See them two tall buildin's yonder," (pointing to Oklahoma City's two sky scrapers), "Thars whar that money goes, into stone for the rich, when we should have it. Pension increased, not so you noticed, just some more of them promises." These people definitely are of the opinion that the world owes them a living and many do not hesitate to make a frank statement to this effect.

Of the 171 family heads, 29.2 per cent had never voted. On the

other hand 27.5 per cent more men voted regularly than women. The interest that was shown in voting was fairly evenly divided among the sexes, but when it came to showing no interest whatever in politics, the women outnumbered the men practically two to one.

The number of individuals holding membership in a lodge was small, as shown in Table XXII. Twenty persons or one in every nine individuals had some lodge affiliation. Of this number eighteen were men and two were women. One man told of his recent suspension from the lodge. He claimed he was just too poor to keep up his dues.

Membership in the different organizations was given as follows:

Odd Fellow	7
Woodman of the World	6
Modern Woodman of America	5
Farmers Alliance	1
Masonic Lodge	1
Rebeccas	1
Americal Legion Auxiliary	1

The data given in Table XXIII are a fairly significant index to the economic status of the families concerned.

Ninety-five per cent of the one hundred families reported receiving at least one type of assistance and many times more than one. At best employment lasted for a few weeks, then reapplication was made for some type of public assistance. Seven families were on the rolls of three relief programs. The Oklahoma County Welfare Department had assisted 74 per cent of the families with grocery orders, clothing, or small cash payments. One family had been receiving a clothes order every year

TABLE XXIII

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE RECEIVED BY THE ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES

Types of Assistance	Families Receiving Given Types of Assistance
Total	151
County Welfare Board	74
Old Age Assistance	20
Works Progress Administration	19
Aid to Dependent Children	15
Civilian Conservation Camp	7
United Provident Association	5
Aid to the Blind	2
Salvation Army	2
National Youth Administration	1
Veterans Compensation	1
None	5

from the county for the past seven years. The old age assistance recipients numbered twenty. The majority of these had been on the rolls since 1936. No one sixty-five years of age was found among the families who had not made application or who was not receiving the grant. While in operation, the Works Progress Administration projects claimed the next largest percentage on their rolls. With one exception, all were classified as unskilled laborers and made the minimum wage of \$35.84 per month. The one exception was a sub-foreman. Two women worked in the sewing room project. Twenty-six additional family heads were still certified at the time the study was made but they were waiting to be called to work.

Fifteen families heads having children sixteen years of age were receiving aid to dependent children grants. The aid to the blind program claimed only two recipients. Both were men. One had been receiving aid since 1936 and the other since 1938.

Seven youths had been enrolled in the Civil Conservation Camps. These boys had been allocated to various camps in Oklahoma and throughout the Rocky Mountain region. One boy had been enrolled in the National Youth Administration Program. The money that had been sent home by these youths was used in providing food stuff and clothing for their immediate families. Five families were receiving assistance from a family agency either in the form of milk for the children, groceries, or clothing. In only one instance was this agency paying the \$1.00 per month rental fee for their client. The Salvation Army had given assistance to two families. One veteran of World War I was receiving a monthly compensation check of \$30.00. Many of the families reported they had been on relief ever since they could remember. Aid had been continuous.

As it will be observed from Table XXIV, 31 per cent of the one hundred families owned automobiles. Twenty-eight were passenger cars. Many of the family cars were used for trucking purposes as well as for pleasure. Of the remaining cars owned, three were trucks. One family owned both a Ford sedan and truck. Five trailers were owned. Old model Fords and Chevrolets were the predominating makes of cars. Among the oldest models found was a Ford made in 1930 and a 1932 Essex. Six per cent of the families owned carts. These were frequently encountered in the Camp. They were used for hauling everything from kindling wood to water and children. Three per cent of the families owned bicycles. One family was the proud possessor of a practically new bicycle. The other six bicycles were evenly distributed between two families. Only four wagons were noted among the various vehicles. Forty-eight per cent, or nearly half of the families, were without a conveyance of any type.

