

AN ANALYSIS OF DESIGN FEATURES IN CENTERS FOR
CLOTHING CONSTRUCTION IN THE HOME AS
PRESENTED IN VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS

By

MAUREEN DONATA WEBB

Bachelor of Science

Texas Women's University

Denton, Texas

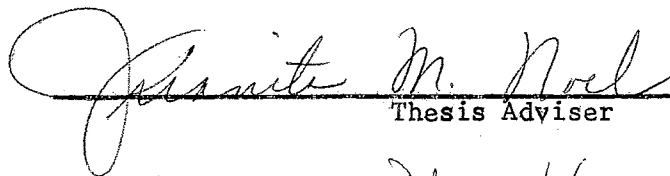
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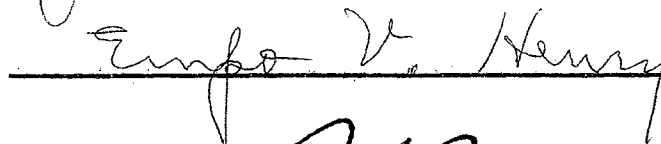
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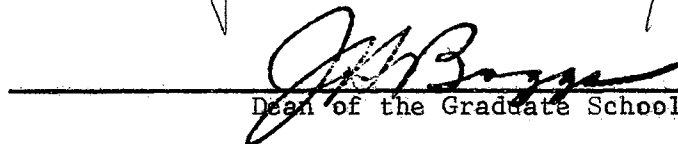
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Thesis Adviser





Dean of the Graduate School

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In the United States, four-fifths of the total population of homemakers construct garments and household furnishings (42). A 1953 study (8) on household activities revealed that homemakers spend an average of more than four hours per week sewing. The investigation also disclosed that the time devoted to such an activity is ranked fifth in hours spent by women in home duties. Only meal preparation, care of home, care of family and laundering demand the use of more time.

Some homemakers desire to express individuality and creativity through constructing garments and home furnishings (14). With the availability of fabrics and trimmings of various colors, designs and textures, clothing construction seems to be a natural avenue for revealing originality. Yet obligations outside the home give added responsibilities that leave less time for self-satisfying activities. Today one-third of the married women in the United States are employed in positions that demand hours away from family and home (1).

With the large proportion of married homemakers holding salaried positions, all areas of work including centers for garment construction should be furnished and designed to conserve time and energy. According to a Montana Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin (44), women are discontented with present arrangements for sewing in the home.

Construction of garments and household furnishings "is the most unorganized" activity of homemakers (42). The number of women faced with problems of management seems to indicate a need for improvement of facilities for creating garments and accessories. The satisfaction and pleasure received in clothing construction might be enhanced through the use of well-chosen, efficiently arranged furniture, equipment and storage space.

The compilation of information on home areas used for clothing construction warrants careful consideration. But because goals, values and habits of women are varied, the establishment of standards for efficient work centers is difficult. If location, equipment and arrangement of centers are designed to facilitate conservation of time and energy, busy homemakers could probably achieve more satisfaction in the construction of clothing and home furnishings.

Statement of Problem

An examination of available information, including research on centers for clothing construction indicated a need to investigate design features in such areas which could contribute to work simplification or the conservation of time and energy. A considerable number of studies was concerned with the use of time and energy management in meal preparation, laundering and cleaning activities in the home; inquiries into planned centers for clothing construction seemed more limited. Therefore, an exploratory study to analyze available information on design features in such centers appeared desirable and logical.

The problem was divided into three sub-problems:

1. To determine through a survey of the Journal of Home

Economics what emphasis (if any) was placed on management of household activities.

2. To identify through research conducted by agricultural experiment stations, the design features pertaining to centers for sewing that could contribute to effective use of time and energy.
3. To investigate and evaluate plans and information contained in articles on centers of sewing that appeared in six women's magazines from 1954 through 1963.

Purposes of the Study

The study of design features in centers for clothing construction in the home seemed pertinent because of the changing roles of women today. The dual functions of homemaker and income earner often combined with community participation give women many responsibilities. Consequently, many homemakers find time management is a major problem (27). Limited time for performance of household activities emphasizes the need for effective organization of both work areas and work methods. Principles of management applied to all home duties can help homemakers to use time and energy more effectively.

In order to determine to what extent the official publication for home economics, the Journal of Home Economics, contributed to the promotion of effective management of homemaking responsibilities, a survey was conducted of a fifty-year period, from 1909 through 1959. The purposes of the survey were:

1. To count and compare by decades the number of articles

and pages on management of household duties.

2. To note and compare through the titles of articles emphasis or emphases placed on management of home duties.
3. To note and compare through the titles of the articles the types of household activities most frequently related to home management.

The execution of fashionable garments and home decorations can be more rewarding if certain principles of management are considered. A well-designed center for sewing can encourage efficient procedures of work and improved techniques.

Research showed that few women have any specific place or center in the home designed and furnished for activities of clothing construction. Often areas such as kitchen, bedroom, or dining room were used. Investigations also revealed that some women were dissatisfied with their facilities for sewing (37). Therefore, the second sub-problem, which identified through studies of research, design features in centers for clothing construction that could encourage conservation of time and energy, evolved. Through an analysis of research findings, criteria were developed for effective design features in centers for sewing in the following three steps:

1. To determine areas needed for various activities of sewing.
2. To list and identify essential equipment, furniture and storage space needed for centers.
3. To identify additional features that might result in more effective organization in activities of clothing

construction.

A number of studies pointed out that women's magazines are frequently used as a source of information for home planning. An investigation seemed necessary to determine to what extent women's publications during the past ten years included helpful information for the designing and furnishing of centers for sewing in the home. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the information related to design features published in women's magazines appeared necessary. The purposes of the survey of six women's magazines were the following:

1. To count and compare in periods of two years the number of articles on centers that appeared in ten years.
2. To note and compare in periods of two years, the total number of centers featured in each magazine.
3. To evaluate data both written and illustrated describing centers for clothing construction published in the six magazines.

Definition of Terms

Clarification of terms used through the study follows:

Areas for clothing construction refer to each of the sections within the center where different activities necessary in the sewing of a garment are performed such as cutting, sewing, pressing, fitting.

Center for sewing refers to a place for constructing garments and household furnishings in the home that is suited to the needs of the homemaker. Equipment, furniture and storage space are organized for efficient management of activities performed in clothing construction.

Clothing construction refers to activities pertaining to creating garments and household items such as selection of patterns, fabrics and notions, cutting, pressing, fitting, pattern drafting, alterations and mending.

Featured article in a magazine refers to written publications that are listed in the table of contents giving title and author.

Work simplification "may be defined as accomplishing more work with a given amount of time and energy, or as reducing the amount of either or both to accomplish a given amount of work" (23).

Hypotheses of the Study

The following hypotheses are tested in the study:

1. Many plans and recommendations for centers of sewing in the home which are published in women's magazines do not include essential furniture, equipment and storage space necessary for effective management of time and energy.
2. Articles giving information about centers for clothing construction in the home published in women's magazines are few in number.

Assumptions of the Study

The following assumptions are basic to the study:

1. Many women today are employed outside the home; therefore:
 - a. Time and energy should be conserved in view of family-work-community responsibilities.
 - b. Well-planned work centers can contribute to the

conservation of time and energy in performance of homemakers' duties.

- c. Time for expressing creative talents is limited with increased duties.
2. Creative clothing construction is a means for some homemakers to express individual talents.
3. The activities of creating garments and household furnishings are performed in the home by many women.

Significance of the Study

Interest of homemakers in creating garments and home furnishings was indicated by several studies. In 1954 Cornell Agricultural Experiment Station researchers (49) found that the second activity preference of the homemakers was the "care of clothes, including sewing". A housing survey conducted in the Southern Region of the United States (2) established that eighty per cent of the women interviewed engage in some type of sewing. Montgomery (37) noted in a study on "Housing Preferences of Farm Families in the Northeast", that seventy-five per cent of the homemakers included in the investigation sew.

The dissatisfaction of homemakers with their areas for sewing in the home was revealed in the last two studies by Bland (2) and Montgomery (37). In the Montgomery investigation many of the women expressed concern with the location of their sewing machine, equipment and supplies. The areas used for clothing construction in the home were usually not the preferred locations.

For instance, about 3 homemakers out of 10 report sewing in the dining room, but only 1 out of 10 would prefer this area.

On the other hand, about half the families want a sewing room; now only 1 in 18 has this arrangement (37).

