

ATTITUDES OF OLDER HUSBANDS AND WIVES
TOWARD MARITAL RELATIONSHIPS
IN THE LATER YEARS OF LIFE

By

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Bachelor of Science

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1967

Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate College
of the Oklahoma State University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE
May, 1971

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express appreciation to Dr. Nick Stinnett, Associate Professor, Family Relations and Child Development, my adviser, for his helpful suggestions, investment of time, and patience throughout this study.

Sincere appreciation is also extended to Dr. Josephine Hoffer, Associate Professor and Acting Head, Department of Family Relations and Child Development, for her help in the critical reading of the manuscript, and to Dr. Hazel Ingersoll, Professor, Family Relations and Child Development, who served as the third member of the advisory committee.

Gratitude is expressed to the Oklahoma State University Research Foundation for financial support of this project, to the Senior Citizens Centers and members for their willingness to participate in the study, and to Iris McPherson for her help in programing the data.

Special appreciation is shown to my husband, Mike, for his patience, understanding, and assistance throughout the period of graduate study.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Statement of the Problem

In recent years there has been an increasing interest in the older members of our society. This interest has been reflected and heightened by numerous television documentaries, magazine articles, and government sponsored studies and programs concerning older persons. Most of the research concerning the older person has dealt with retirement, housing, failing health, and reduced income. However, one of the most important factors affecting older persons, their marital relationship, has been largely ignored. As Riley, et al. (1968, p. 538) report:

The marital relationship is central for those older people (71 percent of the men and 37 percent of the women aged 65 years and over) who have a living spouse, and may become increasingly significant as husbands and wives live longer portions of their lives together as an independent unit.

These authors also note that the marital status of the older person is an important factor to be considered when analyzing data concerning his life situation. Similarly, Kerkhoff (1962) states that the increasing number of retired males who are married and living with their spouse, makes it necessary to consider the family context when studying retirement.

Increase in Persons 65 Years of Age and Older

The number of men and women 65 years of age and over in the United States has steadily increased through the past century both in gross number and in proportion. One hundred years ago less than three percent of the total United States population was 65 years of age and older (Stroup, 1966). By 1900, the number of aged had increased to three million persons, which made up 4.1 percent of this nation's population (Aging, May 1969). Currently there are over 19 million persons in this age category in the United States. This accounts for approximately ten percent of the total population (Department of Commerce, 1969).

The increase in the number and proportion of older persons has occurred most rapidly in the last few decades. There were nine million persons age 65 years and over in 1940. By 1966, the number of older persons had increased to 18.5 million. This is a doubling in the number of older persons in one quarter of a century (Department of Commerce, 1967).

The increase in the proportion of older people has largely been due to the fact that the length of life has increased because of advances in medicine and public health work, and because of a higher standard of living. For example, the death rate in the age category of 75 years and over was reduced by about one fifth in the first half of this century (Dublin, 1965).

Increase in the Number of Older Married Persons

Statistics show that a majority of persons 65 years of age and over are married. A total of 76 percent of the males and 44 percent

of the females between 65 and 74 years of age and 55.9 percent of the males and 17.8 percent of the females 75 years of age and older are married and living with their spouse (Department of Commerce, 1969).

The proportion of older people who are married has increased through the years. In 1940, 60.4 percent of the males and 32 percent of the females over 65 were living with their spouse and by 1950 this proportion of married couples had increased to 63.3 percent of the males and 34.3 percent of the females over 65 years of age (Department of Commerce, 1951). There were approximately eight million older persons who were married and living with their spouse in 1960. In 1970, the Department of Commerce reported almost 9.5 million older persons, age 65 and older, living with their spouse. This is an increase of 1.5 million older married persons in the last ten years (Department of Commerce, 1960, 1970).

The increase in the number of older persons who are married is due in part to the many older persons who enter into marriage (first marriage or remarriage) at age 65 or over. An estimated 15 thousand older women and 35 thousand older men marry during the course of a year. In about 13 thousand marriages each year both the bride and groom are age 65 or over (Aging, May 1969). Between 1949 and 1959, the number of marriages contracted among all older persons increased by more than one third while the total number of marriages of all ages was some five percent less in 1959 than in 1949. Marriages contracted among older persons in which both bride and groom were over age 65 showed the largest numerical increase and the largest proportionate increase (Cooley, 1965).

Importance of the Marital Relationship
During the Later Years

According to VanZonneveld (1962) it is probable that marriage contributes favorably to a person's physical condition in the later years. This conclusion is supported by certain studies showing that the average life span of married persons is longer than that of unmarried persons (Goldfarb, 1968; Kutner, 1956; Shanas, 1950).

In some respects the marriage relationship of the husband and wife in the later years may be of even greater importance to their emotional and mental health than it was in the earlier years of marriage. This possibility is due to a gradual decrease in active participation in other institutions of society and a decrease in interactions with their children. Such disengagement suggests that the older husband and wife must depend more upon each other for the fulfillment of important emotional needs.

That the marriage relationship in the later years has an important influence upon the emotional and mental health of the older person is supported by the research of Barron (1961), Kutner (1956), and Havinghurst and Albrecht (1953) which indicates that older persons who are married and living with their spouse have a higher morale than single, widowed, or divorced older persons. Research by Stinnett, Collins, and Montgomery (1970) and Carter (1970) also indicate that a high degree of marriage satisfaction in the later years of marriage is positively associated with a high degree of morale.

Need for Research

According to Stroup (1966), there is an increased interest in the attitudes of older persons toward marital relationships in the later years of life because the number of persons living past the age of 65 will probably continue to increase in the future. This increase suggests that for a growing number of husbands and wives, the later years of married life offer an increasing potential for satisfying and fulfilling marriage relationships since, according to the 1965 White House Conference on Aging, the later years will be more healthy and vigorous because:

- (a) concepts of positive health will encourage better habits of nutrition, exercise, activity, and periodic checkups;
- (b) research will yield greater knowledge and the aging and chronic disease processes;
- (c) diagnostic and treatment centers will utilize new restorative techniques focusing on the total person and his circumstances;
- (d) most suffering and early death from heart and circulatory diseases and cancer will have been prevented and few will experience the agonizing pains of arthritis and rheumatism; and
- (e) custodial care will have given way to active home-care and home-service programs, health maintenance activities in centers of congregate living and rehabilitative services attached to community hospitals. (Stroup, p. 521)

Research concerning the attitude of older persons toward marriage relationships during the later years is needed because of: (a) an increase in the life expectancy and improved health of the older person, (b) the probability of a longer life span in the future, (c) the increase in the number and proportion of older persons who are married and living with their spouse, and (d) the importance of the marriage relationship to the emotional and mental health of the older person.

There has been very little previous research conducted concerning the attitudes of older persons toward marriage relationships during the

later years nor has much attention been given to the later years of marriage in marriage and family living textbooks. It is hoped that such research can yield greater understanding of marriage during the later years and can constitute a positive contribution to the teaching of marriage and family relations courses.

