

STRATHMORE

100% RAG

To My Wife

Lorraine

STRATHMORE PARCHMENT

100% RAG U.S.A.

A STUDY OF FAMILY RECREATION AND  
LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES

By

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A STUDY OF FAMILY RECREATION AND  
LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Family recreation and leisure time activities are the result of so many variables, they appear so commonly and in such a variety of forms, they involve such a large number of elements, and their results are so subtle and so far reaching that any definition or explanation necessarily must be partial and incomplete.

The Dictionary of Sociology (4) gives the following definition of leisure:

Free time after the practical necessities of life have been attended to. The adjective leisure means being unoccupied by the practical necessities, as, leisure hours. The adverb leisure applies to slow, deliberate, unhurried undertakings; conceptions of leisure vary from the arithmetical one of time devoted to work, sleep, and other necessities, subtracted from 24 hours---which gives the surplus time---to the general notion of leisure and the time which one uses as he pleases.

According to the same source (4) recreation includes:

Any activity pursued during leisure, either individual or collective, that is free and pleasurable, having its own immediate appeal, not impelled by a delayed reward beyond itself or by any immediate necessity. Recreation includes play, games, sports, athletics, relaxation, pastimes, certain amusements, art forms, hobbies, and avocations. A recreational activity may be engaged in during any age period of the individual, the particular action being determined by the time element, the condition and attitude of the person, and the environmental situation.

Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (17) defines leisure as "freedom afforded by exemption from occupation or business;



time free from employment; time free from engagement; hence, convenience; ease." The same dictionary (17) defines recreation as "refreshment of strength and spirits after toil; diversion or a mode of diversion; play."

From the National Conference of Family Life (12) the following definition is suggested: "Recreation is defined as the activity which is voluntarily engaged in during the time when activity is not determined by economic, biological or religious needs."

For the purpose of this study family recreation and leisure time activities include those activities in which any two members of the same family engage together for enjoyment.

#### REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Of the literature that has been written about leisure time and recreation, little pertains to the family as an interacting group, and even less has been written that is based on scientific research. The majority of the current magazine articles and books stress for the most part recreation for the individual. One of the most revealing results of the writer's review of the literature is the discovery of the lack of published material on family recreation or leisure time activities designed especially for family members participating together.

The literature emphasizes the increase in leisure time and, therefore, the need for more family recreation. The evidence suggests that there is probably more time for families to spend together now than at any other time in history.

In early history leisure was regarded with suspicion and considered "the devil's workshop". As late as 1672 (3) laws were passed against singing, fiddling, and piping. In 1674, (3) by judicial decision, it was ordered that a tailor and his equal might not race horses. From these and other laws it seems that leisure could be afforded only by the socially distinct; thus developed the idea of a "leisure class".

Steiner (13) states that during the 1920's play for the first time took its place alongside of work and was recognized as one of the major interests of life.

Now, leisure is the right of all, and though there are still some leisure "inebriates", the idea has grown until today we realize that some time free from strenuous work is necessary in a well balanced scheme of living.

Labor saving devices have given families more time and energy, and improved transportation has given families greater opportunities for leisure time. According to the Twentieth Century Fund (16) the standard work week in non-agricultural occupations in the United States declined by more than a third from 69 hours in 1850 to 44 hours in 1940. It is estimated that there will be a continued decrease to about 38 hours in 1960. In 1840, (9) the average worker's week was over 70 hours; by 1930, it was less than 50.

Many hypotheses and theories concerning the values of recreation and leisure time activities have been advanced. Characteristic of these are those presented in the following excerpts.

Cunningham (3) reports that the mental hygiene value of hobbies usually is not fully appreciated. She believes that the person with a hobby stands a good chance of having fun as he goes along and that some kind of fun is essential to mental health.

The following example of this point is offered (7):

Six hundred teachers to whom tests of emotional stability had been given, were asked to tell about their hobbies. Among those who rated "unusually stable" more than eighty percent were able to report hobbies, while in the "unduly nervous" group only about forty percent had hobbies. Those in the poorly adjusted group were more inclined to report hobbies which were closely related to their teaching.

Also hobbies are important from a companionship standpoint. The person who is interested in something is likely to be interesting, just as the bored person is apt to be boring.

The working papers of the National Conference on Family Life (12) add:

Games played by the family together at home and hobbies pursued by parents and child together encourage an atmosphere of mutual acceptance and affection which will do much to give the child a feeling of emotional security.

Recreational activities of the family together in the home or away from home give added content to family life. Home becomes something more than a place to sleep and eat and family activity something more than that necessary for biological survival. Just as happy experiences shared tie friends together, so they tie members of the family closer together with common interests, memories, and hopes.

Dr. Groves (6), well known sociologist, comments on the necessity of parents as well as children having leisure:

In some present day families cooperation and compromise seem to be interpreted as the enjoyment of leisure by the children while the parents do all the work. It is natural that the young should seek pleasure and the mature confine themselves more closely to productive activities; yet unless parents do something, be it work

or play, in the spirit of fun and rather for its own sake than because of any utilitarian value to come from it, they cripple not only themselves but their children's regard for them. A father who never appears in any role other than wage earner or handy man about the house is hardly thought of as a personality distinct from the pocketbook or the ash can. The pursuit of some hobby, sport or skill outside the daily routine, intensifies the parent's own individuality and give importance to his personality in the eyes of his children. If the family leisure is not to be a one-sided affair, devoid of meaning, it must include recreation for the parents as well as the younger generation.

The National Conference on Family Life (9) in the "Action Area of Recreation" says:

The family that plays together, stays together. Family play forges a bond of common interest that binds a family together.

Faust (5) makes the following statement:

Through play or recreation, living is enriched and we keep physically and spiritually fit. Through play in leisure hours we find our greatest opportunity for self-expression for growth and development, for achieving cultural and spiritual heights. Music, drama and pageantry, creative art, literature, and recreational forms of play are absolutely essential to the enrichment of the life of the individual and of the home.

Butler (1) suggests in his book on community recreation:

It is not always recognized as such but the home is doubtless the chief recreation center for most people. Activities in and around the home occupy more hours than those away from home. The back yard is still the daily playground of many families and the home is where much of their indoor play activities take place, whether it is quiet games, reading, playing with dolls or mechanical trains, playing an instrument, or having a party.

Cillin (2) found evidence to indicate that wholesome citizens are wholesome citizens largely because of their constructive recreation. Faust (5) suggests two things that combine many interests for the enrichment of the family play life:

1. Make no outside engagements, and plan to spend an hour or two together on the same night each week for reading aloud, music, storytelling, story dramatization, handicrafts and a host of other things which families can find to do together.
2. Set aside the evening meal for dining--that almost lost social art. At least one meal a day should be eaten with leisure and spiced with interesting conversation and social joy in each other's company.

Much of the literature shows that recreation and leisure time activities are increasingly centered away from the home. Changing home conditions along with the reduction in the size of families often makes it necessary for children to seek outside the home those experiences and values of cooperative and social activities which once they acquired at home. McKown (10) in his book for adolescent boys reports:

The modern family produces few or none of the devices and products it uses. Mechanical home appliances and outside production of goods have reduced the many former burdens of homemaking. Religious activities have been shifted to church. Educational responsibilities now rest with the school. Recreational and social opportunities have been multiplied and diversified, and they have moved outside the home. Protection--fire, police, safety, health, etc.--is now provided by community agencies and organizations. All these factors have meant a disorganized and scattered setting in which the father, mother, and children spend more time outside the home than inside it.

Ludenburg (9) in his study reports that 95 per cent of the boys and 83 per cent of the girls stated that on their "most enjoyable occasions" they had not been at home.

In Butler's analysis (1) of community recreation the following observation is made:

As houses become smaller and the farm is replaced by the back yard--and for many children by the crowded city tenement with no place to play either indoors or out--the opportunity to play games, to build things, to have pets and gardens is lost to many children.

Group play among brothers and sisters decreases as families become smaller, work in factories and offices takes fathers long distances from home for the greater part of the day; and as children are forced to seek much of their play outside the home, mothers too lost touch with a large part of it. Consequently many parents no longer are able to share so frequently and intimately in their children's play.

Thurston (15) in a study of delinquency and spare time finds that a lack of wholesome opportunity for play is one of the contributing factors leading some of the children to spend their leisure time in undesirable atmospheres and loafing around street corners and parks. This study suggests that poor play habits are important factors in a consideration of the etiology of delinquent behavior.

Some of these hypotheses and theories, presented too frequently in terms of conclusions, are even to the casual observer superficial and unwarranted on the basis of the scientific knowledge available. Yet their appearances in the literature are of such frequency that they demand recognition here. Workers in the many areas of family life education are handicapped by the lack of factual data concerning family recreation and leisure time activities.

It is hoped that this study will discover what the conditions of family recreation and leisure time activities are at the present time, so that if a need for improvement in those conditions exists it may be made apparent. It is also hoped that the study may provide a basis for others from which to work out any needed improvements. The study also attempts to ascertain the relation between family participation in different leisure time activities and selected family practices.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

More specifically, it is the purpose of this study:

1. To construct an information schedule concerning family recreation and leisure time activities.
2. To find the per cents of families taking part in the recreational activities listed in the schedule.
3. To obtain a measure of reliability by noting the per cents of agreement between the responses of two members of the same family.
4. To note differences in responses of men and women.
5. To ascertain the correlation between selected family practices and the total number of activities in which family members report they participated within the last year.
6. To find the family activities from which the greatest pleasure is derived.
7. To determine the amount of money spent on family recreation per week.
8. To find the per cents of families desiring additional family recreation.
9. To find the per cents of families desiring help in obtaining information concerning types of recreation and how they would like to have this information presented.
10. To ascertain the avowed reasons families do not participate together in their recreation.

