

OLDER PERSONS' ATTITUDES TOWARD MATRIMONY
IN THE LATER YEARS

By

HELEN MORRIS TERRY GILDEA

Bachelor of Science

Drexel Institute of Technology

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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Thesis Approved:

Nick Stinnett
Thesis Adviser
Josephine Hoffer
D. Durbin
Dean of the Graduate College

762312

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Of the approximately 200 million people in the United States, every tenth person is 65 years of age or over. Since 1900, the percentage of persons 65 years of age or over has more than doubled, and the number of older persons has increased more than six times. In 1900 there were 3 million older persons; today there are more than 19 million; and the projections for 1990 are for 27 million people 65 years of age and over (Aging, May, 1969). Koller (1968, p. 6) describes the situation in the following manner: "Every day an additional one thousand citizens pass their sixty-fifth birthday, that magical milestone that formally stamps them as officially 'old.'"

American life expectancy at birth in 1920 was 54 years; today it averages 70 years. At age sixty-five today one can expect to live, on the average, 14.6 more years. Males, at age 65, have a life expectancy of 12.6 years, while females are expected to live for 16.2 years (U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1969). By the year 2000, it has been predicted, life expectancy at birth will average 72.2 years (U. S. Department of Commerce, 1967). In 1930, there were not quite 4,000 persons in the United States who were 100 years old or over; in 1960, there were over 10,000 who had lived at least one century (U. S. Department of Commerce, 1964).

The increase in life expectancy, and in the proportion of older persons in America, is largely due to advances in medical technology and care, a higher standard of living, improved nutrition and sanitation, and a decrease in work hazards.

As a result of the increase in life expectancy and improved health, larger proportions of older persons are married and still living with their mates. The Bureau of the Census (1969) reports that the majority of older persons (72.5% of the males and 36.0% of the females) are still married.

There are also many older persons who enter into marriage (first marriage or remarriage) at age 65 or older. Although the pattern of marriage in the United States indicates that most people marry in their early twenties, there has been an increase, since the turn of the century, in the proportion of persons 65 years of age and over who enter marriage. A report from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (1963) indicates that between 1949 and 1959 marriages among older persons increased by 1/3. Each year 35,000 older men and 15,000 older women marry. Of these marriages, 13,000 involve both older brides and older grooms (Aging, May, 1969). In 1959, 2.4 percent of the total 1,494,000 marriages involved either an older bride, an older groom or both. Ninety-three percent of these older brides and grooms had been married previously (Aging, July, 1962). The 1965 Vital Statistics report concerning marriage and divorce shows that of the 1,360,872 males who married, 27,328 or two percent, were 65 years of age or over; and 12,248, or .9 percent, of the 1,360,872 brides were 65 or older. For 7.1 percent of the older brides and 6.4 percent of the older grooms this was a first marriage. Of those 65 or over who remarried, 68.4

percent of the brides and 65.5 percent of the grooms had been widowed; while only 11 percent of the brides and 15 percent of the grooms had been previously divorced (U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1968).

With a longer life expectancy, improved health, and a higher standard of living in the later years, it is not surprising that many persons enter marriage at age 65 or over. As medical technology and the standard of living continue to improve in the future, it is likely that there will also be a long range increase in the number of older persons who marry.

The older person, as all other human beings, has certain needs such as: the need to give and receive affection; the need for recognition; the need for a sense of usefulness; the need for security; and the need for new experiences (Whitman, 1961). Such needs of the older person are often best fulfilled within the marriage relationship. This fact is largely responsible for many persons entering marriage during their later years.

Statement of Problem

As the number and proportion of marriages of older persons is likely to continue in the future, the attitudes held by both older persons and others toward such marriages assumes greater importance. Thus, it also becomes increasingly important to gain greater knowledge of such attitudes.

Despite the obvious needs and advantages of many older persons entering marriage, there are many negative attitudes in society toward such marriages. Some are amused at, others disapprove of, and some

simply ridicule those who marry late in life. The American society is youth-oriented and, therefore, emphasizes youthful love and marriage, while largely ignoring in teaching, in research, and in conversation, the marriage relationship of older persons. This has resulted in a lack of knowledge about and understanding of marriage during the later years of life. From this lack of knowledge and understanding there have evolved certain negative and erroneous stereotypes of the marriage relationship in the later years, as well as of those who enter into matrimony late in life.

There are indications in the literature that younger individuals often behave toward older persons in terms of rigid stereotypes, "and that older persons tend to fulfill stereotypes which they earlier incorporated into their definition of the aged" (Stinnett and Montgomery, 1968, p. 392). It has also been observed by some writers "that major twentieth-century stumbling blocks with respect to enriched living in the later years are negative and fatalistic stereotypes" (Stinnett and Montgomery, 1968, p. 392).

Only by altering stereotyped ideas to conform more closely to reality can society better understand and assist those whom they have handicapped socially, largely because of a lack of understanding and knowledge (Drake, 1958; and Koller, 1968). The study by Kastenbaum and Durkee (1964, p. 260) reveals that

Elderly people are not only sensitive to the attitudes of others but they respond to these attitudes by sometimes rather subtle alterations in their own attitudes and behavior.

As Stinnett and Montgomery (1968, p. 392) have observed, the "success of older marriages is affected by prevailing attitudes and

beliefs existing in the surrounding social milieu." Since the success of an older marriage is at least partially dependent upon the dominant attitudes toward such marriages, there is merit in investigating the attitudes that older people have toward marrying during the later years. As Kastenbaum and Durkee (1964, p. 250) have noted, "It is what elderly people themselves have to say about old age that is most relevant and perhaps most instructive."

There has been relatively little research conducted concerning the attitudes of older persons in general. In a review of the available research, none was found to be specifically concerned with older persons' attitudes toward matrimony in the later years. There is a need, then, for research which will contribute to greater knowledge concerning attitudes of older persons toward entering marriage during the later years, and which will contribute to greater knowledge concerning the important social and psychological factors to which such attitudes are related.

Purpose of the Study

The general purpose of this study was to investigate older persons' attitudes toward and perceptions of individuals who enter into marriage at age 65 or over and to relate such attitudes and perceptions to selected social and psychological factors.

The specific purposes of this study were:

1. To compare differences in older persons' attitudes toward and perceptions of individuals who marry at age 65 or over according to: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) residence for the major part of life, (d) education completed, (e) employment

status of females for the major part of life, (f) occupation of males for the major part of life, (g) self-perceived happiness of own marriage, (h) perception concerning whether own marriage has improved or worsened over time, (i) perception concerning whether most marriages improve or worsen over time, (j) remarriage status, and (k) perception of most important characteristic of a successful marriage.

2. To determine if there was a difference in perceptions concerning why individuals enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) residence for the major part of life, (d) education completed, (e) employment status of females for the major part of life, (f) occupation of males for the major part of life, and (g) self-perceived happiness of own marriage.
3. To determine if there was a difference in the perceptions of the major problems facing individuals who enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) residence for the major part of life, (d) education completed, (e) employment status of females for the major part of life, (f) occupation of males for the major part of life, and (g) self-perceived happiness of own marriage.
4. To determine if there was an association between the Perception of Older Marriages Scale scores of older persons and the following variables: (a) favorableness of self-image, (b) favorableness of morale, and (c) age conservatism.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Research on attitudes toward matrimony in the later years has been extremely limited. The following review of literature will discuss the few studies which have been conducted concerning attitudes toward the marriage of older persons, in addition to certain related topics. Specifically, the review of literature will include available literature in the following areas: (a) attitudes toward matrimony in the later years, (b) marriage and remarriage in later life, (c) morale, self-image, and adjustment in older persons, and (d) attitudes toward aging.

Attitudes Toward Matrimony in the Later Years

Two studies most closely related to this investigation are those of Stinnett and Montgomery (1968), and Smith (1970), which investigated college students' attitudes toward matrimony in the later years. These studies used the Perception of Older Marriages Scale (POM Scale) which was also used in this study.