Since there was no city ordinance prohibiting livestock and chickens in the Camp, with the exception of hogs, many families reported livestock and chickens, as shown in Table XXV.

Seventy families owned 728 animals. Thirty families had no animals, chickens or pets of any kind. Approximately one-third of the families owned both cats and chickens. Four white persians and one black cat were listed. The largest flock of chickens numbered 110. Five households reported possession of two chickens each. Two of these boasted a pair of bantams each. Two pullets were the pride and joy of one old woman. Mules and horses which cost more were, naturally, none too numerous. Two families reported ownership of one mule each. Three families each owned one

TABLE XXIV

TYPES OF VEHICLES OWNED BY THE ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES

Types of Vehicles	Number of Families
Total	100
Automobiles	31
Carts	6
Trailers	5
Wagons	4
Bicycles	3
Trucks	3
None	48

TABLE XXV

NUMBER OF FAMILIES OWNING LIVESTOCK, CHICKENS AND PETS

Families with Given Number of Livestock, Chickens and Pets

Livestock, Chickens and Pets Birds-Cats-Chickens-Cows-Dogs-Goats-Horses-Mules-Rabbits

Total Families	6	32	33	3	18	9	4	2	5	
None	30									
1	2	22	0	1	16	5	3	2	0	
2	3	5	5	2	1	1	0	0	3	
3	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	
4	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
5	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	
6	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
7	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	
11	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
12	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
15	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
18	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
19	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
20	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
23	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
24	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
25	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
26	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
27	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
29	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
30	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
36	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
40	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
110	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Animals	728	13	54	587	5	23	17	6	2	21

horse; whereas one family owned three horses. Three families owned cows, two families owning two cows each. One of the families owning two milch cows ran one of the neighborhood grocers and all surplus milk was sold in the store.

Rabbits, goats, and birds were in the minority as compared with other animals. One parakeet was listed among the thirteen birds found in six homes. Twenty-one rabbits were owned by five families. One family reported five and another ten rabbits. Nine families owned seventeen goats; five families having one each, one family two, one three, and one four.

As shown in Table XXVI, with a few exceptions, the one hundred dwellings would be listed principally as "shacks" by any building contractor. It is rather significant that the outstanding dwelling belonged to an eighty-four year old man, an old age assistance recipient, who had been a building contractor of considerable repute during the early days in Garfield County, Oklahoma. This house was a three room building, with a shingled roof. The structure was painted white with green trimming. It was one of the brighter spots in the east part of the Camp. The appearance of the dwelling did not belie the spirit within. This eighty-four year old man was conceded to be the most industrious man in the Camp. His wife was a neat housekeeper.

The ratings given the houses of these one hundred families were of the writer's own classification, and were made through observation and inspection. The houses were rated according to the general condition of those in the Camp and not on the basis of any housing standard. Of those built out of scrap boards and lumber, the house previously mentioned was the only one of the twenty houses listed that was rated good. Eleven

TABLE XXVI
 TYPES AND RATING OF DWELLINGS OCCUPIED BY THE ONE HUNDRED
 FAMILIES

Type of Dwelling	Number of Family Dwellings and Rating			
	Total	Good	Fair	Poor
	100	14	41	45
Scrap Boards and Lumber	20	1	11	8
Frame	19	10	6	3
Boards and Tin (Lard Cans)	16	1	4	11
Half Board and Half Paste Board	8	0	3	5
Veneering Board; Boxes and Canvas	6	0	5	1
Sheet Iron and Wood	5	0	4	1
Shingled Houses and Tar Paper	5	2	1	2
Boxes and Sheet Iron	4	0	2	2
Tin	4	0	2	2
Tin and Side Irons	4	0	1	3
Wire, Tin and Wood	4	0	1	3
Beaver Boards and Scrap Boards	2	0	1	1
Sheet Iron and Tin Cans	2	0	0	2
Shingled and Sheet Iron	1	0	0	1

in this same group were in fair condition and eight were in a very poor state of repair. Of the nineteen frame houses, ten were rated good; six only fair and three poor. Boards and tin, principally lard cans, accounted for the construction of 16 per cent of these dwellings. Eight per cent of the homes were built of lumber and pasteboard; six were of canvas, boxes, and veneering board. Five shacks were made of sheet iron and wood. Tin, wood, beaver board, scrap boards, and tin cans made up the materials from which the remaining twenty-five houses were built. These dwellings were of all kinds of old scrap materials. All were without foundations and full of large cracks in both walls and roofs. Floors were made of dirt and rags, scraps of old rugs, and linoleum; gunny sacks and old window shades completed the picture. Such construction made the dwellings difficult to heat, and they were little protection against rain and snow.