As Dr. G. M. Piersol and B. L. Bortiz (Dublin, 1956, p. 228) has stated:

The society which fosters research to save human life cannot escape responsibility for the life thus extended. It is for science not only to add years to life but more important to add life to years.

Purpose of the Study

The general purposes of this study was to examine the attitudes of older husbands and wives, age 65 and over, toward marriage in the later years. The specific purposes of this study were as follows:

1. Develop an instrument (the Attitudes Toward Marital Relationships of Older Persons Scale, AMROP) to measure attitudes toward marital relationships in the later years.
2. Examine differences in the Attitudes Toward Marital Relationships of Older Persons Scale (AMROP) scores according to:
 - (a) sex, (b) age, (c) residence for major part of life, (d) occupation of males for major part of life, (e) employment status for females for major part of life, (f) remarriage status, (g) self-perceived happiness of marriage, (h) perception of whether own marriage has improved or worsened over time, (i) perception of whether most marriages improve or worsen over time, (j) perception of the most important

characteristics of a successful marriage, (k) perception of the most important factor in achieving marital success.

3. Determine if there is an association between Attitudes Toward Marital Relationships of Older Persons Scale scores and (a) favorableness of self image, (b) favorableness of morale, and (c) age conservatism.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Very little literature is available concerning older persons' attitudes toward the marital relationship during the later years of life. The following is a review of the research which has been conducted concerning marriage in the later years with emphasis in the areas of marital satisfaction, morale, and adjustment to retirement.

Marital Satisfaction

Research by Bossard and Boll (1955) indicates that older men perceived the later years as the happiest period of marriage. Age 70 and the following years were rated as the happiest period of marriage and the time between age 60 and 69 was rated second in frequency as the happiest period of marriage. The older women who participated in the study indicated the happiest period in their marriage was between ages 20 and 29 but the next happiest period was found to be at the age of 70 and over.

A study by Lipman (1961) found that the majority of the older husbands and wives investigated indicated that their marriage had become more satisfactory since retirement.

Yarrow, et al. (1963) in a study of 31 older couples found that two-thirds of the men were considered as having a compatible relationship with their wives. Tuckman and Lorge (1953) found that

approximately 70 percent of a group of retired persons reported a happy relationship with their spouses, with 43 percent of the women of this retired group reporting that the marriage relationship had become better since retirement.

In one of the most carefully conducted studies concerning marital satisfaction during the later years Fried and Stern (1948) found that most of the marriages which were reported satisfactory during the later years had been satisfactory from the beginning. Approximately one-half of these marriages rated as satisfactory had become even more satisfying as the partners aged. The most frequently mentioned contribution toward marital satisfaction through the years was the acquisition of almost identical habits and interests by the couple. Situations which caused distress such as enforced retirement and serious illness often affected the marriage in a satisfactory manner and frequently brought gratification in cases where the nurtured partner enjoyed the extra care and attention and the protecting partner grew in feelings of usefulness. Overcoming problem situations in the later years tended to bring the couple closer together even in previously unsatisfactory marriages. In some instances the older spouse became a more acceptable marriage partner because he became "less demanding", "less temperamental", "less egotistical", "less irritable", and "less bent on having his own way". Reduced sexual demands by the husband in the later years were found to contribute to increased marital satisfaction when the wife had a history of infrequent or incomplete sexual experience.

The study also revealed that most of those marriages which were reported as unsatisfactory during the later years had been unsatisfactory from the beginning and approximately one-half had deteriorated

further with the passing years. Unsatisfied married partners complained of increased nagging, domination, worrying, fault-finding, selfishness, and untidiness on the part of their spouse. The sharing of few common interests and undesirable sexual demands also were frequent complaints among the unsatisfactory marriages.

In accordance with the findings of Fried and Stern, Goldfarb (1968, p. 109) states: ". . . marriages that were good to begin with generally tend to improve, whereas those marred by early strife and discontent tend to grow worse."

Goldfarb further states that there are cases in which satisfying marriages decline and problem marriages improve through the years. Personality changes, habit, economic circumstances, living arrangements, and cooperation in sharing duties may influence the marriage in a positive manner just as a satisfying marriage may deteriorate when a husband is unable to cope with problems brought about by his wife's illness.

In a study of the marital relationships of 408 older husbands and wives, Carter (1970) found in general that the majority reported a positive view of their marriage relationship and present period of life. Among the specific findings were: (a) the majority of the older husbands and wives indicated that their marriage relationship had improved through the years, (b) the majority reported the present time (later years) as the happiest time in their life and also the happiest period in their marriages, (c) their marriages were rated as happy or very happy by 95 percent of the older husbands and wives, (d) companionship and being able to express true feelings to each other, and economic security were perceived to be the three most

rewarding aspects of the present marriage relationship, while having different values and philosophies of life and lack of mutual interest were the two aspects of the present marriage most frequently reported as being troublesome, (e) respect and sharing the same interests were most often reported as the two most important characteristics of a successful marriage, (f) the older husbands and wives reported being in love as the most important factor in achieving marital success, and (g) housing, poor health and money were perceived as the three major problems of the present period of life.

Stinnett, Collins and Montgomery (1970) in a study of the marital need satisfaction of 227 older husbands and wives reported the development of the Marital Need Satisfaction Scale which is apparently the first instrument designed to specifically measure the marital need satisfaction of older husbands and wives. This instrument contained 24 items representing the six need categories of love, personality fulfillment, respect, communication, finding meaning in life, and integration of past life experiences. The results indicated both husbands and wives scored highest (indicating the greatest degree of satisfaction) in the need category of love. The husbands scored lowest (indicating the least degree of satisfaction) in the need category of respect, while the wives scored lowest in the need category of communication.

Other findings of the study indicated that there was a significant difference in marital need satisfaction according to (a) sex, with men indicating a higher degree of marital need satisfaction than women; (b) amount of contact with children through visits, with those husbands and wives who reported visiting or receiving visits from their children

five to seven times a year indicating the greatest degree of marital need satisfaction, while those who reported a visiting frequency of only once a year indicated the least degree of marital need satisfaction; and (c) perception of the happiest period of life, with those who perceived the present as the happiest period of life indicating the greatest degree of marital need satisfaction.

The findings also indicated a significant and positive relationship between marital need satisfaction and morale.

Morale

Shanas (1950) stated that marital status is the most important factor in the adjustment of older individuals. Widowed or single people do not rate as high on adjustment scales as married people of the same sex. That is, widowed or single men have much lower adjustment scores than do married men; widowed or single women are not as well adjusted as married women. Those who have never been married also have lower morale than widowed persons. Married people may rate higher in adjustment because their needs to feel wanted, loved and respected are more likely to be fulfilled in the marriage relationship. It was reported that married people seem to be more contented and well integrated into the social life of the family and community. This was also reported to be true of those people who remarry later in life.