Stinnett and Montgomery (1968) found a significant difference in the POM scores of college students according to: (a) sex, (b) religious preference, (c) amount of previous contact with older people, (d) type of community in which they lived, (e) education of family head, and (f) father's occupation. Those students who had the most favorable attitudes toward the marriage of older persons were: female,

Protestant, those who had experienced considerable contact with older people, those who lived on a farm or in the country, those who came from a family whose head had a post-graduate education, and those whose fathers were farmers. Ninety-nine percent of the subjects considered companionship to be the primary reason why older people marry. The respondents' perceptions of the major problems involved in older marriages were found to be significantly different according to sex. Stinnett and Montgomery (1968, p. 395) report that, "Almost twice as many males as females believed that sexual adjustment and in-laws were the major problems of older marriages," while "approximately twice as many females as males indicated housing arrangements and money." The problem perceived by the greatest proportion of both males and females was children, by previous marriage.

Smith (1970) concluded that perception of matrimony in the later years is largely independent of selected background factors. Those factors which she found to be significantly related to POM scores, however, were sex, and religious preference. Smith's findings, that females more than males and Protestants more than any other religious category tested held more favorable attitudes toward the marriage of older persons, support the findings of Stinnett and Montgomery (1968). Smith found that the primary reason for older marriages was significantly different according to religious preference. The greatest proportion of each of the religious categories indicated companionship, and to feel needed by someone as the reasons for older marriages. These findings were similar to those of Stinnett and Montgomery (1968). Students' perceptions of the major problems facing individuals who marry at age 65 or over were found by Smith to be significantly

different according to sex. Children, by previous marriages, and adjusting emotionally to each other were the problems most often indicated by both males and females. Thirty-five percent of the males and 30 percent of the females indicated adjusting emotionally to each other, while 28 percent of the males and 37 percent of the females indicated children, by previous marriage as the major problem in the marriage of older persons. Smith's study supports the finding of Stinnett and Montgomery (1968) that children, by previous marriage, is perceived as a major problem confronting those who marry at age 65 or over.

Marriage and Remarriage in Later Life

Perhaps one of the earliest studies on matrimony in the later years is that of Bossard (1951). In analyzing a sample of 259,443 marriages recorded over the four year period from 1945 through 1948, he noted that of the men 50 years of age and over: 16.5 percent married women within the same five year age group; 7.3 percent chose women in older age groups; and 76.2 percent married women in younger age groups. Among the women over 50, Bossard reported that: 28.4 percent married men within the same five year age group; 48.6 percent married men of older age groups; and 23 percent chose younger men. He concluded that the older men and women become the more they tend to seek younger mates. Aging magazine (July, 1968) states that older brides tend to be younger than older grooms, and that there is a tendency toward an increasing age difference with advancing age for both older brides and older grooms.

According to the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (1968), the greatest majority of marriages among older brides and

older grooms are remarriages. Concerning these remarriages, 68.4 percent of the brides and 65.5 percent of the grooms had previously been widowed. Since marriages of older persons are likely to be remarriages due to widowhood, attitudes toward marrying in the later years may to some extent reflect attitudes toward remarriage (Stinnett and Montgomery, 1968).

Bernard (1956, p. 115) presents the following figures on remarriages among individuals of all ages: (a) 87 percent of all divorced men and women remarry, (b) 67 percent of all widowed men remarry, and (c) 33 percent of all widowed women remarry.

Lawton (1946, p. 182) refers to remarriage as the "normal reaction to widowhood." Although there are no legal or religious barriers to remarriage for widows and widowers, society expects a "decent interval" between the death of a spouse and one's remarriage to show "due respect" for the deceased (Bernard, 1956).

Regulations concerning the remarriage of divorced persons vary from place to place, but tend to be more restrictive than those for widowed persons. Divorced persons, in many areas, still face religious, legislative, and implied social barriers (Bernard, 1956).

A study by Locke (1951) indicates that bereaved persons are equally good risks in marriage as those who marry only once. He further states that those bereaved persons who do remarry are highly adaptable. Goldfarb (1968) asserts that those who remarry after the death of a spouse are somewhat better adjusted than those who do not remarry. Lawton (1946) suggests that some older people should not remarry due to their physical, and/or mental conditions, and that others prefer to carry on never ending courtships in lieu of remarriage.

Blood and Wolfe (1960) report that, in general, the older the wife is when she gets married, the more enthusiastic she is about the affection she gets as a result. They also report that the mutual understanding of roles by husband and wife is greater for the aged than for any other stage in the family cycle.

Lipman (1961) states that retirement demands a redefinition of marital roles. The husband is no longer instrumental; with retirement he needs to give up his occupation-oriented role. The retired husband increases his assistance with the domestic activity in the home. The new role of the husband, however, is primarily an expressive one. He is involved in giving emotional support to his wife through love, understanding, companionship, and compatibility. There is an emphasis on sharing and cooperation in the marriage of retired couples whose common roles are supportive. The wife of a retired man must adjust her role accordingly to allow the change in her husband's role. The adjustment to, and acceptance of, these new roles by the husband and wife lead to higher morale and greater satisfaction in marriage. Lipton reports that two-thirds of the women who reported their most important role to be instrumental had experienced a decrease in morale. Lipton also found that 52 percent of the males and 47 percent of the females felt that their marriages had become more satisfying since retirement.

Lawton (1946, p. 133) relates two excellent examples of matrimony in the later years in his book Aging Successfully. The first concerns remarriage.

In one home for older people, during a twenty-one year period there were twenty-nine marriages. Most of these were of couples each one of whom had lost a mate by death during residence at the home. In a few instances a bachelor fell in love with a widow and married her. It is the opinion of

the head of the home that these marriages have proven far more congenial and happy than most others contracted at younger periods of life. The average age for men was 69 and for women 67; of the 29 men, 17 were still living at the end of the twenty-one year period, and 11 of the women. One man married twice after the death of his wife in the home, and three of the women who lost their husbands during residence there remarried twice after that.

The second example is one of a first marriage.

At another home a spinster, who when she entered was apathetic and unhappy, was soon engaged in a romantic friendship with a member and after marriage to him she blossomed out and became one of the leaders in the home. She told her friends that this marriage of hers in old age was among the greatest experiences in her life.

There are many advantages of marriage or remarriage late in life.

Bernard (1956) points out the fact that in maturity dependency needs have been resolved and one has a clearer idea of himself as a person.

Goldfarb (1968), in noting the benefits of matrimony in the later years, cites the economic aspect for women and possible nursing care benefits for the males due to the shorter life expectancy of men. Lawton (1946, p. 136) suggests that the reasons for success in the marriages of older persons may be due to a "blend of romantic and practical ideals." He notes that marriage in later life emphasizes friendship and practical considerations, and observes that "companionableness" is of great importance. In pointing out the advantages of marriages contracted at age 65 or over, Lawton mentions such factors as: fewer "in-law" problems; fewer parental ties to be broken; fewer fears of adulthood; fewer uncertainties about one's life work or other values; fewer external tensions in life; a possibly greater understanding of sex and its place in the human experience; and more leisure time to enjoy one another.

Lawton further points out that there are also problems in the marriages of older persons, such as the disapproval of children, rigid

attitudes and life long disagreeable habits, more illness, possible financial dependency and physical helplessness, imminent possibility of separation by death or institutionalization, and difficulties in giving up one's home and belongings in the event of moving.

Despite these problems, older adults need love and companionship (Lawton, 1946; Broadd, 1969; and Bernard, 1956). One Tulsa, Oklahoma, physician who treats primarily geriatric patients states:

There is no greater sadness than growing old without having anyone around to care, to help, to ease the burden, to make it better, to sympathize with you on the so many off-days of old age (as cited in Broadd, September 26, 1969, p. C-1).

