

A STUDY OF MEMBERSHIP, PURPOSES, AND ACTIVITIES
OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS IN STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

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INTRODUCTION

Community life as experienced today presents a picture in wide contrast to that lived by the average American citizen of a century ago. There have been changes in the functions which the home serves in the lives of its members; there have been changes in the material aspects of the home and community; there have been changes in the relationships between the various families living within the bounds of the community; and there is a decided difference in the relationship of the local community to the state, national, and international community. In short, community life is much more complex than that of a century ago.

The word, community, is used by various authorities to denote areas which vary widely in size, in both number and type of population, and in function. But on one characteristic they generally agree: a community is made up of people residing in the same geographical area and sharing common interests because they are affected by the same physical and cultural influences. There are certain "common denominators" which are found in every community: the family; the local government; the schools; the churches; and the various group activities of civic, social, and cultural nature. Community function is determined by the interaction of these units.

Prior to the industrial revolution the community was a relatively self-sufficient unit. Any needs which were not available through home production were usually obtained through the cooperative effort of neighbors. Certain staples not produced in the community were purchased from a near-by trading center. With the advent of machinery came

factory production which not only took that phase of work from the home, but also took members of the family into the factories to operate the machines. Where earnings had gone to the family as a whole, they now went to individual members. This factor developed an independence on the part of youth and single adult members of families which led them to establish living quarters apart from the family, a situation previously non-existent.

The industrial age introduced a trend toward urbanism which has continued in varying degrees of progress. Improved methods of communication and transportation have broken down the barrier of distance which once kept individuals for a lifetime within the narrow bounds of one community. Urbanism is reflected in the rural areas both by the modern household conveniences common in farm homes and by the high degree of specialization which has made farming a highly scientific occupation. Even the educational scheme has changed in that we now find the majority of rural children attending the consolidated or centralized school rather than the one-room unit of former years. The cumulative effects of these and other changes upon society are seen in the following paragraph by Anderson¹ in which he points out some of the disadvantages as well as the desirable aspects of the new situation.

These social changes have raised our standard of living; they have given us better health and longer lives, more conveniences and more wants; they have shortened our working hours and given us more leisure; they have resulted in more cultured interests and wider activities. But they have also intensified competition and the speed of living; they have broken down many of our standards and traditions, and they have made us more sophisticated.

¹John E. Anderson, "A Changing Social Landscape," The Parent-Teacher Organization, Its Origins and Development, p. 3.

At the same time that they have widened our contacts, they have substituted remote for local and immediate control of the environment of our children. Thus, the content of children's minds is determined quite as much by material going out from radio workers in New York City, from the motion picture directors in Hollywood, or from the syndicate writers and comic artists in the larger cities, as it is by the influence of the local community, school, and family. Although these changes have made us more alike in some respects, they have also given us more opportunities to acquire individuality and different patterns of skill. Life has taken on new meanings in some areas, while in others old meanings still hold.

Most writers continue to refer to these changes as having taken place during the last century, although the industrial revolution began in England during the last decade of the eighteenth century and was almost immediately felt in the United States. It is true that the social changes were not as readily accepted as were the mechanical inventions, and from this situation can be traced many of the ills of our nation as well as of local communities. Kilpatrick² describes this problem of "transitional America" as that of a "depressed society" in which the economic system does not allow the people adequate purchasing power to meet their needs nor keep the production system running smoothly. The result is labor trouble, strikes, and depression on the economic level; on the cultural level, he sees "vast potential creative human resources," most of which are not being discovered or developed.

Another well known educator describes the same problem as "our unbalanced culture." His explanation is,

Any adequate culture will be a balanced whole, each part of which should articulate with all the other parts so that all aspects of community living may go on well together. In the western world modern science and its offspring, modern technology, have grown so

²William H. Kilpatrick, "Freedom of Teaching in Adult Education," Educational Freedom and Democracy, pp. 165-166.

rapidly in the past century that the balance of our culture has been upset. The material aspects of the culture have rushed ahead, while the spiritual aspects have tended to remain the same.³

One has but to examine the records of divorce and of juvenile and adult crime in our nation to become convinced that in some way society is falling short of its obligation to the individual. Many educators feel that these problems stem from the insecurity which the individual feels in his environment. This belief is expressed by Dodd⁴ in his discussion of the community's role as a bulwark of our democracy,

I don't think we realize sufficiently how much modern life is doing to weaken the allegiance of the individual to the community. The idea of neighborhoods in the old-fashioned sense has disappeared, yet man's instinct calls for participation in community life. No one knows how much discontent and search for artificial stimulants spring from unconscious efforts to fill the void in our lives caused by the disappearance of the spirit of neighborliness. The anonymity of city life, the large amount of crime, mental disorders, and family troubles which accompany high residential mobility are evidences of weakened community spirit. We need the sense of belonging, of being a member of a community.

Out of the efforts of individuals to fill this void in their lives and to cope with the complex problems of modern society has grown a movement toward the organization of all types of groups in America. This urge for group formation seems to be one of the strongest and most typical of the American people. McClusky⁵ quotes the French writer, de Tocqueville, who wrote his impression more than a century ago.

³Samuel Everett, The Community School, p. 8.

⁴Harold W. Dodds, "The Organized Community - Bulwark of Democracy," The American City, Vol. 63 (July, 1948), pp. 67-68.

⁵Howard Y. McClusky, "Some Current Trends in Community Organization," Adult Education Bulletin, Vol. 10 (February, 1946), pp. 72-75.

The Americans of all ages, all conditions, and all dispositions constantly form associations. . . . religious, moral, serious, futile, restricted, enormous, diminutive. The Americans make associations to give entertainments for education, to send missionaries to the antipodes, and in this manner they build hospitals, prisons, schools.

These words were aimed at all American organizations of one hundred years ago, yet they could be used as a relatively accurate description of the functions of the vast institution of women's organizations of today. Since that time there has been such an enormous increase in the number and types of groups which function in some degree of organization that we tend to think of them as entirely of American origin. On the contrary, there have been women's clubs for hundreds of years. This is borne out by records which show that the matrons of Ancient Rome often met in groups for the discussion of etiquette.

Present day women's clubs grew out of the industrial revolution which brought women more leisure time than ever before and along with it more social problems. It was at this time that women first went to work outside the home. Some entered the professions, while others went into all types of commercial and factory work. Their skill eventually caused them to be given preference over men in many jobs which required dexterity of the hands.

The difficulty which faced women who became interested in public life was a major factor in the early rise of clubs. Long excluded from the political and business circles of the nation, women felt a timidity in entering such affairs alone. Sensing the suspicion and skepticism of men, they drew together, rallying in clubs around philanthropic, reformatory, and intellectual interests. Organization gave the women courage, conserved the efforts of the average, and gave each a chance

to function.

According to Webster, a club is "an association of persons for the promotion of some common object, as literature or good fellowship, especially one jointly supported and meeting periodically." An organization he defines as "an association of society, constituted in interdependent parts, each having a special function or relation with respect to the whole." The two terms seem to substantiate each other and are found to be used synonymously as is done in this discussion.

The problems which first united women varied with the sections of the country, but in general, they centered around the need for better living and working conditions for women and children and for equal rights for women. During each of the three major conflicts in which our nation has been involved within the past century, there has been an increase in organization of women for philanthropic and service work. Likewise, further increase has followed each war due to the effort of women to fill the void created by the ending of their wartime services.

By the end of the nineteenth century women's organizations had become such an established part of the average community that they were called the middle-aged woman's university, although this opinion of their educational value was not generally accepted. There was then and has continued to be a reluctance on the part of the public to recognize women's organizations as an educational force. Throughout the years women's clubs have been attacked by ridicule from both men and women. A charge commonly made was that the women were busy with matters of little importance while neglecting household and family responsibilities.

Groves⁶ contradicts this criticism and adds another point to justify the existence of such groups:

Such indictments were not only unjust to what was generally true of the women members but blind to the cravings that developing women felt for other and different sorts of outlets than those provided by the home and the church. The fault-finders were oblivious to the value the occasional club meetings had in stimulating and giving morale to women who otherwise would have felt shackled by the conventions of a housekeeping regime that had not yet responded to the enlarging and changing social life of the American women.

Contrary to the common belief, club life did not take the woman from her home. The typical woman remained a home woman but broadened her interests and talents to a larger group; thus the home became the core, not the circumference of modern woman's life as had long been the case. The fact that present day society demands, or, at least expects, women to include community and even world affairs in their scheme of activities, may be seen in the requirements on which the choice of the American Mother of the Year is based:

She must be a successful mother, as evidenced by the character and achievements of her children; she must embody those traits most highly regarded in mothers, courage, moral strength, patience, affection, kindness, understanding, homemaking ability; she must have a sense of social and world relationships and must have been active in her own community betterment or in some other service for public benefit.⁷

Further criticism has been directed toward the "ineffectual discussion groups" of women. It is agreed that much time is devoted to discussion of problems and often no immediate action is taken nor any

⁶Ernest R. Groves, The American Women, p. 257.

⁷Evelyn Ardis Whitman, I'm Tired of Grandma, p. 225.

tangible results seen. Nevertheless studies of club records have revealed many worth while achievements, any one of which could likely be traced back to some apparently insignificant remark made in an informal group-meeting. It may be pointed out that, regardless of action, intelligent thoughtful discussion is of unmeasurable educational value in a democracy where an understanding electorate is the goal. Most students of social problems believe that freedom is safe only in those nations in which all sorts of private associations interested in public questions are able to survive. Only in such organizations do we have the means to hold before the people fresh, living ideas, which give life to a democracy.

Clubs have been a medium through which women have expressed their interest in the advancement of education, public welfare, conservation, and the life, and they continue to serve in this function. In recent years much of the responsibility for public welfare has been assumed by governmental agencies. Many educators believe that in a federalistic form of government which fosters strong local governments, this trend should not be allowed to continue, but that this responsibility should be regained by private organizations in local communities.

Although early clubs maintained an interest in culture, the emphasis has been largely changed from culture for club members only to culture for others also. It has been said that the culture of a nation depends upon its leisure classes. In the United States the leisure classes are composed largely of women. The fact that many of these women are homemakers who have free hours to devote to out-of-the-home activities, places womens' clubs in a position of prime importance as tools for the promotion of culture.

Some seem to think that only women feel that their clubs have value, yet occasional champions are found among public spirited men. In an article written by Ray Josephs,⁸ who has lectured to women's clubs the country over, he voiced his approval of their approach, scope of influence, and achieved results in community projects which he considers characteristic of the movement.