In a study conducted in the South, and noted by Bland (2), forty-five per cent of the homemakers interviewed used the bedroom for construction of garments and other articles, eighteen per cent sewed in the living room and ten per cent in the dining room. Yet "more than one-fourth of the homemakers indicated a preference for a designated area for sewing apart from living, sleeping, and dining areas" (2). The study showed that women are dissatisfied with facilities in the home for clothing construction.

Many women who were discontented with present facilities for sewing may also be confronted with problems of time management. Mahoney (34) noted that researchers found that forty-five per cent of women questioned in a recent national survey reported their greatest problem was management of time. Often time required to set up sewing machine, find and assemble equipment and supplies, then clean up afterwards is so irritating that much enjoyment connected with clothing construction is lost. For some homemakers, sewing is no longer an enjoyable activity but an annoying task (28). To receive more satisfaction from working with fabrics, women should plan a well-designed center to conserve time and energy.

Many homemakers lack sufficient knowledge of how to apply principles of work simplification in designing a center for clothing construction. Therefore, a problem arose as to where information on centers for sewing that will facilitate the application of sound principles of management could be obtained. In the Montgomery study (36), college students were asked where each planned to receive "good ideas" for furnishing a

first home in the future. The respondents replied that information might be sought from several sources. Eighty-one per cent expected to receive help from women's magazines, seventy-eight per cent from interiors observed in different homes, sixty-seven per cent from college courses, fifty-six per cent from interior designers, and thirty per cent from ideas observed in parental homes. The study seemed to conclude that information on house plans is sought more from women's magazines than from all other sources.

In a study conducted in Oklahoma in 1956 (38), families were interviewed to find out where they obtained ideas and information for home improvements. The majority, sixty-nine per cent, received ideas from "themselves". Ten per cent asked assistance from relatives, friends and neighbors. Twelve per cent sought help from stores, lumber companies, etc. The respondents also reported receiving ideas for home improvements through magazines. Ten per cent stated that women's magazines were used to gain information on home improvements. Suggestions were also received from farm journals by five per cent of the families. The findings of the two above studies indicated that women's magazines are a widely used source of information for ideas for planning and furnishing homes.

Since women's publications serve as sources for home ideas, the question arose as to what information on centers for home sewing is available in such magazines. Therefore, six women's magazines were surveyed to ascertain the quantity and quality of data both written and illustrated on centers for clothing construction. The findings of the survey could reveal the kind and amount of information on centers for sewing available to homemakers.

In the evaluation of recommendations for clothing construction, con-

sideration should be given to varied goals, standards, and values of women who sew. Therefore, any criteria developed to appraise centers should be flexible to meet diverse needs of homemakers. The trend in home management today is "toward rational and flexible standards rather than perfectionism" as noted by Crandall (9).

Recent studies of design features in centers for clothing construction offered homemakers an opportunity to discuss their varied problems in sewing. Research conducted found that some women are dissatisfied with current management of activities of sewing. Also studies indicated that conservation of time and energy in household activities is a major concern of homemakers:

Evidence is seen in the upswing in the invention and output of labor-saving devices for the home, and in efforts to provide easily cleaned surfaces and materials. This trend is also evident in the development of research programs in both industry and educational institutions, aimed at simplifying household equipment and methods of performing housework (4).

This study is concerned with conservation of time and energy in activities of sewing through presenting simple guide lines for women who create garments and household furnishings. Emphasis is on design features, such as furniture, equipment, and storage space, in centers for sewing that may contribute to conservation of time and energy.

Limitations of the Study

The study, limited to an analysis of information on centers for garment construction in the home, as presented in various publications, was divided into three sub-problems with the following limitations:

1. The survey of articles in the Journal of Home Economics

is limited to featured articles on management of household activities. The years reviewed are from 1909, the year the journal was first published, through 1959 for a total of fifty years.

2. The criteria established for evaluating centers for sewing in the home are limited to findings developed through research and published by the state agricultural experiment stations.
3. The survey conducted to investigate information in magazines on centers for clothing construction is limited to six women's magazines: The American Home, Better Homes & Gardens, House Beautiful, Ladies' Home Journal, McCall's and Parent's Magazine. The years surveyed are from 1954 through 1963 for a ten year period.

Summary

For many women, clothing construction is an excellent opportunity to express creative talents. The multiplicity of fabrics, accessories, and equipment available for use in designing and creating garments and household furnishings give added enjoyments to sewing. Often sewing may become an annoying task filled with discontentment. Some of the frustrations associated with this activity may be traced to lack of an organized center where all necessary equipment and supplies are well arranged. Time and energy required to go from one room to another in search of fabric, notions and tools can reduce the many pleasures received from sewing. A center designed for clothing construction could

eliminate many problems of assembling and organizing equipment, supplies and accessories each time that any sewing is to be done.

The study of design features in centers for clothing construction in the home, concerned with work simplification was organized into four chapters.

Chapter I presented statement and purposes of the problem, definition of terms, hypotheses and assumptions, significance, and limitations of the study and the summary.

Chapter II includes a review of literature dealing with data on the development of management in the home. Specific information is also presented on features that facilitate work simplification in centers of clothing construction in the home.

Chapter III is divided into three parts to present data on the three sub-problems. All information on the first sub-problem such as methodology, presentation and analysis of data, and interpretation of results is included in the beginning of the chapter. Data on the second sub-problem is provided in the second part; the third section includes information on the third sub-problem.

Chapter III is organized in this manner because the information on the first sub-problem is necessary in order to understand the second sub-problem. Data contained in the second sub-problem are also essential to fully comprehend the third sub-problem.

Part I in Chapter III presents a survey of the Journal of Home Economics from 1909 through 1959.

Part II in Chapter III discusses the identification of design features in centers for clothing construction that could contribute to effective

management of time and energy.

Part III in Chapter III presents information on a survey of six women's magazines published from 1954 through 1963. An evaluation of recommendations for centers of sewing that appeared in the magazines surveyed is also presented.

Chapter IV provides a summary, conclusions and recommendations for further study.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Development of Home Management in the 20th Century

In 1900 leaders in trade fields were concerned with the exigency to improve management of time and energy in many industrial enterprises. Therefore, "efficiency engineers" were employed to foster better working conditions and efficient techniques. The movement to conserve time and energy spread to many industrial areas and was called "scientific management". Gross and Crandall (23) cited three early pioneers in the field namely: Frederick Taylor, Frank Gilbreth, and Harrington Emerson. The movement to further efficiency was promoted by Frederick Taylor who was mainly interested in "saving time and establishing time norms" (23). Emerson wrote Twelve Principles of Efficiency in 1911. The third leader, Gilbreth, was another expert in the field of industrial management. Gilbreth's brick laying experiment, which today is considered a classic, resulted in reducing the number of motions required to lay a brick from eighteen to five movements. As an authority in the field, Gilbreth and his wife, Lillian, also an engineer, wrote several books concerned with improvements in methods of work. The collaboration of the Gilbreths ended in 1924 with the death of Frank Gilbreth. Mrs. Gilbreth continued the work started by her husband and became an influential figure in the

area of management by creating interest in the scientific application of management to household activities (23).

Another woman who recognized the need to adopt scientific methods in the home was Christine Frederick, whose husband was also an efficiency engineer. Using the information contained in Emerson's book, Twelve Principles of Efficiency, Christine Frederick applied the data to household matters in a book titled The New Housekeeping, as cited by Gross and Crandall (23). But even with the endeavors of Gilbreth and Frederick, interest in household efficiency during the period of the First World War was not stimulated.

Added impetus was given to the area of home management in 1925 with the passage of the Purnell Act which stated that funds could be utilized for "such economic and sociological investigations as have for their purposes the development and improvement of the rural home and rural life" (21). Even though the Act provided funds to investigate management in the home, this area was not well developed until the Second World War. Gross and Crandall (23) noted that "household efficiency was relatively quiescent until World War II".

Conditions in the country during the 1940's disclosed the need to accelerate the production of goods such as clothing and food for defense purposes. The urgency to fulfill demands for supplies during the war brought many problems. The major issue, that of labor shortages necessitated more emphasis on efficiency. Collings (7) noted in 1943 that "with the shortage of manpower, efficient utilization of the nation's labor force has assumed an importance not previously recognized". The demand for qualified workers in many companies became acute because of the many

women and men employed in the war services. Some employees hired to fill vacancies were not familiar with job routines. Many women employed during the war had no previous job experience. With the necessity to speed up production of vital war materials and the lack of qualified workers, emphasis was given to improved methods of work.

Management during the war years was not limited to factories but was extended to the home and the farm. Homemakers found that with added responsibilities and duties, efficiency in home activities became a necessity. Farm owners also realized that the need to produce larger quantities of food stuff called for systematic work techniques. With interest shown in management in the 1940's, efficiency was renamed "work simplification" — "a much more inviting name" (23).