Bernard (1956, p. 123), in comparing love in the later years to love in middle age and youth, describes it as a "subtler kind of relationship, colored by the joy of finding someone who can share experiences, actual and remembered." She further describes love and remarriage in the later years as:

. . . an opportunity to express deep emotions which a first marriage may have dulled to staleness. It may be a love that not only is reassuring and supporting but also brings with it euphoria. It is likely to have wider dimensions than love in youth and may perhaps be treasured even more because the partners have experienced the deprivation of love. Although the sexual element is still present and important, later love tends to be less dependent upon the sexual relationship alone (p. 124).

Morale, Self-Image, and Adjustment in Older Persons

As Goldfarb (1968) has stated, marriage greatly contributes to morale and continued activity during the later years. Smith (1965), Havighurst and Albrecht (1958), Kutner (1956), and Neugarten, Havighurst, and Tobin (1961) are in agreement with Goldfarb in that

their research findings indicate older men and women who are married have a higher degree of morale than those who are not married.

Kutner (1956) states that there is a definite interrelationship of self-concept and adjustment. On the basis of his study of older persons reported in Five Hundred Over Sixty, Kutner reports the following:

- 1) Self-image and morale are fairly closely related.
- 2) Persons of high socioeconomic status are generally more positive in self-concept than those of lower status.
- 3) Within each socioeconomic group, those with more positive self-concepts had higher morale.
- 4) Unemployed and retired people show both poor self-image and low morale.
- 5) Even among those with negative self-concepts, a substantial proportion of the employed still had high morale.

Cameron (1967) in comparing youth with the aged found the older person's morale to be lower than that of the young person. Kutner (1956) also noted a gradual, systematic decrease in morale which occurs over the years.

Havighurst and Albrecht (1953) in their study of Prairie City's 100 elders report that 33 percent of the elders are as happy in later life as they ever were. Landis (1942) reports that among 450 persons over the age of 65, only five percent selected middle or old age as the period of greatest happiness in life. Among 193 persons 60 years of age and over, Collins (1969) found 52.5 percent who perceived the present time to be the happiest period of life.

The investigations of Preston (1968) and Zola (1962) both concluded that there is no significant relationship between seeing oneself as "old" and chronological age among elderly people. Preston also found retirement status to be unrelated to considering oneself to be "old." Perceiving oneself as "old," however, was found to be related to chronic illnesses. Bell (1967, p. 18) suggests that feeling "old" is "part of

the total process of disengagement." He found family involvement and feeling "old" to be inversely related. Bell states that a close family relationship tends to minimize feelings of being "old." He also suggests that having a meaningful role to play in a formal organization contributes to feelings of not being "old."

Attitudes Toward Aging

Nearly all parts of our society have attitudes toward old age, aging, and older people. These attitudes range from negative to positive, from quasi-minority group (Barron, 1953) to the loving grandparent type. The predominant attitude reflected in the studies which have been done, however, is a negative one.

Tuckman and Lorge (1953, 1954, 1958) are credited with the most extensive research effort in the area of attitudes toward older people. Using an instrument which listed stereotypes and common misconceptions of older people, Tuckman and Lorge investigated many different groups' attitudes toward older people and older workers. The subjects' agreement or disagreement with the stereotypes about physical change, family relationships, and personality types led Tuckman and Lorge to certain conclusions. The fundamental hypothesis for their research was that "since old people are expected to play a decreasingly active role in life, the cultural expectations foster stereotyped ideas about old age roles" (Hickey and Kalish, p. 215, 1968). Their findings support their fundamental hypothesis. They found that

the attitudes toward aging of widely different groups show considerable agreement with the misconceptions and stereotypes about old people and the older worker. The widely different groups range from high school students to institutionalized aged (1958, p. 199).

Tuckman and Lorge also found that previous direct contact with older people is related to more favorable attitudes toward older people (1958).

Kastenbaum and Durkee (1964, p. 259) in studying elderly patients at Cushing Hospital, found a "vague feeling that young people do not really understand the elderly." He asserts that the elderly are sensitive to the attitudes of others and are possibly trying to replace the image with a more positive one.

Kogan and Shelton (1962) report finding a positive or ambivalent attitude among some older people rather than the predominantly negative outlook reported by other researchers. This sample, however, was biased in the direction of higher education, occupation, and intelligence. Lane (1962) reports a "generally favorable" attitude among college students toward the aged. Havighurst and Albrecht (1953, p. 37) report that "American society desires and expects a good deal of activity and independence from its older people, tolerates a wide variety of roles on their part, and wishes them to slow down gradually as they grow older."

Drake (1958, p. 11) states:

The kind of treatment old people receive is determined largely by the values of the society at any particular time and to some extent by the condition of the old people. The values which society holds toward its old people are partially the result of the stereotypes society has of old people.

Tuckman and Lorge (1958), Hickey and Kalish (1968), Davis (1960), Kogan (1961), Drake (1958), and Kastenbaum and Durkee (1964) all report finding predominantly negative attitudes toward older people. Drake (1958) cites the perception of older people as being more conservative than the young as the most strongly held stereotype young people have of older people. He also reports that the idea of sex activity among

older persons is repulsive to many young people.

Others in studying the attitudes of young people toward old age have found certain factors to be related to more favorable attitudes. Kogan (1961) found that the nurturance personality factor is associated with positive attitudes toward older people. Drake (1957) found evidence to support Tuckman and Lorge's association of previous contact with older persons and more positive attitudes toward the aged. Dinkel (1944) and Williams (1958) both indicate that place of residence and religious affiliation are related to attitudes of youth toward older persons.

Golde and Kogan (1959) state that college students' attitudes toward older people are quantitatively different from attitudes toward people in general. Kastenbaum and Durkee (1964, p. 240) summarize by stating that "youth view old age as a period of life markedly different from earlier years and these differences are predominantly but not entirely negative."

Summary

The review of literature on attitudes toward older persons and their marriages suggests the following:

1. Very little research has been done concerning attitudes toward matrimony in the later years.
2. Many persons are entering matrimony at age 65 or over, and most of these marriages are remarriages due to widowhood.
3. Older marriages are somewhat different from youthful marriages. Friendship and companionship are highly

emphasized in the marriage of older persons; the sexual aspect is present and still important, but less emphasized.

4. There is a positive relationship between marriage and morale during the later years, and a negative relationship between morale and advancing age.
5. Persons who marry in the later years have many advantages that are not found in younger marriages, but they also have special problems due to their age. Children, by previous marriage, is one of the problems facing individuals who enter into marriage at age 65 or over.
6. Companionship and feeling needed by someone are major reasons for matrimony in later life as perceived by some college students.
7. Retirement demands a redefinition of marital roles. The most noticeable role change is that of the husband from instrumental to expressive.
8. Studies have found that certain background factors, such as sex, residence, education, amount of previous contact with older persons, religious preference, and the personality factor of nurturance, may influence an individual's attitudes toward old age, and matrimony in the later years.
9. Many studies on attitudes toward older people have revealed predominantly negative attitudes and erroneous stereotypes.

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE

Selection of Subjects

The 181 subjects for this study were selected from the mailing lists of Senior Citizen Centers throughout Oklahoma. All subjects were over 60 years of age, presently married, primarily Protestant, and white.

A packet containing a cover letter, two identical questionnaires, and a stamped, addressed envelope to facilitate easy return was mailed to 418 married couples in March of 1969 (see Appendix A for sample). The cover letter explained the research, assured anonymity, gave instructions for completing and returning the questionnaires, and requested that the husbands and wives complete the questionnaires individually.

Many of the returned questionnaires were excluded from the study because they were incomplete, or the subject was under the age of sixty.