Always,....the approach was to sit down to discuss mutual problems, learn better ways of doing things, and benefit by working together. This feeling of cooperative effort has provoked a general attitude that says: "Let's go out of the way to lick problems first, rather than try to escape them."

... In many places, I discovered, club-women gave a real home-maker approach to civic problems by getting "community yardsticks" to measure their own cities or towns to find what was missing. Then, with a vitality that constantly amazed me, they set to work to get what was needed. Often the "yardsticks" were lengthy questionnaires furnished by the National Federation of Clubwomen, an organization comprising a membership of 3 million women in 16,500 independent, self-governing and self-supporting clubs located throughout the United States and its territories, and in thirty-one foreign countries, "to promote education, philanthropy, public welfare, moral values, civics, and fine arts."

Analysis of this account reveals that clubs have certain characteristics which are directly in accord with the basic purpose of a democratic society, "To promote the common good and to foster the welfare of the individual."⁹ In this day of confusion and transition it is of significance that groups of citizens from the length and breadth of our country are making an effort to solve their problems and to further their education. No longer is education thought to be a formal study of books and classroom activities, but it is recognized as "including all the

⁸Ray Josephs, "Are Club Women Useless?", Today's Woman, Vol. 17, No. 98, (December, 1947), p. 30.

⁹Ivol Spafford, "Home Economics Teachers and the Community," Practical Home Economics, (June, 1940), pp. 171-172.

activities with an educational purpose that are carried on by people engaged in the ordinary business of life."¹⁰ Adult education then must begin in the small community and be directed toward the enrichment of community life and the solution of its problems.

The organization of a group for the purpose of attempting to solve their common needs is a sign of progress. No individual reaches his maximum growth and satisfaction unless he is working with others toward a common purpose; group progress and individual growth have to go on simultaneously because they are the same. A family is democratic only to the extent that it cares for every individual in its group. In the same sense a community may be said to be democratic only as it cares for every family which makes up its unit. By this is not meant the provision of physical needs alone, but also mental and emotional needs, for only by providing an opportunity for the development of the total individual can a community be truly democratic.

Although communities are sometimes said by critics to be "over-organized" or "clubbed to death," the writer believes that such organizations may be the answer to the problems of community life in that they offer opportunity for growth and leadership which comes only through interdependence and interaction. An advantage is seen in group work in that shared interests are more consistently and efficiently pursued and deeper thinking is promoted by exchange of ideas. To be sure some people drop out of organizations because according to them they get nothing out of them. The answer here is the same as in other areas of living: 'We get out of a thing only as much as we put into it.'

¹⁰ Lyman Bryson, Adult Education, p. 3.

One limiting factor in the value of organizations is that they cannot attain their potentiality as a vehicle of adult education until the whole population is reached. Studies in communities have shown that many women participate in no activity outside their homes. Among women included in a study by Lyle,¹¹ there were 22.5 per cent who had no activity outside the home, while 20.8 per cent said some church attendance was the only outside activity. Dodson¹² calls attention to a study which showed that those belonging to no organizations ranged from 50 to 72 per cent of the adults, male and female, in the average neighborhood in New York City. Still another study,¹³ made among homemakers in five representative cities of the United States, found that an average of only 25.3 per cent of the women belonged to a club. Comparison of these results indicates that the number who belong to a group in the community decreases as urbanism increases.

When many organizations exist in a community a certain amount of duplication of purpose is not only inevitable, but it is desirable. Several organizations often support the same project individually and each realizes some degree of success. However, if these organizations supported such a project cooperatively, much greater results would likely be achieved. The disquieting factor comes when there is such a duplication of membership that in reality only a few women are participating. In such a situation a large number of people who have few contacts with social and cultural agencies are overlooked. These people

¹¹Mary S. Lyle, Adult Education for Democracy in Family Life, pp. 72-73.

¹²Dan W. Dodson, "Parent Associations Versus Social Lethargy," The Journal of Educational Sociology, Vol. 20 (March, 1947), pp. 401-406.

¹³Willie Melmoth Bomar, The Education of Homemakers for Community Activities, pp. 64-65.

often have vital needs; but their needs are unnoticed in the whirl of existing activities.

Many communities have organized planning groups, sometimes called councils, in an effort to coordinate the various forces working within their boundaries. Some such councils have been remarkably successful. It is clear that there is now a significant trend toward community organization as it applies to the interaction of group processes.

Schools have taken the lead in many instances in drawing the various community agencies together to plan and carry out such programs. The four experimental programs which were started in 1938 and promoted by the United States Office of Education, a unit of the Federal Security Agency, with state and local departments of education are significant in this type of development. Consultation services were provided by these agencies but the programs were local enterprises and evolved as the needs of the communities were recognized. The four communities were selected to represent a wide range in size, region, and occupational specialization. The chief purpose was to find ways of bringing about more effective programs of education for home and family living through the concerted efforts of the school and the community. Some of the results seen when the programs had been in effect two years can be seen in the following excerpts from the report:

. . . homes, schools, and other community agencies are working more closely together on problems of family living. . . spectacular gains in the direction of home-school-community cooperation . . . better play opportunities for children of all ages. . . More parents are studying family life. . . special efforts to interpret to the public the needs and problems of homes and families in their own communities. . . Important as the achievements mentioned undoubtedly are, these four demonstration programs of family life education are beginning to have less tangible outcomes which seem to overshadow the more specific outcomes in importance. . .

Quite recently we began to see that real democracy is a way of life that has to be learned, that we are living in a world which must be reconstructed because it is not yet truly serving human values. Now we are trying very hard to "do something" about juvenile delinquency, bad housing, mental illness, divorce, and the rest of our social problems. And out of our more or less faltering first attempts is coming the sure conviction that "not once in the dim past but continuously, by conscious mind, the miracle of creation is wrought."¹⁴

The story of the growth of these programs proves the effectiveness of collective thinking and planning directed toward mutual interests, in that each of the four centers was able to report real progress toward bettered home and community life.

Some of the more progressive colleges of the country have accepted the trend toward community organization by recognition of their obligation to provide the guidance needed by communities in establishing self-improvement programs. Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College has instituted what is known as a Community Development Program. Its action is based on the premise that any educational institution, if it is to justify its existence, must exert a positive influence upon local and neighboring communities. In the words of H. Conger, at that time dean of the School of Education, in an address to the first Community Education Planning Conference which was held in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on December 6 and 7, 1946, is expressed the philosophy with which the new endeavor has been approached.

. . .any improvement of a community that is to be permanent must arise from the leadership of the community; any program that arises from this source is a long time program; the elements involved in improved community living are so interrelated that one cannot be improved greatly without improving all the rest, and the broad

¹⁴ Edna P. Ashton and Muriel W. Brown, "Community Organization for Family Life Education," pp. 1-3.

areas involved in living a good life include economics, health, education, recreation, and religion.

College personnel interested in the community improvement program have welcomed the interest which has been expressed by some citizens of Stillwater, Oklahoma, the community in which Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College is located. Records of successful community organizations show the importance of accepting the community as it is. With this as a starting point, they are able to determine the policies and desired outcomes and plan a course of action. A planning group must be aware of certain facts in order to have a clear picture of the resources within the community which may be utilized and unified. As one of these resources, the large body of women's organizations should not be overlooked in any movement for the purpose of community betterment.

Perhaps there is a slight difference in Stillwater and other cities of comparable size in that so many of the total population are employed in educational capacities at the college or in the public schools. This difference as related to community organizations, however, may be more evident in the number of organizations which exist than in the purposes or activities which they sponsor. Because there are a great many such groups in this city, remarks are often heard to the effect that Stillwater is "over-organized"; and there is the usual difference of opinion as to the value of women's organizations to a community. From the picture as it appears on the surface, then, the following assumptions have been drawn and are used as the basis for this study:

- (1) The large number of women's organizations indicates that Stillwater may be over-organized.
- (2) A study may show that the total membership

is representative of a relatively small percent of the women of Stillwater. (3) A review of the accomplishments of these groups may contradict the criticism that women's organizations are of no value to the community.

The purpose of the study is to obtain certain facts about the membership, purposes, and activities of the women's organizations of Stillwater which, it is hoped, will be of value to citizens who are interested in developing and improving Stillwater as a community. A farther purpose may be seen in the interest of the writer and of the department of home economics education of Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College in all possible avenues of approach to the problem of reaching the total population in some form of adult education. Until this is achieved, education will not realize its true function.

THE PROBLEM AND PROCEDURE

In the introduction to this study, it was brought out that women's clubs are in a position to exert a potent influence in the communities in which they function and that a large number of such organizations are in existence in almost every community in our country. In this respect the City of Stillwater is no exception.

Stillwater has seen a period of rapid growth within the past few years, particularly since 1940, the date of the most recent United States census. At that time the official population figure was 10,097. Out of that number 3,618 or 35 per cent were women over twenty-one years of age. Although unofficial, a study was made in July, 1948, by the Chamber of Commerce in an effort to obtain an estimate of the population with some degree of accuracy. The conclusions were made by analysis of the records of utility companies and comparison with those of 1940, and the estimate was set at 17,173 with a possible estimated variation of three or four percent either way. This appears to be the nearest valid figure which has been established and will be used in this study. An official of the Chamber of Commerce and a member of the sociology department both agreed that for this study the number of women in Stillwater could be reliably determined by using the same ratio as was shown by the 1940 census, since there seems to have been no significant change in the type of population. According to this ratio, the estimated number of women in Stillwater today is 6,153.

The population just discussed is considered exclusive of student enrollment which for the current semester stands at 10,256 according to

information released by the administration office. Many of these students are housed in dormitories, many in Veteran's Village which is located just outside the incorporated city limits, and others in homes within the city. Of the latter group some may be counted as residents either because they have established voting residence or because they are users of city utilities. Here is seen an example of the problem of short term residence which offers a challenge to the society of the community in accepting these individuals and giving them that important sense of "belongingness" while they are in this city, and helping them to develop the civic leadership which will later be expected of them as college graduates or as wives of college men.