Married persons in the later years of life were found by Havinghurst and Albrecht (1953) to have a higher morale and more positive adjustment than single or widowed older persons. Those persons married and living with their spouse were also reported to have the highest activity scores, and individuals who were most active in the family relationships tended to be the happiest.

Research conducted by Kutner, et al. (1956) also showed similar results to those of Havinghurst and Albrecht. Kutner found that older married couples indicate a higher degree of adjustment and morale than the older person who is single. The results suggested that the marriage relationship in the later years provided mutual social stimulation, purpose for living, concern for each others' physical, psychological, and emotional health.

Rose (1965) made many of the same conclusions from his study of 141 older persons age 65 and over. He found that married persons were somewhat better adjusted than single or widowed persons. High scores in life adjustment were made by twice as many married men as widowed or divorced persons. It was also shown that men living with their wives were better adjusted than those living alone or with someone other than their wives.

The findings that morale of older persons who are married is significantly higher than is the morale of single older persons is related to an observation by VanZonneveld (1962). He points out that marital status has a favorable effect on the physical condition in the later years. This is supported by certain statistical studies which show the average life span of married persons is somewhat longer than that of single or no longer married persons.

Adjustment to Retirement

In stressing the importance of the adjustments to be made in the later years of life, Ballweg (1967) notes that the relationship between the older married couple is often altered drastically with the retirement of the husband. The retired person must find a new source of

interesting and purposeful activity and means of recognition from others which was at one time gained from his occupation and coworkers. The wife must adjust her work routine to include a husband who is at home most of the day and often insisting upon helping around the house. However, Ballweg found that the retirement by the husband, and thus increased participation in household tasks, did not produce the disharmony that was expected in the adjustment to the new roles.

Perhaps the previously mentioned finding of Ballweg is partially explained by Nimkoff's (1962) suggestion that it is now easier for men to adjust to retirement in the later years of life because of the change in marriage to a more equalitarian relationship. He states that the prejudice against men performing household tasks has been broken down, thus making it easier for men to give up their occupational role and replace it in part, at least, with tasks around the home without suffering public disapproval.

Lipman (1961) notes the need for the wife to adjust in the later years of life as her husband becomes more involved in household activities after retirement. His research found that the older wives who adhered to the traditional concept of the woman's role of a good housekeeper and cook indicated a lower degree of adjustment than did the women who considered companionship and personality characteristics to be the most important role concepts in the later years of married life. These findings are related to an earlier study done by Lipman (1960) in which qualities associated with good marital adjustment in the later years were rated according to importance. One hundred retired couples ranked the qualities of love and understanding as the most important. Companionship and compatibility were ranked next. Being a good

housekeeper was ranked third for wives in importance, while being of assistance to his wife and a good economic provider ranked third and fourth for husbands. There was an interesting difference between male and female rankings concerning the importance of the husband as a good economic provider in the later years. Wives rated this quality much lower than did husbands. Older husbands and wives also disagreed in regard to work activities around the house with the women considering it much less important than did the men. Lipman concluded that the reluctance of the husband to relinquish his role as economic provider may cause some strain on the marriage and adjustment in the later years.

Research by Hayman and Jeffers (1968) points out that a wife's attitude and reactions toward situations characteristic of the later years of life are influenced by her husband's attitudes. The husband's occupation and length of retirement also affected their attitudes as did her own health, degree of activity, and life and marital satisfaction level. Eighty-two percent of the women in the sample who ranged in age from 66 to 92 shared congruous attitudes with their husbands concerning retirement. Approximately 45 percent of the older women indicated happiness about their husbands' retirement while 55 percent were sorry. More of the happy wives were married to men with occupations classified as nonmanual rather than manual. The wives with less positive attitudes were married to men who had been retired longer (over ten years) and at an earlier age because of health reasons. These wives were also older and in poorer health. They tended to have lower ratings on the Chicago Activity-Attitude Inventory and were more unhappy in their lifetime and in their present marriage than the wives who exhibited more positive attitudes.

In a study of 198 married older couples, Kerckhoff (1964) found that many wives had less favorable attitudes toward retirement than did their husbands. This was noted in cases where the husbands looked forward to retirement with great expectations or exhibited a sense of improvement and satisfaction after retirement. Kerckhoff also noted that length of retirement was correlated with attitude. Those men who had been retired over five years indicated a more negative attitude or response. Occupation level was shown to be highly significant in determining attitude and reaction to retirement. Although couples whose occupational backgrounds had been professional or managerial did not welcome retirement, they had rather positive reactions to retirement after it came and their experiences were comparatively favorable. Those couples whose occupational backgrounds had been white collar and skilled did not respond as favorably to retirement as did the professional-managerial group in spite of the fact they welcomed retirement and seemed to have good experiences. Those couples whose occupational backgrounds had been semiskilled or unskilled had more negative attitudes than did the other two occupational groups to retirement. They also were more passive in anticipation of retirement and did not find the experience to be a pleasant one.

Summary

The review of literature of the marital relationship in the later years suggests the following:

1. The later years of married life tend to be perceived by older husbands and wives as satisfactory, and by many older couples as the happiest period in their married life.

2. The quality of marriage from the beginning in many cases appears to influence the degree of satisfaction and fulfillment reached in the later years.
3. Older husbands indicate a significantly greater degree of marital need satisfaction than do older wives.
4. Both older husbands and wives indicate the greatest degree of marital need satisfaction is in the area of love, while older husbands show the least degree of satisfaction in the area of respect and older wives show the least degree of satisfaction in the area of communication.
5. Being married, as well as a high degree of marital need satisfaction, is significantly and positively related to morale in the later years.
6. Reluctance of the husband to relinquish his role as economic provider may cause some strain on the marital adjustment during the later years.
7. Occupational level, length of time since retirement, spouse's attitude toward retirement, state of health, and degree of activity affect attitudes toward retirement and the later years of life.

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE

Selection of Subjects

The subjects for this research were selected from the mailing lists of Senior Citizen Centers in Oklahoma. Only those subjects who were over 60 years of age and presently married were included. Each couple was sent a packet containing two identical questionnaires (one for the husband and one for the wife), a stamped return envelope, and a cover letter explaining the purpose of the study. The letter requested that the husband and wife complete the questionnaires without consulting with each other. The subjects were assured of their anonymity but informed that they could obtain a brief summary of the research findings by sending their name and address in a separate envelope. (See Appendix.)

A total of 181 older husbands and wives who met the age and marital qualifications returned useable questionnaires.

Description of Instrument

The seven-page questionnaire used in this study was designed for the purpose of investigating older persons' attitudes toward marital relationships in the later years of life. Sixty statements were included in the questionnaire. One statement, requesting the subject's

occupation for the major part of his life, required a written answer. The remaining 59 statements included preselected responses from which the subject could select the most applicable.

The questionnaire included a general information section and four different scales. Each of these will now be discussed separately.