Description of Instrument

The seven page questionnaire used in this study was designed for the purpose of investigating older peoples' attitudes toward individuals who enter into marriage (first marriage or remarriage) at age 65 or

over. The questionnaire included the following: a general information section, a section regarding the respondents' perceptions concerning why older people marry and the major problems involved in such marriages, and four major scales. The four scales utilized were: (1) the Self-Image Scale, (2) the Life Satisfaction Index-Z, (3) the Age Conservatism Index, and (4) the Perception of Older Marriages Scale.

General Information Section

The first section of the questionnaire consisted of items designed to obtain certain background data from the respondents such as sex, age, race, religious preference, residence, education, and occupation. Also included in this section were items regarding the respondent's perception of various aspects of his marriage relationship. Duncan's Socioeconomic Index (1961) was employed as a means of classifying the males' occupation for the major part of life. The occupational categories represented in this study were as follows: (a) professional - managerial, (b) clerical - sales, (c) skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled labor, and (d) farm - ranch.

Self-Image Scale

The Self-Image Scale, designed by Kutner (1956) for his research on the older population in Kips Bay-Yorkville, New York, was included to obtain a self-image measure of the respondents. This Guttman-type scale consists of three questions based upon the individual's comparisons of himself with most of his age peers. The three questions concern age, health, and standard of living. The Self-Image Scale is scored in such a way that those who indicate that they feel they have

an advantage over their age peers receive a high score and are considered to have a "positive self-image." A respondent is said to have a "negative self-image" if he indicates a feeling of being less advantageous than most of his age peers. Kutner reports the coefficient of reproducibility for this scale to be 96.2 percent.

Life Satisfaction Index-Z

The Life Satisfaction Index-Z (LSIZ) developed during the Kansas City Study of Adult Life (Neugarten, Havighurst, and Tobin, 1961) was included to obtain a measure of the respondent's morale. This index was reported in "Mobilization of Aging Resources for Community Service" (Wylie and Twente, 1968). The LSIZ was derived from the original Life Satisfaction Rating Scale (LSR) after two item analyses. The original LSR, based on interview data, obtained 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 consists of 13 statements about life with which the respondent may either agree or disagree. In scoring, one point was given for each positive answer. The reliability coefficient of the LSIZ is .80 (Wylie and Twente, 1968).

Age Conservatism Index

To determine the respondent's liberal-conservative orientation toward behavior in the later years, Kutner's Age Conservatism Index (1956) was included. This index was utilized in the research reported on in the book, Five Hundred Over Sixty, by Kutner, to measure age orientation. A low age conservatism, or liberal rating, indicates a

"youth-oriented" individual; and a high age conservatism, or conservative rating, indicates one who is "age-oriented." The index consists of four conservative statements concerning older peoples' mode of dress, friendships, acceptance of new ways, and interest in the opposite sex, each of which has five degrees of response. The degrees of response are: (1) strongly agree, (2) agree, (3) undecided, (4) disagree, and (5) strongly disagree. The coefficient of reproducibility for the Age Conservatism Index is 91.5 percent.

Perception of Older Marriages Scale

Stinnett and Montgomery (1968) developed a Likert-type scale to measure attitudes toward marriages entered into at age 65 or over. This Perception of Older Marriages Scale, referred to as the POM Scale, consists of six statements concerning older marriages. The five degrees of possible response range from strongly agree to strongly disagree. Those respondents who indicate the most favorable attitude toward matrimony in the later years are given the highest scores. A maximum of thirty points is possible. All six items in the POM Scale when used with samples of college students, both in Florida and Oklahoma, were found by Stinnett and Montgomery (1968), and Smith (1970) to be significantly discriminating between the upper and lower quartile groups at the .001 level of significance.

Analysis of the Data

A percentage and frequency count was employed to analyze certain background characteristics of the subjects such as sex, age, race, and residence for the major part of life.

The chi-square test was used in a item analysis of the POM Scale to determine the discriminating ability of the items. The split-half method was used to measure the reliability of the items in the scale.

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

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

The chi-square test was employed to examine the following null hypotheses:

2. There is no significant difference in the perceptions concerning why individuals enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) residence for the major part of life, (d) education completed, (e) employment status of females for the major part of life, (f) occupation of males for the major part of life, and (g) self-perceived happiness of own marriage.
3. There is no significant difference in the perceptions of the problems facing individuals who enter into

marriage at age 65 or over according to: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) residence for the major part of life, (d) education completed, (e) employment status of females for the major part of life, (f) occupation of males for the major part of life, and (g) self-perceived happiness of own marriage.

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

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

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

Description of Subjects

A detailed description of the 181 older husbands and wives who participated in this study is presented in Table I. The sample was obtained from the mailing lists of Senior Citizen Centers throughout Oklahoma during the Spring of 1969. There were 94 males and 87 females.

The age of the respondents ranged from 60 to 89, with the greatest proportion falling in the age category 65-69 (37.1%). The smallest proportions were in the 80-84 (7.2%) and 85-89 (1.1%) age groups. The subjects were predominantly white (95.0%) and Protestant (94.5%). The greatest proportion of respondents reported their residence for the major part of life (51.1%) and their present residence (53.9%) to be a small town under 25,000; while the smallest proportion of respondents listed a city of 50,000 to 100,000 as their residence for the major part of life (1.1%) and also as their present residence (1.7%). Nearly 39 percent reported less than high school as the amount of education completed, while 6.1 percent reported completion of college and another 6.1 percent reported post graduate study. Most of the male subjects' occupations fell in the categories of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labor (39.8%), and professional-managerial (28.4%). Of the females, only 26.4 percent reported having been employed outside of

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

the home for the major part of life. The most frequently reported length of marriage was from 40-49 years (39.4%). Almost three-fourths of the subjects had never been remarried, while 11 percent had remarried due to divorce, and 15.5 percent had remarried due to death of previous mate.

The Item Analysis

An index of the validity of the items in the POM 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 six items in the POM 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 six items in the POM Scale.

Examination of Major Hypotheses

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

The utilization of the one-way classification analysis of variance to examine this hypothesis revealed that there was no significant difference in POM scores according to sex. Table III shows an F score of 0.18. The mean scores for both groups were very close. This finding is in contrast to the studies of Stinnett and Montgomery (1968) and

TABLE II

ITEM ANALYSIS BASED ON COMPARISONS OF THE UPPER
AND LOWER QUANTILES OF TOTAL PERCEPTION OF
OLDER MARRIAGES SCALE SCORES

Item	df	χ^2	Level of Sig.
1. Persons aged 65 and over should not enter into marriage.	3	62.49	.001
2. Two persons who enter into marriage after age 65 have a good possibility of achieving a successful marriage.	3	69.94	.001
3. "There is no fool like an old fool" applies very much to those who marry after age 65.	3	69.40	.001
4. Most of the marriages entered into after age 65 are happy marriages.	2	55.64	.001
5. It would be embarrassing to have a relative marry after age 65.	2	31.18	.001
6. It is too difficult for persons over age 65 to adjust to a new marriage.	2	59.77	.001

Smith (1970) which reported that sex was significantly related to POM scores of college students, with females showing a more favorable attitude toward matrimony in the later years than males. The great age difference in the samples used could account for this variation. The present finding suggests that the older person's attitude toward matrimony in the later years is not related to sex.

TABLE III
F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN POM SCORES
ACCORDING TO SEX

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	87	21.47	0.18	n.s.
Female	82	21.23		

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

In order to examine this hypothesis, the one-way classification analysis of variance was applied. As Table IV shows, an F score of 1.39 was obtained, indicating that no significant difference exists in POM 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 SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN POM SCORES
ACCORDING TO AGE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Age</u>				
60-64	35	22.26		
65-69	64	20.73		
70-74	35	21.17	1.39	n.s.
75-79	21	22.33		
80-84	12	21.16		

Hypothesis I (c): There is no significant difference in POM 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 POM scores according to residence. The category of city with population of 50,000 to 100,000 was omitted from the analysis because of the small number of cases.

