

1950

A study of the associates and leisure-time activities of 1,042 Rockford, Illinois adolescents

Frances Gloria Bibb
Indiana State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholars.indianastate.edu/etds>

Recommended Citation

Bibb, Frances Gloria, "A study of the associates and leisure-time activities of 1,042 Rockford, Illinois adolescents" (1950). *All-Inclusive List of Electronic Theses and Dissertations*. 2853.
<https://scholars.indianastate.edu/etds/2853>

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by Sycamore Scholars. It has been accepted for inclusion in All-Inclusive List of Electronic Theses and Dissertations by an authorized administrator of Sycamore Scholars. For more information, please contact dana.swinford@indstate.edu.

A STUDY OF THE ASSOCIATES AND LEISURE-TIME
ACTIVITIES OF 1,042 ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
ADOLESCENTS

A Thesis
Presented to
the Faculty of the School of Education
Indiana State Teachers College

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science

by
Frances Gloria Bibb

August 1950

The thesis of Frances Gloria Bibb,
Contribution of the Graduate School, Indiana State Teachers
College, Number 711, under the title

A STUDY OF THE ASSOCIATES AND LEISURE-TIME ACTIVITIES
OF 1,042 ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, ADOLESCENTS

is hereby approved as counting toward the completion of the
Master's degree in the amount of 8 hours' credit.

Committee on thesis:

Charles Hardaway, Chairman

Clis B. Jamison

Reginald H. Smith

Representative of English Department:

Laban C. Smith

Date of Acceptance Sept. 20, 1950

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTION	1
The problem	1
Statement of the problem	1
Limitation of the problem	1
Importance of the study	2
Sources of data	3
Organization of remainder of the thesis . .	3
II. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE	4
Literature on the preferred associates of	
the adolescent	4
Literature on the activities of the adoles-	
cent	10
Literature on boy-girl relationships	23
III. PRESENTATION OF DATA	33
The associates of adolescents	33
Female groups	33
Best friends of adolescent girls	38
Heterosexual groups reported by girls . .	39
Male groups	42
Best friends of adolescent boys	47
Heterosexual groups reported by boys . .	48
The activities of adolescent groups	51
The activities of female groups	51

CHAPTER	PAGE
The activities of male groups	51
The activities of heterosexual groups	53
The dating policies of adolescents	53
Frequency of dating	56
Dating activities	58
Dating expenditures	58
Going steady	61
IV. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	63
Summary	63
Conclusions	63
BIBLIOGRAPHY	66

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	PAGE
I. Preferred Associates of Ninth and Twelfth Grade Adolescents in the New York Area	9
II. Amount of Leisure Time which 200 High School Boys Spend at Home	11
III. Principal Leisure-time Activities of Youth According to Sex	12
IV. Leisure-time Activities Reported by Bright and Dull Students	15
V. The Ten Most Popular Play Activities at Ages Fourteen and Eighteen	17
VI. Per cent of Youth Engaging in Each Activity and Average Number of Hours Per Week, Per Youth Engaging in Each Activity by Sexq	18
VII. Summary of Participation by Boys in Various Types of Play Interests	20
VIII. Mean Number of Times High School Students Attend the Cinemas Each Week	21
IX. Frequency of Selection of Specified Types of Movies as First Choice	22
X. Topics High School Boys Most Frequently Talk About among Themselves	24
XI. Changes in Social Relationships at Adolescence as Shown by the Percentage of Boys and Girls of Different Grade Groups who Choose Members of the	

TABLE		PAGE
	opposite Sex as Companions for Various Activities, Who Are Chosen by the opposite Sex, and Who Are Chosen by No One	25
XII.	Frequency With Which Boys on the Various High School Levels Go Out with Girls	27
XIII.	Qualities Desired in the Opposite Sex by High School Boys and Girls	29
XIV.	Frequency of Dating of High School Pupils, and Single versus Double Dating, According to Grade and Sex of Pupils	30
XV.	Expenditures for Entertainment, Leisure, and Recreation	32
XVI.	Distribution of 1,042 Rockford, Illinois, High School Students, according to Age, Grade, and Sex	34
XVII.	Size of Homogeneous Group to which Girls, According to Age, Reported Membership	35
XVIII.	Size of Heterosexual Groups to Which Girls, According to Age, Reported Membership	41
XIX.	Size of Homogeneous Group to which Boys, According to Age, Reported Membership	44
XX.	Size of Heterosexual Group to which Boys, According to Age, Reported Membership	50
XXI.	Most Popular Leisure Activities as Ranked by Adolescent Girls, According to Age	52

TABLE	PAGE
XXII. Most Popular Leisure Activities as Ranked by Adolescent Boys, according to Age	54
XXIII. Most Popular Leisure Activities of Heterosexual Groups as Reported by Adolescent Boys and Girls, according to Age	55
XXIV. Number of Dates per Week as Reported by Boys and Girls, according to Sex and Age	57
XXV. Major Dating Activities as Reported by Ado- lescents, according to Age	59
XXVI. Most and Least Expensive Dates as Reported by Adolescent Boys	60

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A school or school system is not properly run unless provision is made for teachers, parents, and administrators to understand the problems of the students. It is during the period of life called adolescence--the transitional period from childhood to adulthood--that numerous problems, varying in nature, impinge upon the students. Only a thorough insight into the implications and ramifications of these problems can guarantee their solution. Such insight is contingent upon a knowledge of the adolescent's total constitution. Therefore, concern for the out-of-school associates and leisure time activities of adolescents becomes an educational responsibility.

I. THE PROBLEM

Statement of the problem. The purpose of this study was threefold: to reveal (1) the out-of-school associates of adolescents; (2) the out-of-school activities in which adolescents engage; and (3) the prominence of dating in the social life of adolescent boys and girls.

Limitation of the problem. This study was confined to the sophomore, junior, and senior adolescents of one Rockford, Illinois, high school. The sophomore students ranged in age

from 14 to 18 years, the median age being 15 years. Fifteen to nineteen years was the age range for junior students, 16 years being the median age. The senior students were from 16 to 20 years of age. Seventeen years was the median age.

Because of the wide range of ages evident in each grade, conclusions were drawn on the basis of the age of the students rather than on the basis of student classification.

Importance of the study. Administrators and teachers have long been aware of the fact that social contacts and activities are essential to the adequate social adjustment of the adolescent. They are cognizant of the essentiality of these contacts being made and maintained with reputable persons and in reputable social settings.

With the present short school day, the huge amount of commercialized recreation, and the increased freedom of youth, adolescents are faced with the dilemma of segregating appropriate from non-appropriate associates and activities. The ability of students to successfully accomplish this task is contingent upon their receiving adequate social guidance within the home, school, and community. This type of guidance can only be administered by persons thoroughly versed in social problems confronting the typical adolescent. It was for the purpose of acquainting administrators, teachers, and parents--

present and future--with the associates and activities of Rockford, Illinois, adolescents that this study was made.

II. SOURCES OF DATA

Conclusions drawn in the study were based exclusively on information revealed by 1,042 Rockford, Illinois, high school adolescents by means of a questionnaire. Other sources of data, secondary in nature, were textbooks concerned with adolescent psychology and related periodical literature.

III. ORGANIZATION OF REMAINDER OF THE THESIS

Literature related to the problem is presented in Chapter II.

The analysis of data with related tables is presented in Chapter III.

Chapter IV is concerned with the summary and conclusions. The bibliography follows Chapter IV.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Research relative to the associates of adolescents, the composition of adolescent social groups, and the activities of adolescent groups has been voluminous. More limited in scope has been research relative to the dating frequency and activities of this group. A brief summary of the work of experimenters on problems closely related to the one at hand will be discussed in this study.

Literature on the preferred associates of the adolescent. Zachry,¹ in her discussion of the preferred associates of the adolescent boy, stated:

He does not seem open and confiding toward the adult. More often he seems to be turning away to the other children of his own age and sex. During these years, a transition is made from the young child's intense preoccupation with himself and the grown persons he has needed, to an interest in a group of people most like himself; to age mates of his own sex; and the child finds freedom and security in the gang in which strong loyalties and antagonisms develop. . . . What is important to him and his friends, the child shrouds in secrecy from the eyes of older persons who he expects would not be able to understand.