General Information Section

The first eight questions in the questionnaire were designed to obtain certain background information from the respondents concerning sex, age, race, religious preference, residence, education, and occupation. The responses to the question concerning the male's occupation for the major part of life were categorized as (a) professional-managerial, (b) clerical-sales, (c) skilled, semiskilled, and unskilled labor, and (d) farm-ranch. Duncan's Socioeconomic Index (1961) was used in classifying each subject's response. The female's employment status was classified as (a) housewife, or (b) employed outside the home.

This section also included 12 questions with preselected responses concerning the subject's marriage and his perception of married life. Areas covered in this section included perception of the major problem during the period of the later years, the length of present marriage, the reason for termination of previous marriage, perception of the happiest time of life and of the marriage, perception of the present state of own marriage and its progress through the years, perception of whether most marriages improve or worsen over time, perception of rewarding and troublesome aspects of the marriage relationship in the later years, perception of the most important characteristics of a

successful marriage, and perception of the most important factor involved in achieving marital success.

AMROP Scale

The Attitudes Toward Marital Relationships of Older Persons Scale (hereafter referred to as the AMROP Scale) was developed and utilized to determine whether the older persons perceived the marriage relationship during the later years to be more or less satisfying in comparison to the earlier years of marriage. This scale was used and reported in a related project (Campbell, 1970) investigating college students' attitudes toward marital relationships during the later years. In that study it was found that all of the items in the scale were significantly discriminating between the upper and lower quartile groups at the .001 level. A split half reliability coefficient of 0.99 was also reported. The AMROP Scale is a Likert-type scale consisting of 12 alternating negative and positive statements concerning various aspects of the marital relationship during the later years such as companionship, communication, interest and understanding, and love and affection. The items are characterized by five degrees of response ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. The most favorable response received the highest score and the least favorable response received the lowest.

Self-Image Scale

The Self-Image Scale was included to obtain a self image measure of each subject. It consisted of three statements in which the respondent compared himself with most of his age peers in the areas of age,

health, and standard of living. In his selection of one of the three predetermined responses, the subject indicated a feeling of being "better off" than most of his age peers which is considered a "positive self image" or he indicated a feeling of being "less well off" than most of his peers which is considered a "negative self image". The scale was developed and utilized by Kutner (1956) and reported in his research in Five Hundred Over Sixty. The coefficient of reproducibility for this scale is 96.2 percent.

Life Satisfaction Index-Z

The Life Satisfaction Index-Z (LSIZ) was used to measure the respondent's level of morale. It consists of 13 statements about life on which the subject may agree or disagree. This scale was derived from the Life Satisfaction Rating Scale which required extensive interviewing and obtaining information concerning the following areas:

(a) zest versus apathy, (b) resolution and fortitude, (c) congruence between desired and achieved goals, (d) self concept, and (e) mood tone. The LSIZ was developed during the Kansas City Study of Adult Life (Neugraten, Havinghurst, and Tobin, 1961) and reported in "Mobilization of Aging Resources for Community Service" (Willie and Twente, 1968). It has a reliability coefficient of .80.

Age Conservatism Index

The Age Conservatism Index was used to determine the subject's liberal-conservative orientation toward behavior in the later years of life. It included four conservative statements concerning older people's style of dress, friendships, acceptance of new ways, and

interest in the opposite sex. Each statement included five degrees of response: (a) strongly agree, (b) agree, (c) undecided, (d) disagree, and (e) strongly disagree, through which the subject indicated a "youth orientation" with a liberal rating or an "age orientation" with a conservative rating.

This scale was described and used by Kutner in his book Five Hundred Over Sixty and has a coefficient of reproducibility of 91.5 percent.

Analysis of the Data

A percentage and frequency count was used to analyze the various background characteristics of the respondents.

A chi-square test was used in an item analysis of the AMROP Scale in order to determine if the items significantly discriminated between those respondents falling in the upper and lower quartiles on the basis of total scale scores. The split-half method was used to measure the reliability of the 12 items in this scale.

The analysis of variance was used to examine the following null hypothesis:

1. There is no significant difference in the AMROP scores of older persons according to: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) residence for major part of life, (d) occupation of males for major part of life, (e) employment status for females for major part of life, (f) remarriage status, (g) self-perceived happiness of marriage, (h) perception of whether own marriage has improved or worsened over time, (i) perception of whether most marriages improve or worsen over time, (j) perception of the

most important characteristic of a successful marriage,
(k) perception of the most important factor in achieving
marital success.

The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to
test the following null hypothesis:

2. There is no significant association between AMROP scores of
older persons and the following variables: (a) favorableness
of self-image, (b) favorableness of morale, and (c) age con-
servatism.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

Description of Subjects

A detailed description of the 181 older husbands and wives who served as subjects in this study is presented in Table I. The sample was obtained during the spring of 1969 from the mailing lists of Senior Citizen Centers throughout Oklahoma.

The 94 males and 87 females who participated in this study were between 60 and 89 years of age. The greatest proportion of respondents (37.1 percent) were 65 to 69 years old while the smallest proportions (7.3 percent and 1.1 percent) were between 80-84 and 85-89 years respectively. A majority of the subjects were white (95 percent) and Protestant (94.5 percent). Most of the subjects (51.1 percent) reported their residence for the major part of their lives in a small town under 25,000 while the smallest proportion (1.1 percent) had resided in cities of 50,000 to 100,000. In the same manner, the greatest proportion of respondents (53.9 percent) list their present residence as a small town under 25,000 and the smallest proportion presently reside in cities 50,000 to 100,000. The education levels of the subjects vary from less than high school (39 percent) through completion of college (6.1 percent) to post-graduate study (6.1 percent). The largest proportion of the male subjects listed their

TABLE I
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SUBJECTS

Variable	Classification	No.	%
Sex	Male	94	51.9
	Female	87	48.1
Age	60-64	39	21.5
	65-69	67	37.1
	70-74	38	21.0
	75-79	22	12.1
	80-84	13	7.2
	85-89	2	1.1
Race	White	171	95.0
	Negro	2	1.1
	Indian	6	3.3
	Other	1	.6
Religious Preference	Catholic	3	1.7
	Protestant	171	94.5
	Mormon	1	.5
	None	5	2.8
	Other	1	.5
Residence for Major Part of Life	On farm or in country	46	25.6
	Small town under 25,000	92	51.1
	City of 25,000-50,000	29	16.1
	City of 50,000-100,000	2	1.1
	City of over 100,000	11	6.1
Present Residence	On farm or in country	26	14.6
	Small town under 25,000	96	53.9
	City of 25,000-50,000	46	25.8
	City of 50,000-100,000	3	1.7
	City of over 100,000	7	3.9
Education Completed	Less than high school	69	38.6
	Some high school	38	21.2
	High school graduate	15	8.4
	Some college	35	19.6
	College graduate	11	6.1
	Post graduate study	11	6.1
Occupation of Males for Major Part of Life	Professional-Managerial	25	28.4
	Clerical-Sales	8	9.1
	Skilled, Semi-Skilled, and Unskilled Labor	35	39.8
	Farm-Ranch	20	22.7
Employment Status of Females for Major Part of Life	Employed outside home	23	26.4
	Housewife	64	73.6
Length of Present Marriage	Less than 5 years	11	6.1
	5-9 years	7	3.9
	10-19 years	8	4.4
	20-29 years	14	7.8
	30-39 years	39	21.7
	40-49 years	71	39.4
	50 years and over	30	16.7
Remarriage Status	Death of previous mate	28	15.5
	Divorce	20	11.0
	Have not been remarried	133	73.5

occupations in the categories of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labor (39.8 percent) and professional-managerial (28.4 percent). Approximately one-fourth (26.4 percent) of the females indicated having been employed outside the home for the major part of their lives. The length of the marriage most frequently reported (39.4 percent) was from 40 to 49 years. A large number of the sample, almost three-fourths, have never been remarried. Remarriages for the remaining subjects were due to divorce (11 percent) or death of previous spouse (15.5 percent).