Hypothesis I (d): There is no significant difference in POM scores according to education completed.

No significant difference was found when the one-way classification analysis of variance was utilized to determine if there was a difference in POM scores according to education completed. The F score obtained

was 0.69, as shown in Table VI.

TABLE V

F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN POM SCORES
ACCORDING TO RESIDENCE FOR MAJOR
PART OF LIFE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Residence for Major Part of Life</u>				
On farm or in country	40	21.05	0.48	n.s.
Small town under 25,000	89	21.55		
City 25,000 to 50,000	28	20.89		
City of over 100,000	9	22.22		

TABLE VI
F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN POM SCORES
ACCORDING TO EDUCATION COMPLETED

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Education Completed</u>				
Less than high school	68	21.59	0.69	n.s.
Some high school	36	20.56		
High school graduate	14	22.07		
Some college	29	21.24		
College graduate	11	21.45		
Post graduate study	9	22.56		

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

As indicated by Table VII, there is no significant difference in POM scores according to the employment status of females. An F score of 0.08 was obtained. The mean scores of the two groups were very close.

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

The utilization of the one-way classification analysis of variance to examine this hypothesis revealed that there was no significant difference in POM scores according to the occupation of males. Table VIII

TABLE VII

F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN POM SCORES
 ACCORDING TO EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF FEMALES
 FOR MAJOR PART OF LIFE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Employment Status of Females for Major Part of Life</u>				
Employed outside home	22	21.41	0.08	n.s.
Housewife	60	21.17		

TABLE VIII

F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN POM SCORES
 ACCORDING TO OCCUPATION OF MALES FOR
 MAJOR PART OF LIFE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Occupation of Males for Major Part of Life</u>				
Professional-Managerial	22	22.00	1.50	n.s.
Clerical-Sales	7	24.00		
Skilled, Semi-Skilled, and Unskilled Labor	34	21.06		
Farm-Ranch	18	20.72		

shows an F score of 1.50. This result differs from Stinnett and Montgomery's (1968) study of college students in which a significant difference was found to exist at the .001 level in which those students whose father's occupation was in the farmer category held the most favorable attitudes, while those whose fathers were in the clerical-sales category showed the least favorable attitudes.

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

As indicated by Table IX there is no significant difference in POM scores according to self-perceived happiness of own marriage. The F score obtained in the one-way classification analysis of variance was 2.58.

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

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Self-Perceived Happiness</u>				
Very happy	79	21.62	2.58	n.s.
Happy	77	21.36		
Unhappy	6	17.33		
Very unhappy	5	21.40		

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

In order to examine this hypothesis, the one-way classification analysis of variance was applied. As Table X indicates, an F score of 2.67 was obtained, showing that a significant difference exists at the .05 level, with those who perceived their own marriage as improved showing a more favorable attitude toward matrimony in the later years than those who perceived their own marriage as having worsened over time, remaining the same, or those who were undecided.

TABLE X

F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN POM SCORES ACCORDING
TO PERCEPTION CONCERNING WHETHER OWN MARRIAGE
HAS IMPROVED OR WORSENERD OVER TIME

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Perception Concerning</u> <u>Own Marriage</u>				
Better	87	21.94	2.67	.05
Worse	7	18.43		
Remained about the same	68	20.96		
Undecided	6	20.50		

This finding would seem to indicate that those individuals who feel that their own marriage has improved through the years have favorable attitudes toward marriage in general, and especially toward the marriage relationships of older persons. Therefore it is logical that such individuals might also think more favorably and optimistically of persons who first marry or remarry at age 65 or over than would those who perceive their own marriages as having worsened over time. It is suggested, then, that the quality of one's own marital experience influences attitudes toward matrimony in the later years.

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

Table XI shows that an F score of 1.31 was obtained when the one-way classification analysis of variance was used to analyze this hypothesis. This indicates that there is no significant difference in POM scores according to perception concerning whether most marriages improve or worsen over time.

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

A significant difference was found to exist at the .001 level in POM scores according to remarriage status when the one-way classification analysis of variance was employed. As Table XII shows, the obtained F score was 4.76. Those scoring highest on the POM Scale were those who had remarried due to the death of their previous mate. Those who had remarried due to divorce had the next highest POM mean score,

while those who had never been remarried (and are, therefore, still married to their first spouse) had the least favorable mean score.

TABLE XI

F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN POM SCORES ACCORDING
TO PERCEPTION CONCERNING WHETHER MOST MARRIAGES
IMPROVE OR WORSEN OVER TIME

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Perception Concerning Most Marriages</u>				
Better	78	21.78	1.31	n.s.
Worse	15	19.87		
Remained about the same	41	21.41		
Uncertain	35	20.97		

TABLE XII

F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN POM SCORES
ACCORDING TO REMARRIAGE STATUS

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Remarriage Status</u>				
Death of previous mate	27	23.19	4.76	.001
Divorce	19	21.84		
Have not been remarried	123	20.88		

These results may suggest that widowed persons find remarriage to be a great comfort after their loss. It is an opportunity for happiness, an opportunity to focus one's attention on loving and understanding another rather than on one's own grief. Bernard (1956, p. 124) points out that love and remarriage in the later years may be treasured even more than love in youth, "because the partners have experienced the deprivation of love."

These results also suggest that those who have never been remarried would tend to have little personal experience which would emphasize the rewards of remarriage during the later years, and thus might tend to have a less favorable attitude toward persons who marry at age 65 or over.

Hypothesis I (k): There is no significant difference in POM scores according to perception of most important characteristic of a successful marriage.

As shown in Table XIII, the F score of 0.53 indicates that no significant difference exists in POM scores according to perception of the most important characteristic of a successful marriage. Although those who selected the characteristic of personality growth showed the most favorable mean score, it is interesting to note that the greatest number of respondents chose respect as the most important characteristic of a successful marriage.

TABLE XIII

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

Description	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Characteristic</u>				
Respect	120	21.49		
Personality growth	14	22.29		
Emotional closeness	17	20.18		
Sexual satisfaction	26	21.08	0.53	n.s.
Sharing the same interests	81	21.41		
Effectively expressing true feelings to each other	41	21.56		
Having physical needs met	13	21.00		

Hypothesis II: There is no significant difference in the perceptions concerning why individuals enter into marriage at age 65 or over, according to: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) residence for the major part of life, (d) education completed, (e) employment status of females for the major part of life, (f) occupation of males for the major part of life, and (g) self-perceived happiness of own marriage.

This hypothesis was examined by use of the chi-square test. The chi-square values obtained showed no significant difference in the perceptions concerning why individuals enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to the variables examined. For further information

concerning the specific chi-square values, see Appendix B.

Although none of the variables examined were found to be significantly related to the perceptions concerning why individuals enter into marriage at age 65 or over, it is interesting to note the frequencies and percentages of responses to this question. Table XIV shows that the greatest proportion (47.4%) of the respondents perceived companionship as being the primary reason why older persons enter into marriage, while the reason least often indicated was sexual satisfaction (1.7%).

TABLE XIV

FREQUENCIES AND PERCENTAGES OF RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTIONS
CONCERNING WHY OLDER PERSONS MARRY ACCORDING TO SEX

Perceptions of Reasons for Marriage	Male		Female		Total	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
To have someone to look after physical and health needs	14	9.5	15	10.3	29	9.9
Economic security	12	8.2	13	8.9	25	8.5
Sexual satisfaction	2	1.4	3	2.1	5	1.7
Companionship	71	48.3	68	46.6	139	47.4
To feel needed by someone	26	17.7	26	17.8	52	17.7
To give and receive affection	22	15.0	21	14.4	43	14.7

This finding is similar to the results of Stinnett and Montgomery (1968) and of Smith (1970) who reported companionship and to feel needed by someone to be college students' most frequently perceived reasons for matrimony in later life. Lawton (1956), Broadd (1969), and Bernard (1956) have also emphasized the need for companionship in later life.