Adolescents' friendships, according to Partridge,² are based upon factors of the environment and factors of the

1 Caroline B. Zackry, "Later Childhood, Some Questions for Research," Progressive Education, 15: 522-23, November, 1938.

2 E. DeAlton Partridge, Social Psychology of Adolescence (New York: Prentice Hall, 1938), pp. 103-04.

individual. The environmental factors include propinquity, community of interests, socio-economic status, and tradition. Included in the factors of the individual are age, race, sex, physique, looks, and personality.

Furfey³ studied the influence of grade location, neighborhood, chronological age, mental age, social maturity, height, and weight on the adolescent boy's choice of companions. The study, which included 296 boys, revealed that association, either at school or in the home neighborhood, was essential to the formation of adolescent friendships and that, within the same school or neighborhood, boys tend to select friends on the basis of age, size, intelligence, and maturity.

A study of the similarities and dissimilarities of the adolescent and his companions was made by Wellman.⁴ Each adolescent was compared with the associate with whom he was most frequently seen. Comparisons were made on the basis of chronological age, mental age, intelligence quotient, achievement in scholarship, extrovertive tendencies, and health and physical achievement. The study, which included 64 male and 50 female

³ Paul H. Furfey, "Some Factors Influencing the Selection of Boys' Chums," Journal of Applied Psychology, 11: 47-51, January, 1928.

⁴ Beth Wellman, "The School Child's Choice of Companions," Journal of Educational Research, 14: 126-32, September, 1926.

adolescents, revealed that pairs of girls were more alike in scholarship and least alike in height. The boys were most alike in height, intelligence quotient, and chronological age and least alike in extroversion, scholarship, and mental age.

Partridge⁵ studied 142 adolescent boys attending a summer camp to determine the similarity of associates in intelligence. Ample time was allowed for the adolescents to become acquainted with other campers, and the selection of tent mates was allowed. Provision was made for shifting about until each individual felt satisfied with his associates. During the camping season, each adolescent was given the Army Alpha Group Intelligence Test. A comparison of the mental ages of the adolescents and their chosen companions revealed that when adolescent boys are permitted to select their own social group, there is a tendency for them to select boys of their own chronological age, and from the group of boys of the same chronological age, they are likely to select boys of like mental age.

In an attempt to determine the similarity in personality traits between friends, Van Dyne⁶ studied 42 adolescent girls who were attending a summer camp. Each camper revealed her

5 E. DeAlton Partridge, "A Study of Friendships Among Adolescent Boys," Journal of Genetic Psychology, 43: 472-77, December, 1933.

6 Virginia Van Dyne, "Personality Traits and Friendship Formation in Adolescent Girls," Journal of Social Psychology, 12: 291-303, November, 1940.

closest companion, and the results of pairs of companions on the Bernreuter Personality Inventory were compared. The study revealed a close correlation of chronological age in pairs of friends, as well as similarities in degree of dominance and sociability. The degree of emotional stability, self-sufficiency, introversion, and self-confidence were not closely related to the friendship formations of adolescent girls.

Jenkins⁷ studied 280 Riverside High School students to determine factors influencing the formation of friendships. The study revealed that socio-economic status of the family was an important factor in friend selection. A study of the sources of friends revealed that 54 per cent of the adolescents' friendships were made in school; 25 per cent in the neighborhood; 8 per cent in the church; and 3 per cent in clubs.

Hildreth⁸ studied the preferred associates of two distinctly different social and economic levels of adolescents in the New York area. One group consisted of pupils attending a private school which enrolled mainly individuals from homes of superior social and economic status. Pupils who resided in an industrial area, whose homes were typical of industrial

⁷ Gladys G. Jenkins, "Factors Involved in Children's Friendships," Journal of Educational Psychology, 22: 440-48, September, 1931.

⁸ Gertrude Hildreth, "Adolescent Interests and Abilities," Journal of Genetic Psychology, 43: 65-92, September, 1943.

communities, constituted the public school group. A contrast of the preferred associates of the ninth and twelfth grade students of the two areas is shown in Table I.

Lucina⁹ investigated the sex differences in adolescents' attitudes toward their chums. The investigation consisted of an attitude test, which was administered to 569 adolescents. The test revealed (1) that boys trust their pals to back them up more than do girls their chums; (2) that boys are more envious of the success of their friends, particularly in sports and school work, than are girls; (3) that boys are more often jealous of their friends than are girls; (4) that girls tend to feel lost without their chums more than boys do; and (5) that girls, more than boys, have the attitude that chums cheer and comfort them.

As a part of the Adolescent Growth Study at the University of California, Tryon¹⁰ analyzed the traits most frequently reported admirable in their companions by a group of adolescents. Opinions were taken when 90 per cent of the 160 boys and girls were 11 and 12 years of age, and again when the same group of

⁹ Sister M. Lucina, "Sex Differences in Adolescent Attitudes Toward Best Friends," School Review, 48: 512-16, September, 1940.

¹⁰ Caroline M. Tryon, "The Adolescent Peer Cult," Forty-Third Yearbook of the National Society for the Study of Education, Part I, 1944, pp. 226-29.

TABLE I

PREFERRED ASSOCIATES OF NINTH AND TWELFTH
GRADE ADOLESCENTS IN THE NEW YORK AREA¹¹

Boys			Girls		
Public School - Ninth Grade					
1st	Boys your own age	44	Girls your own age		42
2nd	Mother	30	Mother		38
3rd	Father	25	Father		24
4th	Girls your own age	22	Boys your own age		18
5th	Older boys	10	Older boys		14
Private School - Ninth Grade					
1st	Boys your own age	23	Girls your own age		22
2nd	Mother	12	Older boys		18
3rd	Father	12	Father		10
4th	Girls your own age	9	Mother		10
5th	Older boys	8	Older girls		9
Public School - Twelfth Grade					
1st	Boys your own age	26	Girls your own age		23
2nd	Girls your own age	17	Mother		18
3rd	Mother	15	Father		12
4th	Father	15	Boys your own age		11
5th	Older boys	9	Older boys		8
			Older girls		8
Private School - Twelfth Grade					
1st	Boys your own age	11	Older boys		16
2nd	Girls your own age	4	Girls your own age		9
3rd	Father	4	Older girls		4
4th	Mother	4	Other adults		3
5th	Younger girls	3	Boys your own age		3
	Other adults	3			

¹¹ Hildreth, op. cit., pp. 81-82.

students reached the ages of 14 and 15. The most admired qualities by the boys in their companions at the eleven- and twelve-year level were competence in group games; ability to lead, direct, or keep a game going; fearlessness; daringness; aggressiveness; boisterousness; and rugged appearance. When the same group of boys reached the fourteen- and fifteen-year level, great emphasis was still placed on physical skill and daringness; however, poise, personableness, likeableness, and grooming replaced the other traits formerly considered desirable.

Most important in determining prestige for girls at the eleven- and twelve-year level were such qualities as being pretty, tidy, and gracious. Enthusiasm, good humor, and docility were also considered important. When the girls reached the ages of fifteen and sixteen, the sedate design was replaced by such characteristics as amiability and good sportsmanship.

Literature on the activities of the adolescent. From an analysis of 2,000 questionnaires filled out by adolescents, Fleege¹² determined the amount of leisure time the adolescent spent at home. The study revealed that over 60 per cent of the adolescents spent one hour or more of their leisure time at home and that only 11.5 per cent spent "scarcely any" or

¹² Urban H. Fleege, Self-Revelation of the Adolescent Boy (Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing Co., 1945), p. 57.

"none" of their leisure time at home. The amount of time spent at home by freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors is shown in Table II.

Bell¹³ revealed the responses of over 12,000 Maryland adolescents to a question designed to uncover the activity in which each youth spent most of his leisure time during a year. Participation in individual sports and team games made up 37 per cent of all male amusement, while reading made up 35 per cent of all female amusement. Reading constituted the second most popular male activity, making up 16 per cent of the amusement; however, dancing and dating held second place with the female adolescents, making up 13.7 per cent. Table III reveals the leisure time activities of both sexes.