A somewhat critical housing problem has existed in Stillwater for the past few years due, in part, to the increased college enrollment and also the influx of workers who have come into the city because of the extensive building program underway at the college. Also the construction of new homes and business buildings reached the highest rate in the history of Stillwater during 1948, according to information released by the city building inspector. Of great significance as an indication of the progressiveness of the community is the fact that extensive remodeling is underway on two of the grade school buildings, with major repairs being made on others. In addition to this, the citizens have approved a bond issue calling for major civic improvements including enlargement of the hospital, power plant, and sewage plant, new sewer lines, and a new electrical distribution system for the city. Another point which may well give local citizens a feeling of civic pride is an enviable safety record, for which Stillwater has won first place among cities of her class in national safety contests

for the last two years. This is a tribute both to the local government and to conscientious and law-abiding citizens.

Early in this study it was realized that because of the very large number of organizations in the city that some limitation would be necessary. Thus it was decided that only those which function primarily within the incorporated city limits of Stillwater and whose membership is made up entirely of adult white women were to be included.

Since the leader of any organization is in the key position for giving complete and accurate information relative to the functioning of the group, it was believed that the president would be the logical representative to contact in this study. Because of the large number of organizations, the questionnaire method of obtaining data was decided upon.

The questionnaire, Exhibit 1,¹ contained twelve questions which were carefully arranged on a single page. The information requested fell into three related groupings, (1) membership, (2) purposes, and (3) activities and contributions. The first six questions dealt with facts about membership, attendance, and affiliation with outside groups. Another question asked for a brief summary of the purposes of the organization, and questions eight through 11 pertained to projects and activities sponsored, as well as the extent of cooperation with other local groups. An evaluation of the contributions made to the community by each organization was requested. A time limitation to the one-year period from September, 1947, to September, 1948, was designated, as it related to activities and contributions. The last question asked for a statement of opinion as to the community needs of Stillwater not

¹See appendix, p. 65

being met by any organization. A list of the names and addresses of the members of each organization was requested in order to obtain data which would indicate the number of individual women comprising the membership of these organizations and at the same time to obtain facts as to the number of organizations to which the women belong. The addresses were used to plot the geographical distribution of the women in the city to show whether or not all areas are reached by organized groups.

During the preparation of the questionnaire helpful criticism and suggestions were obtained from faculty members of the home economics education and sociology departments, and from the director of the community development program. As a means toward gaining cooperation and prompt response, a form letter, Exhibit 2,² was prepared, with spaces left for the date and heading to be typed in at time of mailing. This letter explained the purpose of the study and uses to be made of the information. Test questionnaires along with the letter were given to presidents of five organizations, three of whom were members of the home economics faculty, the other two being community people whose opinions were held valid. As a result of the suggestions and reactions, minor revisions were made on both letter and questionnaire.

While the questionnaire was being formulated, an effort was made to obtain a list of as many women's organizations as possible. The initial list was compiled by careful check of the columns of the Stillwater Daily News-Press for a period of two months. Later the list was made more complete by material obtained from the files of the newspaper

²Ibid., p. 66

office, as well as from the records of the Chamber of Commerce. A few organizations were added after talking with various citizens of the city. The final list consisted of 124 different organizations representing 156 units. In the case of a church group whose purposes are set up and outlined by a single council representing the several circles, it was believed that one questionnaire submitted by the council president would give the desired information for the group. Thus there were 124 organizations on the mailing list rather than 156, the actual number of units which are known to meet regularly. Since the test questionnaire had secured information from five presidents, 119 remained to be contacted. The questionnaire and the letter, together with a stamped, self-addressed envelope, was mailed to each of these presidents.

At the end of three weeks 65 returns or 52.4 percent of the total had been received. Since a more complete picture was desired, it was decided to mail a second letter, Exhibit 3,³ to each of the 54 presidents whose reports had not been received. In order to take care of a situation in which the original letter and questionnaire may have been lost or misplaced, a second copy of each was enclosed with the follow-up letter. After another three-week period, a count revealed that an additional 33 questionnaires had been received, making a total of 98, or 80 per cent of the number mailed.

Tabulating was done as the returns were received and each organization given a case number by which it will be designated throughout this study. From each club membership list the name and address of each

³Ibid., p. 67.

person together with the name of the organizations to which she belonged was placed on a card. A card was made for each new name which appeared and filed with the others in alphabetical order. Although time-consuming, this device seemed to be the simplest way to maintain a flexible index which could be sorted in various ways to show the types of information desired.

Information from the questionnaire was tabulated on two types of forms. The fact questions, one through six, were tabulated on a more compact form, while the remaining questions required varying amounts of space. Much of this information will be presented in tabular form and discussed in the following sections where it can be seen that the questionnaires did reveal many facts and opinions.

STRATHMORE PARCHMENT

100% RAG U.S.A.

FINDINGS

This survey has revealed a number of facts concerning the women's organizations of Stillwater. Presentation of the information gained will follow the general order of its appearance on the questionnaire which has been discussed in the previous chapter. All findings are taken from the reports returned by the 98 presidents of organizations.

A count of the cards which were made from the membership rolls revealed that the membership of the 98 organizations is comprised of 2,283 women whose addresses indicated residence within the incorporated city limits. This number represents 37 per cent of 6,153, the estimated number of adult women in the city.

The addresses of the club members as shown on the cards were charted on a map of Stillwater in an effort to determine whether or not women from all areas of the city participate in the activities of the organization reported. An examination of this map, Figure 1, reveals that the women do represent the entire area of the city in varying degrees. Because of the irregularity of certain city blocks, there may have been some discrepancy in location of a few individual cases, however, the general picture is believed to be sufficiently reliable. In three specific cases where an exceptionally large number of people were located, and where the accuracy seemed questionable, investigation showed the areas to be the locations of large apartment houses. Exact addresses were not shown for 87 women, although they were designated as city residents, therefore, the tabulation on the map was made for 2,196 women.

City of Stillwater Oklahoma

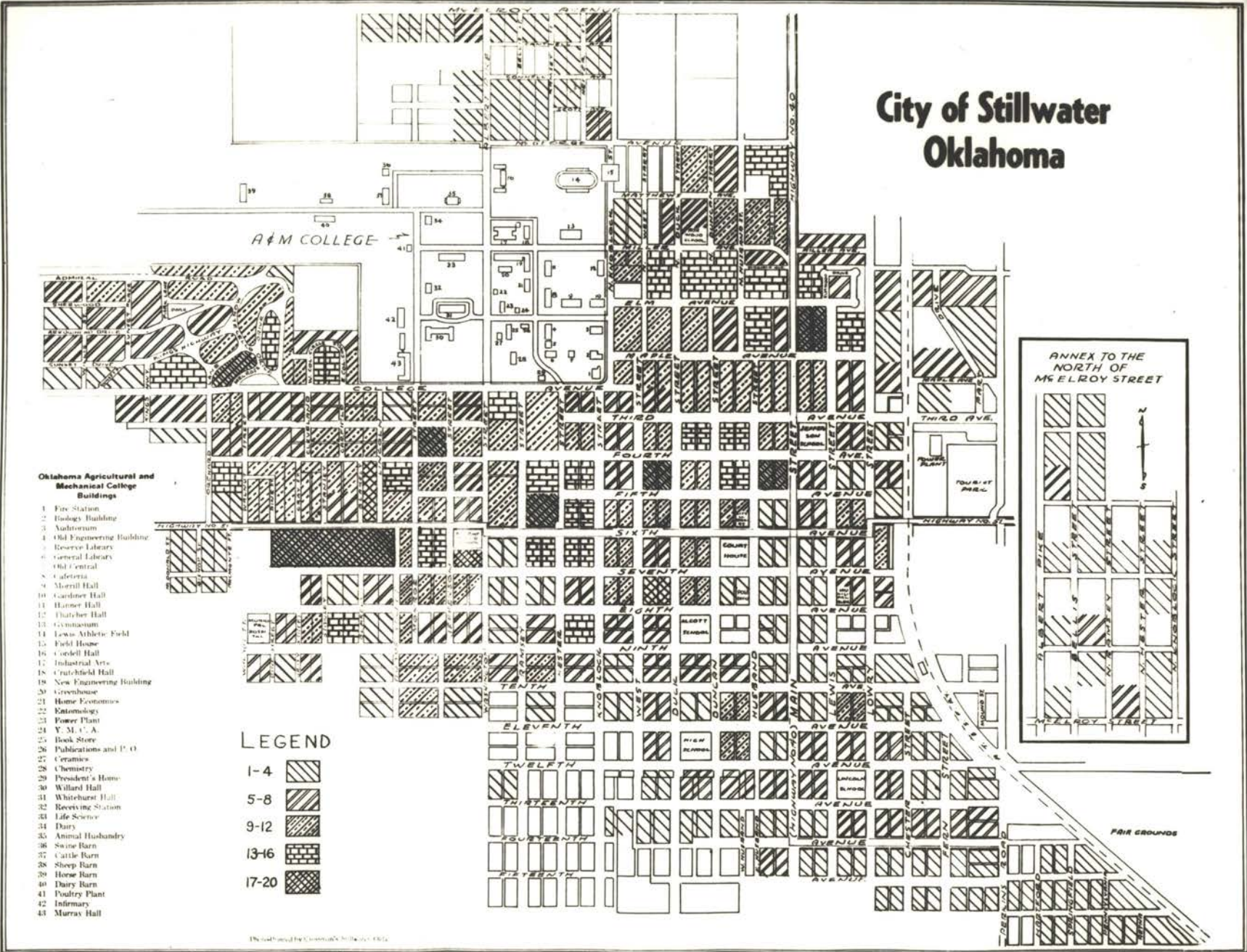


FIGURE I. THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF NINETY-EIGHT WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