CHAPTER II

SUBJECTS

The subjects utilized in this investigation were all from the city of Stillwater, Oklahoma; from families living within the boundaries of the city limits; from white families with children in the seventh grade; and from those families where both mother and father were living in the home.

The eighty-five subjects used in this study all were parents of seventh grade students of the Stillwater Junior High School. The following represents a breakdown of the sizes of the families, their educational training, and the occupational status of the fathers:

Number of Children in the Family

Number of Families	Number of Children
7	1
26	2
20	3
19	4
6	5
6	6
1	12



Educational Background of Families

Male		Female
25	Graduate Work	10
27	College	37
19	High School	30
9	Junior High School	6
5	Grade School	2

Occupational Status of Fathers

Class	Description	Number	Percent
I	Professional	26	30.59
II	Semi-professional and managerial	18	21.18
III	Clerical, skilled trade and retail business	19	22.35
IV	Farmer	2	2.35
V	Semi-skilled occupations, minor clerical positions, and minor businesses	4	4.71
VI	Slightly skilled trades and occupations requiring little training or ability	10	11.76
VII	Day laborers of all classes	4	4.71
VIII	Student	2	2.35

The parents of students in the seventh grade were chosen for the study because reliable evidence suggests that few drop-outs occur due to full time employment of the students up to and including the seventh grade. It was deemed expedient that an initial contact with the children of the subjects used in the investigation be made to facilitate later contacts with the parents.

Only families living within the city limits of Stillwater

were included in the study for the following reasons:

1. In order to keep the sampling homogeneous, while avoiding the selection of specific cases in order to control as many variables as possible, it was decided to include only families living in a limited area-- that of the city of Stillwater. Thus, rural families were automatically excluded.
2. In order to correlate factors influencing family relationships with the total number of activities in which the families participated it was necessary to have somewhat equal opportunities for recreation available to all. Since recreational opportunities might be different in rural and urban areas, only families in one area were included.
3. Including only families in the city limits of Stillwater facilitated the personal contacts that had to be made with the families.

Broken homes were not used in the study for the following reasons:

1. The absence of one parent in some instances might conceivably have affected the recreational patterns of the family.
2. The make up of a family was one factor that could be held constant in this study without decreasing the value of the study.
3. It was assumed that by specifying that there be both mother and father in the family more equal opportunities for recreation would exist in all cases.

## PROCEDURE

### CONSTRUCTION OF INFORMATION SHEET

In the organization of this study the writer planned to give out an information sheet to the seventh grade students of the Stillwater Junior High School, whose families would be used as cases. This was done for three reasons:

1. The first was to obtain some firsthand information concerning exactly what types of recreation and leisure time activities in which the families were participating. From these children it was desired that additional data pertaining to recreational and leisure time activities would be obtained to supplement a list taken from a review of the literature.
2. It was the plan to obtain from the children information concerning their families so as to make initial contacts with parents more personal. This information would make it possible to know something about the family beforehand, and it would also decrease the information that would need to be obtained from the family. The children could furnish up-to-date information as to names, addresses, phone numbers, and times when the family could be contacted.

To aid in determining the adequacy of the information sheet it was presented to four students, two boys and two girls, picked by the principal from the seventh grade class. The writer met with them for about forty minutes in the faculty lounge.

The purpose and importance of the information sheet were

explained to the four students, and they were asked to fill out the information sheet and to ask any questions they might have concerning it. There were only one or two questions asked by the students, and these questions pertained to the kinds of family activities that they should list. They wanted some suggestions of specific activities. The writer gave the students some examples but explained that they should list things they were doing and not things that were suggested to them. However, all the children listed the examples suggested by the author and seemed blocked; they could think of only one or two more and these only after one of the four mentioned it aloud, asking if this or that were "okay". When the writer approved the activity, all put it down at once.

The responses of the four students yielded little evidence that the students' contribution would be of value as far as the construction of a check sheet of family activities was concerned, for they failed to reflect the students' ability to ascertain what the family considered recreation or to remember accurately in what specific recreation and leisure time activities the family participated together.

The second purpose of the questionnaire, i.e., to obtain from the children information concerning their families, proved to be met more successfully than the first and was of great value in increasing the effectiveness of the contacts with the parents.

Modifications were made in the original information sheet, and permission was obtained from the faculty and principal to give the information sheet to the whole seventh grade during

their regular class periods. The teachers agreed to cooperate and help in any way possible. The writer was introduced to each class by the teacher in the first class period of the morning, and the children were asked to cooperate with him. The writer gave them the information sheet and explained it. The following directions were given to the children:

This is not a test; no grades will be put on these papers. However, the information you put down must be as correct as you can make it. Answer every question completely and honestly.

After these directions the writer asked the children to look at their papers and gave specific directions pertaining to specific questions.\*

The first question emphasized by the writer and his accompanying explanation follow:

Do you live inside the Stillwater city limits? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_.

If you receive your mail through rural delivery you would be outside the city limits and you would check "No".

Specific directions were given on this question because only families living within the Stillwater city limits were used in the study.

The next question concerned their addresses. They were told the following:

On the next line put the address of the house in which you live. Be sure you have the correct numbers and street. If you live outside the city limits, give your rural route number. If you do not know your correct address, leave it blank. Do the same with the next blank concerning your phone number.

These directions were emphasized because the answers were the

\* See information sheet in Appendix.

means of contacting the families who were to fill out the schedules. The children were asked to leave them blank if they were not sure of their addresses and telephone numbers, so the writer could check the telephone book or school records for correct addresses and telephone numbers when necessary.

The next question emphasized and explained follows:

Do you have one \_\_\_ both \_\_\_ parents in your home? Are you an orphan? \_\_\_\_\_.

The following directions were given for this question:

If either your mother or father are dead, or your mother and father are divorced, and the one you are living with has not remarried, then check "ONE". But if your real mother or father is dead and the parent you are living with now has remarried so that you have both a mother and father, even though one is a step-parent, then check "BOTH".

Then the following examples were given:

Suppose your father died, you are living with your mother, and she has remarried. You would have a real mother and a step-father. In a case like that you would check "BOTH". Likewise, if your mother and father are divorced, you are living with your mother, and she has remarried, then you would check "BOTH". In a case where both parents are dead and you have not been adopted, then you would check "ORPHAN" "YES".

Since only families where both a mother and father were in the home were to be used, it was important that this question be made clear to the students.

The remaining questions were not emphasized for two reasons:

1. The importance of accuracy in these questions was not as important as in the ones explained more fully. It did not seem wise to spend too much time in giving directions, for close attention could not be obtained for too long a time from these students.

2. The remaining questions on the information sheet were not to be tabulated or depended upon. They were to be used mainly in establishing rapport with the students' families when the families were visited and asked to fill out the schedule.

Altogether, 165 students, representing over 95 per cent of the seventh grade group, filled out the information sheet. These 165 cases revealed 18 broken homes and 31 rural families which were not used. The writer sent each of the remaining 116 families the following letter, prior to calling on them to have them fill out the schedule.

The letter was intended to serve the following purposes:

1. To introduce the writer to the parents.
2. To give the writer's name and show his connection with Oklahoma A. and M. College.
3. To arouse curiosity as to being selected and as to what part their children had already taken in helping with the study.
4. To create interest in the study in which their children had already taken part.
5. To enlist cooperation of the parents.
6. To inform the parents of the approximate date on which they would be visited.

The letter served its purpose, as the writer was well received in all but two cases. In these two cases the families refused to cooperate, and the writer was unable to overcome their lack of interest. In all other cases interest was shown, and the writer was invited into the homes of the families.

Oklahoma  
Agricultural and Mechanical College  
Division of Home Economics  
STILLWATER

Department of Home Life

Dear Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

You, as the parents of \_\_\_\_\_, are one of the 114 families that have been selected to represent the City of Stillwater in a survey to determine - In what family recreational and leisure time activities the people of this city are taking part.

The first part of this study was carried on with a select group of seventh grade students in the Stillwater Junior High School. From this group you and your family have been selected to participate.

Your child has cooperated already, and your further help is essential and would be greatly appreciated in the completion of this study.

I will call at your home sometime during the next week to give you a questionnaire, and to explain to you the full purpose of this study.

Yours truly,

Harold L. Hawkins  
Graduate Assistant  
Department of Home Life



Many questions were asked by the parents; the following are some examples:

How had they been picked?

When could they get the results of the study?

Why was the writer doing the study?

Would the writer be organizing a club or recreational group?

There were also many questions as to whether there would be any other obligations to filling out the schedule.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE FAMILY RECREATION AND LEISURE  
TIME ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

The schedule was designed by the writer to determine the factors given in the Purpose of the Study on Page 8.

Identical schedules were mimeographed on paper of two different colors, the pink schedules to be filled out by the wives and the green by their husbands. Two colors were used to facilitate differentiation of responses in the tabulation of the data.

Page 1 of the schedule included blanks for name and occupation, length of residence in present home and amount of education completed. The following statement was presented in an effort to assure the parents that the information they gave would not be associated with their names:

All names, addresses, and other identifying marks will be omitted from the material going into the study.

Then appeared the following introductory paragraph:

During the last ten years a growing interest has been shown in recreation and the better use of leisure time. It is the purpose of this schedule to determine what recreational patterns now exist in the family.

The members of the family were asked in the next paragraph to work independently of each other and told why as shown below:

It is necessary, for this study to have its greatest value, for you to give honest and individual answers. Please, at no time ask your wife or your husband or others to help you with your answers.