A comparison of the leisure time activities of the twenty highest and lowest rating adolescents on a mental alertness test was made by Hildreth.¹⁴ The median total weighted score for the bright group (Group I) was 113, as compared with 39 for the dull group (Group II). Sports occupied the initial position for both groups; however, students in Group II confined their sports to baseball, basketball, hockey, and billiards. Group I revealed a broader range of sports, including chess, track,

¹³ Howard M. Bell, Youth Tell Their Story (Washington: American Council on Education, 1938), p. 161.

¹⁴ Hildreth, loc. cit.

TABLE II

AMOUNT OF LEISURE TIME WHICH 200
HIGH-SCHOOL BOYS SPEND AT HOME¹⁵

Amount of leisure time spent at home	Fresh- men	Sopho- mores	Jun- iors	Sen- iors	All Classes
All of it	3.6%	4.8%	2.4%	2.2%	3.3%
Three fourths of it	22.6	22.8	23.2	21.8	22.6
One half of it	37.0	37.6	34.4	30.6	34.9
One fourth of it	25.8	23.6	27.6	29.0	26.5
Scarcely any	8.6	8.0	10.6	13.8	10.3
None	.8	.8	1.0	2.2	1.2
No answer	1.6	2.4	.8	.4	1.2

¹⁵ Fleege, loc. cit.

TABLE III
PRINCIPAL LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES OF YOUTH
ACCORDING TO SEX¹⁶

Rank	Male Youth Activity	Percentage	Rank	Female Youth Activity	Percentage
1	Individual sports	21.6	1	Reading	35.0
2	Reading	16.7	2	Dating, dancing	13.7
3	Team games	15.7	3	Handicraft, hobbies	13.4
4	Loafing*	13.1	4	Movies	12.0
5	Dating, dancing	10.9	5	Individual sports	11.1
6	Movies	9.4	6	Loafing*	5.4
7	Hobbies	5.5	7	Listening to radio	2.2
8	Listening to radio	1.8	8	Team games	1.1
9	Quiet games	1.5	9	Quiet games	0.8
10	Other activities	3.8	10	Other activities	5.3

* This includes idling, sitting on front steps, talking on street corners, pleasure driving.

¹⁶ Bell, loc. cit.

backgammon, soccer, golf, and waterpolo. Other recreation reported by the groups is shown in Table IV.

Cook and Goodrich¹⁷ conducted a survey to determine how many minutes per day high school students spent in various leisure time activities. To obtain this information, a list of twenty common activities was given to 1,000 pupils representing the sophomore, junior, and senior classes of Lincoln High School (Nebraska). An analysis of the data revealed that boys spent 22 minutes per day participating in after-school sports; 40 minutes per day with outside reading; 30 minutes per day at the motion-picture theater; 14 minutes at parties; and 34 minutes at other entertainments. An analysis of the girls' responses revealed that only 6 minutes per day were spent in after-school sports; 42 minutes in outside reading; 25 minutes at the motion picture theater; 17 minutes at parties; and 23 minutes at other entertainments.

The ten most popular play activities of boys and girls, ages 8 to 21, were cited by Lehman and Witty.¹⁸ By contrasting the activities of the fourteen and eighteen year old boys, it can be seen that organized group games, which are preferred at the 14 year level, are largely replaced at the 20 year level by

¹⁷ Inez Cook and T. V. Goodrich, "How High School Pupils Spend Their Time," School Review, 36: 771-78, December, 1928.

¹⁸ H. C. Lehman and Paul A. Witty, Psychology of Play Activities (Milwaukee: A. S. Barnes Co., 1927), pp. 100-03.

TABLE IV
LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES REPORTED BY
BRIGHT AND DULL STUDENTS¹⁹

Group I		Group II	
Traveling	4	Swimming	3
Swimming	3	Ice Skating	3
Doing science experiments	2	Going to church or sunday school	2
Having dates	1	Fishing	2
Reading	1	Folk dancing	1
Hiking	1	Social dancing	1
Attending plays	1	Watching athletic events	1
Skiing	1	Horseback riding	1
Working around machinery	1	Traveling	1
Boating	1	Attending movies	1
Horseback riding	1	Gymnasium work	1
Going to parties	1	Drawing or painting	1
Camping	1	Racing	1
		Playing records or victrolia	1

¹⁹ Hildreth, op. cit., p. 86.

passive sports and social relationships involving girls. A comparison of the activities of 14 and 18 year old girls reveals a complete absence of interest in sports at the higher level. A much earlier social maturity is shown by the girls than by the boys. The findings of Lehman and Witty are shown in Table V.

The leisure-time activities of sophomore, junior, and senior students of University City, Missouri, were studied by Olds.²⁰ Of the 437 boys and 403 girls answering the questionnaire, a higher proportion of boys than girls reported spending their time watching sports and participating in both supervised and unsupervised sports and games. A higher proportion of girls than boys reported spending their time studying, reading, and attending movies. The findings regarding University City adolescents are shown in Table VI.

The popularity of certain recreational activities with adolescent boys was studied by Dimock.²¹ The study revealed that reading interests register a larger number of participants than any other type of adolescent activity. Reading was followed by passive sports, which include: listening to the

²⁰ Edward B. Olds, "How Do Young People Spend their Leisure Time?" Recreation, 42: 458-62, January, 1949.

²¹ Hedley S. Dimock, Rediscovering the Adolescent (New York: Association Press, 1937), p. 61.

TABLE V

THE TEN MOST POPULAR PLAY ACTIVITIES
AT AGES FOURTEEN AND EIGHTEEN²²

Boys	Girls
Fourteen years	
Basketball	Reading books
Baseball	Playing the piano for fun
Football	Going to the movies
Hunting	Social dancing
Reading books	Going to parties or picnics
Riding a bicycle	Basketball
Driving an automobile	Reading the newspaper
Going to the movies	Sewing, knitting, crocheting
Listening to the radio	Visiting or entertaining
Watching athletic sports	Having dates
Eighteen years	
Football	Reading books
Basketball	Having dates
Reading books	Visiting or entertaining
Driving an automobile	Reading short stories
Tennis	Social clubs
Watching athletic sports	Writing letters
Baseball	Going to entertainments
Hunting	Social dancing
Just loafing or lounging	Playing the piano
Having dates	Driving an automobile

²² Lehman and Witty, loc. cit.

TABLE VI

PER CENT OF YOUTH ENGAGING IN EACH ACTIVITY
AND AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS PER WEEK, PER
YOUTH ENGAGING IN EACH ACTIVITY BY SEX²³

Activity	Per cent en- gaging in each activity		Average number of hours per youth engaging in each activity	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Studying	87	94	8.4	8.4
Radio listening	92	93	7.1	8.2
Loafing with friends	85	90	7.2	6.2
Jobs and housework	73	86	8.2	6.5
Reading	82	91	3.9	3.9
Movies	67	72	4.1	4.2
Musical activities	23	43	6.5	5.5
Games	66	60	3.3	2.3
Watching sports	68	47	3.3	2.6
Hobbies	33	42	4.9	4.1
Loafing alone	43	61	2.8	3.3
Unsupervised sports	57	27	4.1	2.6
Religious activities	43	58	2.6	3.0
Chaperoned parties	24	42	3.9	4.4
Parties, unchaperoned	29	37	4.0	4.3
Club activities	40	52	2.7	2.6
Supervised sports	40	27	3.9	2.4
Concerts, plays, and lectures	27	38	2.0	2.2
School activities	29	32	2.0	1.9
Scout activities	15	5	3.5	3.0
Classes	5	14	2.0	2.2

The activities in the above table are ranked according to the total time spent on them by both boys and girls.

²³ Olds, op. cit., p. 460.

radio, attending movies, automobile riding, watching sports, and listening to stories. Actual participation in sports was reported by 37 per cent of the boys; however, 62 per cent indicated interest in sports from the view of a spectator. Dimock's findings are shown in Table VII.

Numerous studies have revealed that attending movies, loafing, and talking consume a large amount of the adolescent's leisure time. Having questioned 241 female and 239 male adolescents, Witty and Coomer²⁴ discovered the frequency of movie attendance by adolescents. This attendance, by grade and sex, is shown in Table VIII.