The Item Analysis

An index of the validity of the items in the AMROP Scale was obtained by using the chi-square test in an item analysis of the scale. This item analysis determines if each item significantly differentiates between those subjects scoring in the upper quartile and those subjects scoring in the lower quartile on the basis of the total scores. All of the twelve items in the AMROP Scale were found to be significantly discriminating at the .001 level as indicated by Table II.

A split-half reliability coefficient, computed with the Spearman-Brown Correction Formula, of +0.99 was obtained in determining the reliability of the twelve items in the AMROP Scale.

TABLE II
ITEM ANALYSIS BASED ON COMPARISONS OF THE UPPER AND
LOWER QUANTILES OF TOTAL AMROP SCALE SCORES*

Item	χ^2	Level of Significance
1. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually talk to each other less than they did when younger.	46.99	.001
2. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have more common interests than they did when younger.	27.26	.001
3. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have less interest in each other as persons than they did when younger.	12.95	.001
4. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have a greater degree of companionship than they did when younger.	32.16	.001
5. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 are usually no longer physically attracted to each other.	18.19	.001
6. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have a greater understanding of each other than they did when younger.	25.48	.001
7. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually enjoy each other's company less than they did when younger.	45.89	.001
8. The love between husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually continues to grow and become even more meaningful.	38.27	.001
9. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have less happiness in their marital relationships than when they were younger.	35.56	.001
10. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have less difficulty in expressing their feelings to each other than when they were younger.	26.68	.001
11. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have less affection for each other than when they were younger.	37.97	.001
12. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have a more meaningful marriage relationship than when they were younger.	42.02	.001

*Degrees of freedom ranged from one to three.

Examination of Major Hypotheses

Hypothesis I (a): There is no significant difference in AMROP scores according to sex.

No significant difference was found when the one-way classification analysis of variance was utilized to determine if there was a difference in the AMROP Scores according to sex. As shown in Table III, the F score obtained was 2.04. Though not significant, it is interesting to note that women received a more favorable mean score.

TABLE III

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN
AMROP SCORES ACCORDING TO SEX

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Significance
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	86	42.93	2.04	n.s.
Female	77	44.32		

Hypothesis I (b): There is no significant difference in AMROP scores according to age.

Table IV shows that an F score of 0.75 was obtained when the one-way classification analysis of variance was employed. This indicates that there is no significant difference in the AMROP scores according to age. The age categories of 85-89 and 90 or over were omitted due to the small number of cases.

TABLE IV
F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN
AMROP SCORES ACCORDING TO AGE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Significance
<u>Age</u>				
60-64	31	43.52		
65-69	63	42.97		
70-74	36	44.38	0.75	n.s.
75-79	21	45.38		
80-84	11	42.73		

Hypothesis I (c): There is no significant difference in AMROP scores according to residence for the major part of life.

Table V shows that an F score of 0.48 was obtained when the one-way classification analysis of variance was employed. This indicates that there is no significant difference in the AMROP scores according to residence for the major part of life. The category of city with population of 50,000 to 100,000 was omitted from the analysis because of the small number of cases.

TABLE V
F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN AMROP
SCORES ACCORDING TO RESIDENCE
FOR MAJOR PART OF LIFE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Significance
<u>Residence for Major Part of Life</u>				
On farm or in country	43	42.05		
Small town under 25,000	89	44.76	2.33	n.s.
City 25,000 to 50,000	28	42.52		
City of over 100,000	7	45.14		

Hypothesis I (d): There is no significant difference in AMROP scores according to occupation of males for major part of life.

In order to examine this hypothesis, the one-way classification analysis of variance was applied. As Table VI shows, an F score of 1.81 was obtained, indicating that no significant difference exists in AMROP scores according to the occupation of males.

TABLE VI
F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN AMROP
SCORES ACCORDING TO OCCUPATION OF
MALES FOR MAJOR PART OF LIFE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Significance
<u>Occupation of Males for Major Part of Life</u>				
Professional-Managerial	23	42.83		
Clerical-Sales	6	47.50	1.81	n.s.
Skilled, Semi-Skilled, and Unskilled Labor	33	42.48		
Farm-Ranch	18	40.72		

Hypothesis I (e): There is no significant difference in AMROP scores according to employment status of females for major part of life.

The utilization of the one-way classification analysis of variance used to examine this hypothesis revealed that there was no significant difference in AMROP scores according to employment status of females for major part of life. As indicated in Table VII, an F score of 0.69 was obtained.

TABLE VII
F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN AMROP
SCORES ACCORDING TO EMPLOYMENT STATUS
OF FEMALES FOR MAJOR PART OF LIFE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Significance
<u>Employment Status of Females for Major Part of Life</u>				
Employed outside home	23	45.17	0.69	n.s.
Housewife	54	43.96		

Hypothesis I (f): There is no significant difference in AMROP scores according to remarriage status.

Table VIII shows that an F score of 1.53 was obtained when the one-way classification analysis of variance was employed. This indicated that there is no significant difference in the AMROP scores according to remarriage status. It is interesting to note that those respondents who had been remarried due to divorce received the least favorable mean score.

TABLE VIII
F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN AMROP
SCORES ACCORDING TO REMARRIAGE STATUS

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Significance
<u>Remarriage Status</u>				
Death of previous mate	27	43.89		
Divorce	18	41.17	1.53	n.s.
Have not been remarried	118	43.89		

Hypothesis I (g): There is no significant difference in AMROP scores according to self-perceived happiness of own marriage.

A significant difference was found to exist at the .001 level in AMROP scores according to self-perceived happiness of own marriage. As Table IX shows, the obtained F score was 27.18. This indicates a

strong relationship between the attitude toward marital relationships in the later years and one's own marriage. Those subjects who perceived their marriage as "very happy" or "happy" had the most favorable mean AMROP score, while a lower mean score is recorded for those who perceived their own marriage as "unhappy". This finding is related to the finding of Stinnett, Collins, and Montgomery (1970) that self-perceived happiness of marriage was significantly related to a favorable marital need satisfaction score. This finding is also an indication of the validity of the AMROP scale in that it is logical that those older husbands and wives who perceived their own marriage as happy would tend to have a more positive attitude toward marriage relationships in the later years than would those who perceived their own marriage as unhappy.