Hypothesis III: There is no significant difference in the perceptions of the problems facing individuals who enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) residence for the major part of life, (d) education completed, (e) employment status of females for the major part of life, (f) occupation of males for the major part of life, and (g) self-perceived happiness of own marriage.

The chi-square test was utilized in examining this hypothesis. In computing this test it was necessary to collapse certain categories when there was an insufficient number of cases within the individual categories. A description of the original categories is given in Appendix C for each chi-square test.

The chi-square values obtained showed that no significant difference existed in the perceptions of the major problems facing individuals who enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) residence for the major part of life, (d) education completed, (e) employment status of females for major part of life, and (f) occupation of males for the major part of life.

There was a significant difference, however, in the perceptions of the major problems facing older marriages according to self-perceived happiness of respondent's own marriage. As indicated in Table XV, the

TABLE XV

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS
OF MAJOR PROBLEMS ACCOMPANYING MATRIMONY IN THE
LATER YEARS ACCORDING TO SELF-PERCEIVED
HAPPINESS OF OWN MARRIAGE

Perceptions of Problems	<u>Very Happy</u>		<u>Lesser Degrees of Happiness*</u>		χ^2	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
Inlaws	23	17.0	14	9.4		
*Money and Sexual Adjustment	16	11.9	30	20.1		
*Children, by Previous Marriage and Housing Arrangements	52	38.5	47	31.5	7.95	.05
Adjusting Emotionally to Each Other	44	32.6	58	38.9		

*Note: These represent collapsed categories.

chi-square value of 7.95 was significant at the .05 level. The biggest differences occurred in the category of money and sexual adjustment and the category of inlaws. Over 20 percent of those reporting lesser degrees of marital happiness perceived money and sexual adjustment as the major problems facing marriages entered into in later life, while only 11.9 percent of those who perceived their marriages as very happy selected this category. Seventeen percent of those reporting very happy marriages perceived inlaws to be the major problem as compared to only 9.4 percent of those reporting lesser degrees of marital happiness. Also, a larger proportion of those reporting very happy marriages (38.5%) perceived children, by previous marriage and housing arrangements to be the major problems than did those reporting lesser degrees of marital happiness (31.5%).

In summary, those reporting very happy marriages were more likely to perceive inlaws, and children, by previous marriage and housing arrangements as the major problems confronting those who marry in later life. Those reporting lesser degrees of marital happiness were more likely to perceive money and sexual adjustment, and adjusting emotionally to each other as the major problems.

These results also indicate that those respondents who report lesser degrees of marital happiness had a greater tendency to perceive the major problems confronting individuals who marry late in life as being relationship problems between the husband and wife rather than being external problems. Such differences may primarily be due to the fact that the marriage relationships of this group have been less fulfilling than the marriage relationships of those respondents who reported their marriages as being very happy.

Although there was no significant difference in the perceptions of the major problems facing individuals who enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to the other variables, it is interesting to note that adjusting emotionally to each other (35.5%) and children, by previous marriage (32.1%) were the problems most frequently chosen by the total sample of respondents. Those problems least often chosen were sexual adjustment and housing arrangements (see Table XVI). This finding is similar to the results of Smith (1970), and Stinnett and Montgomery (1968).

TABLE XVI

FREQUENCIES AND PERCENTAGES OF RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTIONS
OF MAJOR PROBLEMS ACCOMPANYING MATRIMONY
IN THE LATER YEARS ACCORDING TO SEX

Perceptions of Problems	Male		Female		Total	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Inlaws	22	15.3	15	10.5	37	12.9
Money	17	11.8	21	14.7	38	13.2
Sexual Adjustment	5	3.5	5	3.5	10	3.5
Children, by Previous Marriage	46	31.9	46	32.2	92	32.1
Housing Arrangements	3	2.1	5	3.5	8	2.8
Adjusting Emotionally to Each Other	51	35.4	51	35.7	102	35.5

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

To determine if a relationship existed between POM scores and the variables of self-image, morale, and age conservatism, the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient was used. Each variable was correlated separately with the POM scores, and as Table XVII indicates, the following correlation coefficients were obtained: POM scores and favorableness of self-image, +0.06; POM scores and favorableness of morale, +0.13; and POM scores and age conservatism, +0.03. These correlations are not significant, indicating that there is not a significant association between perception of older marriages and self-image, morale or age conservatism.

TABLE XVII

CORRELATION BETWEEN POM SCORES AND SELF-IMAGE,
MORALE, AND AGE CONSERVATISM

Description	Pearson r Scores	Level of Sig.
	POM Score	
Self-Image	+0.06	n.s.
Morale	+0.13	n.s.
Age Conservatism	+0.03	n.s.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY

The general purpose of this study was to investigate older persons' attitudes toward individuals who enter into marriage at age 65 or over and to relate such attitudes to selected social and psychological factors.

The sample was composed of 181 husbands and wives who were on the mailing lists of the Senior Citizen Centers throughout Oklahoma. The subjects were presently married, primarily Protestant, white and between the ages of 60 and 89. The data were obtained during March, 1969.

The questionnaire used in this study included the following: (a) a general information section, (b) Kutner's Self-Image Scale, (c) Neugarten's Life Satisfaction Index-Z, (d) Kutner's Age Conservatism Index, and (e) the Perception of Older Marriages Scale designed by Stinnett and Montgomery.

The chi-square test was used in an item analysis of the Perception of Older Marriages 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 POM scores according to: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) residence for the major part of life, (d) education completed, (e) employment status of females for the major part of life, (f) occupation of males for the major part of life,

(g) self-perceived happiness of own marriage, (h) perception concerning whether own marriage had improved or worsened over time, (i) perception concerning whether most marriages improve or worsen over time, (j) re-marriage status, and (h) perception of most important characteristic of a successful marriage.

The chi-square test was used to determine if there was a significant difference in the perceptions concerning why individuals enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) residence for the major part of life, (d) education completed, (e) employment status of females for the major part of life, (f) occupation of males for the major part of life, and (g) self-perceived happiness of own marriage. The chi-square test was also used to determine if a significant difference existed in the perceptions of the major problems facing individuals who enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) residence for the major part of life, (d) education completed, (e) employment status of females for the major part of life, (f) occupation of males for the major part of life, and (g) self-perceived happiness of own marriage.

The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient was employed to determine if a significant association existed between POM 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 POM 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 POM Scale.

3. A significant difference existed at the .05 level in POM scores according to the respondent's perception concerning whether his own marriage had improved or worsened over time. Those who perceived their own marriage as having improved over time indicated a more favorable attitude toward matrimony in later life than those who felt their marriage had not improved or had worsened. A significant difference existed in POM scores according to remarriage status at the .001 level, with those who had remarried due to the death of a spouse having more favorable attitudes toward matrimony in later life than those who had divorced or those who were still married to the first mate.
4. No significant difference was found to exist in the perceptions concerning why individuals enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) residence for the major part of life, (d) education completed, (e) employment status of females for the major part of life, (f) occupation of males for the major part of life, and (g) self-perceived happiness of own marriage.
5. A significant difference existed at the .05 level in perceptions of major problems facing individuals who enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to self-perceived happiness of own marriage. Those reporting very happy marriages tended to perceive inlaws, and children, by previous marriage and housing arrangements as the major problems confronting individuals who marry at

age 65 or over. Those reporting lesser degrees of marital happiness were more likely to perceive money and sexual adjustment, and adjusting emotionally to each other as the major problems.

6. No significant association was found between POM scores and favorableness of self-image, favorableness of morale, and age conservatism.