The type of movies preferred by adolescents was studied by Mitchell.²⁵ Her findings indicated that there are sex differences in the movie preferences of adolescents. Adventure pictures were the preference of high school boys; but high school girls rated them as their eighth choice. Romantic pictures were preferred by girls; with boys, they were seventh choice. Mitchell's findings are shown in Table IX.

²⁴ Paul Witty and Anne Coomer, "Activities and Preferences of a Secondary-School Group," Journal of Educational Psychology, 43: 65-76, February, 1943.

²⁵ Alice M. Mitchell, Children and Movies (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1929), p. 167.

TABLE VII

SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION BY BOYS IN
VARIOUS TYPES OF PLAY INTERESTS²⁶

Type of Activity	Number of Ac- tivi- ties	Number of Par- tici- pants	Average Number of Par- tici- pants	Per Cent of Total Partici- pants
<u>Reading Activity--</u>				
Sunday funnies, news- papers, books, comic strips, magazines, jokes, short stories	7	507	73	29
<u>Physical Interests--</u>				
Basketball, football, gym work, swimming, bicycle riding, wrest- ling, volley ball, boxing, races	9	330	37	19
<u>Passive-Spectator Items--</u>				
Radio, car riding, movies, watching sports, listening to stories	5	308	62	18
<u>Constructive Activities--</u>				
Drawing, making some- thing, collecting stamps, etc., playing other musi- cal instruments	6	144	24	8
<u>Miscellaneous Interests--</u>				
Sunday school, whistling, card games, church, writing letters, driving cars, ex- cursions, checker playing, pool, etc.	16	442	28	26

²⁶ Dimock, loc. cit.

TABLE VIII
MEAN NUMBER OF TIMES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
ATTEND THE CINEMAS EACH WEEK²⁷
(OAK PARK)

Grade	<u>Number of Cinema Attendances</u>		
	Girls	Boys	Both Sexes
IX	.94	.97	.96
X	1.08	1.04	1.06
XI	1.12	1.44	1.28
XII	.81	1.06	.91
All grades	.98	1.11	1.04

²⁷ Witty and Coomer, op. cit., p. 71.

TABLE IX
FREQUENCY OF SELECTION OF SPECIFIED TYPES
OF MOVIES AS FIRST CHOICE²⁸

Type of Movie	High School Boys		High School Girls	
	Per Cent	Rank Order	Per Cent	Rank Order
Adventure	13.7	1	6.1	8
Comedy	13.0	2	10.3	3
Educational	2.8	10	2.1	10
Historical	12.9	3	10.6	2
Mystery	8.9	5	8.8	5
Romance	7.0	7	22.8	1
Sports	11.9	4	8.0	6
Tragedy	5.6	8	9.9	4
War	3.8	9	2.2	9
Western	7.5	6	6.5	7

²⁸ Mitchell, loc. cit.

Since talking occupied a large amount of the adolescent's leisure time, Fleege²⁹ studied the changes in topics of conversation among boys as they progressed from the freshman to senior year. The study was based on the replies of 2,000 boys, who mentioned nearly 6,000 topics which they most frequently talked about among themselves. Most of the subjects may be classified under six major topics: sports, girls, school, dates, sex, and movies. The results of Fleege's study are shown in Table X.

Literature on boy-girl relationships. Kuhlen and Lee³⁰ studied 700 children, grades six, nine, and ten, to obtain measures of social acceptability at different age levels through the adolescent period. The study revealed a significant trend toward choosing companions of the opposite sex as students advanced from the sixth to the twelfth grade. The major findings of the study are shown in Table XI.

Furfey's³¹ study of Chicago gangs revealed that there is a tendency for boys to break away from the gang and enter into activities involving girls upon reaching adolescence. The study

²⁹ Fleege, op. cit., p. 234.

³⁰ Raymond G. Kuhlen and Beatrice J. Lee, "Personality Characteristics and Acceptability in Adolescence," Journal of Educational Psychology, 34: 321-40, September, 1943.

³¹ Paul H. Furfey, The Gang Age (New York: MacMillan Co., 1926), p. 14.

TABLE X

TOPICS HIGH SCHOOL BOYS MOST FREQUENTLY
TALK ABOUT AMONG THEMSELVES³²

Rank	Topic	Fresh- men	Sopho- mores	Juniors	Seniors	All Classes
1	Sports	6.2%	80.2%	75.0%	75.1%	73.3%
2	Girls	53.6	67.6	70.6	80.0	68.0
3	School, studies, and teachers	27.0	27.2	29.0	27.3	27.6
4	Social activities, dates, good times	9.6	16.0	20.1	24.2	17.5
5	Sex, sexual rela- tions, dirty jokes	11.2	12.4	16.4	20.1	15.0
6	Movies	16.4	10.4	9.0	7.6	10.9
7	Current happenings	7.6	7.9	7.1	10.6	8.4
8	Cars, airplanes, machinery	5.4	8.2	7.4	7.0	7.0
9	Generalities	7.4	5.0	4.1	6.4	5.7
10	Other boys	5.5	4.2	3.3	3.4	4.1
11	One's experiences	6.0	3.2	2.0	1.6	3.2
12	Hobbies	2.5	3.2	4.4	2.0	3.0
13	Jobs or work	1.0	1.8	2.0	6.1	2.7
14	Money	1.2	2.8	3.0	3.1	2.5
15	Things one is going to do	1.9	2.0	3.4	2.2	2.4
16	Future vocation	1.2	1.4	1.6	4.7	2.2
17	Miscellaneous: re- ligion, clothes, home, eats, etc.	4.0	2.2	3.2	4.3	3.4
18	No answer	3.4	1.6	.8	.4	1.6

³² Fleege, loc. cit.

TABLE XI

CHANGES IN SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS AT ADOLESCENCE
 AS SHOWN BY THE PERCENTAGE OF BOYS AND GIRLS
 OF DIFFERENT GRADE GROUPS WHO CHOOSE MEMBERS
 OF THE OPPOSITE SEX AS COMPANIONS FOR
 VARIOUS ACTIVITIES, WHO ARE CHOSEN
 BY THE OPPOSITE SEX, AND WHO ARE
 CHOSEN BY NO ONE³³

	Grade VI	Grade IX	Grade XII
Percentage of boys choosing girls	45.0	72.5	75.0
Percentage of girls choosing boys	39.2	59.7	63.0
Percentage of boys chosen by girls	31.2	49.1	66.5
Percentage of girls chosen by boys	30.8	52.4	59.7
Percentage of boys chosen by no one	5.5	5.0	1.9
Percentage of girls chosen by no one	2.5	3.2	4.2

³³ Kuhlen and Lee, op. cit., p. 326.

further revealed that the desertion of the gang is neither sudden nor complete, and is eased by a similar inclination of other adolescents of equal maturity.

The question, "Do you go out with girls?" was included in a questionnaire administered by Fleege.³⁴ The responses to the question by 2,000 adolescent boys revealed that one out of every four boys goes out with girls frequently; 4 out 10, occasionally; and more than one third never go out with girls. The study further revealed that increases of heterosexual interests parallel increases of age during the adolescent period. Fleege's findings appear in Table XII.

A nation-wide survey by Remmers and Shinberg³⁵ revealed that 48 per cent of the adolescent boys seldom have dates, 41 per cent do not have a girl friend, and 34 per cent are bashful about asking girls for dates. Thirty-nine per cent of the girls revealed that they seldom have dates, 30 per cent do not have a boy friend; and 33 per cent do not know how to keep boys interested.

Taylor³⁶ reported that personality was the trait voted most desirable in companions of the opposite sex by a mixed

³⁴ Fleege, op. cit., pp. 189-90.

³⁵ H. H. Remmers and Lyle M. Spencer, "All Young People Have Problems," N.E.A. Journal, 39: 183, March, 1950.

³⁶ Katherine W. Taylor, Do Adolescents Need Parents? (New York: D. Appleton Century Co., 1938), pp. 178-79.