The war period brought the need for improved methods of work in the home to the attention of many people. Still problems connected with household management have been with homemakers for many years. In 1912, Frank Gilbreth (19) noted that "housekeeping is an industry which embraces a variety of activities and, like all other industries it can be well managed or badly managed". Webster (48) defined a homemaker as "one whose occupation is household and family management". The definition covered a multitude of home duties and obligations confronted daily by many women. The present emphasis on technological advancement produce unique problems for the homemakers. In spite of the widespread use of many different labor-saving appliances and products in the home, management remains a major concern for homemakers.

Because of the strong bond connecting management to achievement of goals, "home management, has a bona fide interest and contribution to

make" (13) to satisfying home life. Since the purpose of home management is to use resources to attain family goals, the quality of family life is dependent not only on the available resources but also on the effectiveness of their management. Yet the area of management in the home was "not even mapped out in semiofficial manner" until 1935 when a Home Management Conference was held in Chicago (21).

In 1943 the Purdue Conference on Work Simplification was held. The meeting was "concerned with efficient utilization of one highly important sector of the nation's labor force, the woman in the home" (7). Dr. Marvin Mundel, professor of industrial engineering and Dr. Lillian Gilbreth, professor of management directed the two weeks meeting. Thirty-three home economics specialists in teaching, extension, and research attended. Industrial techniques as applied to household tasks were discussed at the conference. Through the efforts of Mundel to train home economists in the application of scientific management to home management, work simplification in the home was furthered.

In 1948 impetus was given to the importance of work simplification in the home through the publication of Cheaper by the Dozen, written by two of the Gilbreth children. The book, relating the adventures of the twelve Gilbreth children, was later made into a motion picture, that "caused many people to be conscious of and interested in work simplification" (23).

Through the varied media of communications, women became conscious of the need to apply work simplification in the home. Homemakers were beginning to express approval of the more efficient ways of caring for the family and home. Kirk (31) recognized:

Efficiency merits respect, according to our American plan for living. We have come to admire and to evaluate many things in terms of it.

The attention given to efficiency caused many homemakers to want to learn easier methods for performance of household tasks. Several studies on household management were conducted by agricultural experiment stations, but the number was small when compared with the number of investigations in other areas. Gross (21) noted:

By 1949, when two-thirds of the 600 projects were in foods and nutrition, home management along with household equipment was only third in importance among the remaining six areas.

The research conducted by the agricultural experiment stations provided dependable sources of information on management of household activities. Still with all the interest in work simplification in the home, a question arose as to why some women find management of household activities difficult. In a study of 150 young homemakers living on farms, two reasons were revealed for inability to manage duties in the home namely, "(1) lack of training and preparation prior to marriage, (2) inability to obtain or lack of knowledge as to how to obtain appropriate help after marriage" (24). The study seemed to indicate that women do not receive adequate information for effective management of household functions.

Activities of clothing construction in the home can present the same problems of inefficiency as other household duties such as meal preparation, laundering or cleaning. Slaughter (44) reported that activities of sewing must be "rethought and reorganized" in order for homemakers to become efficient in their performance. A well-designed center in the home for sewing could help homemakers to organize activities such as cutting, sewing, pressing and fitting to conserve time and energy. Therefore, this study was planned to analyze design features in home centers for clothing construction that contribute to principles of work simplifi-

cation. Montgomery's studies (36) (38) of 1956 and 1963 indicated that women's magazines were used or considered as sources of information for home ideas. Therefore, as part of this study, a survey was conducted to investigate available material on centers for sewing which appeared in six popular women's publications from 1954 through 1963.

Homemakers' Need of Center for Clothing Construction

Lack of knowledge in management of home activities often resulted in homemakers' inability to organize equipment, furniture and supplies for sewing in the home. In 1936 Hunter (28) recognized:

No home keeper builds a home without a kitchen yet few people who do all of their sewing have a place, plan or equipment for this work.

Twenty-six years later, Settle (42) reported similar findings in regard to clothing construction in the home:

This household activity apparently requires more time than any other except work with food and the care and cleaning of the house. Yet little attention has been given through the years to making it easy to do this sewing work. It is the most unorganized of all our home jobs. Many women literally sew all over the house, making the job slower and more frustrating than it ever needs to be.

The necessity for planned centers for sewing is not a recent concern as indicated by the twenty-six years difference of time in the statements of Hunter and Settle. Yet the interest of homemakers in centers of sewing today should even be greater because of the increased number of women who engage in the activity. According to the Simplicity Pattern Company, twenty-three million women purchased some forty-five million patterns from retail stores in 1941. In 1956, thirty-eight million women bought over one hundred million patterns (53). From the large number of patterns

purchased in 1956 there seemed to be definite emphasis on home construction of clothing and household furnishings.

Expressing creative ability through clothing construction frequently puts sewing into the realm of self-satisfying pursuits. Since recent studies established that "everyone is born with a potential for creative activity", homemakers need outlets for such talents (45). Brightbill (6) recognized that creativeness can and should be fostered and refined in the environment of the home. Experiences in garment construction in the home could be an excellent opportunity for women to cultivate potentials for expressing creative talents.

The investigation of management in centers for sewing in the home is needed in light of the findings from research namely: (1) a large number of women are engaged in construction of garments and household furnishings; (2) sewing fulfills a need to express individuality and creativity; (3) homemakers need to organize equipment, furniture, and supplies for sewing which could result in conservation of time and energy.

Centers for Home Sewing

At one time the economical aspect of saving through the construction of garments was more important than expressing creative talents. Still there was regard for investigations on simplifying activities of sewing performed by women in the home. In 1928 Cushman (12) studied problems of garment construction in the home through observing activities of women engaged in sewing aprons. Cushman was interested in "ways of improving the arrangement of the sewing equipment". The findings brought to light that the lack of an organized center for equipment and supplies

necessary in constructing garments resulted in much unnecessary walking by the women.

Hunter (28) in 1936 also expressed the problems of inefficient organization of equipment for clothing construction:

The additional energy required to go all over the house looking for scissors, needle, thread or thimble increases her weariness and puts her in a bad frame of mind. Unorganized equipment, which is usually a result of the lack of planning is often responsible for poor work.

Many homemakers were troubled with lack of space for well-planned, organized centers for sewing. But in the homes of many families today space is at a premium as noted by Faulkner (15):

With today's emphasis on individuality, personal expression, and self-realization, space and equipment for satisfying such urges and needs have become increasingly important — and at a time when both space and equipment are very expensive.

Guides for better utilization of space in the home seemed necessary in view of Faulkner's statement.

Data on better organization of centers for sewing in the home have also set down criteria for work simplification in clothing construction. Hollifield (25) presented seven items to consider for efficient organization of supplies, tools and equipment used in sewing: (1) tools should be located at place of first use; (2) supplies should be placed in easy reach of the seamstress; (3) the entire space in drawers and shelves should be utilized; (4) storage of supplies in drawers should be only "one layer deep", and on shelves "one row deep"; (5) supplies similar in size and use should be placed together in storage; (6) supplies and equipment should be stored near location of use; (7) items used in several areas should be transferred from one area to another in portable units.

In 1955 the editors of Successful Farming were also interested in organization of centers for sewing. In that year, a center was designed by the editors with the following features as important considerations:

1. Everything at your fingertips;
2. Convenient in use — attractive at rest;
3. Roomy storage — drawers and shelves;
4. Sewing machine ready to go at a minute's notice;
5. Place to hang unfinished garments and mending out of sight;
6. Plenty of good quality light where it's needed. (3)

A swivel chair with back rest and casters for ease in moving from one area to another and three-way mirror were also included in the center. Research conducted by several experiment stations also noted that swivel chairs with back rest and three-way mirrors are important considerations when planning a center for sewing.

Some problems of management in centers for garment construction could be traced to the numerous areas needed to perform the different activities essential in creating a garment. Slaughter (44) noted that centers for sewing call for seven areas:

1. Storage area — small equipment and supplies,
2. Cutting area,
3. Sewing machine area,
4. Hand sewing area,
5. Pressing area,
6. Fitting area,
7. Storage area — large equipment.

As the "sewing area" make up the entire center, the arrangement of each area was important. The center of greatest activity was the sewing machine area. A large part of the garment construction was performed by a seamstress while sitting at a machine. A swivel chair to facilitate ease in movements was considered essential. Another essential feature in centers for sewing that added comfort was correct height of all equipment

depending on the size and body proportions of the person who uses the equipment. Tests conducted by Pennsylvania State University (30) found that the top of the sewing machine was preferred at a height of twenty-eight inches from the floor.