The family members were asked to work independently so that the two forms when returned could be tabulated, and a measure of reliability could be obtained by comparing the answers and checks of each parent to the same item. The next paragraph stated:

When both parents have returned the schedule, and the information has been tabulated, we will mail the results of the study to you so you may see how your family recreation and leisure time activities compare with other families in Stillwater.\*

It was the purpose of this paragraph to inform the parties involved in the study that they would receive the results and findings of the study if they were interested. It was also hoped that since their contributions were to be part of these results and findings, they would fill out the schedules accurately and promptly. The following definition of the term "family" was then given:

The term "FAMILY" in this schedule includes:  
Wife plus Husband, or Son, or Daughter.  
Husband plus Wife, or Son, or Daughter.  
Daughter plus Mother, or Father, or Brother,  
 or Sister.  
Son plus Mother, or Father, or Brother, or  
 Sister.

This definition was given to show the possible combinations of family members the writer desired included. The following three examples were given:

\* See Appendix, page 59.

Remember, at least TWO members of the family must participate TOGETHER for it to be included as a FAMILY ACTIVITY. If, for example, a brother and sister go bicycling with their freinds but NOT TOGETHER it would NOT be rated as a family activity. Similarly, if a husband and a wife attend club meetings with friends but NOT TOGETHER, or if they read books INDIVIDUALLY but NOT TOGETHER it would NOT be rated as a family activity.

These examples were included to insure clarity and to serve as a guide in helping the family members distinguish between family and individual activities.

Page 2 contained a list of eighty-eight family recreation and leisure time activities. From the literature a list of over one hundred recreation and leisure time activities was formulated. Many of the activities were so similar in nature that it appeared expedient to group several of the activities into one major category. For example, checkers, chess, monopoly, etc., were grouped in the final schedule as "table games". Similarly, horseshoes, croquet, badminton, etc., were grouped together and listed as "back yard and lawn games".

This list was preceded by the following directions:

Put an (X) in front of the recreational activities in which your family participated at least once within the last year.

Since there were only two possibilities concerning the listed activities---the families either did or did not participate in the listed activities within the last year---elaborate directions were not felt to be necessary.

Page 3 consisted of eleven items influencing family relationships. These eleven items were as follows:

- A. Participation in family leisure time and recreational activities outside the home.

- B. Amount of entertaining of friends and relatives in the home.
- C. Getting along with your wife or husband as a partner.
- D. Getting along with your children.
- E. Punishing your children.
- F. Cooperation of family members.
- G. Tension in the home.
- H. Agreement of parents on discipline.
- I. Husband and wife attend social functions together.
- J. Dominance of the father in the home.
- K. Dominance of the mother in the home.

These items were to be checked on a five point continuum which follows:

- ( ) Much more than others
- ( ) More than others
- ( ) Average
- ( ) Less than others
- ( ) Much less than others

In the formation of the continuum the author departed from the traditional scale, i.e., excellent - good - average - poor - very poor, and had the subjects rate themselves in comparison with the families they knew. It was recognized that some individuals probably made ratings which would contradict life facts if more objective criteria were utilized. Yet the assumption behind such methodology was that in the study of human relationships it is, from a scientific standpoint, as legitimate to assess the attitudes which individuals take toward life facts as it is to assess the life facts themselves. There is ample evidence which supports the theory that the attitudes we take toward our relationships with other people are an important determiner of personal happiness. The individual who believes his troubles are unique oftentimes suffers less trauma when he is shown that such troubles are common. This is of course one of the cardinal tenets of the mental hygiene movement. In the present study no attempt was made to validate the

ratings in terms of life facts, for even if such methodology had been followed and if it were discovered that from the standpoint of objective criteria there was little correlation between what the individual felt and what was actually true, such findings would not refute the accuracy of how the individuals believed they rated with those whom they knew. By comparing their family with other families they knew, the parents were expressing their own feelings as to the variables expressed in the continuum above. Their answers were correlated with total number of family recreation and leisure activities checked.

Page 4 contained five questions. The first question was an effort to determine from what three family activities the greatest pleasure was derived:

From what three family activities, outside your daily work, do you derive the greatest pleasure?

The second question was an attempt to determine how much money was spent on family recreation:

About how much money per week on the average do you and your family spend on recreation. (Sports equipment, admission fees, club dues, commercial snacks and refreshments, etc.)

- \$1.00 to \$5.00
- \$5.00 to \$10.00
- \$10.00 to \$15.00
- \$15.00 to \$20.00
- \$20.00 and over.

Since this amount would fluctuate from week to week and month to month, an estimate of the average amount spent weekly was asked for over a period of a year. Also, since in many cases most of the money spent might be for vacations occurring at any time during a year, it was necessary to set a year's time. The amounts were set at five dollar intervals so as to keep

the number of entries reasonably small for tabulation and still have a somewhat accurate estimate. The next two questions were an attempt to determine whether or not the families' needs for recreation and leisure time activities were being adequately met and to determine whether families were interested in being helped and supplied with information concerning family recreation. These questions follow:

Do you think your family would like to have additional family leisure time and recreation activities? Yes ( )  
No ( )

If YES how would you like to have this type of help presented?

- ( ) Pamphlets
- ( ) Books
- ( ) Mimeographed papers
- ( ) Counseling
- ( ) Speakers
- ( ) Classes and workshops
- ( ) Other ways

The fifth and last question was:

What are the three main causes or reasons your family does not participate more together in leisure time activities and recreations?

After delimitations had been set up excluding all rural children and all children from broken homes, there were 116 families to whom the schedule was delivered and explained. If neither parent was present when the writer called, repeated calls were made until either the family was contacted or it was discovered that the family had moved out of town or was away from home for a period of time longer than a month. From the initial 116 families 109 families were contacted; the remaining 7 were never reached.

These families were visited, and the schedule was explained to them in detail. It was necessary to explain the schedule

in detail to only the husband or the wife, since clear directions were given on each schedule. Any specific questions could then be answered by the family member to whom the writer had talked. The parents were specifically asked to work independently, since the value of the study depended on having two independent viewpoints. It was also explained to the parents that the activities they were to check on the schedule could be indoor or outdoor, quiet or active. The family could be spectators or participants in the activities, and they could be with other people besides the family, as long as two or more members of the family were present and involved in some way in the activity. The schedules were left with the families to be filled out, and a self-addressed envelope was left with each questionnaire so that it could be returned by mail. The families were allowed two weeks to mail them in before the writer called on them again to ask if the schedules would be returned. In most cases not more than one reminder, either by telephone or in person, was necessary. Sixty-four cases were returned promptly; the remaining cases required from one to five reminding calls. Care had to be taken not to rush the return of the schedules too much, since some people might have refused to help at all if they were pushed. The majority of families evidenced interest in the survey, and when asked if they would like to have the results mailed to them when the study was completed, most responded in the affirmative, several asking for a copy of the complete study. The letter sent to the parents after the completion of the schedule is found in

the Appendix, page 67.

In all, 85 or 74.56 per cent of the families returned their schedules completely filled in within the time limit which had been set. Several other families returned theirs at a later date, but their schedules were not used. Other families could not be contacted because of their having moved from the city. In a few cases either the husband or the wife could not be contacted, because they were away from the city either on business or for pleasure. Undoubtedly, some failed to reply because of lack of interest and other reasons.



## CHAPTER III

RESULTS

VALIDITY. To ensure that the schedule would measure what it proposed to measure, great care was taken to provide clarity of meaning. Each question was stated so that the subjects could respond to that question or item and to no other.

Each activity was listed individually except where several activities were of such similar nature that it seemed expedient to list them as one item.

RELIABILITY. A measure of reliability for the family recreation and leisure time activity schedule was obtained by noting the per cent of agreement between responses made by the husband and wife to each question on the list of the 88 family recreation and leisure time activities. Any activity that was either checked by both parents or left unchecked by both parents was counted as an agreement. These were totaled for each family, and it was found that the per cent of agreement ranged from 45.45 per cent to 100.00 per cent. The over-all per cent of agreement for the 88 activities was 73.28 per cent.

A measure of reliability was also obtained for the 11 items influencing family relationships in the same manner as for the family activities, i.e., computing the per cents of agreement between responses of male and female for each item. There were 5 possible responses to each of these items: (1)

much more than others, (2) more than others, (3) average, (4) less than others, (5) much less than others. However, for the purposes of analysis it was deemed expedient to tabulate "much more than others" and "more than others" as one response and to tabulate "less than others" and "much less than others" as one response, thereby giving only 3 responses: (1) more than others, (2) average, (3) less than others. The over-all per cent of agreement for the 11 items was 73.58 per cent.

Other measures of reliability were also obtained. There were 74 responses in agreement or 87.06 per cent agreement in regard to the amount of money spent a week. There were 47 or 55.29 per cent "yes" responses in agreement and 15 or 17.65 per cent "no" responses in agreement with an over-all total of 62 agreements, showing 72.94 per cent agreement in regard to wanting additional family leisure time and recreational activities. There were 36 "yes" responses or 42.35 per cent and 37 "no" responses or 43.53 per cent, with an over-all total of 73 or 85.88 per cent agreement of families in regard to wanting more information and help concerning types of family recreation and leisure time activities.

#### ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES TO SCHEDULE

The 88 family recreation and leisure time activities appear in Tables I and II in decreasing order with references to the frequency with which they were checked. The percentages of the male and female responses to each activity may also be found in Tables I and II. When the family activities were arranged by

TABLE I

FAMILY ACTIVITIES LISTED IN DECREASING ORDER  
ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF MALES RESPONDING

Family Activities	Number Males	Per cent Males
Listening to radio	84	98.82
Visiting friends	76	89.41
Entertaining friends	73	85.88
Attending the movies	73	85.88
Auto riding for pleasure	71	83.52
Eating dinners, breakfasts, suppers, lunches outside the home	71	83.52
Picnicking, B.-Q's, weiner roasts, etc.	69	81.17
Caring for home grounds	65	76.47
Attending athletic events as spectators	65	76.47
Carpentry, painting repair jobs	62	72.94
Reading magazines and news- papers	62	72.94
Parties (birthday, holidays, etc.)	60	70.58
Taking part in political, church or civic activities	60	70.58
Listening to victrola or record player	53	62.35
Caring for pets	53	62.35
Fishing	52	61.17
Table games (checkers, chess, etc.)	52	61.17
Taking part in parent teacher activities	50	58.82
Attending amusement parks	49	57.64
Backyard and lawn games such as horseshoes or croquet, etc.	48	56.47
Loafing	48	56.47
Informal play hours with the children	48	56.47
Card games	47	55.29

TABLE I Continued

Family Activities	Number Males	Per cent Males
Attending parties or socials outside the home.	45	52.49
Swimming	43	50.59
Watching T. V.	42	49.41
Dancing or attending dances	42	49.41
Attending meetings	42	49.41
Family or club reunions	42	49.41
Playing baseball	40	47.06
Caring for flower garden	39	45.88
Indoor game parties	39	45.88
Reading some books-fiction	37	43.53
Day outings	36	42.35
Church suppers	34	40.00
Hunting	32	37.64
Attending meetings of musical organizations	28	32.94
Playing softball	28	32.94
Collections (stamps, coin, card, etc.)	27	31.76
Reading books-non fiction	26	30.59
Writing letters	26	30.59
Photography	26	30.59
Pencil and paper games (cross word puzzles, etc.)	26	30.59
Reading aloud	26	30.59
Hiking	25	29.41
Boating, canoeing	25	29.41
Visiting art and other museums	25	29.41
Outdoor camping	23	27.06
Bicycling	23	27.06
Model construction	20	23.53
Roller skating	20	23.53
Attending lectures, debates, forums.	20	23.59
Motor camping	19	22.35
Nature study	17	20.00
Playing golf, miniature golf, etc.	17	20.00
Sewing and millinery	16	18.82

TABLE I Continued

Family Activities	Number Males	Per cent Males
Riding	16	18.82
Art modeling, painting, drawing	15	17.65
Attending community social evenings	15	17.65
Poultry raising	15	17.65
Other hobbies	15	17.65
Attending productions of dramatic groups	14	16.47
Wrestling	12	14.12
Taking part in debates, discussion groups, etc.	11	12.94
Weaving and fancy needle- work, knitting	9	10.59
Playing shuffleboard	9	10.59
Playing badminton	8	9.41
Boxing	8	9.41
Masquerades	8	9.41
Taking part in contests	8	9.41
Playing handball	7	8.23
Straw and hay rides	7	8.23
Attending organized camps	6	7.06
Indoor bowling	5	5.88
Candy pulls	5	5.88
Playing tennis	4	4.71
Taking part in amature dramatics	4	4.71
Other lecture or study courses	4	4.71
Playing soccer	2	2.35
Fencing	2	2.35
Archery	2	2.35
Gymnasium classes	2	2.35
Ice skating	2	2.35
Attending evening school	2	2.35
Sailing	1	1.18
Scavenger hunts	1	1.18
Treasure hunts	1	1.18
Writing poems, stories, etc.	0	.00

TABLE II

FAMILY ACTIVITIES LISTED IN DECREASING ORDER  
ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF FEMALES RESPONDING

Family Activities	Number Females	Per cent Females
Listening to radio	83	97.64
Attending the movies	79	92.94
Visiting friends	96	89.41
Auto riding for pleasure	75	88.23
Picnicking, B.-Q's, Weiner roasts, etc.	72	84.70
Eating dinners, breakfasts, suppers, lunches outside the home	72	84.70
Caring for home grounds	71	83.52
Entertaining friends	71	83.52
Reading magazines and news- papers	70	82.35
Parties (birthday, holidays, etc.)	70	82.35
Attending athletic events as spectators	65	76.47
Attending parties or socials outside the home	65	76.47
Taking part in political, church or civic activities	63	74.11
Loafing	62	72.94
Taking part in parent teacher activities	62	72.94
Listening to victrola or record player	60	70.58
Caring for pets	58	68.23
Informal play hours with the children	55	64.70
Carpentry, painting, repair jobs	53	62.35
Table games (checkers, chess, etc.)	53	62.35
Family or club reunions	49	57.64
Card games	49	57.64
Caring for flower garden	48	56.47

TABLE II Continued

Family Activities	Number Females	Per cent Females
Attending amusement parks	48	56.47
Swimming	47	55.29
Dancing or attending dances	47	55.29
Attending meetings	47	55.29
Backyard and lawn games such as horseshoes or croquet, etc.	46	54.11
Sewing and millinery	46	54.11
Day outings	45	52.94
Reading aloud	44	51.76
Watching T. V.	44	51.76
Reading some books - fiction	44	51.76
Writing letters	43	50.59
Fishing	43	50.59
Indoor game parties	41	48.23
Pencil and paper games (Cross word puzzles etc.)	41	48.23
Reading books - non fiction	39	45.88
Church suppers	38	44.70
Attending meetings of musical organizations	36	42.35
Collections (stamps, coin, card, etc.)	35	41.17
Visiting art or other museums	35	41.17
Playing baseball	31	36.47
Art modeling, painting, drawing	30	35.29
Photography	30	35.29
Weaving and fancy needle- work, knitting	27	31.76
Boating, canoeing	27	31.76
Attending productions of dramatic groups	26	30.59
Hunting	25	29.41
Roller skating	25	29.41
Attending community social evenings	25	29.41

TABLE II Continued

Family Activities	Number Females	Per cent Females
Hiking	24	28.32
Other hobbies	22	25.88
Riding	20	23.53
Playing softball	19	22.35
Motor camping	19	22.35
Outdoor camping	19	22.35
Attending lectures, debates, forums	18	21.18
Nature study	15	17.65
Model construction	13	15.29
Writing poems, stories, etc.	12	14.12
Poultry raising	12	14.12
Playing golf, miniature golf, etc.	12	14.12
Playing shuffleboard	12	14.12
Taking part in contests	12	14.12
Wrestling	11	12.94
Taking part in debates, discussion groups, etc.	10	11.76
Masquerades	10	11.76
Playing handball	9	10.59
Playing badminton	9	10.59
Attending organized camps	9	10.59
Taking part in amature dramatics	7	8.23
Straw and hay rides	7	8.23
Boxing	6	7.06
Candy pulls	6	7.06
Playing tennis	5	5.88
Playing soccer	5	5.88
Indoor bowling	5	5.88
Ice skating	4	4.71
Attending evening school	4	4.71
Other lecture and study clubs	4	4.71
Archery	3	3.53
Gynasium classes	2	2.35
Sailing	1	1.18
Scavenger hunts	1	1.18
Treasure hunts	1	1.18
Fencing	0	.00



decreasing order according to the number of times checked by males and in decreasing order by number of times checked by females, the only family activities that were in a different order by more than 10 places were parties (birthday, holiday, etc.); family or club reunions; caring for flower garden; church supper; pencil and paper games (cross word puzzles, etc.); reading aloud; visiting art and other museums; bicycling; model construction; sewing and millinery; art modeling, painting, drawing; attending productions of dramatic groups; and other hobbies.

The 8 family activities checked most frequently by the males were also the 8 checked most frequently by the females. These 8 activities were listening to radio; visiting friends; entertaining friends; attending the movies; auto riding for pleasure; eating dinners, breakfasts, suppers, lunches outside the home; picnicking, barbecues, weiner roasts, etc.; and caring for home grounds.

The 4 activities least participated in by the families according to the responses of the males were sailing; scavenger hunts; treasure hunts; writing poems, stories, etc. The four activities least participated in by the families according to the responses of the females were sailing; scavenger hunts; treasure hunts; and fencing.