City of Stillwater Oklahoma

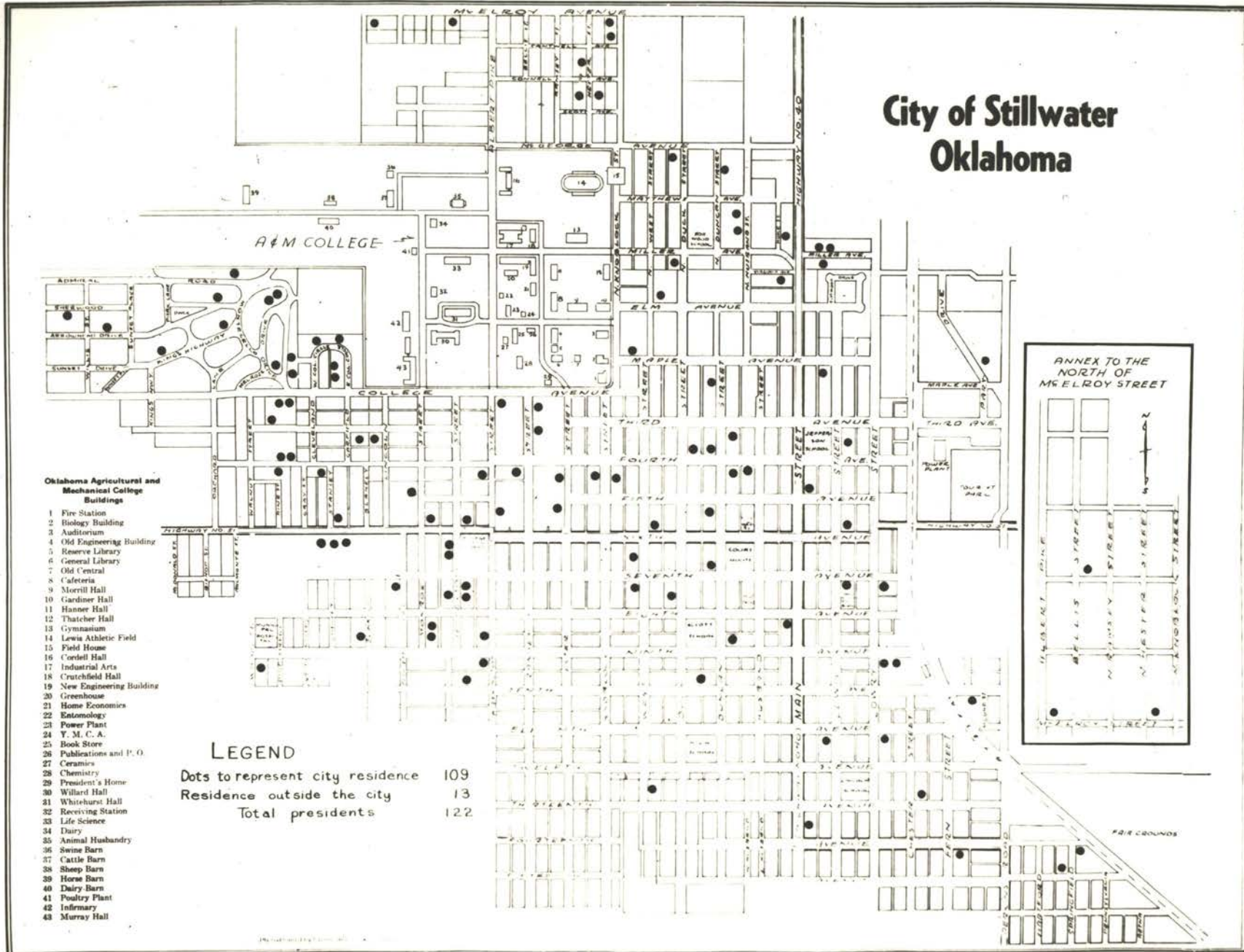


FIGURE 2. THE RESIDENTIAL LOCATION OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

The plan was carried further and a second map, Figure 2, plotted according to the addresses of the presidents to determine whether or not the same situation exists in relation to the leadership of these groups. For this, the entire list was used, which included the 122 presidents to whom questionnaires were mailed, rather than the names of only the 98 who represent the organizations in this study. Of the 122 presidents, 13 live outside the city, therefore, the tabulation shown on the map is for the remaining, 109 women. The locations represented by the presidents indicate that the group is representative of a relatively complete area of the city as was true in the case of the numbers.

While the number of women participating in group activities is important in its effect upon community life, the number of organizations to which each individual belongs is also important, both from the standpoint of individual values and community interaction. Further sorting of the cards furnished data regarding the number of organizations to which each woman belongs. This information is presented in Table 1. The study indicates that the largest number, 1,280 or 56.07 per cent of the women, limit their membership to only one organization. Less than half of that number, 522, or 22.86 per cent, belong to two groups. It is noted that the number of women decreases approximately one-half with each increase in number of organizations. It seems significant that 96.5 per cent of the women studied belong to four or less organizations. The largest enrollment for any one individual was found to be nine with only one person in that group.

Although an analysis of the type of organizations to which the individual belongs was not planned as a part of this study, an interesting

and perhaps significant trend will be mentioned which concerns the number of women who include church organizations as a part of their out-of-the-home activity. The indication seems to be that the percentage of women who are members of church groups tends to increase as the number of organizations to which they belong increases. In the case of the 1,280 women who belong to only one organization, that one organization is a church-affiliated group for only 45% or 35 per cent. Of the 522 women who belong to two organizations, 102 or 50 per cent include a church group. Other percentages indicating women who belong to organizations of a religious nature as related to number of organizations to which they belong are as follows: three organizations, 83 per cent; four organizations, 77 per cent; five organizations, 85 per cent; six organizations, 94 per cent; seven organizations, 66 per cent; eight organizations, 100 per cent; nine organizations, 100 per cent.

Table 1. Number of organizations to which women in Stillwater, Oklahoma, belong.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Number of women	1,280	522	267	134	46	17	12	4	1	2,283
Per Cent	56.07	22.86	11.70	5.87	2.01	.74	.53	.17	.04	100

The data in Table 1 also shows something of the duplication of membership in these organizations in that the 2,283 women are seen to represent 4,118 memberships. This figure was obtained by multiplying the number of organizations to which the women belong by the number of women in each corresponding classification, then by totaling the results. This number, which applies only to membership within the city,

can be compared to the total membership of 4,923, as given in Table 2, to show that 83 per cent of the membership of the organizations studied is made up of women who live in Stillwater. The remaining 17 per cent is assumed to represent the women in suburban or rural areas and neighboring towns and may be an indication of the degree of interaction between women of Stillwater and those in outlying areas.

A summary of the data regarding the membership, average attendance, and frequency of meetings as they were tabulated is shown in Table 2. A study of the size and average attendance of the different cases indicates that the size of the organization may be an important factor in relation to the regularity of attendance. It is apparent that the highest percentage of attendance is held by those organizations which show a relatively small number of members. Of those with 100 per cent of average attendance only two have a membership of more than twenty, one of these being 40 and the other 25. Further analysis of this data revealed that 19 is the average membership of the 35 organizations whose per cent of average attendance is above 75 per cent. In contrast to this, the six organizations whose per cent of average attendance is 25 per cent or below have an average membership of 109, which is much larger than those who claim the high rate of attendance. These two extremes may be compared to the averages for the entire group of 98, which stands at 52 for membership and 19 for attendance.

This trend ties in very closely with the replies to the question as to the limitations, if any, which are placed on the number of members who may belong to the organization. 69 presidents indicated that their groups placed no restriction on number of members, while 29 stated that they do place such limitations, with the numbers ranging between 11 and

Table 2. Data relative to membership, attendance, and number of meetings of organizations.

Case Number	No. of Members	Average Attendance		No. Meetings per Year	Case Number	No. of Members	Average Attendance		No. Meetings per Year
		No.	%				No.	%	
1	40	12	30	12	43	64	20	31	24
2	19	16	84	12	44	47	30	64	9
3	28	15	54	12	45	16	14	88	18
4	28	15	54	24	46	30	18	60	24
5	14	12	86	4	47	70	50	71	12
6	16	14	88	12	48	20	18	90	12
7	104	50	48	12	49	19	17	89	12
8	15	13	87	24	50	15	15	100	24
9	50	20	40	12	51	12	12	100	12
10	12	12	100	26	52	33	15	45	12
11	303	125	41	8	53	10	8	80	12
12	30	22	73	4	54	23	10	43	12
13	14	10	71	18	55	20	15	75	24
14	63	20	32	24	56	14	13	93	24
15	28	12	43	12	57	23	15	65	12
16	17	12	71	24	58	17	14	82	12
17	16	13	81	16	59	11	10	91	12
18	35	25	71	12	60	300	30	10	24
19	18	15	83	17	61	20	15	75	12
20	18	15	83	24	62	126	75	59	24
21	15	15	100	24	63	20	16	80	24
22	15	15	100	24	64	50	40	80	4
23	49	20	41	12	65	20	13	65	12
24	13	9	69	24	66	20	15	75	12
25	22	10	45	12	67	25	25	100	12
26	19	19	100	24	68	26	18	69	12
27	17	15	88	24	69	140	27	19	24
28	18	17	94	12	70	74	10	14	12
29	54	25	46	12	71	216	20	9	52
30	42	18	38	12	72	40	25	63	24
31	35	17	49	12	73	67	45	67	12
32	11	9	82	26	74	59	40	68	12
33	11	11	100	24	75	20	10	50	12
34	98	37	38	12	76	17	14	82	24
35	28	12	43	12	77	19	15	79	12
36	94	55	59	24	78	105	25	24	12
37	31	22	71	12	79	234	77	33	24
38	68	11	16	24	80	20	14	70	16
39	36	20	56	20	81	45	25	56	20
40	135	100	74	12	82	12	10	83	24
41	37	29	78	12	83	40	40	100	7
42	14	10	71	24	84	24	10	42	12

Table 2, Continued.

Case Number	No. of Members	Average Attendance		No. Meetings per Year	Case Number	No. of Members	Average Attendance		No. Meetings per Year
		No.	%				No.	%	
85	23	12	52	12	92	86	40	46	12
86	25	19	76	24	93	25	20	80	12
87	25	20	80	12	94	56	37	66	12
88	179	87	49	24	95	325	85	26	36
89	120	65	54	24	96	11	8	73	12
90	25	18	72	12	97	13	7	54	12
91	19	13	68	52	98	56	10	16	12
Totals					4923	1923	39%		
Average					52	19			

35 members, as shown in Figure 3. Without question the preferred number falls in the range between 16 and 20.

The response to the question concerning the frequency of meeting brought a variety of answers. These were interpreted in terms of number of meetings per year and are included as a part of Table 2. Three organizations meet only four times annually, whereas two meet every week. The largest number, fifty organizations, follow a regular routine of meeting once each month; the second largest group of thirty organizations hold meetings twice a month throughout the year. Some organizations meet regularly at certain intervals through eight or nine months of the year but recess for the summer months, and for that reason show an irregular meeting routine according to the tabulation.