Windows were of most any type. The prevailing type, however, was made to slide back and forth if the siding was such that it would hold a window of this type. A second common type was the small sash window that could be supported with a stick during the warm summer days. Screens were a rarity. It should be especially emphasized that these hovels provided definitely unhealthy and unsanitary living space. Many were also overcrowded.

Table XXVII gives an estimate of the value of the dwellings in which 78 per cent of the one hundred families resided. Twenty-two per cent did not know the value of their homes. It should be observed in this connection that economic status was again indicated by the ownership of properties. Eight per cent of the houses ranged in value from \$100.00

TABLE XXVII

VALUE OF DWELLINGS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES

Value of Dwellings	Number of Families
Total	100
\$175.00	1
\$125.00	1
\$120.00	1
\$100.00	5
\$ 80.00	1
\$ 75.00	2
\$ 65.00	1
\$ 60.00	1
\$ 55.00	1
\$ 50.00	10
\$ 45.00	1
\$ 42.00	1
\$ 40.00	4
\$ 35.00	11
\$ 33.00	2
\$ 30.00	7
\$ 26.00	1
\$ 25.00	15
\$ 20.00	8
\$ 15.00	2
\$ 10.00	2
Unknown	22

to \$175.00. The best dwelling in the camp was valued at \$175.00. One house was valued at \$120.00 and another at \$125.00. Five were valued at \$10.00 each. The two five-room houses were owned. No family was renting a four or five room house. More three room dwellings were owned than dwellings of any other number of rooms. Dwellings having only two rooms ranked second. There were eighteen dwellings with two rooms which were owned by the occupants, as shown in Table XXVIII.

As revealed in Table XXIX, the majority of the one hundred dwellings were too small to accommodate adequately the persons living in them. Because of the overcrowded conditions, the living room or dining room was a rarity. No house listed a bath room.

The "all purpose room" was found in eighteen dwellings. This room was a combination of kitchen, sleeping, and dining room, or the one room home. Sleeping and living rooms were combined in many homes, whereas kitchen and sleeping rooms made for another type of household.

It was not uncommon to find several beds in one room. In one household the parents and four children lived in a one room shack. Five families of three members each also had one room dwellings. There were six persons in one family group living in one room. In two instances family groups of five persons were also living in one room. The largest number of persons living in a dwelling with only two rooms was seven. There were, however, four six person families living in dwellings having only two rooms. By combining these figures it will be seen that forty-five people were living in fourteen rooms. This is an average of 3.2 persons per room. Families with the most children were usually found to be

TABLE XXVIII

CLASSIFICATION OF DWELLINGS ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER
OF ROOMS PER DWELLING BY WHETHER OWNED, BOUGHT OR RENTED

Number of Rooms	Number of Families with Dwellings of Given Number of Rooms, Whether Owned, Bought or Rented			
	Total	Owned	Bought	Rented
Total	100	62	26	12
1 Room	18	7	5	6
2 Rooms	33	18	13	2
3 Rooms	33	26	3	4
4 Rooms	14	9	5	0
5 Rooms	2	2	0	0

TABLE XXIX

CLASSIFICATION OF DWELLINGS ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF ROOMS AS
 COMPARED WITH THE NUMBER OF PERSONS THEREIN

Number of Rooms	Number of Dwellings								
	Number of Persons Per Family								
	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight	Nine
One Room	4	4	5	2	2	1	0	0	0
Two Rooms	6	10	5	2	1	4	3	0	2
Three Rooms	5	5	3	2	6	7	4	1	0
Four Rooms	0	4	3	4	1	1	1	0	0
Five Rooms	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

occupying the smallest dwellings. In the two larger homes of five rooms each, living conditions were not nearly as crowded. In these two households there were two and five persons, respectively. The two largest families, nine in the home, resided in two room houses.