The problems encountered in the cutting area in regard to table height accounted for much "back-breaking" work (30). The time spent cutting garments and other articles often required women to stand for long periods of time. The height of the cutting table should be conducive for maintaining good posture and thereby conserving energy. Studies have found that many women use kitchen tables, bed or floor surfaces to cut material. These cutting facilities were often the cause of extreme fatigue and strained muscles. A thirty-six inch table, which was found to be acceptable for most women during tests at Pennsylvania State University, could lessen body fatigue. To prevent material from slipping off the table, the top might be covered with cork as recommended by Slaughter (44).

The importance of the pressing is emphasized by the fact that women spend as much time in this area as at the sewing machine according to Fitzsimmons (17). Since sewing requires pressing for pleasing results, an ironing board and iron are necessary features in a center. As heights of ironing boards "cannot be established by any known rule-of-the-thumb method" adjustable ironing boards are recommended as an aid to conserve energy (33). Individual needs of women should be considered for comfortable and acceptable ironing board elevations. Johnson (30) expressed the importance of proper conditions for ironing in this way:

...because adequate pressing during the construction of a garment helps determine the quality of the finished product, conditions of work which encourage pressing are desirable.

The need for accessories and supplies vary with individuals yet storage of a multiplicity of tools for clothing construction is often confusing to the women who sew. In a study conducted in Pennsylvania, Johnson (30) classified storage for supplies and accessories into two groups:

First was storage of items commonly used during construction of garments. Such items need to be accessible to the machine while in use. Second was general storage, divided into that which is active or used frequently and that which is inactive and seldom or never used.

Drawers for storage of items should be deep or shallow depending on the size of supplies to be stored. Planning in the storage area can save time by eliminating the need to search for supplies hidden under other items. Partitions in drawers could organize small tools and supplies which may otherwise be misplaced. Stevens (47) noted that organized storage is "the best time and patience saver" for women who engage in clothing construction. Yet Fisher (16) noted in 1957 that "most homes lack convenient and adequate storage for sewing equipment and supplies".

A well-organized center for clothing construction in the home could offer many advantages to seamstresses. Slaughter (44) summed up the importance of providing a well-organized center for clothing construction in the home:

Architects and others who plan or help to plan houses need standards for space requirements of adequate, well-organized sewing centers. All of the tools, equipment, and supplies needed by the home seamstress should be located in the sewing area or center. Convenient storage for these items should be included in house plans as well as a well lighted area for cutting and sewing, a place for fitting and pressing garments. The need for space standards is urgent whether the sewing activity is to be carried on in a sewing room or in an alcove or corner of a room serving a dual purpose.

The significance of this study is based on the following: (1) the findings of Montgomery (36) (38) that women receive home ideas from

articles that are features in magazines; (2) the dearth of information on centers of sewing in popular women's magazines; and (3) the need for the application of principles of work simplification in designing centers for clothing construction.

This study proposes to outline some basic and simple guide lines to follow in planning a center for construction of garment and household furnishings that incorporate principles which help to facilitate work simplification.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY, PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

Introduction

The problem of the study which was to identify design features in centers for creating garments and household furnishings as presented in various publications was divided into three sub-problems:

1. To determine through a survey of the Journal of Home Economics the number of articles written to emphasize management of household activities.
2. To identify, through research studies conducted by agricultural experiment stations, design features pertaining to centers for sewing such as equipment, furniture, and storage space that could contribute to effective use of time and energy.
3. To analyze articles on centers for clothing construction in the home featured in women's magazines from 1954 through 1963.

The chapter is divided into three parts, corresponding to the three sub-problems, in the following manner:

Part I Journal of Home Economics Survey

Part II Identification of Essential Design Features in

Centers for Clothing Construction

Part III Survey of Women's Magazines and Evaluation of Recommendations for Centers that Appeared in the Magazines

Each of the three sections included data on the methodology, presentation and analysis of data, and the interpretation of results for the three sub-problems. The method of including all information on the first sub-problem in part one was used because although the three sub-problems comprised the main study, the second sub-problem was built on the findings on the first sub-problem; the third sub-problem evolved from the results of the second sub-problem.

Part I Journal of Home Economics Survey

The Journal of Home Economics was surveyed for a period of fifty years, from 1909 through 1959, to determine to what extent the official publication for home economists presented information and research findings related to management of different household activities including sewing. The purposes of the survey were the following:

1. To count and compare by decades the number of articles and pages on management of household activities.
2. To note and compare through titles of articles what emphasis or emphases are placed on management of activities in the home.
3. To note and compare by titles of articles the types of household activities most frequently related to home management.

An instrument was designed to collect information deemed important to the study. The instrument for recording this information consisted of three main sections namely: (1) articles on management of household activities, (2) author's objectives for writing the article, and (3) managerial problems of the home. A check list was then formulated with three main variables to record the data:

1. Types of household activities
 - a. General household activities (articles that did not relate to specific home duties)
 - b. Specific household activities such as
 1. Meal preparation
 2. House cleaning
 3. Laundering
 4. Sewing
 5. Others
2. Author's objectives for writing article
3. Main emphasis of articles on management of household activities
 - a. Time
 - b. Energy
 - c. Methods of work
 - d. Efficiency in the household
 - e. Others

A pilot study was made to determine if the check list contained the necessary items to collect the needed information.

The Pilot Study

The Journal of Home Economics was surveyed from 1909 through 1913 for a five year study on articles dealing with management of household activities. A check list was used to record the data.

The table of contents in each of the monthly issues of the journal was perused to determine if any articles featured management of household activities. For each issue that did not contain a table of contents, a page by page survey was conducted. The titles that seemed to pertain to the subject of management in the home were studied in light of the items contained in the check list. After each annual volume was surveyed, the recordings on the check list were reviewed for accuracy in order to eliminate possible errors.

The five year survey revealed that numerous articles on management of household activities were included in the Journal of Home Economics. The original plan to include author's objectives was eliminated because of the fact that many of the purposes were difficult to ascertain. All articles that did not include some aspect of management of household activities and all articles that did not state in the title some aspect of management were omitted from the study. Only featured articles listed in the table of contents were studied in the final survey. The reason for this was that usually a featured article gave information about the author and the topic under discussion was fully developed. Very short articles which were not listed in most of the table of contents and usually gave no indication to the author's education or position were not counted in the fifty-year survey. During the pilot study there

appeared a need to include the number of pages of each article recorded in the check list in order that the extent of the information found could be compared more accurately. The number of pages in any one year or decade could then be compared with other similar periods.

The above points brought out in the pilot study were used to revise the check list for recording findings during the study. Periods of ten years were used to record the data from the survey. The periods were divided in the following manner:

- (a) 1909 through 1919
- (b) 1920 through 1929
- (c) 1930 through 1939
- (d) 1940 through 1949
- (e) 1950 through 1959

Four tables were used to record the data obtained from the survey of the Journal of Home Economics. The tables were classified into the following four main points: (1) total number of articles and pages on management of household activities, (2) number of articles and pages pertaining to both general home activities and specific household activities, (3) analysis of articles on specific household activities, (4) analysis of articles on both general household activities and specific household activities with regard to main emphasis as stated in titles.

The data collected were compared in ten year intervals for the following information: (1) number of articles and number of pages, (2) number of articles on general household activities and the number of articles on specific household activities, (3) number and kind of specific household activities mentioned in the articles, (4) number and types of managerial

problems emphasized in home duties.

Presentation and Analysis of Data and Interpretation
of Results

The Journal of Home Economics was surveyed to determine the number of articles related to management of household activities and the number of pages devoted to each. The study was limited to a fifty-year period, from 1909 through 1959. Information on the number of articles and pages dealing with management of activities in the home that appeared in the journal was shown in Table I.

TABLE I

TOTAL NUMBER OF ARTICLES AND PAGES ON MANAGEMENT OF
HOUSEHOLD DUTIES THAT APPEARED IN THE JOURNAL OF
HOME ECONOMICS FROM 1909 THROUGH 1959

Years	1909 1919	1920 1929	1930 1939	1940 1949	1950 1959	Totals
Articles	5	4	3	5	7	24
Pages	26	24	27	20	34	131

The period from 1950 through 1959 contained the largest number of articles, seven in all. In comparison, the 1930's contained the least number of articles, only three. From 1920 through 1939, a twenty-year span, a low of only seven articles was found.

The years from 1940 through 1949 showed five featured articles. A total of twenty-four articles on management in household activities were counted in the fifty-year period. The average number of articles per ten-year period was almost five (4.8).