TABLE XII

FREQUENCY WITH WHICH BOYS ON THE VARIOUS
HIGH SCHOOL LEVELS GO OUT WITH GIRLS³⁷

	Do you go out with girls?		
	Occasionally	Frequently	Never
All classes	42.1%	23.2%	34.7%
Freshmen	38.4	13.2	48.4
Sophomores	43.2	16.8	40.0
Juniors	41.2	26.8	32.0
Seniors	45.4	36.0	18.6

³⁷ Fleege, op. cit., p. 189.

class of high school juniors. Personality was defined by the group as "life and pep," "vivacity," and "enthusiasm." Other traits mentioned by the juniors, in order of preference, are shown in Table XIII.

The frequency of dating among high school youth, single versus double dating, and activities engaged in when on dates were the subjects investigated in a study by Punke.³⁸ By means of a questionnaire, data for the study were secured from 1,644 to 2,007 adolescents in nine different states. The study revealed grade differences in dating frequency. Although no consistent or significant sex differences in dating appeared at the freshman level, a substantial sex difference was reported at the senior level. A comparison of the dating of freshman and senior boys and girls is shown in Table XIV.

The most frequently mentioned activities engaged in when on dates were also revealed by Punke.³⁹ In the order mentioned they were: attending movies, dancing, and riding in automobiles. From the standpoint of dating possibilities afforded, youth in the states studied were not greatly impressed with musical entertainment, religious activities, reading, school work, or indoor games.

³⁸ Harold H. Punke, "Dating Practices of High-School Youth," Bulletin of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, 28: 47-54, January, 1944.

³⁹ Loc. cit.

TABLE XIII
QUALITIES DESIRED IN THE OPPOSITE SEX
BY HIGH SCHOOL BOYS AND GIRLS⁴⁰

What eleventh grade high school girls want in boys	What eleventh grade high school boys want in girls
<hr/> Personality One who gets on well with all kinds of other people, in- cluding parents Good physique Good conversation (variety-- both small talk and serious) Good listener Intelligent Not conceited Good sense of humor Looks neat and clean Polite Good dancer	<hr/> Personality Nice looking One who is considerate Good conversation (variety-- both small talk and serious) Good listener Both feminine and a pal Can do many things with you, such as swimming, hiking, and skating Intelligent Good sense of humor The kind that makes one want to be polite Not too much make-up

⁴⁰ Taylor, op. cit., p. 178.

TABLE XIV

FREQUENCY OF DATING OF HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS,
AND SINGLE VERSUS DOUBLE DATING,
ACCORDING TO GRADE AND SEX OF PUPILS⁴¹

	Frequency in number of dates per month					Single vs. Double Dating	
	Number Reporting	Percentage distribution by number of dates per month				Number Reporting	Per cent of dates that are double dates
		none	1-4	5-10	over 10		
Freshman boys	1276	53.8	20.6	16.0	9.6	623	45.5
Freshman girls	1490	53.0	21.3	17.0	8.7	814	81.0
Senior boys	1408	21.6	29.5	28.9	20.0	1094	55.6
Senior girls	1454	13.6	19.4	33.1	33.9	1412	80.6

⁴¹ Punke, op. cit., p. 48.

The amount of expenditures for leisure time activities by 130 boys was studied by Horvoth.⁴² The popularity of activities was ascertained by the amount of money spent for them. The activities and expenditures of adolescent boys are shown in Table XV.

⁴² K. G. Horvoth, "Earnings and Expenditure of 130 Boys in a General Vocational School," N.E.A. Bulletin of Secondary School Principals, 29: 59-72, February, 1945.

TABLE XV
EXPENDITURES FOR ENTERTAINMENT,
LEISURE, AND RECREATION⁴³

Item	Number Re- porting	Range in Dollars	Ave- rages	Per cent of Total
Movie Pictures	127	.20 - 19.80	3.58	21.0
Games of chance	61	.05 - 11.71	2.58	15.1
Dates	29	.20 - 11.65	1.75	10.2
Athletic activities, bowling, etc.	66	.05 - 17.50	1.64	9.6
Drinks, candy, etc.	111	.15 - 6.40	1.42	8.3
Cigarettes and tobacco	72	.10 - 4.40	1.21	7.1
Transportation other than to school	81	.15 - 13.50	.89	8.2
Admission to athletic events	22	.10 - 3.25	.75	4.4
Games, puzzles, new equipment	35	.10 - 3.25	.75	4.4
Comic books, magazines	89	.10 - 5.20	.70	4.1
Gifts and treats	75	.05 - 6.00	.70	4.1
Upkeep of possessions	25	.08 - 3.32	.43	2.7
Miscellaneous	46	.08 - 6.40	.63	3.9

⁴³ Horvath, op. cit., p. 69.

CHAPTER III

PRESENTATION OF DATA

By means of a questionnaire distributed to the students of one Rockford, Illinois, high school, the primary data for this study were secured. Of the 1,052 questionnaires returned by the students, only ten were discarded because of obvious imperfections. The age, grade, and sex distribution of the remaining 1,042 students is shown in Table XVI.

I. THE ASSOCIATES OF ADOLESCENTS

Female groups. The data collected showed that 562, or 98 per cent, of the Rockford, Illinois adolescent girls frequently associated with a group of girls. With reference to the size of the adolescent girls' social group, no specific pattern was apparent; however, over 50 per cent of the girls associated with groups composed of less than six members. The percentage of girls indicating various sizes of groups is shown in Table XVII.

A great deal of overlapping appeared in the age ranges of girl groups. Fifteen years was the age of the associates of 24.2 per cent of the fourteen year old girls; ages fifteen to sixteen were indicated by 20.7 per cent of the fourteen year old girls; from fourteen to sixteen by 20.7 per cent; from fourteen to fifteen by 13.8 per cent; from fourteen to seventeen by 6.7 per

TABLE XVI

DISTRIBUTION OF 1,042 ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS ACCORDING TO AGE, GRADE, AND SEX

Age	Sophomores		Juniors		Seniors		Totals	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
14	17	31					17	31
15	135	150	17	33			152	183
16	43	36	92	135	6	23	141	194
17	11	4	38	24	75	120	124	148
18	1			1	28	12	29	13
19				1	4	4	4	5
20					1		1	
Totals	207	221	147	194	114	159	468	574

TABLE XVII

SIZE OF HOMOGENEOUS GROUP TO WHICH GIRLS,
ACCORDING TO AGE, REPORTED
MEMBERSHIP

Number of girls in group	Age of girls reporting				
	14 yrs.	15 yrs.	16 yrs.	17 yrs.	18 yrs. 19 yrs.
2	14.8%	10.2%	7.6%	8.7%	7.6%
3	11.2	17.0	15.6	11.4	7.6 25.0%
4	33.3	17.0	18.9	16.8	23.2 25.0
5	25.9	15.3	18.4	16.8	23.2
6		13.0	13.0	11.4	23.2 25.0
7	3.7	7.4	4.3	5.3	7.6 25.0
8	3.7	5.2	7.0	10.1	
9			2.2	2.0	
10	3.7	11.4	11.3	13.4	7.6
over 10	3.7	3.5	1.7	4.1	

cent; from fifteen to seventeen by 6.7 per cent; from thirteen to fourteen by 3.6 per cent; and from thirteen to sixteen by 3.6 per cent. From these statistics, it can be stated that 92.8 per cent of the girls' friends for fourteen year old girls ranged from fourteen to seventeen years of age.

Thirty-six and three tenths per cent of the fifteen year old girls indicated that their girl friends ranged from fifteen to sixteen years of age; 17 per cent specified fifteen years; 13.6 per cent indicated ages fifteen to seventeen; 9.7 per cent indicated ages fourteen to sixteen; 7.3 per cent indicated fourteen to fifteen years; 3.9 per cent indicated fourteen to seventeen years; 2.8 per cent indicated sixteen to seventeen years; 2.8 per cent indicated sixteen years; 2.4 per cent indicated ages thirteen to sixteen; 2.4 per cent indicated ages fifteen to eighteen; six tenths per cent indicated ages fourteen to nineteen; six tenths per cent indicated ages fifteen to nineteen; and six tenths per cent indicated ages thirteen to fifteen. From these statistics it can be stated that the girl friends of at least 92.2 per cent of the fifteen year old girls ranged in age from fourteen to seventeen years.