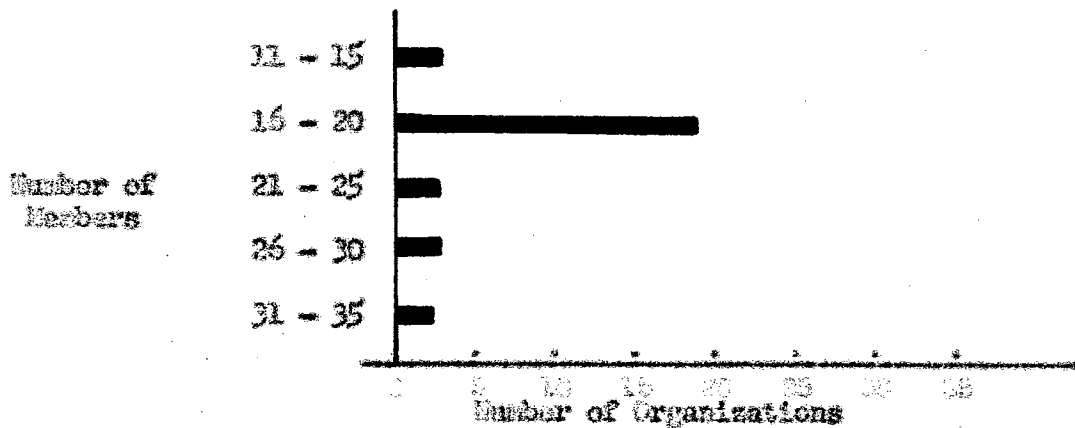


Figure 3. The Limit of Membership of the Twenty-nine Organizations

Certain standards are often set up during the process of organization which limit the membership of a group by factors other than number. These are usually determined by the needs and desires of the initial group as it decides upon a common interest or purpose which forms the basis for its function. The question directed toward this element of organization was set up with four possible ways of admitting members which were to be checked as they related to the group. Twenty-seven organizations revealed that their membership is open to any interested person. A slight qualification was added by five of these when they indicated that there is a limitation as to the number of members which the group may have. Nineteen groups admit members by voting upon the application of the prospective member; 31 accept them by invitation of the organization; and there are 41 which hold certain eligibility requirements which must be met by the prospective member. Because several organizations follow two or more of the above plans, the total of this tabulation is 118 rather than 98.

Organizations were asked to check any of the levels of other organizations, local, county or district, state, national, or international, with which they are affiliated in order to give some indication as to the

extent of interaction among organizations of the city and also with outside organizations. Only twenty-two are not affiliated with any other group. The remaining 76 are affiliated in some way with one or more groups on the various levels of organization. A summary of this indication of inter-organization is found in Table 3. Twenty-one groups are affiliated only with another local group, three with a state, and eight with a national organization. The remainder show affiliation with two or more levels of organization. Three indicated affiliation with an organization on each of the five levels.

Table 3. Levels of affiliation indicated by ninety-eight organizations

Affiliations Indicated					Number of Organizations
Local	County	State	National	Inter-National	
X					21
	X				3
			X		8
X			X		5
	X		X		11
			X	X	3
X	X		X		11
	X	X	X		5
		X	X	X	4
X	X		X	X	1
	X	X	X	X	1
X	X	X	X	X	3
Total					98

Each president was asked to give a brief statement as to the purpose or purposes of her group so that an over-all picture might be obtained concerning the aims toward which these groups are striving. According to the returns, 49 groups function for a single purpose; whereas 41 listed two purposes, seven listed three, and only one listed four. Although many of these purposes appear to be similar in nature, they were stated in a variety of ways. Therefore, an effort was made to classify these specific purposes under a few general headings, in order to determine which, if any, particular purposes are predominant among the organizations in this city. Classification of community organizations as set up by various authorities were examined, but none seemed to be entirely adaptable for use in this study. Consequently, suggestions were taken from two publications, one by the Russell Sage Foundation,¹ and the other by the Michigan Council on Adult Education,² and the following general classification was set up: (1) Social, (2) Educational, (3) Philanthropic, (4) Religious Education, (5) Youth Guidance, (6) Civic Improvement, (7) Patriotic, and (8) Professional Advancement. In this way the organizations were classified according to each specific purpose listed on the questionnaire, since there seemed to be no criteria available by which the multi-purpose type of organization could be placed under one definite heading. This classification is shown in Table 4.

¹Joanne C. Colcord, Your Community, Its Provision for Health, Education, Safety, Welfare. pp. 222-236.

²Eugene B. Elliott, "Organizing a Community Council," Report of a Committee of the Michigan Council on Adult Education. pp. 7-11.

Table 4. Classification of the purposes of ninety-eight Women's Organizations

Case No.	Stated Purposes	Social	Educational	Philanthropic	Religious Education	Youth Guidance	Civic Improvement	Patriotic	Professional Advancement
1	World temperance World peace		40	40					
2	Public Health Professional Advancement			19					19
3	Serve veterans			28					
4	Child study		28						
5	Philanthropic Aid local chapter			14		14			
6	To beautify homes						16		
7	Educational work		104						
8	Child study.		15						
9	Veteran welfare.			50					
10	Social Benevolent	12		12					
11	Foster fellowship. Promote college interests	303					303		
12	To help fraternity					30			
13	Social Mental development	14	14						
14	Sponsor youth group. Educational. Social Beneficial	63	63	63		63			

Table 4, Continued

Case No.	Stated Purposes	Social	Educational	Philanthropic	Religious Education	Youth Guidance	Civic Improvement	Patriotic	Professional Advancement
15	Promote sorority					28			
16	Social Mental development . .	17	17						
17	Social Mental development . .	16	16						
18	Home beautification. .						35		
19	Study of literature. . Friendship	18	18						
20	Study of literature. . Social	18	18						
21	Study writing		15						
22	Rest and relaxation. .	15							
23	Citizenship		49						
24	Recreation	13							
25	Friendship	22							
26	Study Sociability	19	19						
27	Friendship Intellectual development Philanthropy.	17	17	17					
28	Child welfare		18						

Table 4, Continued

Case No.	Stated Purposes	Social	Educational	Philanthropic	Religious Education	Youth Guidance	Civic Improvement	Patriotic	Professional Advancement
29	Social Philanthropy	54		54					
30	Promote boys' group					42			
31	Assist college chapter.					35			
32	Social Learn sewing	11	11						
33	Social Learn sewing	11		11					
34	Fellowship	98							
35	Minister unto others . . . Assist college group . . . Promote church interest			28	28	28			
36	Improve professionally . . Educational.		94						94
37	Social Serve active chapter	31				31			
38	Patriotic. Relief			68				68	
39	Friendship	36							
40	Friendship	135							
41	Friendship	37							
42	Child study		14						
43	Veteran welfare			64					

Table 4, Continued

Case No.	Stated Purposes	Social	Educational	Philanthropic	Religious Education	Youth Guidance	Civic Improvement	Patriotic	Professional Advancement
44	Patriotic Educational		47					47	
45	Social Educational	16	16						
46	Social Civic	30					30		
47	Entirely Social	70							
48	Home-city beautification						20		
49	Home-city beautification						19		
50	Social Mental development	15	15						
51	Study gardening Develop civic pride . .		12				12		
52	Home beautification . .						33		
53	Service work			10					
54	Veteran welfare			23					
55	Social Educational Benevolent.	20	20	20					
56	Social General Improvement	14	14						
57	Better gardens and yards						23		

Table 4, Continued

Case No.	Stated Purposes	Social	Educational	Philanthropic	Religious Education	Youth Guidance	Civic Improvement	Patriotic	Professional Development
58	Better flowers-gardens .						17		
59	Aid local chapter. Social contacts.	11				11			
60	Educate against drink. .		300						
61	Child study.		20						
62	Promote music. Sponsor junior clubs . .		126			126			
63	Educational (aviation) .		20						
64	Social	50							
65	Social contacts. Help active chapter	20				20			
66	Study		20						
67	Child study		25						
68	More beautiful lawns. . .						26		
69	Aid veterans and families			140					
70	Social Help fraternity	74				74			
71	Fraternal and social	216							
72	Social General improvement. . .	40	40						
73	Social Benevolent	67		67					

Table 4, Continued

Case No.	Stated Purposes	Social	Educational	Philanthropic	Religious Education	Youth Guidance	Civic Improvement	Patriotic	Professional Advancement
74	Friendship Assist local chapter . .	59				59			
75	Assist active chapter .					20			
76	Social enjoyment Study finer literature .	17	17						
77	Study literature		19						
78	Civic						105		
79	Further church work . . Fellowship Service and giving	234		234	234				
80	Serve church Mission work Youth work.			20	20	20			
81	Fellowship Support church	45			45				
82	Promote religion Mission work			15	15				
83	Promote church				40				
84	Religious training Mission work			24	24				
85	Church work Mission work			23	23				
86	Home religious work Foreign mission			25	25				

Table 4, Concluded

Case No.	Stated Purposes	Social	Educational	Philanthropic	Religious Education	Youth Guidance	Civic Improvement	Patriotic	Professional Advancement
87	Service to church. . . .				25				
88	Unify church activities .				179				
89	Inform of religious needs Mission work			120	120				
90	Bible study Missionary projects . . Fellowship	25		25	25				
91	Spiritual development Service to others . . .			19	19				
92	Care for church				86				
93	Develop religious leaders Promote church work . .	25			85				
94	Develop spiritual life . Develop world community. Fellowship	56		56	56				
95	Service to community . . Build Christ's kingdom .			325	325				
96	Support missions Build up spiritual life			11	11				
97	Sew for local and missions			13					
98	Sponsor church projects				56				
	Total women represented	2062	1281	1638	1381	601	639	115	113
	Total clubs	41	33	31	25	15	12	2	2

It should be noted that the general classes of purposes are arranged in an order corresponding to the number of organizations designating each as a purpose. Instead of merely placing a check to indicate the classification given each purpose, the number of members of the organization was placed in the corresponding column; thus, it is possible to determine not only the number of groups which function for a given purpose, but also the number of women giving support to that purpose.

In some instances it was necessary to use personal judgment in classifying these purposes. In such cases the type of projects listed became the deciding factor as was true in the case of two sewing clubs. The purpose as stated in one report was "to learn sewing"; another was more briefly stated as "sewing." The first was interpreted as an educational purpose because of the indicated desire to learn; whereas, the contributions of the second indicated the sewing was done for charitable purposes and it was classified as philanthropic. In another case the word, fraternal, was listed as a purpose. Webster defines a fraternal society as "one organized for the pursuit of some common object by working together in brotherly union." Thus, the term is seen to be synonymous to "club" as it applies to each organization in this study, and no classification was attempted for it. In interpreting the purposes of religious organizations, those which indicated the promotion of general church programs were classified as "religious education" and those indicating missionary activities were checked as being "philanthropic." Philanthropy, according to Webster, is the "spirit of active good will toward one's fellow men, shown in efforts to promote their welfare."