The number of agreements between husband and wife for the 88 activities was computed by tabulating the number of males and females checking the same activities and the number of males and females leaving the same activities unchecked. These agreements are shown in Table III. The 2 activities with the

TABLE III

NUMBER AND PER CENTS OF AGREEMENT OF MALE  
AND FEMALE RESPONSES TO 88 FAMILY RECREATION  
AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES

Number	Per cents	Family Activity
84	98.82	Archery
84	98.82	Sailing
83	97.64	Fencing
83	97.64	Indoor bowling
83	97.64	Other lecture or study courses
83	97.64	Scavenger hunts
83	97.64	Straw and hay rides
83	97.64	Treasure hunts
82	96.46	Listening to radio
82	96.46	Playing soccer
81	95.29	Gymnasium classes
81	95.29	Ice skating
80	94.11	Playing tennis
80	94.11	Attending organized camps
79	92.94	Playing handball
79	92.94	Boxing
79	92.94	Attending evening school
79	92.94	Masquerades
78	91.76	Playing shuffleboard
78	91.76	Playing badminton
78	91.76	Taking part in amature dramatics
78	91.76	Taking part in debates, discussion groups, etc.
78	91.76	Candy pulls
77	90.58	Entertaining friends
77	90.58	Nature study
77	90.58	Attending the movies
77	90.58	Taking part in contests
76	89.41	Listening to victrola, record player
76	89.41	Poultry raising
76	89.41	Playing golf, miniature golf, etc.
76	89.41	Eating dinners, breakfasts, suppers, lunches, outside the home

TABLE III Continued

Number	Per cents	Family Activity
75	88.23	Watching T. V.
75	88.23	Visiting friends
75	88.23	Attending athletic events as spectator
73	85.88	Writing poems, stories, etc.
73	85.88	Riding
73	85.88	Boating, canoeing
73	85.88	Auto riding for pleasure
72	84.70	Wrestling
72	84.70	Hunting
72	84.70	Dancing or attending dances
72	84.70	Hiking
71	83.52	Church suppers
71	83.52	Card games
70	82.35	Caring for pets
70	82.35	Fishing
70	82.35	Picnicking, B.-Q's, weiner roasts, etc.
70	82.35	Taking part in political church, or civic activities
69	81.17	Backyard and lawn games such as horseshoes or croquet, etc.
69	81.17	Photography
69	81.17	Motor camping
69	81.17	Outdoor camping
69	81.17	Attending lecture, debates, forums
69	81.17	Visiting art or other museums
68	80.00	Carpentry, painting, repair jobs
68	80.00	Other hobbies
67	78.82	Caring for home grounds
67	78.82	Loafing
67	78.82	Reading magazines and news- papers
66	77.64	Caring for flower garden
66	77.64	Model construction
66	77.64	Bicycling
65	76.47	Collections (stamps, coin, card, etc.)
65	76.47	Attending meetings of musical organizations

TABLE III Continued

Number	Per cent	Family Activity
65	76.47	Attending productions of dramatic groups
65	76.47	Taking part in parent teacher activities
65	76.47	Attending community social evenings
64	75.29	Reading books - non fiction
64	75.29	Informal play hours with the children
64	75.29	Day outing
64	75.29	Family or club reunions
63	74.11	Parties (birthday, holiday, etc.)
63	74.11	Swimming
62	72.94	Art modeling, painting, drawing.
62	72.94	Writing letters
62	72.94	Roller skating
61	71.76	Weaving and fancy needlework, knitting
61	71.76	Reading aloud
59	69.41	Playing softball
59	69.41	Attending parties or socials outside the home
58	68.23	Reading some books-fiction
58	68.23	Playing baseball
58	68.23	Attending meetings
58	68.23	Attending amusement parks
58	68.23	Table games (checkers, chess, etc.)
54	63.53	Pencil and paper games (crossword puzzles, etc.)
53	62.35	Sewing and millinery
51	60.00	Indoor game parties.

highest per cent of agreement between the responses of the male and female were archery and sailing, both having 95.49 per cent agreement. These two activities were within the last eight family activities according to the number of times checked. The activities with the least per cent of agreement were indoor game parties with 57.98 per cent agreement and sewing and millinery with 60.25 per cent agreement.

The breakdown of the agreements between males and females in their responses to the eleven items influencing family relationships is given in Table IV. This table reveals that the two items having the highest per cent of agreement between males and females were (1) D, "getting along with your children", and (2) K, "dominance of mother in the home", both items having 80.00 per cent agreement. The two items having the lowest per cent of agreement were (1) E, "punishing your children", (2) G, "tension in the home". Both of these had 67.05 per cent agreement.

Table V reveals the manner in which the male and female responded when comparing their families with other families they knew according to the eleven items influencing family relationships. "Average" was the response given most frequently by all families and for all eleven items.

CORRELATIONS. It was one of the purposes of this study to see what correlation existed between the total number of leisure time and recreation activities checked on the schedule and each of the 11 selected items influencing family relationships as shown in Table VI. Correlations were positive but low

TABLE IV  
NUMBER AND PER CENTS OF AGREEMENT OF  
MALE AND FEMALE RESPONSES TO ELEVEN  
ITEMS INFLUENCING FAMILY RELATIONS

	Number	Per cent
A. Participation in family leisure time and recreational activities outside the home.	62	72.94
B. Amount of entertaining of friends and relatives in the home.	63	74.11
C. Getting along with your wife or husband as a partner.	65	76.47
D. Getting along with your children.	68	80.00
E. Punishing your children.	57	67.05
F. Cooperation of family members.	59	69.41
G. Tension in the home.	57	67.05
H. Agreement of parents on discipline.	64	75.29
I. Husband and wife attend social functions together.	58	68.23
J. Dominance of father in the home.	67	78.82
K. Dominance of mother in the home.	68	80.00
Total per cent agreement		73.58

TABLE V

FREQUENCY OF MALE AND FEMALE RESPONSES TO  
ELEVEN ITEMS INFLUENCING FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

ITEMS	Frequency checked by males			Frequency checked by females		
	1&2	3	4&5	1&2	3	4&5
A. Participation in family leisure time and recreational activities outside the home.	9	62	14	14	59	12
B. Amount of entertaining of friends in the home	15	44	26	12	49	24
C. Getting along with your wife or husband as a partner.	47	34	4	51	31	3
D. Getting along with your children.	42	42	1	36	47	2
E. Punishing your children	7	42	36	4	51	30
F. Cooperation of family members.	21	59	5	22	60	3
G. Tension in the home.	10	47	28	11	50	24
H. Agreement of parents on discipline	29	52	4	29	49	7
I. Husband and wife attend social functions together.	18	45	22	21	40	24
J. Dominance of father in the home.	5	68	12	11	63	11
K. Dominance of mother in the home	12	65	8	8	69	8

TABLE VI

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONSES TO THE  
FAMILY RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE  
AND RESPONSES TO ELEVEN ITEMS INFLUENCING FAMILY RELATIONS\*

Item	Correlation
E. Punishing your children.	-0.2483
J. Dominance of father in the home.	-0.1980
K. Dominance of mother in the home.	0.0701
F. Cooperation of family members.	0.1009
D. Getting along with your children.	0.1123
H. Agreement of parents on discipline.	0.1811
B. Amount of entertaining of friends in the home.	0.2446
A. Participation in family leisure time activities in the home.	0.2897
G. Tension in the home.	0.3146
I. Husband and wife attend social functions together.	0.3359
C. Getting along with your husband or wife as a partner.	0.3734

\* Correlations were computed by the standard procedure as described in Lindquist, E. F., A First Course in Statistics. Revised Edition. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1942. pp. 168.



for all but 2 items, (1) E, "punishing your children", and (2) J, "dominance of father in the home", where the correlations were negative but low. These correlations do not reflect the relationship between the amount of family recreation and the factors influencing family relationships; rather, they reflect the relationship between the total number of activities in which the family participated in together within the last year as measured by the schedule and selected factors influencing family relationships. A family checking a large number of activities in this schedule, therefore, conceivably might spend less time participating together in the activities checked than a family checking only 3 or 4 activities.

In answer to the question, "From what 3 family activities outside your daily work do you derive the greatest pleasure?" the families gave the responses shown in Table VII. This table indicates that sports, picnicking, and church activities received the largest number of male responses; while movies, visiting and entertaining friends, and pleasure driving received the largest number of female responses. Movies, picnicking, church, fishing, visiting and entertaining friends, pleasure driving, watching T.V., sports, and radio were all in the upper 50.00 per cent of the activities listed most frequently by both male and female.

Table VIII shows a breakdown of the responses to the question, "How much money per week on the average do you and your family spend on recreation? (sports, equipment, admission fees, club dues, commercial snacks and refreshments, etc.)".

TABLE VII

RESPONSES TO QUESTION: "FROM WHAT THREE  
FAMILY ACTIVITIES, OUTSIDE YOUR DAILY WORK,  
DO YOU DERIVE THE GREATEST PLEASURE?"

Activity	Males	Females	Total
Movies	14	21	35
Picnicking	15	16	31
Church	16	15	31
Fishing	19	11	30
Visiting and enter- taining friends	11	18	29
Pleasure driving	11	17	28
Watching T. V.	13	13	26
Sports	16	9	25
Radio	6	14	20
Dancing	6	10	16
Traveling	9	7	16
Outings	7	9	16
Reading	8	5	13
Gardening	7	6	13
Hunting	11	0	11
Games	2	9	11
Vacations	3	4	7
Rodeo	7	0	7
Cards	3	4	7
Camping	3	3	6
Being with the children	1	4	5
Parties	1	4	5
Swimming	3	2	5
Eating	1	4	5
Scouting	2	2	4
Bowling	2	2	4
Photography	3	1	4
Staying home together	1	3	4
Working on home	1	3	4

TABLE VII Continued

Activity	Males	Females	Total
Music	1	2	3
Pets	2	1	3
Clubs	1	2	3
School activities	2	1	3
Horse riding	2	1	3
Woodworking	2	0	2
Boating	1	1	2
Family gatherings	1	1	2
Family dinners	1	1	2
Workshop	0	1	1
Socials	1	0	1
Shopping	1	0	1
Child development	1	0	1
Farming	1	0	1
Family singing	0	1	1
Building	1	0	1
Hiking	1	0	1
Loafing	0	1	1
Home movies	1	0	1
Zoo	1	0	1
Horses	1	0	1
Ranch	1	0	1
Parks	1	0	1
Hobbies	0	1	1
Concerts	1	0	1
Creative activities	0	1	1
Sewing	0	1	1
Art	0	1	1

TABLE VIII

RESPONSES TO QUESTION: "ABOUT HOW MUCH  
MONEY PER WEEK ON THE AVERAGE DO YOU  
AND YOUR FAMILY SPEND ON RECREATION?"