TABLE IX
F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN AMROP
SCORES ACCORDING TO SELF-PERCEIVED
HAPPINESS OF OWN MARRIAGE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Significance
<u>Self-Perceived Happiness</u>				
Very happy	79	46.14		
Happy	73	42.01	27.18	.001
Unhappy	6	31.50		

Hypothesis I (k): There is no significant difference in AMROP scores according to perception of whether own marriage has improved or worsened over time.

The one-way classification analysis of variance was again used in examining AMROP scores according to perception of whether own marriage has improved or worsened. An F score of 26.34 was obtained, which is significant at the .001 level. Table X shows that older husbands and wives who perceived their marriage as becoming worse had the least favorable mean score. The category "undecided" was omitted from the analysis due to the small number of cases. This finding coincides with the finding of Stinnett, Collins, and Montgomery (1970) that those older husbands and wives who perceived an improvement in their marriage over time received the most favorable mean marital need satisfaction score. This finding also supports the validity of the AMROP Scale; as again, it is logical that those older husbands and wives who perceive their own marriage as becoming better over time would tend to have a more positive attitude toward marriage relationships in the later years than would those who perceive their own marriages as becoming worse over time.

Hypothesis I (i): There is no significant difference in AMROP scores according to perception of whether most marriages improve or worsen over time.

In order to examine this hypothesis the one-way classification analysis of variance was applied. As Table XI indicates, an F score of 9.15 was obtained, showing that a significant difference exists at the .001 level. Those who perceived an improvement in most marriages over time had the highest mean AMROP score while those who perceived most

TABLE X

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN AMROP SCORES
 ACCORDING TO PERCEPTION OF WHETHER OWN
 MARRIAGE HAS IMPROVED OR WORSENERD
 OVER TIME

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Significance
<u>Perception of Whether Own Marriage Has Improved or Worsened Over Time</u>				
Better	88	45.77		
Worse	7	31.57	27.03	.001
Remained about the same	63	42.27		

TABLE XI

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN AMROP SCORES
 ACCORDING TO PERCEPTION OF WHETHER MOST
 MARRIAGES IMPROVE OR WORSENERD OVER TIME

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Significance
<u>Perception Concerning Most Marriages</u>				
Better	78	45.94		
Worse	15	39.13	9.15	.001
Remain about the same	39	41.59		
Uncertain	31	42.35		

marriages as becoming worse had the lowest mean score. This finding coincides with the two previously mentioned findings that AMROP scores are significantly and positively related to perception of one's own marriage as happy and perception of one's own marriage as improving over time. These results offer additional support for the validity of the AMROP Scale.

Hypothesis I (j): There is no significant difference in AMROP scores according to perception of the most important characteristics of a successful marriage.

As shown in Table XII the F score of 1.17 indicates that no significant difference exists in AMROP score according to perception of the most important characteristics of a successful marriage.

Hypothesis I (k): There is no significant difference in AMROP scores according to perception of the most important factor in achieving marital success.

No significant difference was found when the one-way classification analysis of variance was utilized to determine if there was a difference in AMROP scores according to perception of the most important factor in achieving marital success. The F score obtained was 0.07 as shown in Table XIII.

TABLE XII

F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN AMROP SCORES
ACCORDING TO PERCEPTION OF THE MOST IMPORTANT
CHARACTERISTIC OF A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Significance
<u>Characteristics of a Successful Marriage</u>				
Respect	112	44.49		
Personality growth	11	43.55		
Emotional closeness	16	44.19		
Sexual satisfaction	26	41.42	1.17	n.s.
Sharing the same interests	79	43.35		
Effectively expressing true feelings to each other	38	43.89		
Having physical needs met	15	42.73		

TABLE XIII

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN AMROP SCORES
ACCORDING TO PERCEPTION OF THE MOST IMPORTANT
FACTOR IN ACHIEVING MARITAL SUCCESS

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Significance
<u>Factors in Achieving Marital Success</u>				
Love	79	43.73		
Determination	19	43.79		
Common interests	29	43.21	0.07	n.s.
Compatibility of personalities	32	43.34		

Hypothesis II: There is no significant association between AMROP scores of older persons and the following variables: (a) favorableness of self-image, (b) morale, and (c) age conservatism.

The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to determine if a relationship existed between AMROP scores and each of the variables of self-image, morale, and age conservatism. Each variable was correlated separately with the AMROP scores as shown in Table XIV and the following correlations were obtained: AMROP scores and favorableness of self-image, +0.04; AMROP scores and morale, +0.38; and AMROP scores and age conservatism, +0.05.

TABLE XIV
CORRELATION BETWEEN AMROP SCORES AND SELF-IMAGE,
MORALE, AND AGE CONSERVATISM

Description	Pearson r Scores AMROP Score	Level of Significance
Self-image	+0.04	n.s.
Morale	+0.38	.001
Age conservatism	+0.05	n.s.

The correlations indicate that AMROP scores are not significantly related to age conservatism and self-image. There is a significant association between AMROP scores and morale at the .001 level. The present results are related to research of Barron (1961), Kutner (1956)

and Havinghurst and Albrecht (1953) which indicates that older married couples have a higher morale than single, widowed or divorced older persons. It is logical that a strong correlation would exist between high morale and a positive attitude toward the marital relationship in the later years of life. The significant association between AMROP scores and morale coincide with the finding of Stinnett, Collins, and Montgomery (1970) that marital need satisfaction among older husbands and wives was positively and significantly related to morale.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY

The general purpose of this study was to examine the attitudes of older husbands and wives toward marriage in the later years and to relate such attitudes to selected social and psychological factors. The sample was composed of 181 husbands and wives between 60 and 89 years of age who were on the mailing lists of the Senior Citizen Centers throughout Oklahoma. The subjects were predominately white, protestant and most had never been remarried.

The data were obtained during the months of February and March, 1969, through the use of questionnaires which consisted of the following: (a) a general information section, (b) the Attitudes Toward Marital Relationships of Older Persons (AMROP) Scale, (c) Kutner's Self-Image Scale, (d) Neugarten's Life Satisfaction Index-Z, and (d) Kutner's age Conservatism Index.

The chi-square test was used in an item analysis of the AMROP Scale to determine the discriminating ability of each item in the scale.

The one-way classification analysis of variance was used to determine if a significant difference existed in AMROP scores according to: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) residence for major part of life, (d) occupation of males for major part of life, (e) employment status for females for major part of life, (f) remarriage status, (g) self-perceived

happiness of marriage, (h) perception of whether own marriage has improved or worsened over time, (i) perception of whether most marriages improve or worsen over time, (j) perception of most important characteristics of a successful marriage, (k) perception of the most important factor in achieving marital success.

The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient was employed to determine if a significant association existed between AMROP scores and: (a) favorableness of self-image, (b) favorableness of morale, and (c) age conservatism.