The totals which summarize the purposes are shown at the end of

Table 4 both in terms of the number of clubs representing that purpose and also of the number of women. Forty-nine presidents listed only one item as the purpose behind her organization; but, of that 49, only nine indicated that purpose to be social. Out of the entire 98, however, a larger number listed the social purpose than any other, with 41 groups, representing 2,062 women, giving this as one of their purposes.

The second ranking purpose according to number of organizations is educational, with 39 groups working in some way for that purpose. The number of women representing this group is 1,281, which is fewer than the 1,636 belonging to the 31 organizations functioning for a philanthropic purpose.

There was an excellent response to the question concerning the projects sponsored by the organizations during the one year period, with only sixteen making no statement. Of that sixteen, seven signified that the group had been organized during that time.

The projects listed were classified in the same manner as the purposes, however, there was an even greater degree of over-lapping in the projects than in the purposes. As an example, many listed their contributions to various schools with no indication given as to the type of school. Such projects might be correctly interpreted as either educational or philanthropic. Consistency was followed in that, if the contribution was made to a particular school, it was classified as philanthropic; but if the project was set up as an educational fund or for a scholarship, it was termed as educational.

Throughout this analysis it was noticeable that practically all projects listed were for the promotion of the well-being of people out-

side the group itself. Even the few projects listed which were of a social nature were for the most part planned to benefit others. They were,

Organization of two new clubs to help new people become acquainted in Stillwater.

Barbecue-dance at Veterans' Village.

A social each month for entire families.

Neighborhood picnics in summer.

Silver Tea for Stillwater Mission.

Meals served for church functions.

There were other projects listed which were of the social type, but, because they were for the social and recreational benefit of certain youth or college groups, they will be discussed later under the heading of youth guidance.

The projects included in the returns which were interpreted to be educational, represent efforts to further education of people from local to world communities. No grouping was made of these except as they represent actual projects aside from financial contributions to educational funds. It should be noted that the majority of presidents, even those representing organizations with "intellectual development" as a stated purpose, apparently did not consider their regular study programs to be projects. This difference in interpretation must be considered before evaluating the number of study topics listed, however, it is believed that those given are significant,

Civic needs and city government.

Educational problems in Stillwater.

Legislative matters concerning women.

Tax structure of Oklahoma.

Need for constitutional convention.

General information related to the State of Oklahoma.

The international situation.

Social problems.

The second group of educational projects are those designed to place

educational influences within the reach of the entire citizenry.

Sponsored art contests in the public schools.
 Sponsored an art project at Stillwater mission.
 Each of three groups held a community meeting featuring an out-of-town speaker.
 Sponsored the "Get Out the Vote" project before election time.
 Began a drive, "Know Your Town's Future."
 Sponsored drive to influence legislation to keep prohibition.
 Made donation of books to the city library.
 Launched the idea of the "Story Hour Lady" radio program, now on local station.

A number of cash donations for educational purposes were listed which are seen to express concern for the advancement of education through assistance to local high school students as well as by making possible graduate study in other countries.

A five-dollar donation to National Speakers' Fund.
 To Clara Barton Memorial Fund for training nurses.
 Three contributions were made to scholarship funds.
 To an educational loan fund.
 To a student-aid fund.
 A loan fund was set up for local junior and senior high school girls.
 To a grant for promotion of post-graduate study here and abroad.
 Active support to Abigail Davis Student-Loan Fund.
 1851 Memorial Fellowship Fund.

The concern of Stillwater women for the welfare of their fellow-beings from the local community to the remote corners of the world is expressed in the projects which were reported and have been classified as philanthropic. Cash contributions were evidently interpreted as projects by the group who submitted the questionnaires and will be treated as such in this study. Beginning with those related to the local community, these projects will be discussed in an attempt to show the scope of the influence exerted by the women's organizations of Stillwater.

Three organizations listed as a project the remembrance of the sick, shut-ins, aged, or bereaved with cards or flowers; another group subscribes to the local, daily paper for a shut-in member; whereas one organization

gives a shower for each prospective mother of the group.

The Stillwater Mission was the object of many charitable offerings made by the various groups. This institution apparently serves in some degree as a clearinghouse for gifts to the local needy and underprivileged.

Those mentioned are listed briefly,

Cash donations were made by eight organizations.

Several groups jointly sponsored a Silver Tea with offerings given to the Mission.

Four groups sent bundles or boxes of clothing.

Two sewing groups each made stuffed toys for Christmas.

One group gave a complete baby layette.

A collection of juvenile books and magazine were given by study group.

One group gave white Bibles to be presented to children.

Eight organizations listed projects for helping a local needy family during the year. Five of these were merely listed, whereas three described their contributions in great detail.

Our Club adopted a needy family with six children, remembering their birthdays, giving them Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets of food, clothing, and toys.

Help to a widowed mother with six children, from Christmas 1947, to the present, including clothing, food, household equipment.

Packed a Christmas box of foods and sent clothes for a year to a family of ten.

Two outstanding projects sponsored for benefit of the health of children were the Speech-Hearing Clinic for the detection of such defects in children and the Cod-Liver Oil Fund. Other charitable projects directed toward the local community included gifts of baby gowns to the Stillwater hospital by three organizations. One of these gifts was said to have consisted of seventy-six garments. One organization made baby garments for veterans' wives, and another raised money for a cash donation to the Stillwater old people's home. Eight donations were made to the Red Cross, three to the Community Chest, one to the Cancer Fund, and one to the

March of Dimes. Three cooperated with a veteran group in the city in raising funds for the purchase of a resuscitator which is kept at a local fire station for emergency use.

A number of projects were promoted for the purpose of helping various causes in other parts of our country and also in foreign fields. One group mentioned cooperation with a "national philanthropic program," others showed contributions made to an interesting variety of specific projects, which evidently are sponsored by the national organization with which each cooperating group is affiliated. Those listed were the Leonard Wood Foundation for Leprosy, the Cottey College Welfare Fund, the National Auricular Foundation, the national project for cerebral palsy, and the National Hearing-Aid Fund.

The diversity, both as to materials contributed and in the places or institutions which the local groups felt to be in need of these contributions, can only be shown by listing those as they appeared on the questionnaires.

Two groups sent Christmas boxes to Will Rogers Hospital. Shower of jelly, toilet articles, and cigarettes for hospital at Norman. Each of two organizations supports a girl in the orphans' home in Talequah.
 Box was sent to Texhoma mission.
 A donation to rest home in Texas.
 Supplied necessities for a child in home for orphan children of veterans.
 One group sent two layettes to church mission in Tennessee.
 Clothing and bedding sent to Hazel Green Academy in Kentucky.
 Auditorium chair for Tamassee school.

Cash donations were directed to,

Crippled Children's Hospital in Oklahoma city.
 Bethlehem Girls' Center in Oklahoma City.
 Masonic home for aged.

Masonic children's home.
 School of Logopedics, Wichita, Kansas.
 Ethel Baptist Home, Cedartown, Georgia.
 Sacane Indian School.
 Crossnore School in Virginia.

Other contributions were made to the welfare of people in other countries,

Eight organizations listed cash donations to foreign relief, one specifying the amount as six hundred dollars.
 Sponsored drives for used clothing to go to foreign relief.
 One group sponsored a "Tak-a-Towel Project" for youth in Europe.
 Clothing was sent by one group to Japan and South America, by another to the Philippines.
 Food and clothing for an English family was the project of one club.
 One group contributed three woolen blankets to European relief; another sent quilts.
 Several groups cooperated in a national "Seeds for Peace" project to help Europe begin production of crops.

For the most part, religious organizations did not list their study programs as projects, therefore their functions are reflected mainly in the material assistance given by each to the church with which it cooperates. All such activities are classified as religious education since their basic purpose is assumed to be the furtherance of the church program in all its aspects. These projects as found on the questionnaires are,

Study classes on prayer, Bible, and world peace.
 Organization of a missionary circle in Veterans' Village.
 Mission study luncheons.
 Christian books were sent to school in Philippine Islands.
 Supplied teachers for Sunday School classes.
 Four groups assume responsibility for nursery during church services.
 Raised funds for new pulpit furniture.
 Contributed to organ fund for local church.
 Contributed financially to purchases of electric organ.
 Redecorated pastor's study.
 Purchased movie projector for local church.

Purchased recording machine for church.
 Purchased a picture for the church parlor.
 Scholarship for student in school for Christian workers.
 Helped re-decorate church.
 Supplied literature for negro church.
 Contributed money to negro church.
 Purchased silverware, punch bowl, and kitchen equipment for church.

As in the case of purposes, the projects which indicate particular concern for the young people of the community are classified as youth guidance, although they may be social, educational, religious, or otherwise. Here they are presented in two groups, the first showing those related to activities of college student-organizations, particularly sororities and fraternities, and the second to include all other youth

Rush parties for the local chapter.
 Aiding local chapter.
 Advising local chapter.
 Re-decorated chapter house.
 Re-decorated basement rooms of chapter house.
 Assisted with house projects.
 Scholarship award for pledges.
 Crocheted fifty place mats and purchased silver service for chapter.

projects within the city,

Refreshments are served to DeMolay boys after each special initiation or degree program.
 Father-son banquet for DeMolay boys.
 Sponsored barbecue-dance at Veterans' Village.
 Sponsorship of Loyal Temperance Legion, an organization of teen-age youth.
 Sponsorship of Children of the American Revolution.
 Organization of a new unit of the Junior Music Club, and continued sponsorship of five such groups previously organized with awards given for progress.
 Sponsored high school girl at Girls' State.
 Sponsored a representative to Girls' State.
 Sponsors the High-School-Girl-of-the-Month.
 Awards were given at the high school for Girl Homemaker, Good Citizenship, American History, and Civics.
 Sponsorship of group of young girls in Christian organization.
 Sponsored Youth Rally for young people of the church.
 Serves a breakfast once each month to church members who are college students.