Average amount spent per-week	Number Males	Per cent Males	Number Females	Per cent Females	Total Number	Total Per cent	Total Agreements	Per cent Agreement
\$1 to \$5	53	62.35	54	63.53	107	62.94	51	95.33
\$5 to \$10	22	25.88	24	28.23	46	27.06	18	78.48
\$10 to \$15	8	9.41	5	5.88	13	7.65	4	61.50
\$15 to \$20	1	1.18	1	1.18	2	1.18	0	0.00
\$20 over	1	1.18	1	1.18	2	1.18	1	100.00
Total number agreements					74	Total per cent agreement		87.06

Table VIII gives the number and per cent of parents who checked the various amounts of money, and shows the agreements in the answers between responses of males and females for the various amounts. Table VIII also reveals that out of a possible 170 responses 107 males and females or 62.94 per cent of the total sample responded that they spent between \$5.00 and \$10.00 a week. Table VIII shows that there was agreement between the responses of 51 of the males and females that they spent this amount; thus, 95.33 per cent of those checking the amount were in agreement. Similarly, out of a total of 46 males and females checking the amount \$5.00 to \$10.00, 36 or 78.48 per cent of the parents were in agreement. These two groups who reported spending from \$1.00 to \$5.00 and from \$5.00 to \$10.00 included 88.24 per cent of the male and 91.76 per cent of the female or 90.00 per cent of all the parents studied. Only one or 1.88 per cent of the 85 families reported that they spent \$20.00 and over a week.

It was also one of the purposes of this study to determine if families would like to have additional family leisure time and recreation activities. As Table IX reveals, 117 of the 170 parents replied that they did want additional activities, while only 53 stated they did not. Table IX also indicates that the males felt the need equally as much as the females for these additional family leisure time and recreation activities, since there were 58 male "yes" responses in comparison to 59 female "yes" responses to the question. The parents in 47 or 55.29 per cent of all the families agreed that they did want additional leisure time and recreational activities. The

TABLE IX

RESPONSES TO QUESTION: "DO YOU THINK YOUR FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ADDITIONAL FAMILY LEISURE TIME AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES"

	Number "yes"	Per cent "yes"	Number "no"	Per cent "no"
Male	58	68.23	27	31.76
Female	59	69.41	26	30.59
Total	117	68.82	53	31.17
Agreements	47	55.29	15	17.65
Total agreements	62	Total Per cent Agreements 72.94		

TABLE X

RESPONSES TO QUESTION: "DO YOU THINK YOUR FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MORE INFORMATION AND HELP CONCERNING TYPES OF FAMILY RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES?"

	Number "yes"	Per cent "yes"	Number "no"	Per cent "no"
Male	42	49.41	43	50.59
Female	42	49.41	43	50.59
Total	84	49.41	86	50.59
Agreements	36	42.35	37	43.53
Total agreements	73	Total Per cent Agreements 85.88		

parents in only 15 or 17.65 per cent of the 85 families agreed that they did not want additional family leisure time and recreation activities. Thus, at least one of the parents in each of the remaining 70 or 82.35 per cent of the families wanted additional family leisure time and recreation activities. There was an over-all total of 62 agreements or 72.94 per cent agreement to this question.

To the question, "Do you think your family would like to have more information and help concerning types of family recreation and leisure time activities?" Table X reveals that a total of 84 or 49.41 per cent of the parents responded "yes", and 86 or 50.59 per cent responded "no". The parents in 36 or 42.55 per cent of the families agreed that they did desire more help and information. The parents in 37 or 43.53 per cent of the families agreed that they did not want more information or help concerning types of family recreation and leisure time activities, showing that in 48 or 56.47 per cent of the 85 families one or both of the parents wanted information and help. Here again we find an equal interest shown by the males and females, since there were 42 males responding "yes" and 42 females responding "yes" to the question.

As shown in Table XI, which gives the responses to the question of how the parents would like to have help presented, the most frequently checked means of help was "pamphlets" with 57 or 33.53 per cent of the parents checking it. Of these 57, 27 were males and 30 were females. Thus, 31.76 per cent of the males and 35.29 per cent of the females wanted help presented in this way. Next in order of frequency checked was

TABLE XI

RESPONSES\* TO QUESTION: "IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION AND HELP CONCERNING TYPES OF FAMILY RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITY, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THIS HELP PRESENTED?"

	Number Males	Per cent Males	Number Females	Per cent Females	Total Number Males & Females	Total Per cent Males & Females
Pamphlets	27	31.76	30	35.29	57	33.53
Books	8	9.41	13	15.29	21	12.35
Memeographed paper	3	3.53	14	16.47	17	10.00
Counseling	4	4.71	3	3.53	7	4.12
Speakers	5	5.88	6	7.06	11	6.47
Classes and workshops	12	14.12	10	11.76	22	12.94
Other ways	4	4.71	3	3.53	7	4.12
Total responses	63	74.11	79	92.94	142	

\* N = 40 males, 40 females.



"classes or workshops". Twenty-two or 12.94 per cent of the parents checked this method of having help presented with the division of males and females 12 and 10 respectively. Fourteen and twelve-tenths per cent of the men and 11.76 per cent of the women checked this method. The least checked means of presenting help was counseling with a total of only 7 responses. Four or 4.71 per cent of the males and 3 or 3.53 per cent of the females checked this item. The total of 142 responses were made by only 40 males and 40 females or 47.06 per cent of the 170 parents. The remaining 52.94 per cent either did not desire to have help presented or failed to check the method by which they did desire help. While 40 males and 40 females indicated the ways in which they wanted the help presented, 79 ways were checked by females and only 63 ways by the males. Some other ways suggested by the parents of having help presented, which were not included in the schedule, were organizing classes in leadership and planning socials to include the whole family. Other means were also suggested, but they were repetitions of those already listed in the schedule. A few parents checked "other ways" but listed no additional suggestions.

Table XII, which gives the responses to the question, "What are the three main causes or reasons your family does not participate more together in their leisure time activities and recreation?" reveals that seventeen reasons appeared more than once. Responses appearing no more than one time were excluded from Table IX. Lack of time, whether listed in itself as a reason, or resulting from occupations which required too much

TABLE XII

RESPONSES TO QUESTION: "WHAT ARE THE THREE MAIN CAUSES OR REASONS YOUR FAMILY DOES NOT PARTICIPATE MORE TOGETHER IN THEIR LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES AND RECREATION?"

<u>Reason given</u>	<u>Number responding</u>
1. Lack of time	51
2. Different interests of individual members	33
3. Husbands or wives occupation requires all of time	31
4. Insufficient finances	29
5. Too many social demands on individual members of family.	24
6. Different interests of children due to different ages of children	15
7. Husband's work requiring him to be out of town much of the time	8
8. Conflicting schedules of different members of the family	6
9. Differences in tastes and religion	6
10. Sickness in the family	4
11. No one to stay with younger children in the family	4
12. Lack of room for recreation	3
13. Lack of transportation	3
14. Lack of interest on part of parents	3
15. Aged relative in the home	2
16. Lack of effort, to independent	2
17. Limited facilities in Stillwater	2

time or the absence of one of the parents from town, or from conflicting schedules of family members, was given by 96 parents as the cause. Differences in interests of parents or children, in abilities and skills due to different ages, and in tastes and religions were given 52 times as the cause of lack of participation in activities together. Insufficient finances was listed as the reason for lack of participation in family activities 29 times, and too many social demands on individual members of the family was given as the reason by 29 parents. This table indicates that the main reason for lack of participation together in family recreation and leisure time activities are insufficient time and money and individual preferences, interests, and obligations. Some of the less frequently listed reasons were limited facilities, lack of interest, and aged relatives in the home, each being listed only 2 times.

## CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY

In the study of family recreation and leisure time activities there appeared to be a need for a reliable means of determining existing conditions and needs. The writer in an attempt to satisfy such a need has designed and tested a schedule, the purpose of which was to note the following:

1. Number of different recreation and leisure time activities in which the family participated together.
2. Correlation between 11 items influencing family relationships and the total number of different recreation and leisure time activities in which the family participated together.
3. Average amount of money spent by the family on family recreation and leisure time activities.
4. Number of families desiring additional family recreation and leisure time activities.
5. Number of families desiring more information and help concerning types of family recreation and leisure time activities.

From the 85 schedules a measure of reliability was obtained on the variables listed above by noting the per cent of agreement between responses of males and females. The results revealed the following:

1. There was 73.28 per cent of agreement on the total number of recreation and leisure time activities in which the family participated together.

2. There was 73.58 per cent of agreement on the 11 items influencing family relationships.

3. There was 87.06 per cent of agreement on the average amount of money spent per week.

4. There was 72.94 per cent of agreement concerning additional family recreation and leisure time activities.

5. There was 85.88 per cent of agreement concerning the desire for more information and help concerning family recreation and leisure time activities.

Concerning normative data, the responses yielded the following information:

1. The correlation between the total number of family recreation and leisure time activities checked on the schedule and the 11 selected items influencing family relations was positive but low for all but two items - "punishing your children" and "dominance of father in the home", where it was negative but low. Correlation ranged from  $-0.2483$  to  $+0.3734$ .

2. The nine family recreation and leisure time activities reported as being the activities from which the greatest pleasure was derived were (1) movies, (2) picnicking, (3) church, (4) fishing, (5) visiting and entertaining friends, (6) pleasure driving, (7) watching T.V., (8) sports, and (9) radio.

3. One dollar to \$5.00 was reported by 63.55 per cent of

the males and 62.94 per cent of the females as being the average amount of money spent per week on family recreation and leisure time activities. Fifty-one or 62.94 per cent of the families agreed that they spent from \$1.00 to \$5.00 per week. While only 37.07 per cent spent over this amount, only 10.01 per cent spent over \$10.00 per week and only 1.18 per cent of the 85 families spend over \$20.00 per week.