Table I (page 31) also included the number of pages devoted to the management of household activities. The number of pages for four ten-year periods from 1909 through 1949 ranged from twenty to twenty-seven. An increase in the number of pages was noted in the 1950's when the count reached thirty-four pages during one-fourth of the time. The average number of pages in each ten-year period for the fifty-year survey was slightly over twenty-six (26.2). The number ranged from a low of twenty to a high of thirty-four pages for the fifty years.

Table II (page 33) classified the total of twenty-four articles and 131 pages into two types of household activities — general and specific. Information in the table referred to the number of articles and pages in periods of ten years. The distinction between the two types of household activities was dependent on the type of activity mentioned in the title of the article. All articles studied which did not state in the title a specific household activity such as meal preparation, sewing or cleaning, were classified as general household activities.

The number of articles dealing with general household activities ranged from a low of none in the 1930's to a high of five in 1909 through 1919. The average number of articles pertaining to general household activities was over two (2.4) for each decade. The numbers ranged from a low of none in the 1930's to a high of twenty-six pages in the 1909 through 1919 period. The average number of pages on general household activities for a ten-year period was almost twelve (11.8).

The second part of Table II (page 33) was concerned with specific household activities. The average number of articles in a decade was over two (2.4). The range in the number of articles that appeared during

TABLE II

TOTAL NUMBER OF ARTICLES ON GENERAL HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES AND
SPECIFIC HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES THAT APPEARED IN THE
JOURNAL OF HOME ECONOMICS FROM 1909 THROUGH 1959

Years	1909	1920	1930	1940	1950	Totals
	1919	1929	1939	1949	1959	
General Household Activities						
Articles	5	2	0	1	4	12
Pages	26	11	0	2	20	59
Specific Household Activities						
Articles	0	2	3	4	3	12
Pages	0	13	27	18	14	72

the fifty years was from none in 1909 through 1919 to four articles in the 1940's. The table showed that the 1909 through 1919 period contained five articles on general household activities while not one article appeared on any specific household activities. In the 1930's the highest number of pages was twenty-seven. The average number of pages per ten-year period was over fourteen (14.4).

The number of specific household duties listed in Table II were grouped in Table III under six specific household functions, namely: dishwashing, food preparation, house cleaning, ironing, laundering and sewing. The range of articles written on specific household activities went from a high count of five for food preparation to a low of one for both sewing and house cleaning. The five articles dealing with food preparation seemed to point up that more emphasis was given to this area than

TABLE III

ANALYSIS OF ARTICLES ON SPECIFIC HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES THAT
 APPEARED IN THE JOURNAL OF HOME ECONOMICS
 FROM 1909 THROUGH 1959

Years	1909	1920	1930	1940	1950	Totals
	1919	1929	1939	1949	1959	
Dishwashing	0	0	1	1	0	2
Food Preparation	0	0	1	2	2	5
House Cleaning	0	1	0	0	0	1
Ironing	0	0	0	1	0	1
Laundrying	0	0	1	0	1	2
Sewing	0	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	0	2	3	4	3	12

any of the other home duties. The findings seemed to agree with Gross (22) and Slaughter (44) in that much emphasis is given to research on food preparation. The similarity between the findings of other research and this study seemed to imply that the survey of the Journal of Home Economics was one way to determine the emphasis placed on management of household activities.

The emphases on management of the general and specific household activities were shown in Table IV (page 35). There appeared eight emphases, taken from the titles of the articles, which were the following: fatigue studies, energy expenditures, motion studies, space requirements, time, work simplification and management. The range of total number of articles in decades was from a high of seven with emphasis on time to a low of one

each for motion studies and space requirements. The high number of articles concerned with time seemed to point out that women in the home are concerned with time and that time is an important problem of homemakers. Both Hunter (27) and Mahoney (34) recognized also that time is one of the "greatest problems facing homemakers". The next concentration of emphasis was in the area of management. Five articles emphasized some aspect of management in the home. The emphasis on management seemed to verify that management is a major problem of homemakers as stated also by Hillman (24). Articles written on studies of fatigue in household activities were found in the 1920's, 1940's and 1950's. Three articles also stressed energy expenditures of women in performing household duties. Work simplification, introduced into the home during World War II, appeared in the titles of four articles during the 1940's.

TABLE IV

ANALYSIS OF ARTICLES AS TO MAIN EMPHASIS IN BOTH GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES THAT APPEARED IN THE JOURNAL OF HOME ECONOMICS FROM 1909 THROUGH 1959

Years	1909	1920	1930	1940	1950	Totals
	1919	1929	1939	1949	1959	
Fatigue Studies	0	1	0	1	1	3
Energy Expenditure	0	2	0	0	1	3
Motion Studies	0	1	0	0	0	1
Space Requirements	0	0	0	0	1	1
Time	2	0	2	0	3	7
Work Simplification	0	0	0	4	0	4
Management	3	0	1	0	1	5
Totals	5	4	3	5	7	24

The number of articles dealing with management of household activities during a period of fifty years was only twenty-four. But because only articles with titles pertaining to management in household activities were counted in the study does not mean that other articles dealing with the same topic were not written. Some articles included in the journal on household management did not mention the fact in the title. The three articles on fatigue studies and the three on energy expenditures seemed to stress that energy is also an issue with homemakers. The one article on activities of sewing did not provide adequate information because the article appeared in the 1920's and since that time some changes have occurred as a result of the technological developments. The fact that articles did emphasize management, time, energy, and work simplification perhaps indicated that women are concerned with such problems.

The survey of the Journal of Home Economics from 1909 through 1959 brought to light that only twenty-four featured articles dealt directly with management of household activities. Yet the number of articles studied did point out the variety of problems that could confront women in managing household activities. Many of the problems facing women in performing activities in the home could also pertain to activities in the construction of garments and household furnishings. It was interesting to note the number of articles on organization of centers for sewing in the home since some recent research was conducted in this area at experiment stations. Since the journal is a professional magazine, the limited number of articles on management in sewing might possibly have several reasons namely: (1) articles dealing with sewing in the home were included in the magazine but were not counted in the study because the titles did

not include some aspect of management of this home activity; (2) the Journal of Home Economics, concerned with all phases of family and home, is not able to emphasize to any great extent all problems that might confront families; (3) the articles are written for educators, teachers, and lay persons of diverse interests.

The first sub-problem, to determine to what extent the official publication for the home economists in Journal of Home Economics presented information and research findings related to management of different household activities including sewing, brought out several significant findings. The twenty-four articles dealing with management of household activities seemed to indicate that such information was of considerable interest to the readers. Yet there appeared only one article in the 1920's on management in activities of sewing. Clothing construction was an activity performed by many women in the home and the possibility that the same frustrations associated with other household activities could easily be also related to activities of sewing.

The problems of management brought out in the first sub-problem were discussed in relation to the second sub-problem that of the identification of design features in centers for creative construction concerned with principles of work simplification.

Part II Identification of Essential Design Features in Centers for Clothing Construction

The second sub-problem presented the identification of desirable features in centers for clothing construction in the home which facilitate the use of principles of work simplification. The chapter is divided

into sections on the methodology, presentation and analysis of data and the interpretation of results.

A survey of the Journal of Home Economics revealed that women were faced with definite problems of managing household activities. Conservation of time and energy in performing duties in the home were emphasized in the study. Sewing, like other home activities, was an activity executed in the home by many women without regard for organization of equipment, supplies and storage space (44). Of the many homemakers who enjoy clothing construction, few have a planned center designed for such activities (37). The availability of varied supplies and equipment often confuse the women who sew. The confusion results in making what could be an enjoyable activity into a tiresome task.

The second sub-problem discussed equipment, furniture and storage space considered essential for planning a center for sewing. The recommendations could be used as a guide for better organization of all equipment for clothing construction.

Methodology

The underlying purposes of the problem were the following:

1. To determine through previous research needed areas for various activities of clothing construction.
2. To list essential equipment, furniture, and storage space needed for centers.
3. To identify additional features that might result in more effective organization of centers for sewing.

The method selected to study the problem of the identification of

design features in centers for clothing construction was to peruse literature for information on centers for sewing. Data developed through research and published by the agricultural experiment stations were used as a basis for identifying the features. The researchers in the stations were concerned with the problems faced by homemakers engaged in clothing construction. Therefore, the information published by the stations was based on research conducted in different sections of the country.

Wiesendanger (50) noted that studies at the agricultural stations in the area of research in housing were few in number before 1946. Prior to that year, studies on family needs and problems in regard to housing were conducted by home economists. The largest number of projects in any one year before 1946 was thirteen. This number included research by graduate students working toward masters' degrees.