The ages of the female associates of sixteen year old girls were as follows: 19.4 per cent stated that their girl friends were sixteen years of age; 19.4 per cent stated sixteen to seventeen years of age; 16.1 per cent stated ages fifteen to sixteen; 15.2 per cent stated ages fifteen to seventeen; 8.6 per

cent stated sixteen to eighteen; 6.4 per cent stated fourteen to sixteen years; 4.8 per cent stated fifteen to eighteen years; 2 per cent stated age seventeen; 1.6 per cent stated ages fourteen to fifteen; 1.6 per cent stated age fifteen; 1 per cent indicated ages thirteen to sixteen; 1 per cent indicated ages seventeen to nineteen; five tenths per cent indicated a range of from fourteen to eighteen years; five tenths per cent indicated a range of from sixteen to nineteen years; and five tenths per cent indicated age eighteen. From these figures it can be stated that a minimum of 87.5 per cent of the sixteen year old girls selected their associates from girls ranging from fifteen to eighteen years of age.

The ages of girl friends, as indicated by the seventeen year old girls, were as follows: seventeen years by 17.8 per cent; seventeen to eighteen years by 17.2 per cent; sixteen to seventeen by 15.8 per cent; sixteen to eighteen by 15.8 per cent; fifteen to seventeen by 8.6 per cent; seventeen to nineteen by 3.9 per cent; fifteen to eighteen by 3.9 per cent; sixteen to nineteen by 3.2 per cent; seventeen to twenty by 2.6 per cent; ages fifteen to sixteen, sixteen, fifteen to twenty, sixteen to twenty, and eighteen to nineteen by 1.4 per cent; and ages fourteen to sixteen, fifteen, fifteen to sixteen, sixteen to twenty-two, fourteen to seventeen, seventeen to twenty by seven tenths per cent. From these figures, it can be concluded that a minimum

of 68 per cent of the seventeen year old girls selected their female associates from the sixteen to eighteen year old age range.

Forty-six per cent of the female associates of eighteen year old girls were fifteen to eighteen years of age; 30.8 per cent reported a range of from seventeen to eighteen years; 15.5 per cent reported a range of from seventeen to nineteen years of age; and 7.7 per cent reported a range of from fifteen to seventeen years.

Of the four nineteen year old girls indicating association with a group of girls, two (50 per cent) reported the age of the group to range from seventeen to twenty-four years; one (25 per cent) indicated a range of from sixteen to eighteen years; and one (25 per cent) indicated a range of from fifteen to sixteen years.

Best friends of adolescent girls. Ninety-eight per cent of the high school girls indicated having a best girl friend. Sixty-four per cent of the fourteen year old girls indicated that their best friend was fifteen years of age; 24 per cent stated that the best girl friend was sixteen years of age; and 12 per cent stated age fourteen.

Forty-eight per cent of the fifteen year old girls stated that their best girl friend was fifteen years of age; 34 per cent stated age sixteen; 14 per cent stated age fourteen; 2.6 per cent stated age seventeen; six tenths per cent stated age thirteen; and six tenths per cent stated age eighteen.

Sixteen was the age of the best girl friend of 55 per cent of the sixteen year old girls; seventeen was the age of the best friend of 23 per cent; fifteen was the age of the best friend of 17 per cent; eighteen was the age of the best friend of 4 per cent; and nineteen was the age of the best friend of 1 per cent.

Sixty-two per cent of the seventeen year old girls indicated that their best girl friend was seventeen years of age; 16 per cent indicated age sixteen; 5 per cent indicated age fifteen; 3 per cent indicated age nineteen; and 1 per cent indicated age twenty.

Sixty-five per cent of the eighteen year old girls reported that their best girl friend was seventeen years of age; 30 per cent stated age eighteen; and 5 per cent stated age nineteen.

The five nineteen year old girls reported that their best friend was eighteen years of age.

Heterosexual groups reported by girls. In response to the question, "Do you go around with a group of boys?" 97 per cent of the adolescent girls replied negatively. The size of group reported by the 3 per cent giving a positive response ranged from two to three members, and in most cases the male members were relatives of the girls.

Fifty-six per cent of the fourteen year old girls, 83 per cent of the fifteen year old girls, 65 per cent of the sixteen year old girls, 31 per cent of the seventeen year old girls, 28 per cent of the eighteen year old girls, and 25 per cent of the nineteen year old girls reported going around with a heterosexual group. These groups, in the main, consisted of an equal number of male and female members.

At the fourteen year old level, heterosexual groups consisted of from two to ten members of each sex, two or three members of each sex composing the median size group. Fifteen year old girls mentioned membership in groups composed of from two to fifteen members of each sex, with three members being the median size of a mixed group. Twenty-seven and seven tenths per cent of the seventeen year old girls indicated membership in a heterosexual group composed of four members of each sex. The range in size of groups, as indicated by the seventeen year old girls, was from two to ten members of each sex. Sixty-two and five tenths per cent of the eighteen year old girls belonged to a heterosexual group composed of three male and three female members. Thirty-seven and five tenths belonged to a group composed of four male and four female members. The nineteen year old girl who indicated membership in a heterosexual group indicated that four persons of each sex composed the group. The frequency of mention of the various sizes of heterosexual groups by girls, according to their ages, is shown in Table XVIII.

TABLE XVIII

SIZE OF HETEROSEXUAL GROUPS TO WHICH GIRLS,
ACCORDING TO AGE, REPORTED
MEMBERSHIP

Number of persons of each sex composing the group	Age of girls reporting					
	14 yrs.	15 yrs.	16 yrs.	17 yrs.	18 yrs.	19 yrs.
2	21.5%	17.3%	9.0%	8.9%		
3	21.5	28.7	25.4	27.7	62.5%	
4	7.1	15.9	27.7	33.4	37.5	100.0%
5	7.1	12.5	9.7	13.4		
6	7.1	9.3	12.2	7.8		
7	14.3	5.1	.8	4.4		
8	7.1	1.7	3.2			
10	14.3	4.3	9.0	4.4		
over 10	6.2	3.0				

The ages of the members of heterosexual groups were more expansive than the ages of members of homogeneous groups. Fourteen year old girls indicated that members of male-female groups ranged from fourteen to nineteen years of age, the range of from fourteen to sixteen years being most frequently mentioned. Fifteen year old girls indicated that the members of the heterosexual groups to which they belonged ranged from fourteen to twenty years of age. The ages fifteen to seventeen were most frequently mentioned. Sixteen to eighteen years of age was the range of members of heterosexual groups to which sixteen year old girls belonged; the total age range of members was from fifteen to twenty-one years of age. The seventeen year old girls stated that members of male-female groups ranged from sixteen to twenty-three years of age; however, in most cases, the groups were confined to persons seventeen to nineteen years of age. Eighteen to twenty years of age was the range mentioned exclusively by the eighteen year old girls. The one nineteen year old girl who indicated association with a heterosexual group stated that the age range of members was from nineteen to twenty-three years.

Male groups. The data collected revealed that 99 per cent of the Rockford high school boys associated with a group of boys. With reference to the size of the male groups, no specific pattern was apparent; however, over 50 per cent of

the boys were members of groups with less than five members. The one twenty year old boy, who composed 100 per cent of the twenty year old category, indicated association with a group of five boys. The percentage of boys indicating the various sizes of groups is shown in Table XIX.

Great variance was apparent in the ages of the associates of adolescent boys. Fifty-three and three tenths per cent of the fourteen year old boys associated with boys ranging from fourteen to sixteen years of age; 26.7 per cent indicated a range of from thirteen to fifteen years of age; and 20 per cent indicated association with boys ranging from fourteen to eighteen years of age.

Responses from the fifteen year old boys indicated that 36.2 per cent associated with boys ranging from fourteen to sixteen years of age; 23.4 per cent associated with boys ranging from fifteen to twenty-two; 7.5 per cent associated with boys ranging from fifteen to eighteen; 7.5 per cent associated with boys ranging from thirteen to sixteen; 7.4 per cent associated with boys age sixteen; 5.3 per cent associated with boys from fifteen to sixteen; 4.4 per cent associated with boys from seventeen to nineteen; 1 per cent associated with boys fourteen to seventeen years; 1 per cent associated with boys sixteen to eighteen years; and 1 per cent associated with boys twelve to fifteen years of age.