A general conclusion which might be drawn from the analysis of this study is that favorableness of attitude toward matrimony in the later years is dependent on one's own marital experience. The results of this study indicate that perception concerning whether one's own marriage had improved or worsened over time and remarriage status are significantly related to attitude toward matrimony in the later years. The results also indicate that perceptions of the major problems facing those who enter marriage at age 65 or over are dependent on the self-perceived happiness of the respondent's marriage.

Perception of matrimony in later life, perceptions of the reasons why individuals enter into marriage in later life, and perceptions of the problems facing such marriages seem independent of all other variables tested in this study.

Recommendations of the Study

It is suggested that further studies be conducted in various geographic locations throughout the nation, utilizing more heterogeneous samples. For example, it would be particularly desirable in these future studies to include older persons who are single, widowed, and divorced. This investigator recommends that a study directed at

individuals who have themselves married in the later years of life be conducted in order to obtain their views toward matrimony in the later years. It is also suggested that future studies be more representative of various religious and racial groups.

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APPENDIX A



OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY • STILLWATER

Department of Family Relations & Child Development
Frontier 2-6211, 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 later 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 encouraged 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,

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

___22. Which of the following do you consider to be the three most rewarding
 ___23. aspects of the marriage relationship in the later years?

- ___24.
- ___1. economic security
 - ___2. having your physical needs cared for
 - ___3. your standing in the community
 - ___4. companionship
 - ___5. being needed by your mate
 - ___6. affectionate relationship with your mate
 - ___7. sharing of mutual interests
 - ___8. being able to effectively express true feelings to each other
 - ___9. other _____
 - ___10. none are rewarding

___25. Which of the following, if any, do you consider to be the two most
 ___26. troublesome aspects of marriage relationships in the later years?

- ___1. economic insecurity
- ___2. not having one's physical needs cared for
- ___3. lack of companionship
- ___4. lack of mutual interests
- ___5. unsatisfactory affectional relationship
- ___6. frequent disagreements
- ___7. not being able to effectively express true feelings to each other
- ___8. nothing is troublesome
- ___9. other _____

___27. Which of the following do you believe to be the two most important
 ___28. characteristics of a successful marriage?

- ___1. respect
- ___2. personality growth
- ___3. emotional closeness
- ___4. sexual satisfaction
- ___5. sharing the same interests
- ___6. effectively expressing true feelings to each other
- ___7. having physical needs met

___29. Which one of the following do you believe to be most important in achieving marital success?

- ___1. being in love
- ___2. determination
- ___3. having common interests
- ___4. compatibility of personalities

___30. Would you say you feel older or younger than most people your age?

- ___1. older
- ___2. feel same age
- ___3. younger

___31. Do you think your health is better or worse than that of most people your age?

- ___1. better
- ___2. same
- ___3. worse

- ___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 relationships 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. Husband 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 | ___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. |

APPENDIX B

The following tables give the chi-square values associated with Hypothesis II, found on page 39, which states: There is no significant difference in the perceptions concerning why individuals enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) residence for the major part of life, (d) education completed, (e) employment status of females for the major part of life, (f) occupation of males for the major part of life, and (g) self-perceived happiness of own marriage.

These tables show the original categories rather than the collapsed categories which are commonly used. This was done to give the reader a more meaningful view of the specific responses. In each instance no significant difference was found regardless of whether the original or the collapsed categories were used in the chi-square analysis.

TABLE XVIII
 CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN
 PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING WHY OLDER PEOPLE
 MARRY ACCORDING TO SEX

Perceptions of Reasons for Marriage	Male		Female		χ^2	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
To have someone to look after physical and health needs	14	9.5	15	10.3		
Economic Security	12	8.2	13	8.9		
Sexual Satisfaction	2	1.4	3	2.1		
Companionship	71	48.3	68	46.6	.36	n.s.
To feel needed by someone	26	17.7	26	17.8		
To give and receive affection	22	15.0	21	14.4		

TABLE XIX

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING
WHY OLDER PEOPLE MARRY ACCORDING TO AGE

Perceptions of Reasons for Marriage	60-64		65-69		70-74		75-79		80-84		χ^2	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
To have someone to look after physical and health needs	7	11.3	12	10.2	4	7.4	5	14.3	1	4.8	11.09	n.s.
Economic Security	5	8.1	13	11.0	3	5.6	2	5.7	1	4.8		
Sexual Satisfaction	1	1.6	3	2.5	1	1.9	0	0	0	0		
Companionship	25	40.3	55	46.6	30	55.6	16	45.7	12	57.1		
To feel needed by someone	13	21.0	17	14.4	8	14.8	9	25.7	4	19.0		
To give and receive affection	11	17.7	18	15.3	8	14.8	3	8.6	3	14.3		

Note: Age categories 85-89, and 90 or over were omitted due to an insufficient number of cases.

TABLE XX

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING WHY OLDER
PEOPLE MARRY ACCORDING TO RESIDENCE FOR THE MAJOR PART OF LIFE

Perceptions of Reasons for Marriage	<u>On Farm or in Country</u>		<u>Small Town Under 25,000</u>		<u>City 25,000 to 50,000</u>		<u>City of Over 100,000</u>		χ^2	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
To have someone to look after physical and health needs	8	11.9	14	8.7	3	6.5	3	20.0	18.42	n.s.
Economic Security	4	6.0	12	7.5	6	13.0	2	13.3		
Sexual Satisfaction	4	6.0	0	0	1	2.2	0	0		
Companionship	29	43.3	80	49.7	20	43.5	8	53.3		
To feel needed by someone	11	16.4	30	18.6	9	19.6	2	13.3		
To give and receive affection	11	16.4	25	15.5	7	15.2	0	0		

Note: City of 50,000 to 100,000 was omitted due to an insufficient number of cases.

TABLE XXI

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING
WHY OLDER PEOPLE MARRY ACCORDING TO EDUCATION COMPLETED

Perceptions of Reasons for Marriage	Less Than High School		Some High School		High School Graduate		Some College		College Graduate		Postgraduate Study		χ^2	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
To have someone to look after physical and health needs	9	8.3	4	6.2	2	8.0	5	9.3	5	23.8	3	16.7	17.89	n.s.
Economic Security	6	5.6	7	10.8	2	8.0	6	11.1	1	4.8	3	16.7		
Sexual Satisfaction	4	3.7	1	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Companionship	55	50.9	32	49.2	11	44.0	25	46.3	7	33.3	8	44.4		
To feel needed by someone	18	16.7	11	16.9	5	20.0	11	20.4	5	23.8	2	11.1		
To give and receive affection	16	14.8	10	15.4	5	20.0	7	13.0	3	14.3	2	11.1		

TABLE XXII

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS
CONCERNING WHY OLDER PEOPLE MARRY ACCORDING TO
EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF FEMALES FOR THE
MAJOR PART OF LIFE

Perceptions of Reasons for Marriage	Employed Outside Home		Housewife		χ^2	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
To have someone to look after physical and health needs	5	12.8	10	9.3		
Economic Security	4	10.3	9	8.4		
Sexual Satisfaction	0	0	3	2.8		
Companionship	18	46.2	50	46.7	1.75	n.s.
To feel needed by someone	6	15.4	20	18.7		
To give and receive affection	6	15.4	15	14.0		

TABLE XXIII

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING WHY OLDER
PEOPLE MARRY ACCORDING TO OCCUPATION OF MALES FOR THE MAJOR PART OF LIFE

Perceptions of Reasons for Marriage	<u>Professional- Managerial</u>		<u>Clerical- Sales</u>		<u>Labor</u>		<u>Farm-Ranch</u>		χ^2	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
To have someone to look after physical and health needs	9	16.7	10	23.8	5	8.9	2	7.7	15.47	n.s.
Economic Security	8	14.8	6	14.3	6	10.7	1	3.8		
Sexual Satisfaction	0	0	2	4.8	1	1.8	1	3.8		
Companionship	26	48.1	18	42.9	27	48.2	13	50.0		
To feel needed by someone	7	13.0	2	4.8	9	16.1	6	23.1		
To give and receive affection	4	7.4	4	9.5	8	14.3	3	11.5		