The average size of the one hundred dwellings in Community Camp was 2.49 rooms per dwelling or an average of 1.63 persons per room.

It was unusual to find a dwelling among the one hundred observed that had a good substantial floor. An analysis of the figures in Table XXX will reveal that 56 per cent of the floors were made of wood. Dirt, sand and new and used pieces of old linoleum comprised the flooring in one-fifth of the homes. Scrap wood and linoleum were used for floors in fifteen per cent of the dwellings. Quite generally in these homes one would see old scraps of lumber, covered with bits of sheet iron, rugs and old pieces of carpet. While there were a few dwellings with good foundations and a fair grade of pine used in the floors, the general type of the flooring in the houses was, as previously mentioned, second hand substitute materials.

Six different types of stoves, as indicated in Table XXXI, were in use by ninety-eight families for heating as well as for cooking purposes. Practically all of the houses were heated with wood. About one-half of the families used wood and coal combined for heating their homes. Most of the families had their coal in gunny sacks. It was usually carried to the home in this manner. This coal was kept near the sleeping room if no means of locking it up was available. This was necessary to prevent neighbors from helping themselves to each others' fuel whenever the need arose. Old tires often added to the fuel supply.

TABLE XXX

TYPES OF FLOORS IN DWELLINGS OCCUPIED BY THE ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES

Types of Floors	Number of Dwellings
Total	100
Wood	56
Dirt, Sand and Linoleum	20
Scrap Wood and Linoleum	15
Old Boards, Scatter Rugs and Used Pieces of Carpet	9

TABLE XXXI

TYPES OF STOVES IN DWELLINGS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES

Types of Stoves	Number of Stoves
Total*	112
Wood Heater	52
Coal Oil	30
Sheet Iron	19
Monkey Stove	7
Camp Stove	2
Coleman Gasoline	2

*Two families did not have a stove in the home.

Twelve families owned two stoves each. These stoves were usually home made devices of sheet iron. It was not an uncommon sight during the warmer months of the year to see the women of the household preparing the meal outside of the house. The families would also eat their meals out in the open.

Thirty-two families either owned or were paying for second hand coal oil stoves. Two families owned two burner Coleman gasoline stoves. Seven of the older camp residents used the "monkey" stove for both heating and cooking. The two families without heating or cooking stoves were young couples. One couple had lived in the camp only six weeks. They were boarding with the husband's sister who lived a few houses down the street. Incidentally, their neat one room house seemed to be fairly well equipped with nearly everything but the "kitchen stove." The other couple also ate their meals with the husband's relatives who lived in a nearby house. However, in this case, the woman prepared the food for herself and her husband.

Lighting facilities of the one hundred families are given in Table XXXII. Ninety-five per cent of the homes were lighted by coal oil lamps. At many times the houses were in darkness most of the evening because of the fact that the occupants were unable to purchase lighting fuel. Two families used gas lamps and one of the two single men used a gasoline lantern both for lighting his house and for finding his way about the Camp after night. Two households reported no lighting facilities at all.

Only one or two houses near the school building and the two grocery stores across from the school grounds were wired for electricity. The majority of the people in the Camp could not afford this convenience

TABLE XXXII

LIGHTING FACILITIES IN DWELLINGS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES

Lighting Facilities	Number of Families
Total	100
Kerosene Lamp	95
Gas Lamp	2
Gasoline Lantern	1
None	2

if it were available. Flashlights were quite numerous and prized highly by the owners.

As recorded in Table XXXVIII no modern water facilities were available in any of the one hundred dwellings. Water had been piped to the school building and the one water hydrant serving the Camp was located near the main grocery store across from the school ground.

Four families had their own wells. Three of these families had a pump just outside the back door of the rambling shack. Fifty-eight families managed to carry the water they used from the one main hydrant affording the water supply to the Camp. Most any time of the day some one could be seen at the hydrant.