TABLE XIX

SIZE OF HOMOGENEOUS GROUP TO WHICH BOYS,
ACCORDING TO AGE, REPORTED
MEMBERSHIP

Number of boys in group	Age of boys reporting					
	14 yrs.	15 yrs.	16 yrs.	17 yrs.	18 yrs.	19 yrs. 20 yrs.
2	6.3%	10.0%	16.6%	14.8%	25.0%	50.0%
3	18.7	26.5	30.4	18.2	31.2	
4	31.2	21.7	10.9	23.2	18.8	50.0
5	25.0	18.3	18.1	21.6	18.8	100.0%
6		4.8	8.6	6.6		
7		3.4	4.4	3.3		
8	6.3	2.1	2.9	2.5		
9			.8	.8		
10	12.5	2.1	4.4	9.0	6.2	
over 10		2.1	2.9			

Responses from the sixteen year old boys relative to the ages of their associates indicated that 23.8 per cent of the boys associated with boys sixteen years of age; 16.1 per cent associated with boys fifteen to sixteen years of age; 16.1 per cent of the boys associated with boys sixteen to seventeen years of age; 10.8 per cent of the boys associated with boys fifteen to seventeen years of age; 7.7 per cent associated with boys fifteen to eighteen; 7.7 per cent associated with boys sixteen to eighteen; 6.9 per cent associated with boys fourteen to seventeen; eight tenths per cent associated with boys eighteen; eight tenths per cent associated with boys sixteen to nineteen; eight tenths per cent associated with boys fourteen to nineteen; eight tenths per cent associated with boys seventeen to nineteen; and eight tenths per cent associated with boys thirteen to sixteen.

Fifteen and eight tenths per cent of the seventeen year old boys indicated that their male associates were seventeen years of age; 14.9 per cent stated that their associates ranged from sixteen to eighteen years of age; 10.5 per cent stated that their associates ranged from sixteen to seventeen years of age; 9.5 per cent stated that their associates ranged from fifteen to eighteen years of age; 9.5 per cent stated that their associates ranged from seventeen to eighteen years of age; 5.3 per cent stated that their associates ranged from seventeen to nineteen years of age; 5.3 per cent stated that their associates ranged

from seventeen to twenty years of age; 4.4 per cent stated that their associates ranged from fourteen to seventeen years of age; 4.4 per cent stated that their associates were sixteen years of age; 4.4 per cent stated that their associates ranged from sixteen to nineteen years of age; 3.6 per cent stated that their associates ranged from sixteen to eighteen years of age; and 2.7 per cent stated that their associates ranged from fifteen to sixteen years of age.

Twenty-six per cent of the eighteen year old boys associated with boys ranging from seventeen to eighteen years of age; the associates of 16 per cent of the eighteen year old boys ranged from sixteen to nineteen years of age; the associates of 13 per cent of the boys ranged from seventeen to twenty years of age; the associates of 13 per cent of the boys ranged from sixteen to eighteen years of age; the associates of 8.2 per cent of the boys ranged from eighteen to nineteen years of age; the associates of 8.2 per cent of the boys ranged from seventeen to nineteen years of age; the associates of 8 per cent of the boys were eighteen years of age; the associates of 3.8 per cent of the boys were seventeen; and the associates of 3.8 per cent of the boys ranged from sixteen to seventeen years of age.

Fifty per cent of the nineteen year old boys associated with boys ranging from seventeen to eighteen years of age. Seventeen to nineteen was the age range indicated by the other 50 per cent.

The twenty year old boy indicated association with boys ranging from seventeen to eighteen years of age.

Best friends of adolescent boys. Ninety-two per cent of the fourteen year old boys indicated having a best boy friend. Forty per cent of the best friends of boys age fourteen were also fourteen years of age. Forty per cent of the fourteen year old boys indicated that their best boy friend was fifteen; 15 per cent indicated that their best friend was sixteen; and 5 per cent indicated that the best friend was seventeen.

Ninety-six per cent of the fifteen year old boys reported that they had a best friend of the same sex. Fifteen years was the age of the best friend reported by 65 per cent of the fifteen year old boys; age fourteen was indicated by 18 per cent of the fifteen year old boys; age sixteen was indicated by 9 per cent of the fifteen year old boys; and age seventeen was indicated by 8 per cent of the boys age fifteen.

Ninety per cent of the sixteen year old boys reported having a best friend among the boys, with an age distribution as follows: 51 per cent indicated age sixteen; 26 per cent indicated age seventeen; 12 per cent indicated age fourteen; 9 per cent indicated age eighteen; and 2 per cent indicated age twenty-two.

Eighty-nine per cent of the seventeen year old boys indicated that they had a best friend among the boys. The age of the best friend of 37 per cent of the boys was seventeen; of 37 per cent of the boys was eighteen; of 19 per cent of the boys was nineteen; and of 7 per cent of the boys was sixteen.

Having a best friend was indicated by 89 per cent of the seventeen year old boys. Sixty-four per cent of the seventeen year old boys indicated that the best friend was seventeen; 29 per cent of the boys indicated that the best friend was sixteen; 4 per cent of the boys indicated age fifteen; and three per cent indicated age nineteen.

One hundred per cent of the nineteen year old boys indicated having a best friend, 67 per cent stating the age as eighteen and 33 per cent stating the age as nineteen.

The twenty year old boy indicated having a best boy friend who was seventeen years of age.

Heterosexual groups reported by boys. Less than 2 per cent of the adolescent boys indicated association with a group of girls. When a positive indication was made, the group consisted of two girls, equal in age with the boys making the assertion.

Thirty-seven per cent of the fourteen year old boys, 51 per cent of the fifteen year old boys, 42 per cent of the

sixteen year old boys, 40 per cent of the seventeen year old boys, and 36 per cent of the eighteen year old boys indicated membership in a heterosexual group. Neither the nineteen year old boys nor the twenty year old boy reported membership in this type of group.

The heterosexual groups, in the main, consisted of an equal number of male and female members. At the fourteen year old level, groups ranged from three to ten members of each sex, three or five representing the median size group. From two to ten persons of each sex comprised the heterosexual groups to which fifteen year old boys belonged, two persons of each sex constituting the median size group. Three members of each sex comprized the median size group to which sixteen year old boys belonged. The groups ranged from two to ten persons of each sex. The median size group, as reported by the seventeen year old boys, consisted of three members of each sex. The size of the groups ranged from two to ten male and female members. Two to three persons of each sex comprized the groups to which the majority of eighteen year old boys belonged. The groups consisted of from two to eight persons of each sex. The percentage of boys indicating the various sizes of heterosexual group, according to age, is shown in Table XX.

TABLE XX

SIZE OF HETEROSEXUAL GROUP TO WHICH BOYS,
ACCORDING TO AGE, REPORTED
MEMBERSHIP

Number of persons of each sex composing the group	Age of boys reporting				
	14 yrs.	15 yrs.	16 yrs.	17 yrs.	18 yrs.
2		26.3%	18.1%	19.5%	35.7%
3	33.3%	24.6	40.0	43.9	35.7
4		24.6	18.1	14.6	
5	33.3	10.6	5.6	12.2	21.4
6		5.2	5.6	4.9	
7		3.5	9.0		
8	16.7			2.4	7.2
10	16.7	5.2	3.6	2.5	

II. THE ACTIVITIES OF ADOLESCENT GROUPS

The activities of female groups. The principal leisure-time activity of adolescent girls, according to their responses to the questionnaire, was talking, which was rated first by all age groups. The second most popular leisure-time activity was attending the movies, which was rated equally important by all of the age groups reporting. Participating in sports was rated third by the fourteen year old girls; however, the fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, and eighteen year old girls rated this activity sixth, fifth, seventh, and tenth respectively. The fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, and eighteen year old girls agreed that attending school affairs was their third most popular leisure-time activity. The rank assigned to activities by adolescent girls, according to age, is shown in Table XXI.

The activities of male groups. Participating in sports was the major activity of male groups, as reported by boys, ages fourteen to twenty. At the eighteen, nineteen, and twenty year levels, talking also was indicated as the major leisure-time activity of male groups.