TABLE XXIV

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING WHY OLDER
PEOPLE MARRY ACCORDING TO SELF-PERCEIVED HAPPINESS OF OWN MARRIAGE

Perceptions of Reasons for Marriage	<u>Very Happy</u>		<u>Happy</u>		<u>Unhappy</u>		<u>Very Unhappy</u>		<u>Undecided</u>		X ²	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
To have someone to look after physical and health needs	16	11.4	10	7.6	1	11.1	0	0	2	25.0		
Economic Security	8	5.7	15	11.4	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Sexual Satisfaction	2	1.4	2	1.5	0	0	0	0	1	12.5	18.69	n.s.
Companionship	64	45.7	66	50.0	4	44.4	0	0	4	50.0		
To feel needed by someone	24	17.1	26	19.7	2	22.2	0	0	0	0		
To give and receive affection	26	18.6	13	9.8	2	22.2	0	0	1	12.5		

APPENDIX C

The following tables give the chi-square values associated with Hypothesis III, found on page 41, which states: There is no significant difference in the perceptions of the problems facing individuals who enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) residence for the major part of life, (d) education completed, (e) employment status of females for the major part of life, (f) occupation of males for the major part of life, and (g) self-perceived happiness of own marriage.

These tables show the original categories rather than the collapsed categories which are commonly used. This was done to give the reader a more meaningful view of the specific responses. In each instance reported in this appendix, no significant differences were found regardless of whether the original or the collapsed categories were used in the chi-square analysis.

TABLE XXV

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS
OF MAJOR PROBLEMS ACCOMPANYING MATRIMONY IN THE
LATER YEARS ACCORDING TO SEX

Perceptions of Problems	Male		Female		χ^2	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
Inlaws	22	15.3	15	10.5		
Money	17	11.8	21	14.7		
Sexual Adjustment	5	3.5	5	3.5		
Children, by previous marriage	46	31.9	46	32.2	2.24	n.s.
Housing Arrangements	3	2.1	5	3.5		
Adjusting Emotionally to Each Other	51	35.4	51	35.7		

TABLE XXVI

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS OF MAJOR PROBLEMS
ACCOMPANYING MATRIMONY IN THE LATER YEARS ACCORDING TO AGE

Perceptions of Problems	60-64		65-69		70-74		75-79		80-84		χ^2	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
Inlaws	7	11.9	16	13.9	8	15.4	6	16.2	0	0		
Money	10	16.9	13	11.3	6	11.5	5	13.5	3	14.3		
Sexual Adjustment	3	5.1	3	2.6	2	3.8	1	2.7	1	4.8		
Children, by previous marriage	24	40.7	38	33.0	14	26.9	11	29.7	5	23.8	15.49	n.s.
Housing Arrangements	1	1.7	4	3.5	0	0	2	5.4	1	4.8		
Adjusting Emotionally to Each Other	14	23.7	41	35.7	22	42.3	12	32.4	11	52.4		

Note: Age categories 85-89, and 90 or over, were omitted due to an insufficient number of cases.

TABLE XXVII

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS OF MAJOR PROBLEMS
ACCOMPANYING MATRIMONY IN THE LATER YEARS ACCORDING TO
RESIDENCE FOR THE MAJOR PART OF LIFE

Perceptions of Problems	On Farm or in Country		Small Town Under 25,000		City 25,000 to 50,000		City of Over 100,000		χ^2	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
Inlaws	7	10.6	27	17.6	2	4.1	1	6.7		
Money	9	13.6	13	8.5	11	22.4	3	20.0		
Sexual Adjustment	2	3.0	5	3.3	2	4.1	1	6.7		
Children, by previous marriage	21	31.8	50	32.7	16	32.7	4	26.7	16.66	n.s.
Housing Arrangements	2	3.0	3	2.0	3	6.1	0	0		
Adjusting Emotionally to Each Other	25	37.9	55	35.9	15	30.6	6	40.0		

Note: Residence category City of 50,000 to 100,000 was omitted due to an insufficient number of cases.

TABLE XXVIII

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS OF MAJOR PROBLEMS ACCOMPANYING
MATRIMONY IN THE LATER YEARS ACCORDING TO EDUCATION COMPLETED

Perceptions of Problems	<u>Less Than High School</u>		<u>Some High School</u>		<u>High School Graduate</u>		<u>Some College</u>		<u>College Graduate</u>		<u>Postgraduate Study</u>		χ^2	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
Inlaws	13	12.0	9	14.3	3	12.5	4	7.8	6	28.6	2	11.1	29.36	n.s.
Money	14	13.0	6	9.5	3	12.5	10	19.6	0	0	4	22.2		
Sexual Adjustment	2	1.9	2	3.2	3	12.5	1	2.0	0	0	2	11.1		
Children, by previous marriage	34	31.5	22	34.9	8	33.3	15	29.4	8	38.1	4	22.2		
Housing Arrangements	4	3.7	0	0	0	0	3	5.9	0	0	1	5.6		
Adjusting Emotionally to Each Other	41	38.0	24	38.1	7	29.2	18	35.3	7	33.3	5	27.8		

TABLE XXIX

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS
OF MAJOR PROBLEMS ACCOMPANYING MATRIMONY IN THE
LATER YEARS ACCORDING TO EMPLOYMENT STATUS
OF FEMALES FOR THE MAJOR PART OF LIFE

Perceptions of Problems	<u>Employed</u>		<u>Housewife</u>		χ^2	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
Inlaws	6	15.4	9	8.7		
Money	6	15.4	15	14.4		
Sexual Adjustment	1	2.6	4	3.8		
Children, by previous marriage	10	25.6	36	34.6	2.34	n.s.
Housing Arrangements	1	2.6	4	3.8		
Adjusting Emotionally to Each Other	15	38.5	36	34.6		

TABLE XXX

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS OF MAJOR PROBLEMS
ACCOMPANYING MATRIMONY IN THE LATER YEARS ACCORDING TO
OCCUPATION OF MALES FOR THE MAJOR PART OF LIFE

Perceptions of Problems	<u>Professional- Managerial</u>		<u>Clerical- Sales</u>		<u>Labor</u>		<u>Farm-Ranch</u>		χ^2	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
Inlaws	9	17.0	3	6.5	6	11.3	4	15.4		
Money	8	15.1	6	13.0	7	13.2	3	11.5		
Sexual Adjustment	2	3.8	4	8.7	0	0	1	3.8		
Children, by previous marriage	13	24.5	18	39.1	17	32.1	8	30.8	10.81	n.s.
Housing Arrangements	2	3.8	1	2.2	2	3.8	0	0		
Adjusting Emotionally to Each Other	19	35.8	14	30.4	21	39.6	10	38.5		

VITA

Helen Morris Terry Gildea

Candidate for the Degree of
Master of Science

Thesis: OLDER PERSONS' ATTITUDES TOWARD MATRIMONY IN THE LATER YEARS

Major Field: Family Relations and Child Development

Biographical:

Personal Data: Born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, April 12, 1945, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Terry III; married August 17, 1968, to Michael Brian Gildea, in Wayne, Pennsylvania.

Education: Graduated from Conestoga High School, Berwyn, Pennsylvania, in June, 1963; attended Hiram College, Hiram, Ohio, September, 1963 to June, 1965; received Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics from Drexel Institute of Technology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in June, 1967; completed the requirements for the Master of Science degree at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, in May, 1970.

Professional Experience: Home Economics and General Science Teacher, The Charles E. Ellis School for Girls, Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, September, 1967 to June, 1968; Graduate Teaching Assistant, September, 1968 to June, 1969, Graduate Research Assistant, September, 1969 to January, 1970, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Professional Organizations: National Council on Family Relations