A number of worth-while projects which were interpreted as contributing to the improvement of the city were undertaken during the past year. Six garden clubs listed home beautification as a project and had helped to sponsor a flower show as a contribution toward building civic pride. One of these groups donated hyacinth bulbs to be planted in Fair Park; another launched a long-range project for the beautification of the north approach of Washington Street; and another sponsored a street-drainage project in its local neighborhood. Several organizations indicated cooperation with the civic clubs of the city on the Fourth of July carnival which was an effort to raise money for a recreation fund. The project of one organization had as its purpose the maintenance of a ladies' lounge in a downtown store for public use; another group furnished a ladies' lounge at the municipal airport. The latter group also sponsored a project for the airmarking of the small towns surrounding Stillwater.

Only one item was listed as a project which could be termed patriotic, namely, the presentation of United States flags to three schools and one church. No project was interpreted as being related to professional advancement.

The question regarding the cooperation between organizations brought response from seventy-one groups with only twenty-seven making no statement. Thirty-seven cited cooperation with one other organization; 21 worked in some way with two other groups; eight indicated cooperation with three groups; and five worked with as many as four. Frequent mention was made of cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, the Department of Public Welfare, the Stillwater Public Schools, the Ministerial Alliance, the Recreation Board, the Home Life Department of the college, the Youth

Activity Council, the Army Advisory Committee, the American Veterans Committee, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, the Industrial Arts Society, Stillwater Pan-Hellenic, the Hotel Airplane Club, the Parent-Teacher Association, the International Relations Club of the college, the City Library, and the local churches.

Only 74 organizations responded to the question concerning the most worth-while contribution. These contributions, as in the case of the projects, seemed to fall into a logical classification pattern corresponding to that of the purposes. The number of contributions in each of these classes are: ten social, 16 educational, 34 philanthropic, six religious, five youth guidance, two civic improvement, and one patriotic. There was none which could be interpreted as professional advancement.

For the most part, the contributions were chosen from the list of projects already discussed, therefore only the typical replies, along with the more significant statements as to evidences will be presented in detail.

There were a number which indicated the social values, or friendship, as it was usually termed. The following viewpoints are considered not only typical, but expressive of the value of social contacts:

Sponsoring the organization of a group with membership open to any student-wife. Since this organization was just started on this campus last year, we feel that the most important contribution of the year was the seeking out of many student-wives for the purpose of getting them acquainted with other wives. Evidence that this was a contribution is seen by the increase in membership from 50 to 135 girls and the expression of the members that this club has helped them become adjusted to living in their new environment.

Lasting friendships were formed among families of similar interests. When common interests are shared, there is always personality development. It made the stay in Stillwater for these girls more pleasant.

Our club is divided into small hobby groups (hiking, bridge, book review, cookery, sewing, and others) which develop closer friendships between newcomers. This opportunity for close association is our most important contribution. Many have said their friends of today are those they met in this organization when they first came to the A. & M. campus.

That the educational contributions made by the various organizations are worth-while is borne out by examples of their present effectiveness. According to the statement of one president, the art projects and contests sponsored during the year led to the teaching of that subject in the Stillwater schools. The continuance of the Story Hour Lady as a radio program is accepted by its initiators as evidence of its success; comments from grown-ups and children provide additional proof of its popularity. The contribution of books to the city library is believed to be worth-while because "people show a real live interest in good literature." The organization which sponsored the "Get Out the Vote" project received commendation from many people which was evidence that it was a valuable piece of work. In cases of donations to educational funds, there is satisfaction in the knowledge that some young person is continuing her education.

The organizations whose best work was felt to be in the philanthropic field saw evidence of values primarily in the statement of appreciation given by the recipients. In the case of assistance to a local family a typical expression of the evidence was, "The gratitude of the mother; the improved morale of the family." Letters were received from foreign people in some cases; in others the only information came from items seen in various publications.

Those who contributed to the resuscitator fund see evidence of the value of their work in that lives have already been saved in Stillwater.

Two of the religious contributions cited as outstanding were, "Several girls and women have become more interested in missions," and "Soul-winning."

Among the contributions toward civic improvement, the evidence of value in providing the fence for the foot-ball field and in the Fourth of July Carnival were stated,

The fence was completed and is used. The carnival proved to be good to stimulate better relationship and cooperation. It also kept commercial companies from coming in. The money will be used for recreational equipment.

That group devoting time and talent to working with youth expressed satisfaction as to the value of their efforts in such statements as,

Fellowship, advising, counseling with college girls; better understanding.
 Fine group of pledges and actives.
 The love and esteem in which the women are held by the girls.
 Success is proved by the interest and enthusiasm of the children.

The question regarding present community needs which are being met by no organization brought no replies from 52 presidents. The statements of nine of the women indicated their satisfaction with the community as it is; the remaining 37 listed a variety of items which they believe are needed in the community. The need for recreational facilities seemed to take precedence over all others, this factor appearing as a need on 29 returned questionnaires. Four of these related the need to the total community, whereas seven cited the need only as it affects the youth group. The statement of one showed a recognition of the needs of negro as well as white youth. Eight believed a community building or city recreation center to be the primary need. Tennis courts and a municipal swimming pool were each seen as needs by one group. Seven listed more adequate

park and playground areas, preferably to be located in all sections of the city. Supervision of play areas and recreational programs by trained personnel was suggested by several presidents along with the above needs. One president offered the suggestion that a director of community activities be employed to work with a planning group for the advancement of recreation and other community projects.

Three presidents cited the need for more adequate school facilities, one of these stressing the need for a public kindergarten for pre-school children and designating this to be the responsibility of the city, not of any one organization. One need was cited in relation to the colored high-school which the president apparently feels to be a responsibility of the white population of the city, "The colored high school needs uniforms for their band. They are pitiful looking in their ragged uniforms and their fans are mostly white people who could appreciate their neat appearance."

Further concern for the needs of the colored racial minority of the city was expressed in the statements of two presidents,

More healthful living conditions for negroes and some white people. Cooperation between negroes and whites in raising living standards, securing more nearly equal rights for the two groups, and developing the spirit of mutual understanding.

Three reports listed as a need the proper handling of garbage and means of keeping the streets and alleys free of trash and papers. A sanitary rest room down town was listed by one president as a need.

Better health facilities was seen as a need by one president, and another felt that hearing and visual needs of children should be given more attention. "Free medical care for the aged in cases of minor ailments, especially the provision of glasses," was listed as a need in one instance.

More small churches in the various sections of Stillwater are needed, according to the reports of two presidents. In the matter of religious needs, another expressed the need for "systematic city-wide visitation among the un-churched and regular anti-narcotics instruction of youth." Two presidents feel that a city of this size should have a YCA and a YWCA for the city as well as for the campus.

Additional miscellaneous needs which were listed on the questionnaires are,

Better traffic regulation.
 Adequate street markers.
 Interest the majority in the community as a whole.
 More study clubs for busy people.
 Beautification of streets and highways into the city.
 Center of Buck Street should be paved or beautified.
 A group of veterans' wives have no social or mental contacts.
 A clearing-house or distributing agency for used clothing and household items that still have value but have served their purpose with the owner.
 Children placed in foster homes by the Department of Public Welfare should be remembered at Christmas.

Some interesting comments were made by the women who were unable to think of any particular need in the city. A few of these were,

A hypodermic needle to wake up people to the advantages they have in Stillwater, period:
 We feel most community needs are being taken care of.
 None. I think Stillwater is far superior in meeting community needs than other towns of its size.
 Preserve the resources we already have.
 Am not sure I know of any not being met.
 We feel that the community of Stillwater is probably over-organized.

CONCLUSIONS

The point has been made that participation in community activities is not only the privilege of modern woman, but it is her obligation, regardless of her position as wife, mother, or citizen. In connection with this belief comes recognition of the fact that consideration of mental and social needs of individuals is equal in importance to that of physical welfare; and women's organizations have come to be one of the principal mediums through which women seek to fulfill these needs. Because of the multiplicity of such groups functioning within the average American community of today, many people are prone merely to look at the number and assume that a community is over-organized. However, if the facts of the case were studied the opposite would likely be found true in many instances. This opinion, because it has so often been expressed in regard to the community of Stillwater, was one of the basic assumptions of this investigation.

The facts concerning the number of women participating in the 98 organizations and the number of organizations to which the majority of these women belong, indicates that this community is not over-organized. It was found that 37 per cent, or 2,283, of the 6,153 women of the city are members of the 98 organizations studied. The reader will remember that the 98 organizations represented 80 per cent of those contacted. It must be recognized that these groups are organized to the extent that they are publicized through the press, and there may be numerous other informal groups functioning but of which no record was found. Thus, it can be assumed that there is some participation in community activities by the

63 per cent of Stillwater women who do not belong to the organizations studied, although no facts are known in this regard.

A conclusion as to the validity of the second assumption, which pointed up the common belief that the total membership of the women's organizations may be representative of only a small per cent of the women of the city, cannot be reached without giving thought to other possibilities relative to the 63 per cent who were not found to be members of the organizations studied. The participating 37 per cent may not be startlingly low in consideration of the fact that there are many working women in Stillwater. Large numbers are employed with business establishments, and as many or more are connected with the college. It, too, is known that there are many young mothers in the city whose home responsibilities restrict their community activities. Even so, it is reasonable to believe that there are too many women in the city who have no part in organizational activities. In this there is a challenge to all the forces of the community interested in the promotion of adult education by any or all means. Further study is needed to find out why more of these people do not take part in community organizations, and what values are received by those who do.

The study revealed that both the club membership and the leadership is representative of the entire residential section of the city with the exception of the colored area which was not included as a part of this study. This is recognized as an encouraging factor in the organizational effectiveness of the city in that no section is entirely without contact with some form of group work. This is believed to be a democratic tendency in that there is no section of the city which is totally adverse

to such activities, nor is there any section which is not accepted by the groups of the city. Throughout the tabulation of the membership, the writer was conscious of the fact that all areas of the city were represented in the majority of the groups. The exception was seen primarily in the case of garden clubs, which seem to be organized on the neighborhood-group plan, with units representing all sections of the city. These units work together in matters of common concern as the General Garden Club. This characteristic of city-wide participation in group activities may have significance should a future effort be made to expand participation in group activities, in that contacts could be readily made by the already-active members living in areas throughout the city. It has current significance in that it is a democratic attitude which cuts through all social and economic strata and prevents any dividing line between various levels of social interaction.