It was not until the passage of the Research and Marketing Act in 1946 that regional co-operative research on the housing problems of families as it is known today had its beginning (50).

As a contrast to the low figure of thirteen projects in one year before 1946, forty-eight studies on housing were reported in 1947. The great need for investigating problems of the family in relation to the home situation became apparent when older homes were renovated to keep pace with changing conditions. The large number of homes built after the Second World War also necessitated more research into housing needs and problems. Many homes built at the time were so small in size that facilities and space were inadequate for the performance of activities of the average family. Wiesendanger (50) recognized in 1956:

This trend toward smaller homes makes it vital that we discover and make available to architects, contractors, and families basic information regarding minimum adequate space requirements

for carrying on all household activities effectively and for storing supplies and equipment in accordance with good management principles and the needs, goals, and values of families.

Some of the investigators in the different regions co-operating on research in housing studied problems confronted by homemakers in performing household duties. Certain specific tasks were investigated in length to make available minimum adequate space required for performance of such functions in the home. Studies were also conducted to learn "how the activities overlap and relate to each other" (51) in regard to the use of common space for several varied activities. Wiesendanger (51) recognized the importance of housing research in relation to home management:

This research in housing, since it is being related to management, will doubtless result in homes that will encourage more effective management.

Some research was conducted by several state agricultural experiment stations for more effective management of centers for home sewing. The fact that each state's program in the experiment stations was concerned with "problems, interests, and needs" (35) of citizens in each state seemed to indicate that problems arising from performance of activities of dressmaking was a concern to homemakers in many states.

The data collected from research conducted at the agricultural experiment stations were used to identify design features in centers for garment construction that could be applied to varied home situations. The essential areas in a center for sewing were defined in a study conducted in 1954 by the Western Regional RMA Project W-8 (44) and published by the Montana State College Agricultural Experiment Station. The following states participated in the investigation: Arizona, California, Montana, Utah, and Washington. The Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics

and the United States Department of Agriculture also co-operated in the study. The fact that six states and a national research agency collaborated in the study was one evidence that problems of centers for sewing seemed to be one consideration of the experiment stations.

The needed areas for sewing in the home defined in the Western Regional Study were grouped in the following manner:

- (a) a storage area for small sewing equipment,
- (b) a cutting area,
- (c) an area for sewing at the machine,
- (d) an area for sewing by hand at a height which would permit the operator to sit comfortably,
- (e) an area for pressing,
- (f) a fitting area, and
- (g) an area for storing large pieces of equipment and garments under construction (44).

The above findings were used to list areas needed in a center for sewing in the home. Two of the seven areas (an area for sewing at the machine and an area for sewing by hand at a height which would permit the operator to sit comfortably) were combined into one area for the following reasons: (1) some work formerly done by hand is now done on the machine to save time and energy; (2) some women sewed by hand sitting at the machine; (3) some women did handwork elsewhere in the home. Slaughter (44) stated that "hand sewing may be done at times when the homemaker is free to sit with her family or other persons". Therefore six areas needed for clothing construction were considered in establishing a criteria to investigate the effectiveness of design features in centers for sewing.

The criteria were then developed taking into account the essential areas in a center for sewing. Items such as furniture, equipment and supplies needed in the areas were included in the list of design features for centers of sewing. The criteria were then used to develop a check

list to evaluate centers that appeared in six popular women's magazines during 1954 through 1963. The presentation and analysis of data gave reasons why the items selected were considered important to include in planning a place in the home for clothing construction.

Presentation and Analysis of Data and Interpretation of Results

The object of the second sub-problem was to identify design features in centers for clothing construction in the home that could contribute to conservation of energy and time. Research conducted by the state agricultural experiment stations were used for information on identification of essential design features.

Design of centers for clothing construction was difficult to identify because of the fact that women possess varied habits of work, goals and values which tend to influence what could be included in a center for sewing. Therefore, the guide lines established were deemed necessary for the majority of women who enjoy working with fabrics, patterns and accessories.

The criteria were composed of (1) needed areas, (2) essential equipment, and (3) important additional details. The first section dealing with necessary areas in centers seemed to demand enumeration of essential equipment for each area. Each area called for specific equipment. Therefore, the second part of the criteria listed essential equipment and a third section was made up of important additional features. The fifteen items included in the criteria were the following:

Needed Areas

1. Area for sewing
2. Area for cutting
3. Area for pressing
4. Area for fitting
5. Area for storing small equipment and supplies
6. Area for storing large equipment and supplies

Essential Equipment

7. Sewing machine
8. Cutting table
9. Ironing board
10. Mirror
11. Miscellaneous supplies and equipment

Important Additional Details

12. Swivel chair
13. Chair with back rest
14. Drawers of different depths
15. Drawers with partition features

The sewing machine area is the center of activity in clothing construction. Often the need to sit for long periods of time requires a comfortable chair that fits the body proportions of the seamstress. Therefore, two details were included in the criteria - a swivel chair and a chair with a back rest. Fisher (16), Slaughter (44), and Bos (13) all recommended a swivel chair. Bos also suggested a chair with some type of back rest.

The time spent in the pressing area and the sewing machine area are

equal according to Fitzsimmons (17), therefore emphasis should be given to each area. In the area for fitting, a mirror, preferably one that is full-length, was recommended by Slaughter (44) and Smith (46). The two areas for storage -- one for small supplies and equipment and another for larger items -- were mentioned because of the many supplies used during clothing construction. The need to organize such items seemed essential according to Fisher (16) who noted: "Most homes lack convenient and adequate storage for sewing equipment and supplies." Another important aspect of planning for storage space was that shelves and drawers should be designed to hold specific items. Shallow and deep drawers and shelves seemed important considerations because of the variety of sizes and shapes of items stored. Partition features in drawers helped to organize small items and supplies. Therefore drawers and shelves with such characteristics were included in the criteria established to identify design features in centers for sewing in the home.

The criteria established were used to analyze the centers for sewing that appeared in six women's magazines during a ten year period. Part III of Chapter III deals with the evaluation.

Part III Survey of Women's Magazines and Evaluation of Recommendations for Centers that Appeared in the Magazine

The third sub-problem was to investigate and evaluate recommendations for centers for clothing construction in the home that appeared in women's magazines from 1954 through 1963. The following purposes of the survey were:

1. To count and compare in periods of two years the number

of articles on centers for clothing construction that appeared in a decade, in six magazines.

2. To note and compare in periods of two years the total number of centers featured in each magazine.
3. To evaluate through written information and illustrations the centers for sewing published in the women's magazines according to the criteria previously developed.

Methodology

The 1963 edition of The Working Press of the Nation was consulted for information as to which magazines, published in the United States, could be considered typical women's magazines. This publication was also used for the following reasons: (1) the edition contained information on all magazines published in the United States; (2) the periodicals listed were classified into two large divisions -- professional and consumer; (3) the magazines listed under each division were classified in groups depending on subject matter of the magazine; and (4) information was included on topical features of the magazines, description of people who read the magazines and circulation features. The magazines that might contain information on centers for clothing construction in the home were classified under two headings namely: (1) Women's Magazines, and (2) Home Interest and Garden.

The following criteria were established to select women's magazines that were listed under the two above headings to survey for information on centers for clothing construction.

1. Non-professional magazine.

2. Directed toward homemakers recognized or apparent needs.
3. Easily available through varied sources --
 - a. Subscriptions
 - b. Newsstands
 - c. Stores
 - d. Public libraries
 - e. Waiting rooms
4. Published within the last ten year period, 1954 through 1963.

The following magazines were selected for the survey because each of the publications met the above criteria:

1. The American Home
2. Better Homes & Gardens
3. Family Circle
4. House Beautiful
5. Ladies' Home Journal
6. McCall's
7. Parent's Magazine

Family Circle was eliminated from the survey because all issues could not be secured for the period of ten years.

The survey of the six magazines was conducted page by page for an accurate account of the number of featured articles written on centers for clothing construction. Articles written on other subjects which included illustrations of areas for sewing were not counted in the survey. The study was confined to articles that were directly concerned with centers for home sewing.

Each article that dealt with centers for clothing construction was then evaluated using the criteria established in the second sub-problem. The criteria listed items considered necessary for conservation of time and energy in centers for sewing. A check list was used during the survey to evaluate each center. The check list contained the fifteen design features deemed important to include in centers for garment construction in regard to principles of work simplification.

Many of the women who enjoy creating fashionable garments as well as household furnishings come from varied home situations. Therefore, items some seamstresses would want to include in a center would not necessarily be desired by other women. The habits of work, values and goals of the women would definitely have some effect on the design features of a center for sewing. In light of the difficulty in setting rigid standards for planning centers for creative garment construction, the following system was used to score the centers.