4. With respect to the desire for more family recreation and leisure time activities, 55.29 per cent of the males and females agreed they wanted more. One hundred and seventeen out of the 170 individuals or 68.82 per cent responded they wanted more recreational and leisure time activities.

5. A total of 49.41 per cent of the males and females wanted information and help concerning family recreation and leisure time activities, with 42.35 per cent of both parents agreeing.

6. Pamphlets on family recreation and leisure time activities were desired by 33.53 per cent of the parents as a means of having information and help presented.

7. The main reason given for the lack of participation in family recreation and leisure time activities by the 85 families was lack of time. This reason was given by 96 of the 170 parents. Differences in interests was given 52 times by the 170 parents. Insufficient finances was listed as the reason for lack of participation in family recreation and leisure time activities 29 times.

APPENDIX

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parents \_\_\_\_\_

Do you live inside the Stillwater city limits? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ How long have you lived in Stillwater? \_\_\_ years. How long have you lived at your present address? \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Do you have one \_\_\_ both \_\_\_ parents in your home? Are you an orphan? \_\_\_

What is your Father's occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

Is your Mother employed? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_. If yes, is she employed outside the home? Where \_\_\_\_\_

Are you the only child? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If you do have brothers and sisters what are their ages \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ Number of grown people in your home other than your parents, brothers, sisters. Relatives \_\_\_\_\_ Roomers \_\_\_\_\_

Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Do you go regularly? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Are there any times that the family usually spend together? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If so what days, and what hour of the day are you most apt to be together.

\_\_\_\_\_

List any activities your family often engage in together to have a good time.

Examples: Go to movies, go on picnics

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

What clubs, gangs or organizations have you had or do you have membership in?

Check if you belong

List here others you belong to

- |                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Boy or girl Scouts _____   | 1. _____ |
| Y.M.C.A. or Y.W.C.A. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 4-H clubs _____            | 3. _____ |
| F.F.A. or F.H.A. _____     | 4. _____ |



Oklahoma  
Agricultural and Mechanical College  
Division of Home Economics  
STILLWATER

Department of Home Life

Dear Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

You, as the parents of \_\_\_\_\_, are one of the 114 families that have been selected to represent the City of Stillwater in a survey to determine - In what family recreational and leisure time activities the people of this city are taking part.

The first part of this study was carried on with a select group of seventh grade students in the Stillwater Junior High School. From this group you and your family have been selected to participate.

Your child has cooperated already, and your further help is essential and would be greatly appreciated in the completion of this study.

I will call at your home sometime during the next week to give you a questionnaire, and to explain to you the full purpose of this study.

Yours truly,

Harold L. Hawkins  
Graduate Assistant  
Department of Home Life

HUSBAND USE GREEN SCHEDULE  
WIFE USE PINK SCHEDULE

FAMILY RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

All names, addresses, and other identifying marks will be omitted from the material going into the study.

How many years has your family lived in your present home? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your educational background? (Please circle years)

Grade School Completed	1,2,3,4,5,6
Junior High School Completed	7,8,9
High School Completed	10,11,12
College Completed	1,2,3,4
Graduate Work	1,2,3,4

During the last ten years a growing interest has been shown in recreation and the better use of leisure time. It is the purpose of this schedule to determine what recreational patterns now exist in the family.

It is necessary, for this study to have its greatest value, for you to give honest and individual answers. Please; at no time ask your wife or your husband or others to help you with your answers.

When both parents have returned the schedule, and the information has been tabulated, we will mail the results of the study to you so you may see how your Family Recreation and Leisure Time Activities compare with other families in Stillwater.

---

The term "FAMILY" in this schedule include:

Wife plus Husband, or Son, or Daughter.  
Husband plus Wife, or Son, or Daughter.  
Daughter plus Mother, or Father, or  
Son Brother, or Sister.  
Son plus Mother, or Father, or Brother,  
or Sister.

Remember, at least TWO members of the family must participate TOGETHER for it to be included as a FAMILY ACTIVITY. If, for example, a Brother and Sister go bicycling with their friends but NOT TOGETHER it would NOT be rated as a family activity. Similarly, if a husband and a wife attend club meetings with friends but NOT TOGETHER it would NOT be rated as a family activity, or if they read books INDIVIDUALLY but NOT TOGETHER it would NOT be rated as a family activity.

Put an (x) in front of the recreational activities in which your family participated at least once within the last year.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backyard and lawn games such as horseshoes or croquet, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Gymnasium Classes   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caring for flower garden                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caring for home grounds                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking, B.-Q's, Weiner roasts, etc.                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing and millinery  | <input type="checkbox"/> Day outing  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weaving and fancy needlework, knitting                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor camping   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art modeling, painting, drawing                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Boating, canoeing   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry, painting, repair jobs                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor camping   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loafing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Auto riding for pleasure                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listening to radio  | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature study  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listening to victrola or record player                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice skating   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watching T. V.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading some books - fiction                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Roller skating  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading books - non fiction                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending meetings of musical organizations                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading magazines and newspapers                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Taking part in amateur dramatics                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading aloud   | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending meetings  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing letters   | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending productions of dramatic groups                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing poems, stories, etc.                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending lectures, debates, forums                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parties (birthday, holidays, etc.)                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Taking part in debates, discussion groups, etc.               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor game parties   | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending evening school                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting friends  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other lecture or study courses                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertaining friends  | <input type="checkbox"/> Taking part in parent-teacher activities                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Informal play hours with the children                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting art or other museums                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry raising   | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending parties or socials outside the home                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caring for pets   | <input type="checkbox"/> Taking part in political, church or civic activities.         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Model construction  | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending organized camps                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography   | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending amusement parks                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collections (Stamps, coin, card, etc.)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending the movies  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other hobbies   | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending community social evenings                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attending athletic events as spectators                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Family or club reunions                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing baseball  | <input type="checkbox"/> Church suppers  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing softball  | <input type="checkbox"/> Candy pulls   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing tennis  | <input type="checkbox"/> Card games  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing handball  | <input type="checkbox"/> Masquerades   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing soccer  | <input type="checkbox"/> Taking part in contests                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing golf, miniature golf, etc.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sailing   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing shuffleboard  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil and paper games (Cross word puzzles, etc.)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing badminton   | <input type="checkbox"/> Scavenger hunts   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wrestling   | <input type="checkbox"/> Straw and hay rides   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Table games (Checkers, chess, etc)                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting   | <input type="checkbox"/> Treasure hunts  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming  | <input type="checkbox"/> Eating dinners, breakfasts, suppers, lunches outside the home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boxing  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor bowling  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Riding  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dancing or attending dances                                 |  |

In comparing your family, with other families that you know, how do you rate your family with respect to:

A. Participation in family leisure time and recreational activities outside the home.

- Much more than others
- More than others
- Average
- Less than others
- Much less than others

B. Amount of entertaining of friends and relatives in the home.

- Much more than others
- More than others
- Average
- Less than others
- Much less than others

C. Getting along with your wife or husband as a partner.

- Much more than others
- More than others
- Average
- Less than others
- Much less than others

D. Getting along with your children.

- Much more than others
- More than others
- Average
- Less than others
- Much less than others

E. Punishing your children

- Much more than others
- More than others
- Average
- Less than others
- Much less than others

F. Cooperation of family members.

- Much more than others
- More than others
- Average
- Less than others
- Much less than others

G. Tension in the home.

- Much more than others
- More than others
- Average
- Less than others
- Much less than others

H. Agreement of parents on discipline

- Much more than others
- More than others
- Average
- Less than others
- Much less than others

I. Husband and wife attend social functions together.

- Much more than others
- More than others
- Average
- Less than others
- Much less than others

J. Dominance of the father in the home

- Much more than others
- More than others
- Average
- Less than others
- Much less than others

K. Dominance of the mother in the home.

- Much more than others
- More than others
- Average
- Less than others
- Much less than others

From what three FAMILY activities, outside your daily work, do you derive the greatest pleasure?

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_

About how much money per week on the average do you and your family spend on recreation. (Sports equipment, admission fees, club dues, commercial snacks and refreshments, etc.)

- ( ) \$1.00 to \$5.00
- ( ) \$5.00 to \$10.00
- ( ) \$10.00 to \$15.00
- ( ) \$15.00 to \$20.00
- ( ) \$20.00 and over.

Do you think your family would like to have additional family leisure time and recreational activities? Yes ( ) No ( ).

Do you think your family would like to have more information and help concerning types of family recreation and leisure time activities?

Yes ( ) No ( )

If "Yes" how would you like to have this type of help presented?

- ( ) Phamplets
- ( ) Books
- ( ) Mimographed papers
- ( ) Counseling
- ( ) Speakers
- ( ) Classes and workshops
- ( ) Other ways \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

What are the three main causes or reasons your family does not participate more together in their leisure time activities and recreation.

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

HUSBAND USE GREEN SCHEDULE  
WIFE USE PINK SCHEDULE

FAMILY RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

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How many years has your family lived in your present home? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your educational background? (Please circle years)

Grade School Completed	1,2,3,4,5,6
Junior High School Completed	7,8,9
High School Completed	10,11,12
College Completed	1,2,3,4
Graduate Work	1,2,3,4

During the last ten years a growing interest has been shown in recreation and the better use of leisure time. It is the purpose of this schedule to determine what recreational patterns now exist in the family.

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Husband plus Wife, or Son, or Daughter.  
Daughter plus Mother, or Father, or  
Son Brother, or Sister.  
Son plus Mother, or Father, or Brother,  
or Sister.