The analysis of the size of the various organizations indicates that there may be greater and more consistent interest in the small organization as evidenced by three facts, (1) the majority of organizations which limit their membership place that limitation within the range of from 16 to 20, (2) the higher per cent of attendance for the entire group was found mainly in organizations whose size came within this same range, and (3) the average attendance of the 98 organizations was found to be nineteen. The division of many of the larger organizations into hobby or common interest groups for all functions except general business or major social affairs bears out the belief that more can be accomplished by small groups working together. This division of membership plan is carried out by the larger church groups in that they are divided into

A STUDY OF MEMBERSHIP, PURPOSES, AND ACTIVITIES
OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS IN STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

small units for the major part of their work. Thus, there is afforded opportunity for more leadership development and individual growth, with more people participating actively and assuming personal responsibility for whatever program of work is undertaken. The large organization gives opportunity to touch elbows, as it were, with many people, but such contacts appear to be more casual and leave the individual somewhat isolated from close friends. Small organizations, on the other hand, serve to bring individuals into closer contact, and give those participating that sense of security and of being accepted as one of a group, which is so essential to human well being. Social activities of this nature tend to keep alive and develop further a community spirit, the lack of which has been a matter of great concern by sociologists and educators.

Examination of the purposes indicates that most organizations have some interest, more or less direct, in the social and civic affairs of the community, and express this interest in their activities. These purposes, in the order of their frequency, were: social, educational, philanthropic, religious education, youth guidance, civic improvement, patriotic, and professional advancement. Not too much significance is placed on the fact that the social purpose predominates, in view of the belief that fellowship and social values are derived from any group activity. Thus, the social value might have been listed as a justifiable purpose or result achieved by each organization. The types of projects carried out even by those who gave the social purpose top listing, indicate that it is a purpose only as it stimulates interest and attendance and contributes to individual satisfaction. It may be seen as a means to an end, rather than as the end in itself. The genial atmosphere of the dinner meeting

or luncheon group is conducive to pleasant relationships and better understanding among people. Many civic clubs for men operate on the philosophy that people cannot sit down at a table to talk and eat together without reaching a greater degree of mutual understanding. It is common knowledge that in the business world many important transactions are agreed upon across a luncheon table. It can be seen that social interaction, then, may have value to the community in ways other than as it contributes to the happiness and personal development of the individual.

A favorable indication was seen in the apparent awareness of the educational needs of the city. Study groups exist in fields of literature, child-parent relationships, music, and civic and governmental problems. Projects carried out show some evidence that there is a realization of the responsibility toward the whole community as well as improvement of the group itself. In an evaluation of projects for cultural advancement, it should be understood that true progress is made by the provision of a special program, musical or otherwise, only as it stimulates further enjoyment of that particular interest as it can be provided in the community. That is to say the most constructive program for cultural influence will consist primarily of continuous participation in local activities rather than occasional programs from the outside which demand only a passive reaction. The existence of hobby groups indicates that cultural influences are at work in that connection. The work of one organization in instituting the teaching of art as a subject in the public schools is an effort which may have long-range results.

Interest in a recreational program of the city was evidenced by its being recognized as a paramount need, but apparently not a great deal is

being done about it. A wholesome interest is seen in that there are a number of women working with youth groups. These, however, are primarily mothers' groups or alumnae of college groups. Certain groups of city children are sponsored by the various organizations, however, with the exception of church groups, there is comparatively little indication of effort to provide guidance for youth unless they happen to be members of certain more or less restricted groups such as Rainbow or De Molay.

A large number of purposes and projects were listed which indicate a high degree of concern on the part of Stillwater women for the welfare of the less fortunate from the local to the world community. Even in the rating of the outstanding contribution, the majority listed some philanthropic endeavor. Before accepting this to be a fact of great significance, it should be noted that the word, contribution, may have been interpreted in terms of a gift or cash donation by those submitting the questionnaires, since the word is so often used in that respect.

The diversity seen in the directions of the various charitable efforts suggests that in this particular area there is an outstanding need for some coordination of the total program in order to eliminate duplication of some efforts and total neglect of other acute needs. Although all contributions were directed to some apparently worthy cause, a need is seen for the clearing-house suggested by one president. It is believed that the coordination of this work would alleviate such of the acute need of the community by working with the public welfare agencies which usually are bound by rules and regulations limiting them largely to categorical assistance and rendering them helpless to assist in cases

of emergency. As it is, the projects and contributions of this nature make quite a sizeable list of accomplishments. Certainly there is a psychological advantage to be achieved in a situation where each group knows what others are doing. Cooperation on worth-while projects would bring more outstanding gains, which, along with a knowledge that the public is aware and appreciative of the accomplishment, would seem to be a powerful motivating force for further group action.

The need expressed in relation to neighborhood parks and recreation facilities indicates that the city has reached the point in its growth where there is a need for some central community building and auditorium for holding meetings which are of interest to people from all areas of the city. In addition to this there should be encouragement toward the development of live community spirit in each of the local or neighborhood sections of the city. The community council has been successful in accomplishing this purpose in many communities.

Evidence points toward a favorable degree of cooperation among the various organizations in this study and also with outside groups and agencies. This, in turn, indicates that the time may be ripe for the organization of a community council to assist in the solution of local community problems. The philosophy of community planning as it has been carried out in most cases has been to find ways of helping communities help themselves through the efforts of their own citizens. This is based on the democratic principle that everyone should not only have the opportunity for choice, but must desire to use that choice in determining his way of living, then go further and achieve the desired results. Some community programs have employed people trained in community development.

However, when this is done, there must be lay-leaders in the community who are familiar with the program so that it will continue to move forward, even when the professional leader has moved on to a new field.

Here then, are seen some implications which this study may have for home economics education. As community leaders and as members of organizations, home economists must be alert to opportunities for creating interest in group studies of homemaking activities. Home economics educators agree that home and family life education cuts through all areas of learning and is concerned with any movement for the benefit of the individual. Never the less, the study of the purposes and activities of the local groups revealed a relatively small amount of group work which is directly related to the subject matter field of home economics. The child study groups and garden clubs were perhaps the only two types of organizations interested in this field. By interesting the already-active members of organizations and developing interest in new people, women's organizations and home economics education could take significant places in the field of adult education.

To one taking a longer view, it can be seen that if a higher degree of participation by homemakers in constructive community activities is secured for the future, more time must be spent in school in impressing upon the individual his responsibility to the community. High school and college students could be imbued with a greater sense of appreciation for city government, a respect for it, and greater understanding of its imperfections, as well as the responsibility of each to do his best to improve it.

Perhaps more emphasis should be placed on leadership training to

develop the confidence which seems to be lacking in women. The writer believes many women would enjoy some form of group activity, social or otherwise, but that they lack the initiative to take the lead in bringing about such an organization among acquaintances and others of similar interests.

With proper emphasis placed on these factors in the training of the high school and college girl of today, it is believed that the housewife of tomorrow could be expected to take her place with a deeper feeling of responsibility to the community in return for its contributions to her own individual and family life. The confidence gained through local leadership, then, would doubtless lead the American woman into wider activity in matters of state, national, and international concern.

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Oklahoma
Agricultural and Mechanical College
Division of Home Economics
STILLWATER

Department of Home Economics Education

Because of our interest in Stillwater as a community, and because of the differences of opinions often expressed regarding the usefulness of women's organizations to a community, the Department of Home Economics Education of A. & M. College is conducting a study of these groups in this city. It is our purpose to obtain information concerning the scope of membership and activities which may be of value to our Community Development Program which is now underway.

We are contacting every active Stillwater women's organization known to us. The president of each of these is being asked to give information which we believe will be an indication of the influence of women's groups in this community. We feel that every group, regardless of size, type, or purposes **must** be included if the results are to have true meaning. We hope to make your organization a part of this study and will appreciate your cooperation.

Information needed is shown by the enclosed questionnaire. In addition to this, a list of the names and addresses of members of your organization is needed. The names will be used only to determine the number of organizations to which the average Stillwater woman belongs and the number of women in all groups, while addresses will show the geographical distribution and the areas actually served by organizations. You may be assured that no names will be mentioned in the report or revealed in any way.

A stamped, self-addressed envelop is enclosed for your convenience in returning this information. May we have your reply by November 20th?

If you would like to receive a summary of the findings, please indicate by placing a check mark in the space provided at bottom of letter and return with questionnaire.

May I thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Millie Pearson

Millie V. Pearson, Head
Home Economics Education
School of Home Economics

Enclosure

 Upon completion of study, I desire to receive summary of findings.

Oklahoma
Agricultural and Mechanical College
Division of Home Economics
STILLWATER

Office of the Dean

In checking over the returned questionnaires regarding women's organizations in Stillwater, we find that your report has not reached us.

The general response has been excellent, however, the picture is incomplete without your organization.

We realize fully that these are busy times for you, and you may have overlooked our request. We are, therefore, enclosing another questionnaire together with the original letter for your convenience. If your membership list is too burdensome to copy, or if it is not convenient for you to do so, we would be glad to make the copy from your list and return the original to you if you will so indicate.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,



Millie V. Pearson, Head
Home Economics Education
School of Home Economics

MVP
Enc.

The Registrar has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

Very respectfully,
Registrar

It is to be noted that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. The Registrar has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

Very respectfully,
Registrar

Very respectfully,
Registrar

Very respectfully,
Registrar

Very respectfully,
Registrar

OKLAHOMA A & M COLLEGE
Division of Home Economics
Home Economics Education Department

Directions: Please answer every question as it relates to your organization.
If additional space is needed use back of sheet.

NAME OF ORGANIZATION _____

1. What is the present total membership of your organization? _____

2. Do you limit the number of members? Yes (how many) _____ No _____

3. Check the way your members are selected:
 membership open to any interested person
 application of prospective member voted upon
 by invitation of organization
 certain eligigility requirements are met

4. How often does organization meet? _____

5. What is the average attendance at meetings? _____

6. Check if your group is affiliated with other organizations on any of the following levels: _____ local; _____ county; _____ state; _____ national; _____ international.

7. State briefly the purposes of the organization, _____

8. What projects were sponsored by your group during period from September 1947, to September 1948? _____

9. List other Stillwater organizations with which you cooperated, either through joint projects or meetings and state the nature of this cooperation:

Organization	Cooperation
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

10. What do you feel has been the most worthwhile contribution your organization has made during the past year? _____

11. What evidences do you have that this was a real contribution? _____

12. List community needs which you feel are not being met in Stillwater by any organization. _____

PLEASE INCLUDE A LIST OF THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF YOUR MEMBERS!

Genevieve E. Huber
Typed By

Lucile Loney
Typed By