The eight streets running East and West are about six city blocks in length. One block is approximately four hundred feet long. The water hydrant is on the fourth street and about one city block down the street from the Camp entrance.

The twenty-two families who paid ten cents a barrel for having water delivered to their home, usually comprised the families of the aged and those physically unable to carry a bucket of water any distance.

In most cases the barrel of water was stored outside the house, usually by the rear door. Sometimes the barrel was covered and sometimes it was not. Old gunny sacks, usually half in the barrel and half out, or an old piece of tin, were the coverings observed. These barrels were the most common containers for rain water as well, provided the roofs of the dwellings were sufficiently well constructed to enable the water to run off of them.

These barrels of water were ideal breeding places for gnats,

TABLE XXXIII

WATER FACILITIES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES

Water Facilities	Number of Families
Total	100
Carry Water	58
Haul Water	22
Carry and Haul Water	16
Pump	4

mosquitoes, and flies. Even though most family heads claimed that the barrel water was used only for washing purposes, children frequently secured their drinking water directly from this outside container.

The bathing facilities of the families included in the study are given in Table XXXIV. As can readily be seen by referring to the table the old-fashioned galvanized wash tub was by far the favorite facility. Ninety-five per cent of the families used the tub for bathing, whereas five per cent, generally the aged, quite readily let it be known that the water basin and sponge were their means of taking the weekly, or semi-weekly bath. A few mothers admitted that the male members of the household often took a dip in the nearby river at the Camp's east and south boundary lines. From observation one was rather inclined to think that these acts were usually more along the line of fulfilling a recreational desire than that of hygiene. One mother told of giving her children a bath when the family visited weekly in the home of a married daughter who lived some six miles from the camp in another part of Oklahoma City. One old lady told of having to borrow her neighbor's wash tub whenever she was in the mood to give her body a cleansing. It appeared that the tubs were of insufficient size to allow coverage of much of the body with water.

Table XXXV gives the toilet facilities of the 366 persons included in the survey. The majority of the toilets were constructed through the Works Progress Administration at the time the city leased the Camp in 1931. They were built to service two-family units.

Even these buildings were beginning to show the effects of time. The red paint was faded and coming off. Sanitary conditions were poor. Eighty-six per cent of the families used the public type of toilet. Four-

TABLE XXXIV

BATH FACILITIES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES

Number of Persons	Number of Families Having Given Facilities		
	Total	Wash Tub	Wash Basin and Sponge
Total	100	95	5
1	15	14	1
2	24	20	4
3	16	16	0
4	10	10	0
5	11	11	0
6	13	13	0
7	8	8	0
8	1	1	0
9	2	2	0

TABLE XXXV

TOILET FACILITIES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES

Number of Persons	Number of Families Having Given Facility		
	Total	Private	Public*
Total	100	14	86
1	15	2	13
2	24	4	20
3	16	0	16
4	10	4	6
5	11	3	8
6	13	1	12
7	8	0	8
8	1	0	1
9	2	0	2

*Public toilet is here used to designate more than one family using a given facility.

teen per cent were listed as having a private toilet. Most of these toilets were under padlock and key.

It will be observed from the data in Table XXXVI that there was relatively little ownership of various household goods or appliances. Two families, however, were without mattresses. One featherbed and two straw mattresses were reported.

There was approximately one radio to every six families. The majority of the eighteen radios owned were seldom in working order. Most of these were battery sets, and they were usually in need of a new battery or some repair. Many of the older couples seemed to enjoy the radio but since they were "expensive things," it was almost impossible to keep one in usable order.

Sixty-seven per cent of the families owned clocks or a time piece of some description. Those families not possessing a time piece either used the sun, when visible, or relied on the ^wshistles at the packing plants. Many mothers sent their children to school by the packing plant whistle.

Washing in the Camp homes was done mostly by the old tub and wash board method. Only six families owned a washing machine. One of these was run by a gasoline motor. Since electricity was not available in any of the homes included in the study, the old fashioned ~~sad~~ iron was much in evidence. Seven families reported using the gasoline type of iron. Ironing boards were owned by a little over 33.3 per cent of the families.