The results of this study were as follows:

1. All items in the AMROP Scale significantly differentiated the upper quartile and lower quartile groups at the .001 level.
2. A split-half reliability coefficient of 0.99 computed with the Spearman-Brown Correction Formula is an indication of the reliability of the items in the AMROP Scale.
3. No significant difference was found to exist between total AMROP scores and (a) sex, (b) age, (c) residence for the major part of life, (d) occupation of males for the major part of life, (e) employment status of females for the major part of life, (f) remarriage status, (g) perception of most important characteristic of a successful marriage, and (h) perception of the most important factor in achieving marital success.
4. A significant difference existed at the .001 level in AMROP scores according to the respondents' self-perceived happiness of their own marriages. The most favorable mean scores were recorded for those subjects who perceived their marriage as "very happy" or "happy" while a lower mean score existed for

those who perceived their own marriage as "unhappy". A significant difference was found to exist at the .001 level in AMROP scores according to perception of whether own marriage has improved or worsened over time. A significant difference was also found to exist at the .001 level in AMROP scores according to perception of whether most marriages improve or worsen over time. In both cases those respondents who indicated that the marriage relationship (either their own or most marriages) became better over time had higher mean scores than those who indicated that marriages (either their own or most marriages) became worse over time.

5. No significant difference was found between AMROP scores and favorableness of self-image and age conservatism. A significant, positive correlation at the .001 level was found to exist between morale and AMROP scores.

Conclusion

The indications of the validity of the AMROP scale are perhaps the most significant findings of this study. This validity is represented by the results of the item analysis indicating that all of the items in the AMROP Scale were significantly discriminating, as well as by the findings that AMROP scores were significantly and positively related to (a) perception of own marriage as happy, (b) perception of own marriage as improving over time, and (c) perception of most marriages as improving over time.

The results of this study indicate that AMROP scores are not significantly related to the various sociological variables which were

examined (such as, remarriage status and residence for major part of life). This suggests that future research might more profitably examine the relationship between AMROP scores and various psychological variables.

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APPENDIX

**OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY • STILLWATER**Department of Family Relations & Child Development
372-6211, Ext. 6084

74074

March 6, 1969

Dear Senior Citizen:

You and your mate have been selected as persons who would be well qualified and willing to cooperate in a research project which is being directed by the Department of Family Relations and Child Development at Oklahoma State University. This research project is concerned with the family relationships of the Senior Citizens in Oklahoma. It is hoped that the information gained from this research can help such organizations as church groups and Senior Citizen Centers in better serving the Senior Citizen in Oklahoma. Your cooperation is requested in this study because you and other Senior Citizens have a greater knowledge of the rewards and problems of family life in the late years than does anyone else.

If you would be kind enough to assist us in this research, you (both husband and wife) are each asked to fill out the enclosed questionnaires. The two questionnaires are identical; one is for the husband to fill out and one is for the wife to fill out. A stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience and you are asked to return the questionnaires to us at the earliest possible date. Please return them by no later than March 31.

As you answer the questions please do not consult with each other or compare answers. If, for some reason one of you cannot assist with the research, we would greatly appreciate it if the other would send his or her questionnaire to us separately.

You are asked not to put your name on the questionnaire, and since you will not put your name on the questionnaire, you are encourage to answer all the questions as honestly as possible.

If you would like a brief summary of the findings of this research study when it is completed, we will be happy to send it to you if you will send us a postal card or a request in a separate envelope giving your name and address. This summary should be available in the latter part of the summer.

Your assistance with this research is greatly appreciated. It is through the participation of individuals such as you that we gain greater knowledge and understanding of family life as it is today.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Nick Stinnett

Nick Stinnett, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Family Relations and Child Development

NS/fd

Enclosures: 2

Your cooperation in this research project is greatly appreciated. Your contribution in a research project of this type helps us to gain greater knowledge and insight into family relationships.

Please check or fill in answers as appropriate to each question. Since your name is not required, please be as honest in your answers as possible.

The blanks at the extreme left of the page are for purposes of coding (do not fill in).

___ 1-3.

___ 4. Sex: ___ 1. Male
___ 2. Female

___ 5. Age: ___ 1. 60-64 ___ 5. 80-84
___ 2. 65-69 ___ 6. 85-89
___ 3. 70-74 ___ 7. 90 or over
___ 4. 75-79

___ 6. Race: ___ 1. White
___ 2. Negro
___ 3. Indian
___ 4. Other _____

___ 7. Religious preference:

___ 1. Catholic ___ 4. Mormon
___ 2. Protestant ___ 5. None
___ 3. Jewish ___ 6. Other _____

___ 8. For the major part of your life have you lived:

___ 1. On farm or in country ___ 4. City of 50,000 to 100,000
___ 2. Small town under 25,000 ___ 5. City of over 100,000
___ 3. City of 25,000 to 50,000

___ 9. Do you presently live:

___ 1. On farm or in country ___ 4. City of 50,000 to 100,000
___ 2. Small town under 25,000 ___ 5. City of over 100,000
___ 3. City of 25,000 to 50,000

___ 10. Years of education completed:

___ 1. Less than high school
___ 2. Some high school
___ 3. High school graduate
___ 4. Some college
___ 5. College graduate
___ 6. Post graduate study

___ 11. What was your occupation for the major part of your life?
(teacher, policeman, housewife, etc.): _____

- ___ 12. At the present time of your life, which of the following, if any, do you
 ___ 13. find to be major problems? (Please check no more than three problems.)
 ___ 14. ___ 1. housing ___ 6. being dependent on your children
 ___ 2. money ___ 7. inlaws
 ___ 3. use of leisure time ___ 8. finding a job
 ___ 4. poor health ___ 9. our marriage relationship
 ___ 5. not feeling useful ___ 10. no problems
- ___ 15. Number of years married to present mate:
 ___ 1. Less than 5 years ___ 5. 30-39 years
 ___ 2. 5-9 years ___ 6. 40-49 years
 ___ 3. 10-19 years ___ 7. 50 years and over
 ___ 4. 20-29 years
- ___ 16. If you have been remarried was it because of:
 ___ 1. death of previous mate
 ___ 2. divorce
 ___ 3. have not been remarried
- ___ 17. Which of the following do you believe to be the happiest time of
 your life?
 ___ 1. present ___ 4. teenage years
 ___ 2. middle years ___ 5. childhood
 ___ 3. young adult years
- ___ 18. Which of the following do you consider to be the happiest period
 of your married life?
 ___ 1. present ___ 3. young adult years
 ___ 2. middle years
- ___ 19. Do you consider your marriage to be:
 ___ 1. very happy ___ 4. very unhappy
 ___ 2. happy ___ 5. undecided
 ___ 3. unhappy
- ___ 20. Since the time you and your mate were first married, do you feel
 your marriage relationship has become:
 ___ 1. better
 ___ 2. worse
 ___ 3. remained about the same
 ___ 4. undecided
- ___ 21. In general, do you feel that most marriages become better or worse
 over time?
 ___ 1. better
 ___ 2. worse
 ___ 3. remain about the same
 ___ 4. uncertain