1. One point was given to each of the fifteen items listed in the criteria that was illustrated in the centers.
2. One point was also given to each item that received additional written information in the article.

Since fifteen items were considered in the judging of the centers, the highest possible score each center could receive was thirty points.

Presentation and Analysis of Data and

Interpretation of Results

The third sub-problem entailed a survey of women's magazines to investigate the information on centers for dressmaking in the home. The centers

found in the publications were then evaluated using criteria established in the second sub-problem. The six magazines surveyed for a decade, from 1954 to 1963, were the following: The American Home, Better Homes & Gardens, House Beautiful, Ladies' Home Journal, McCall's and Parent's Magazine.

During the survey, a count was taken of the articles that dealt with centers for sewing in the home. Table V showed the information as to the number of articles found in each of the women's magazines surveyed. Only seven articles were directly concerned with centers for clothing construction.

TABLE V

NUMBER OF ARTICLES ON CENTERS FOR CLOTHING CONSTRUCTION
THAT APPEARED IN SIX WOMEN'S MAGAZINES OVER A DECADE

Years	1954	1956	1958	1960	1962	Ten Year Totals
	1955	1957	1959	1961	1963	
<u>The American Home</u>	2	0	0	1	0	3
<u>Better Homes & Gardens</u>	0	1	0	1	0	2
<u>House Beautiful</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Ladies' Home Journal</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>McCall's</u>	0	1	0	0	0	1
<u>Parent's Magazine</u>	1	0	0	0	0	1
TWO YEAR TOTALS	3	2	0	2	0	
TEN YEAR TOTAL						7

The period from 1954 to 1955 contained the three articles which was the highest recorded number for any two year period. The periods from 1956-1957 and 1960-1961 contained only two articles each. In two periods of

two years each, 1958-1959 and 1962-1963, there appeared no articles on centers for sewing in the home. The average number of articles found in each of the six magazines for the ten years was slightly over one (1.2).

The American Home contained the highest number of articles over the decade. Better Homes & Gardens presented two featured articles on centers for clothing construction; McCall's and Parent's Magazine featured only one article each. There were not any articles directly pertaining to centers for sewing in two publications namely: House Beautiful and Ladies' Home Journal.

Since many women do not have room to store magazines from year to year, there seemed to be little indication from the survey that information could be easily available to homemakers who need help in designing centers. The fact that no article appeared in any of the six women's magazines during the 1962-1963 period seemed to indicate a need to include some information on centers. Settle (42) stated that four-fifths of the total population of homemakers in the United States engage in sewing. This fact alone seemed to strengthen the need to include some information on centers for sewing in the home.

Montgomery (36) found that some college students, when asked during a study where they planned to receive "good ideas" for furnishing a first home, reported from women's magazines. Eighty-one per cent planned to receive help from such publications. But the findings received from the survey of the six magazines seemed to point up a minimum amount of information in the publications.

Table VI (page 50) contained the scores received by the seven articles in regard to the evaluation of the centers. The American Home contained

TABLE VI

ANALYSIS OF ARTICLES ON CENTERS FOR CLOTHING CONSTRUCTION IN THE HOME THAT APPEARED IN SIX WOMEN'S MAGAZINES OVER A DECADE FROM 1954 THROUGH 1963

Magazines	THE AMERICAN HOME			BETTER HOMES & GARDENS		McCALL'S	PARENT'S MAGAZINE	TOTAL POINTS
Years	54'	55'	61'	56'	61'	56'	54'	
	* Points			* Points		* Points	* Points	
ITEMS CONSIDERED IN EVALUATION								
Storage Area-small equipment	2	2	2	2-2	2	2	1-2	17
Cutting Area	2	2	1	2-0	2	0	0-2	11
Sewing Area	1	2	2	2-2	2	2	1-2	16
Pressing Area	0	0	0	0-0	2	0	0-1	3
Fitting Area	1	1	0	0-0	0	0	1-2	5
Storage Area-large equipment	0	0	0	0-0	2	0	0-2	4
Swivel Chair	0	0	1	0-0	0	0	0-1	2
Sewing Machine	2	2	2	2-2	2	2	1-2	17
Ironing Board	0	0	0	0-0	2	0	0-2	4
Cutting Table	2	2	1	2-0	2	0	0-2	11
Mirror	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0-2	2
Miscellaneous Supplies	2	2	2	2-2	2	2	1-2	17
Chair with Back Rest	1	0	1	1-1	2	1	1-2	10
Drawers-Different Depths	2	2	2	2-2	0	2	1-1	14
Drawers-Partition Features	2	0	2	0-0	0	2	0-0	6
TOTAL POINTS	17	15	16	15-11	20	13	7-25	139

* Points 1 point for items illustrated
 1 point for written information on items

three articles that were evaluated for design features; Better Homes & Gardens featured two articles in the period of ten years but as the 1956 article presented two different illustrations on centers, two scores were recorded for the article; McCall's contained only one article and Parent's Magazine featured one article which presented two centers and therefore two scores were noted for the 1954 article.

Parent's Magazine in 1954 featured a center for sewing that received a high score of twenty-five out of a possible thirty points. In the same article another center was shown which received only seven points. The low score recorded was perhaps because the center was originally illustrated in a 1951 article and was just reproduced for the 1954 article. The next highest score, twenty points, was given to a 1961 article in Better Homes & Gardens. The remaining centers analyzed ranged from a high of seventeen points to a low of eleven points. The average points compiled by the nine centers that were evaluated was over fifteen (15.4). As the possible score was thirty, the low of over fifteen points seemed to indicate that some centers lacked essential items for performance of the various activities involved in clothing construction.

In Table VI the number of points received in each of the fifteen items were totaled to study the features that appeared most and least in the centers. The range for each item considered in the analysis was from a high score of seventeen to a low score of two. Seventeen points were accumulated in three specific items namely: (1) sewing machine, (2) miscellaneous supplies, and (3) storage area for small equipment. Sixteen points were given in the area of the sewing machine activity. This score corresponds seemingly with seventeen total points received for the sewing

machine item. Fourteen points were recorded for drawers with shallow and deep features. In contrast only six points were given to drawers with partition features. The difference in points received seemed to point out that centers illustrated gave more consideration to drawer depths than to partition features. The fitting area received only five points whereas the mirror for the fitting area received a low of two. The difference in total score would mean possibly that the fitting area did not include a mirror or that more attention was given to the area instead of the essential equipment. In the storage for large equipment such as ironing boards, dress forms and irons, four points were recorded. The great contrast between the recorded seventeen points for small storage items and the low four points for large items seems to indicate that more emphasis was placed on storage for small miscellaneous supplies. The ironing board collected four points while the pressing area received only three points. Fitzsimmons (17) recognized that as much time is spent in pressing as in sewing at the machine. The low scores for the ironing board and the pressing area indicated little emphasis was given to the pressing activity. The swivel chair received only two points.

The analysis of the centers contained in popular women's magazines pointed to several indications namely: (1) machines, sewing supplies and storage space for small miscellaneous supplies received the most attention in the illustrated centers; (2) the swivel chair and the mirror received the least attention. Yet according to the information published by the experiment stations, the items given the least attention seemed necessary in order to better manage time and energy.

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The problem undertaken was an exploratory study to analyze design features in centers for clothing construction in the home as presented in six women's magazines. The three sub-problems identified in the study were: (1) to determine through a survey of the Journal of Home Economics what emphasis (if any) was placed on management of household activities with emphasis on activities of sewing; (2) to identify through research conducted by agricultural experiment stations, the design features pertaining to centers for sewing that could contribute to effective use of time and energy; (3) to investigate and evaluate plans and information contained in articles on centers of sewing that appeared in six women's magazines from 1954 through 1963.

The purposes of the first sub-problem were: (1) to count and compare by decades the number of articles and pages on management of household duties; (2) to note and compare through titles of articles emphasis or emphases placed on management of home duties; (3) to note and compare through the titles of the articles the types of household activities most frequently related to home management. The three purposes of the second sub-problem were: (1) to determine areas needed for various activities

of sewing; (2) to list and identify essential equipment, furniture and storage space needed for centers; (3) to identify additional features that might result in effective organization in activities of clothing construction. The purposes of the third sub-problem were: (1) to count and compare in periods of two years the number of articles on centers that appeared in ten years; (2) to note and compare in periods of two years, the total number of centers of sewing featured in each magazine; (3) to analyze data both written and illustrated in articles describing centers for clothing construction published in the magazines surveyed.