Thirty families possessed sewing machines. The same number of kitchen cabinets of all types and makes were reported.

There were eighty-four chairs, an average of only one chair to

TABLE XXXVI

HOUSEHOLD CHATTELS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES

Type of Chattel	Number of Chattel
Beds	180
Mattresses	98
Chairs *	84
Tables	78
Irons (Sad)	72
Clocks	67
Dressers	66
Ice Boxes	59
Mirrors	59
Ironing Boards	35
Kitchen Cabinets	30
Sewing Machines	30
Radios	15
Irons (Gasoline)	7
Washing Machines	6
Phonographs	4
Pressure Cookers	2
Water Coolers	2
Pump (In House)	1
Telephone	1
Churn	1

* 1 Child's High Chair

**

1 Gasoline Washing Machine

every 4.6 persons. There were tables in seventy-eight homes and dressers in sixty-six.

Ice boxes averaged one for every two families. There were only two pressure cookers and two water coolers in the entire camp. One of the pressure cookers was in use practically every day of the canning season. The owners storm cellar was full of canned foods of every description. She bought seconds from the city market and a neighbor canned them for her.

There was only one telephone in the Camp. It was in the combination home and store of the young college widow. Another owner of a store had an old stone churn. His wife utilized the churn for making butter and any surplus was sold at the store.

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY

It was found by this study that Community Camp is all that has been said and written about it. The sixty-five acre district in the southwest part of Oklahoma City has been the target of unsavory comments by many of national repute, as well as interested and local lay persons. Housing conditions are still deplorable and unsanitary. The area still is a menace to the health of the whole community, though living conditions in the Camp today are not as congested as they were during the last fifteen years.

While the mode of living of the people has changed but little, the type of family has changed from the transient to the less migratory type. The Camp owner claims she is gradually weeding out the less desirable element.

Not a single western state was represented as the birthplace of the 171 family heads. All persons were born in the United States with the exception of one woman who gave her birthplace as Canada. Nearly one-third of the family heads were born in Oklahoma; about one-fifth in Texas, and one-tenth in Arkansas, making nearly two-thirds of the family heads place of birth in states adjacent to Oklahoma. Fifteen states accounted for the place of birth of one-third of the family heads. Grouped on the basis of a geographic division, 32 per cent were born

in the northeastern states, 40 per cent in the middle western states, and 28 per cent in the southern states.

The marital status of the economic head of the one hundred households reveals 71 per cent married and 12 per cent widowed. The divorced comprised 8 per cent and the separated 5 per cent.

In twenty households, women were the economic heads; whereas in nine homes the man was the lone head. Of the 171 family heads eighty were males and ninety-one were females.

The ages at which the family heads married ranged from thirteen to eighty-six years. Over half of the women were married by the time they were twenty-one years of age, as compared to approximately 30 per cent of the men. Thirteen per cent of the women married before they were fifteen years old. Two married at the age of thirteen. Forty and nine-tenths per cent of the family heads married between the ages of twenty-two and thirty-three; and 11.8 per cent between the ages of thirty-four and forty-five. Over three-fourths of the family heads were married before they reached the age of forty-six years. The earliest marriage reported was in 1881; this seventy-five year old mother still maintained a home for a widowed son.

Seventy-six of the marriages of the ninety-seven family heads were performed in Oklahoma; seven in Arkansas; four in Missouri; three in Texas; and two each in Kansas and Nebraska. Michigan and Tennessee were represented by one marriage each; one did not know the state in which they were married. Of the group, 59.1 per cent have a record of one marriage. Of the remaining 40.9 per cent, one-fourth had married once previously; one in fourteen had married twice previously; and one

in fourteen had married three times previously.

The normal home prevailed in the entire group as far as having both father and mother in the home. Seventy-one per cent of the families included in the survey comprised normal and unbroken units. Of this percentage, 51 per cent were composed of husband, wife, and children living together in the home, while 20 per cent were husband and wife with no children in the home. The broken families totaled 15 per cent. Father and children were found in three instances. The homes where the mother was head of the household numbered twelve. Approximately one home in seven may be described as broken, in that one of the parents was not in the home. Death, divorce, and desertion were the causes for the broken homes. The most common cause was divorce.