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Put an (x) in front of the recreational activities in which your family participated at least once within the last year.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backyard and lawn games such as horseshoes or croquet, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Gymnasium Classes   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caring for flower garden                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caring for home grounds                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking, B.-Q's, Weiner roasts, etc.                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing and millinery  | <input type="checkbox"/> Day outing  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weaving and fancy needlework, knitting                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor camping   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art modeling, painting, drawing                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Boating, canoeing   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry, painting, repair jobs                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor camping   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loafing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Auto riding for pleasure                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listening to radio  | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature study  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listening to victrola or record player                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice skating   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watching T. V.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading some books - fiction                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Roller skating  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading books - non fiction                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending meetings of musical organizations                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading magazines and newspapers                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Taking part in amateur dramatics                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading aloud   | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending meetings  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing letters   | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending productions of dramatic groups                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing poems, stories, etc.                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending lectures, debates, forums                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parties (birthday, holidays, etc.)                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Taking part in debates, discussion groups, etc.               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor game parties   | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending evening school                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting friends  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other lecture or study courses                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertaining friends  | <input type="checkbox"/> Taking part in parent-teacher activities                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Informal play hours with the children                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting art or other museums                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry raising   | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending parties or socials outside the home                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caring for pets   | <input type="checkbox"/> Taking part in political, church or civic activities.         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Model construction  | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending organized camps                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography   | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending amusement parks                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collections (Stamps, coin, card, etc.)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending the movies  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other hobbies   | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending community social evenings                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attending athletic events as spectators                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Family or club reunions                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing baseball  | <input type="checkbox"/> Church suppers  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing softball  | <input type="checkbox"/> Candy pulls   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing tennis  | <input type="checkbox"/> Card games  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing handball  | <input type="checkbox"/> Masquerades   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing soccer  | <input type="checkbox"/> Taking part in contests                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing golf, miniature golf, etc.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sailing   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing shuffleboard  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil and paper games (Cross word puzzles, etc.)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing badminton   | <input type="checkbox"/> Scavenger hunts   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wrestling   | <input type="checkbox"/> Straw and hay rides   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Table games (Checkers, chess, etc)                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting   | <input type="checkbox"/> Treasure hunts  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming  | <input type="checkbox"/> Eating dinners, breakfasts, suppers, lunches outside the home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boxing  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor bowling  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Riding  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dancing or attending dances                                 |  |

In comparing your family, with other families that you know, how do you rate your family with respect to:

- A. Participation in family leisure time and recreational activities outside the home.
- ( ) Much more than others  
 ( ) More than others  
 ( ) Average  
 ( ) Less than others  
 ( ) Much less than others
- B. Amount of entertaining of friends and relatives in the home.
- ( ) Much more than others  
 ( ) More than others  
 ( ) Average  
 ( ) Less than others  
 ( ) Much less than others
- C. Getting along with your wife or husband as a partner.
- ( ) Much more than others  
 ( ) More than others  
 ( ) Average  
 ( ) Less than others  
 ( ) Much less than others
- D. Getting along with your children.
- ( ) Much more than others  
 ( ) More than others  
 ( ) Average  
 ( ) Less than others  
 ( ) Much less than others
- E. Punishing your children
- ( ) Much more than others  
 ( ) More than others  
 ( ) Average  
 ( ) Less than others  
 ( ) Much less than others
- F. Cooperation of family members.
- ( ) Much more than others  
 ( ) More than others  
 ( ) Average  
 ( ) Less than others  
 ( ) Much less than others
- G. Tension in the home.
- ( ) Much more than others  
 ( ) More than others  
 ( ) Average  
 ( ) Less than others  
 ( ) Much less than others
- H. Agreement of parents on discipline
- ( ) Much more than others  
 ( ) More than others  
 ( ) Average  
 ( ) Less than others  
 ( ) Much less than others
- I. Husband and wife attend social functions together.
- ( ) Much more than others  
 ( ) More than others  
 ( ) Average  
 ( ) Less than others  
 ( ) Much less than others
- J. Dominance of the father in the home
- ( ) Much more than others  
 ( ) More than others  
 ( ) Average  
 ( ) Less than others  
 ( ) Much less than others
- K. Dominance of the mother in the home.
- ( ) Much more than others  
 ( ) More than others  
 ( ) Average  
 ( ) Less than others  
 ( ) Much less than others



From what three FAMILY activities, outside your daily work, do you derive the greatest pleasure?

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_

About how much money per week on the average do you and your family spend on recreation. (Sports equipment, admission fees, club dues, commercial snacks and refreshments, etc.)

- ( ) \$1.00 to \$5.00
- ( ) \$5.00 to \$10.00
- ( ) \$10.00 to \$15.00
- ( ) \$15.00 to \$20.00
- ( ) \$20.00 and over.

Do you think your family would like to have additional family leisure time and recreational activities? Yes ( ) No ( ).

Do you think your family would like to have more information and help concerning types of family recreation and leisure time activities?

Yes ( ) No ( ).

If "Yes" how would you like to have this type of help presented?

- ( ) Phamplets
- ( ) Books
- ( ) Mimographed papers
- ( ) Counseling
- ( ) Speakers
- ( ) Classes and workshops
- ( ) Other ways \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

What are the three main causes or reasons your family does not participate more together in their leisure time activities and recreation.

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Oklahoma  
Agricultural and Mechanical College  
Division of Home Economics  
STILLWATER

Department of Home Life

May 1, 1951

Dear Parents:

I wish to express my thanks for the cooperation you so willingly gave me by filling out the Family Recreation and Leisure Time Activities Schedule. The results have been tabulated and the findings are as follows:

(1) Eighty-five of the 114 families returned the schedules completely filled in and checked by both husband and wife.

(2) The 8 family activities checked most frequently by the husbands were also the 8 checked most frequently by the wives. These 8 activities were:

1. Listening to radio.
2. Visiting friends.
3. Entertaining friends.
4. Attending the movies.
5. Auto riding for pleasure.
6. Eating dinners, breakfasts, suppers, lunches outside the home.
7. Picnicking, barbecues, weiner roasts, etc.
8. Caring for home grounds.

(3) The majority of the husbands and wives in comparing their families with other families responded that their family was "average" in the following 11 items influencing family relationships:

1. Participation in family leisure time and recreation activities outside the home.
2. Amount of entertaining of friends and relatives in the home.
3. Getting along with your wife or husband as a partner.
4. Getting along with your children.
5. Punishing your children.
6. Cooperation of family members.
7. Tension in the home.
8. Agreement of parents on discipline.
9. Husband and wife attend social functions together.
10. Dominance of the father in the home.
11. Dominance of the mother in the home.

(4) In answer to the question, "From what three family activities outside your daily work do you derive the greatest pleasure?" the husbands' most frequent responses were:

1. Sports.
2. Picnicking.
3. Church activities.

The wives' most frequent responses were:

1. Movies.
2. Visiting and entertaining friends.
3. Pleasure driving.

The activities listed most frequently by both husbands and wives were:

- |                |                                       |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Movies.     | 5. Visiting and entertaining friends. |
| 2. Picnicking. | 6. Pleasure driving.                  |
| 3. Church.     | 7. Watching T.V.                      |
| 4. Fishing.    | 8. Sports.                            |
|                | 9. Radio.                             |

(5) To the question, "How much money per week on the average do you and your family spend on recreation? (sports equipment, admission fees, club dues, commercial snacks and refreshments, etc.)," 63 per cent responded that they spent between \$1.00 and \$5.00 a week. The two groups who reported spending from \$1.00 to \$5.00 and from \$5.00 to \$10.00 included 88 per cent of the husbands and 92 per cent of the wives, or 90 per cent of all the parents studied. Only one out of the 85 families reported that they spent \$20.00 and over a week.

(6) To the question, "Do you think your family would like to have additional family leisure time and recreational activities?" 117 replied that they did want additional activities, while only 53 stated they did not. The responses indicated that the husbands felt the need equally as much as the wives for these additional family leisure time and recreation activities. The parents in 55 per cent of all the families agreed they wanted additional recreation. The parents in only 18 per cent of the families agreed they did not want additional recreation. Thus at least one, either the husband or wife in each of the remaining 82 per cent of the families wanted additional recreation.

(7) To the question, "Do you think your family would like to have more information and help concerning types of family recreation and leisure time activities?" 49 per cent of the parents responded "yes", and 50 per cent responded "no", showing that in 56 per cent of the families one or both of the parents wanted information and help. Here again there was equal interest shown by the husbands and wives.

(8) In response to the question, "What are the three main causes or reasons your family does not participate more together in their leisure time activities and recreation?" 17 reasons appeared more than once. Lack of time, whether listed in itself as a reason, or resulting from occupations which required too much time, or the absence of one of the parents from town, or from conflicting schedules of family members; was given by 96 parents as the cause. Differences in interest, in abilities and skills due to different ages, and in tastes and religions were given 52 times as the cause of lack of participation in family activities, and too many social demands on individual members of the family was given as the reason by 29 parents. This information indicates that the main reasons for lack of participation together in family recreation and leisure time activities are insufficient time and money and individual preferences, interests, and obligations. Some of the less frequently listed reasons were limited facilities, lack of interest, each being listed only two times.

The thesis in which these results appear is on file at the Oklahoma A. & M. College Library.

Sincerely,

Harold L. Hawkins  
Graduate Assistant  
Department of Home Life

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THESIS TITLE:

A STUDY OF FAMILY RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES

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