- ___32. Would you say your standard of living is better or worse than the standard of living of most of your friends and acquaintances?
 __1. better __2. same __3. worse
- ___33.
- ___34. As I grow older, things seem better than I thought they would be.
 __1. agree __2. undecided __3. disagree
- ___35. I have gotten more of the breaks in life than most of the people I know.
 __1. agree __2. undecided __3. disagree
- ___36. This is the dreariest time of my life.
 __1. agree __2. undecided __3. disagree
- ___37. I am just as happy as when I was young.
 __1. agree __2. undecided __3. disagree
- ___38. These are the best years of my life.
 __1. agree __2. undecided __3. disagree
- ___39. Most of the things I do are boring and monotonous.
 __1. agree __2. undecided __3. disagree
- ___40. The things I do are as interesting to me as they ever were.
 __1. agree __2. undecided __3. disagree
- ___41. As I look back on my life, I am fairly well satisfied.
 __1. agree __2. undecided __3. disagree
- ___42. I have made plans for things I will be doing a month or a year from now.
 __1. agree __2. undecided __3. disagree
- ___43. When I think back over my life, I did not get most of the important things I wanted.
 __1. agree __2. undecided __3. disagree
- ___44. Compared to other people, I get down in the dumps too often.
 __1. agree __2. undecided __3. disagree
- ___45. I have gotten pretty much what I expected out of life.
 __1. agree __2. undecided __3. disagree
- ___46. In spite of what people say, the lot of the average man is getting worse, not better.
 __1. agree __2. undecided __3. disagree

___47-48.

Indicate your degree of agreement or disagreement to the following statements.

- ___49. Older people should dress more conservatively than younger people.
 ___1. strongly agree ___2. agree ___3. undecided ___4. disagree ___5. strongly disagree
- ___50. Older people should go around with friends their own age rather than with younger people.
 ___1. strongly agree ___2. agree ___3. undecided ___4. disagree ___5. strongly disagree
- ___51. You can't expect older people to accept new ways of doing things.
 ___1. strongly agree ___2. agree ___3. undecided ___4. disagree ___5. strongly disagree
- ___52. It is undignified for older people to be interested in the opposite sex.
 ___1. strongly agree ___2. agree ___3. undecided ___4. disagree ___5. strongly disagree
- ___53-54.

The purpose of the following questions is to determine your general attitude toward marriage relationship in the later years of life (past age 65). Please answer according to your own true feelings and not according to how you think you "ought" to answer. There are no right or wrong answers. Please be frank as possible in your answers.

For each item below indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree by checking the response which best describes your feelings.

- ___55. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually talk to each other less than they did when younger.
 ___1. strongly agree ___2. agree ___3. undecided ___4. disagree ___5. strongly disagree
- ___56. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have more common interests than they did when younger.
 ___1. strongly agree ___2. agree ___3. undecided ___4. disagree ___5. strongly disagree
- ___57. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have less interest in each other as persons than they did when younger.
 ___1. strongly agree ___2. agree ___3. undecided ___4. disagree ___5. strongly disagree
- ___58. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have a greater degree of companionship than they did when younger.
 ___1. strongly agree ___2. agree ___3. undecided ___4. disagree ___5. strongly disagree
- ___59. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 are usually no longer physically attracted to each other.
 ___1. strongly agree ___2. agree ___3. undecided ___4. disagree ___5. strongly disagree

- ___ 60. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have a greater understanding of each other than they did when younger.
 ___ 1. strongly agree ___ 2. agree ___ 3. undecided ___ 4. disagree ___ 5. strongly disagree
- ___ 61. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually enjoy each other's company less than they did when younger.
 ___ 1. strongly agree ___ 2. agree ___ 3. undecided ___ 4. disagree ___ 5. strongly disagree
- ___ 62. The love between husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually continues to grow and become even more meaningful.
 ___ 1. strongly agree ___ 2. agree ___ 3. undecided ___ 4. disagree ___ 5. strongly disagree
- ___ 63. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have less happiness in their marital relationships than when they were younger.
 ___ 1. strongly agree ___ 2. agree ___ 3. undecided ___ 4. disagree ___ 5. strongly disagree
- ___ 64. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have less difficulty in expressing their feelings to each other than when they were younger.
 ___ 1. strongly agree ___ 2. agree ___ 3. undecided ___ 4. disagree ___ 5. strongly disagree
- ___ 65. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have less affection for each other than when they were younger.
 ___ 1. strongly agree ___ 2. agree ___ 3. undecided ___ 4. disagree ___ 5. strongly disagree
- ___ 66. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have a more meaningful marriage relationship than when they were younger.
 ___ 1. strongly agree ___ 2. agree ___ 3. undecided ___ 4. disagree ___ 5. strongly disagree
- ___ 67-68.

Please indicate your degree of agreement or disagreement with the following statements concerning people who enter marriage after the age of 65.

- ___ 69. Persons aged 65 and over should not enter into marriage.
 ___ 1. strongly agree ___ 2. agree ___ 3. undecided ___ 4. disagree ___ 5. strongly disagree
- ___ 70. Two older persons (65 or over) who enter into marriage have a good possibility of achieving a successful marriage.
 ___ 1. strongly agree ___ 2. agree ___ 3. undecided ___ 4. disagree ___ 5. strongly disagree
- ___ 71. "There is no fool like an old fool" applies very much to those who marry after age 65.
 ___ 1. strongly agree ___ 2. agree ___ 3. undecided ___ 4. disagree ___ 5. strongly disagree

- ___72. Most of the marriages entered into after the age of 65 are happy marriages.
 ___1. strongly agree ___2. agree ___3. undecided ___4. disagree ___5. strongly disagree
- ___73. It would be embarrassing to have a relative marry after age 65.
 ___1. strongly agree ___2. agree ___3. undecided ___4. disagree ___5. strongly disagree
- ___74. It is too difficult for persons over age 65 to adjust to a new marriage.
 ___1. strongly agree ___2. agree ___3. undecided ___4. disagree ___5. strongly disagree
- ___75-76.
- ___77. Which of the following do you believe to be the two primary reasons
 ___78. why older persons enter marriage after age 65?
- | | |
|---|--|
| ___1. have someone to look after
physical and health needs | ___5. to feel needed by someone |
| ___2. economic security | ___6. to give and to receive affection |
| ___3. sexual satisfaction | |
| ___4. companionship | |
- ___79. Which of the following do you believe to be the two major problems of
 ___80. older persons entering into marriage after age 65?
- | |
|--|
| ___1. inlaws |
| ___2. money |
| ___3. sexual adjustment |
| ___4. children (by a previous marriage) |
| ___5. housing arrangements |
| ___6. adjusting emotionally to each other. |

VITA

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Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: ATTITUDES OF OLDER HUSBANDS AND WIVES TOWARD MARITAL
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