If, as some maintain, lack of education is one of the basic causes for dependency, certainly among this group the assumption could be verified. Twenty-six persons, or 15.2 per cent of the 171 family heads, had completed the fourth grade; twenty-five, or 14.6 per cent, had an eighth grade education. Twenty-seven persons had never attended school. Only five persons, four males and one female, had completed the twelfth grade.

Little variation was found among the sexes as to their schooling. The educational status of the women was slightly higher than that of the men. However, it should be kept in mind that the women outnumbered the men in the group by eleven. This factor may account for the slight difference in the percentage. The status of the 171 family heads is lower than for the general population of the United States.

Of the 120 children attending school, sixty seven were boys and fifty-three were girls. In the early days the Camp was listed as one of

the truancy centers in the city. Today that mark has been entirely erased. Many of the parents were indifferent regarding school attendance. Lack of finances did prevent many parents from sending their children to school. Of the group, 15 per cent were in the first grade in school; 14.2 per cent were in the third grade.

In the first five grades were enrolled 60 per cent of the children. Thirty-five and eight-tenths per cent were in the sixth to twelfth grade. As the children grew older, there was a marked tendency to discontinue formal education.

In comparing the formal education of the parents with that of the children, it was noted that 36.8 per cent of the 171 adults had reached the fifth grade, while 60 per cent of the 120 children had attained the same grade. Nearly 50 per cent of the children between the ages of six and twenty-one not in school were in the six-year-old group. They had not reached the age of six years at the beginning of the school term.

An investigation into the religious life of the Community Camp revealed that 48 per cent of the 171 family heads gave no religious preference. Of this number, 52.5 per cent were men and 43.9 per cent were women. Many of these folk attended the various missions in the camp. Here the kind of religious service was designed to appeal to the emotions.

Protestants outnumbered those of other beliefs among the 52 per cent affiliated with a given church. Those belonging to the Baptist Church accounted for 21.1 per cent. The Holiness and Pentecostal Churches had 6.4 and 5.8 per cent of the members respectively. Over 5 per cent were Methodists, whereas the Christian and Union Gospel Churches each had 4.7 per cent. Membership in the Church of Christ and the

Catholic Church comprised 1.8 per cent of the group.

Analysis of the occupations indicated practically all persons came within the unskilled or semi-skilled classes. Most of the individuals depended on either common labor or relief for a livelihood. Twenty-four and five-tenths per cent of the 171 family heads had no occupation or special type of work. This group was composed mostly of the aged, the blind, and the sick. The work history was too inadequate for tabulation. Men were not hesitant about telling that the average job usually lasted only a few months or that they were certified on a Works Progress Administration project waiting to be called. No one ever admitted any personal inadequacy as reason for dismissal from a job. With a few exception, these people had no special training. Thus it was difficult for any of them to find work in the highly specialized fields of work today.

There are two types of people in the Camp today; those who would profit by some type of training for skill; and those who are incapable of improvement because they are either too shiftless or do not have the health or the mental faculties needed. There are some who are industrious and able to live in better surroundings who maintain they are living in the Camp because of the cheap rent.

An effort was made to secure some information on the income of these families. The average monthly income per family was \$30.58. Approximately one-half of the families had a monthly income of less than \$27.00. In view of these findings, it was not surprising that only five of the one hundred families had never been on the relief rolls.

The two families reporting a monthly income of \$50.00 were five

and six person households. The parents in both of these families were fifty years of age. One of these families had lived in the Camp eight years, and the other four years.

Of the eight families receiving above \$50.00 per month, two had received county assistance at some time, four had their income supplemented by surplus commodities, while two of the families had never been on relief.