Two hypotheses tested in the study were: (1) many plans and recommendations for centers of sewing in the home which are published in women's magazines do not include essential furniture, equipment and storage space necessary for effective management of time and energy; (2) articles giving information about centers for clothing construction in the home published in women's magazines are few in number.

Assumptions basic to the study were: (1) many of the women today are employed outside the home and therefore time and energy should be conserved in view of family-work-community responsibilities; (2) creative clothing construction is a means for some homemakers to express individual talents; (3) the activities of creating garments and household furnishings are performed in the home by many women.

The study of design features in centers for sewing in the home was limited to the following: (1) a survey of the Journal of Home Economics from 1909 through 1959; (2) the establishment of criteria based on research findings for analyzing centers for sewing; (3) a survey of six women's magazines, The American Home, Better Homes & Gardens, House

Beautiful, Ladies' Home Journal, McCall's and Parent's Magazine published from 1954 through 1963.

Conclusions

The literature and the research reviewed by this study seemed to point out that the lack of centers for sewing in the home is a problem for many homemakers. Research conducted by state agricultural experiment stations indicated that investigations on centers for clothing construction would be of value to the homemaker. The survey of the Journal of Home Economics indicated that conservation of time and energy through better management of household activities was a concern to home economists.

Design features in centers that could aid homemakers to better management of activities of clothing construction were the following fifteen items: (1) area for sewing, (2) area for cutting, (3) area for pressing, (4) area for fitting, (5) area for storing small equipment and supplies, (6) area for storing large equipment and supplies, (7) sewing machine, (8) cutting table, (9) ironing board, (10) mirror, (11) miscellaneous supplies and equipment, (12) swivel chair, (13) chair with back rest, (14) drawers of different depths, (15) drawers with partition features. The fifteen items, that made up the criteria to analyze centers presented in magazines, were deemed important considerations in centers for clothing construction and evolved from research conducted at the experiment stations.

The survey of the six women's magazines revealed that The American Home presented the highest number of articles on centers during the decade surveyed as three articles contained such information. Two magazines,

House Beautiful and Ladies' Home Journal did not contain any articles on centers for clothing construction. During the 1962-1963 period not any of the six magazines surveyed presented articles on centers for sewing. The average number of articles that appeared in each of the six magazines during a period of ten years was slightly over one (1.2). The hypotheses that information on centers for clothing construction in the home published in women's magazines have been few in number seemed to be evident from finding only seven articles in the survey of six magazines for ten years.

The centers described in the seven articles were then analyzed in regard to the design features by the criteria previously developed. The items that received the most consideration were (1) sewing machine, (2) miscellaneous supplies and (3) storage area for small supplies. The two items featured the least number of times were (1) mirror and (2) swivel chair. In the evaluation of the centers the possible score was a high of thirty points. Only one center that appeared in the 1954 issue of Parent's Magazine attained a high score of twenty-five points. A low score of seven points was recorded for a center that appeared in the same article of the Parent's Magazine. The average score for the centers evaluated was only slightly over fifteen points (15.4). The hypothesis was that many centers designed for home sewing and published in women's magazines do not include essential equipment necessary for effective management of time and energy. The findings from the analysis of the design features in centers for sewing seemed to point out that many centers do not include all necessary equipment for better management of activities of sewing. Some articles in the women's magazines which described home centers for sewing did not include a listing of the essential equipment,

furniture and storage space. The researcher was not able to check arrangement of center nor details of location of center in relation to the rest of the home. It was also unfortunate that the majority of articles did not give enough information to check the effectiveness of the center. In addition it was not possible to determine quality and adequacy of lighting and ventilation both of which influence conservation of time and energy. Another item not checked was the relationship of height of chair to sewing machine and to work surface for hand sewing, nor height of table for cutting and the suitability of both in the bodily proportion of the individual who will work in the center.

Recommendations

The following recommendations evolved from the study of centers for clothing construction:

1. A more extensive study of centers for clothing construction might bring to light why centers are neglected in literature and in the actual building of homes.
2. Evidence is manifest that a need exists to acquaint women who enjoy creating garments and household furnishings with information on centers for home sewing through articles written in women's magazines.
3. A study seems needed to determine to what extent information in college courses in home planning and clothing construction provide information about design and furnishings of home centers for sewing.
4. There appears to be a need also to investigate design features in high school and college classrooms used for clothing construction. Both William and Lyle (51) and Whitesel (43) believe students need to learn to sew in home like situations.

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APPENDIX A

The criteria which were developed for the analysis of design features in centers for clothing construction were based on information contained in three agricultural experiment station publications; namely,

"Space Requirements for Home Sewing", Georgia Station, Bulletin 69.

"Space for Home Sewing", Pennsylvania Station, Bulletin 619.

"Sewing Centers for the Home", Montana Station, Bulletin 497.

The Georgia study which gave information on space requirements for home sewing, listed the following objectives:

- "1. To determine space requirements for home sewing activities in southern rural homes,
2. To determine facilities needed for sewing and to design the needed facilities,
3. To develop arrangements for the sewing areas."

The Montana study was based on the Western Regional Housing Survey which was conducted in eleven states in 1942. Two important findings were revealed by this regional study: "first, farm homemakers do considerable sewing, and second, there is no one room or area preferred by all homemakers for sewing."

The Pennsylvania study was concerned with space needed to carry out the many different sewing tasks and with space for the types of equipment commonly used by the home sewer.

CHECK LIST USED TO ANALYSE DESIGN FEATURES IN CENTERS
FOR CLOTHING CONSTRUCTION IN THE HOME AS PRESENTED
IN THREE PUBLICATIONS

<u>Items Considered</u>	<u>Montana</u>	<u>Georgia</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>
Storage Area-Small Equipment	X	X	X
Cutting Area	X	X	X
Sewing Area	X	X	X
Pressing Area	X	X	X
Fitting Area	X	X	X
Storage Area-Large Equipment	X	X	X
Ironing Board	X	X	X
Cutting Table	X	X	X
Mirror	X	X	X
Miscellaneous Supplies	X	X	X
Sewing Machine	X	X	X
Chair with Back Rest	X	X	X
Swivel Chair	X	X	X
Drawers with Different Depths	X	X	
Drawers with Partition Features	X	X	X

X Indicates desirable item needed in sewing center

APPENDIX B

CHECK LIST USED TO TABULATE INFORMATION ON HOME SEWING CENTERS THAT APPEARED IN SIX MAGAZINE ARTICLES*							
Magazine Year	The American Home			Better Homes & Gardens		McCall's	Parent's Magazine
	'54	'55	'61	'56	'61	'56	'54
<u>Essential Equipment</u>							
Sewing Machine							
Ironing Board							
Cutting Table							
Mirror							
Misc. Supplies							
<u>Needed Areas</u>							
Storage Area-Small Equipment							
Cutting Area							
Sewing Area							
Fitting Area							
Storage Area-Large Equipment							
<u>Important Details</u>							
Swivel Chair							
Chair with Back Rest							
Drawers-Different Depths							
Drawers-Partition Features							

* One point was given for the different items illustrated in the magazine article.

* One point was given for the different items that were mentioned in the article.

CHECK LIST USED TO TABULATE INFORMATION ON ARTICLES THAT APPEARED IN
THE JOURNAL OF HOME ECONOMICS CONCERNING MANAGEMENT OF
 HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES BY TEN YEAR PERIODS

Household Activities	Ten Year Periods				
	1909-1919	1920-1929	1930-1939	1940-1949	1950-1959
*General Activities No. of pages					
Specific Activities					
Dishwashing					
Laundering					
Ironing					
Sewing					
Food Preparation					
House Cleaning					
No. of pages					
**Combination of General and Specific Activities in Regard to Emphasis in Articles					
Fatigue Studies					
Energy Expenditure					
Motion Studies					
Space Requirements					
Time					
Work Simplification					
Management					

* General activities were those in which the title did not specify any particular household activity.

**The contents of the article was judged by the title.

VITA

Maureen Donata Webb

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: AN ANALYSIS OF DESIGN FEATURES IN CENTERS FOR CLOTHING CONSTRUCTION
IN THE HOME AS PRESENTED IN VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS

Major Field: Clothing, Textiles and Merchandising

Biographical:

Personal Data: Born October 21, 1939, Houston, Texas, the daughter
of Clyde L. Webb and Ruth E. Webb.

Education: Graduated from Our Lady of Victory High School in 1958;
received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Merchandising
from Texas Women's University in January, 1962; completed the
requirements for the Master of Science degree in May, 1965 at
Oklahoma State University.

Professional Experience: Worked in the retailing field in Fort
Worth, Texas, in 1962.