Contrary to public opinion, the people living in Community Camp are not a migratory type. One would naturally suppose from a casual visit to the area that these people would be a transient class. Investigation, however, did not substantiate this supposition. Only twenty-three families had lived in the Camp less than eleven months; fifteen had lived there from one to two years; twenty-nine had lived in the Camp from three to four years; fifteen from five to six years; nine from seven to eight years; seven from nine to ten years; and one for eleven years. Approximately 33 1/3 per cent of the one hundred families had lived in the Camp for five years.

Economic conditions, lack of skill in any given type of work, and chronic illnesses were the chief causes for the majority receiving public assistance.

The County Welfare Board had the largest case load in the Camp. Seventy-four families reported assistance from this source. Those meeting the requirements set up by the law for old age assistance, aid to dependent children, and the blind numbered twenty, fifteen, and two respectively. The majority of the thirty-seven recipients had been receiving assistance since 1936. Nineteen were on Works Progress Administra-

tion Projects.

Little interest was shown in voting and memberships in lodges or clubs. Of the 171 family heads 29.2 per cent had not voted in the last ten years. The women outnumbered the men two to one in lack of interest in voting. Only one person in nine had any lodge affiliations. Many men reported having had membership in a lodge, but had to resign because they were unable to keep up their dues.

One of the most distressing conditions of Community Camp is the type of house in which the families live. An estimate of the value of each, or sale price as valued by the owner, shows that 8 per cent of the houses ranged in value from \$100.00 to \$175.00. The lowest value on a home was \$10.00. Two were in this class. More houses were valued at \$25.00, these numbering fifteen. There were eleven homes valued at \$35.00 and ten at \$45.00. The best dwelling in the group was valued at \$175.00. Five cost around \$100.00 each. Twenty-two owners were unable to give the cost of their houses.

More three-room dwellings, twenty-six, were owned than any other. Two-room houses numbered eighteen. It is apparent that living conditions are very poor in houses, or shacks, such as described.

Of these dwellings, 66 per cent had two and three rooms; 18 per cent had one room; 14 per cent had four rooms; and 2 per cent had five rooms. The houses averaged 2.49 rooms per dwelling, or an average of 1.63 persons per room. The rooms were small, inadequately furnished, and in most cases unsanitary.

Of the one hundred dwellings, 62 per cent were owned free of debt and 12 per cent were rented. The remaining 26 per cent were owned

by the occupants but were not free of debt.

Few dwellings had foundations. Building materials ranged from old scrap boards, tin, canvass, beaver board, sheet iron, to boxes and veneering board. Fifty-six per cent of the floors were made of wood, dirt, and sand; old scraps of linoleum comprised the flooring of 20 per cent of the shacks; and 24 per cent were of old boards, pieces of carpet, or old rugs.

There was an average of one bed to every two persons. In some homes, children slept on the floor in winter. During the summer, the majority of the large families slept out of doors on makeshift beds.

Household items such as chairs, tables, dressers, mirrors, ice boxes, kitchen cabinets, ironing boards, washing machines, and bedding were found, but were not always in too satisfactory condition. All but two families owned stoves. Practically all the homes were heated with wood.

Thirty-one per cent of the families owned automobiles. Many of these cars were used for trucking as well as for pleasure. Old model Fords and Chevrolets were the predominating makes. Forty-eight per cent of the families did not possess any type of vehicle.

Livestock, chickens, and pets were owned by seventy families. Hogs were not permitted in the Camp. Nearly one-third of the families owned both cats and chickens. Eighteen families owned dogs, the largest number kept by any family being five.

Ninety-five per cent of the homes were lighted by kerosene lamps. Two households reported no lighting facilities. Lack of modern water facilities added to the difficulty of getting water to the homes from

the one water hydrant in the Camp. Toilets were of the outdoor type.

Eighty-six per cent of the families shared the toilet with another family, while fourteen families were listed as having a private facility.

- 1. Mrs. J. H. ...
- 2. Mr. ...
- 3. ...
- 4. ...
- 5. ...
- 6. ...
- 7. ...
- 8. ...
- 9. ...
- 10. ...
- 11. ...
- 12. ...
- 13. ...
- 14. ...
- 15. ...
- 16. ...
- 17. ...
- 18. ...
- 19. ...
- 20. ...

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