Fourteen, fifteen, seventeen, and nineteen year old boys rated attending the movies as the second most popular leisure-time activity; but talking held second place with the sixteen

TABLE XXI

MOST POPULAR LEISURE ACTIVITIES
AS RANKED BY ADOLESCENT
GIRLS, ACCORDING TO AGE

Activity	Age of girls reporting					
	14 yrs.	15 yrs.	16 yrs.	17 yrs.	18 yrs.	19 yrs.
Talking	1	1	1	1	1	1
Attending movies	2	2	2	2	2	2
Participating in sports	3	6	5	7	10	
Attending school affairs	4	3	3	3	3	
Listening to phonograph	5		8			
Attending church affairs	6	10	7		8	
Doing homework	7	5	9	5	5	
Attending parties	8	4	4	6	6	
Going for walks	9					
Dancing	10	8	6	10	7	
Riding		9	10			
Walking		7		9	8	
Playing games				4	4	

year old boys. The most popular leisure-time activities of male groups, in order of their rank, are shown in Table XXII.

The activities of heterosexual groups. An analysis of the leisure-time activities of heterosexual groups revealed that playing games was the major leisure activity of fourteen year old students. All other age groups rated dancing as the principal activity.

Fourteen year old adolescents indicated that dancing was the second ranking leisure-time activity, followed by listening to the phonograph. Listening to the phonograph held second place with fifteen year old students, followed by playing games. At the sixteen year old level, playing games and listening to the phonograph held second and third places respectively. Eighteen, nineteen, and twenty year old students ranked listening to the phonograph as the second most popular activity of mixed groups, followed by playing games. Other activities mentioned by students are listed according to rank in Table XXIII.

III. THE DATING POLICIES OF ADOLESCENTS

A positive response to the question, "Do you date?" was received from 42 per cent of the male and 64 per cent of the female fourteen year old students. Also responding positively were: 51 per cent of the male and 81 per cent of the female students fifteen years of age; 69 per cent of the male and 88

TABLE XXII

MOST POPULAR LEISURE ACTIVITIES
AS RANKED BY ADOLESCENT
BOYS, ACCORDING TO AGE

Activity	Age of boys reporting						
	14 yrs.	15 yrs.	16 yrs.	17 yrs.	18 yrs.	19 yrs.	20 yrs.
Participating in sports	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Attending movies	2	2	3	2		2	
Attending school affairs	4	5		8	2		
Attending sports	3	3	4	4		2	
Attending parties	5	10	10	7	5		
Talking	6	3	2	3	1	1	1
Playing games	7	7	5				
Doing homework	8	9	9	6			
Walking	9		7				
Fixing things	10	4	6				
Attending church affairs		8		9			
Riding		6	8	10	3		

TABLE XXIII

MOST POPULAR LEISURE ACTIVITIES OF HETEROSEXUAL GROUPS
AS REPORTED BY ADOLESCENT BOYS AND GIRLS,
ACCORDING TO AGE

Activity	Age of boys and girls reporting						
	14 yrs.	15 yrs.	16 yrs.	17 yrs.	18 yrs.	19 yrs.	20 yrs.
Playing games	1	3	2	4	3	3	3
Dancing	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Listening to phonograph	3	2	3	2	2	2	2
Participating in sports	4	6	4	10			
Attending movies	5	4	6	5	5		
Talking	6	5	5	3			
Attending school affairs	7	10	10	9			
Attending parties	8	9	9	7			
Attending sports	9	8	7	6			
Riding	10	7	8	8	4		

per cent of the female sixteen year old students; 71 per cent of the male and 89 per cent of the female seventeen year old students; 91 per cent of the male and 92 per cent of the female eighteen year old students; and 100 per cent of the nineteen and 20 year old students. Over 40 per cent of the fourteen and fifteen year old students who did not date attributed this fact to either parental restrictions or lack of interest. Reasons given by sixteen through eighteen year old boys who did not date included:

Too bashful, I guess.

No car

No money

No time

Reasons often mentioned by sixteen, seventeen, and eighteen year old girls who did not date included:

They just don't ask. (Referring to boys)

None cute enough. (Referring to boys)

Boys are bashful.

I'm too shy.

Frequency of dating. An analysis of the data pertaining to the frequency of dating revealed that girls date more frequently than do boys of the same age. A gradual increase in dating paralleled increases in age in both sexes. The frequency of dating as reported by the adolescents, according to sex and age, is shown in Table XXIV.

TABLE XXIV

NUMBER OF DATES PER WEEK
AS REPORTED BY BOYS AND
GIRLS ACCORDING TO
SEX AND AGE

Age and sex of students	Number of dates per week					
	less than 1	1	2	3	4	5 or more
Boys: age 14	16.7%	50.0%	33.3%			
Girls: age 14		38.8	27.8	27.8%	5.5%	
Boys: age 15	11.7	32.9	35.3	14.2	5.9	
Girls: age 15	6.6	36.0	33.8	17.7	5.9	
Boys: age 16	16.4	30.4	41.7	8.9	2.6	
Girls: age 16	5.1	23.4	41.2	21.0	6.3	2.9%
Boys: age 17	3.7	38.3	41.2	15.5	1.3	
Girls: age 17	4.7	17.3	37.0	27.6	7.9	5.5
Boys: age 18	10.0	35.0	55.0			
Girls: age 18		11.1	22.2	23.4	22.2	11.1
Boys: age 19	25.0		50.0		25.0	
Girls: age 19				33.3	33.3	33.3
Boy: age 20			100.0			

Dating activities. An overwhelming majority of the adolescent boys and girls revealed that attending the movies was the major dating activity. Other activities frequently mentioned were: attending school affairs, riding, talking, attending dances and parties, attending sports, and participating in sports. Activities occasionally mentioned included: attending church affairs, playing cards, playing games, listening to the phonograph, necking, visiting, eating, hayriding, attending carnivals, and attending club meetings. The five major dating activities of adolescents are shown in Table XXV.

Dating expenditures. The dating expenditures of adolescent boys ranged from one cent for chewing gum to twenty-seven dollars for a trip to an amusement park and expenses incurred at the park. The majority of adolescent boys indicated that their largest dating expense was incurred in preparing for formal dances. This activity, including the cost of flowers and transportation, cost the adolescents an average of ten dollars per occasion.

Purchasing sodas, sundaes, cokes, and other beverages, ranging from ten to fifty cents, constituted the minimum dating expenditures indicated by the boys. The median cost of beverages was thirty cents. The most and least expensive dates, with the accompanying price range, is shown in Table XXVI.

TABLE XXV

MAJOR DATING ACTIVITIES AS REPORTED
BY ADOLESCENTS ACCORDING TO AGE

Activity	Age of students reporting					
	14 yrs.	15 yrs.	16 yrs.	17 yrs.	18 yrs.	19 yrs. 20 yrs.
Attending the movies	1	1	1	1	1	1
Attending dances or parties	2	3	2	2	2	2
Riding	3	2	3	3	3	3
Talking	4					
Attending school affairs	5		5	4	4	
Attending sports		4		5	5	4
Participating in sports (bowling, skating, hiking, etc.)		5	4			

TABLE XXVI

MOST AND LEAST EXPENSIVE DATES
AS REPORTED BY ADOLESCENT BOYS

Item	Number Report- ing	Price Range	Median Price	Per cent of Total
Most Expensive				
Formal dance	147	\$6.00 - 21.00	\$10.00	54.7
Dinner and dance	36	3.00 - 6.00	4.00	13.3
Carnival	21	6.00 - 22.00	10.00	7.8
Dinner	21	1.50 - 5.00	3.50	7.8
Dance	16	2.00 - 5.00	3.75	6.0
Dinner and play	15	3.00 - 7.00	4.00	5.6
Dinner and movie	11	3.00 - 10.00	6.00	4.1
Least Expensive				
Sodas, cokes, etc.	97	.10 - .50	.30	42.2
Movie	54	.70 - 1.40	1.00	23.5
Dance or party	38	.50 - .70	.70	16.5
Bus tokens	18	.25	.25	7.8
Gasoline	17	.25 - 1.00	.60	7.4
Candy, gum, etc.	6	.01 - .25	.10	2.6

Going steady. Five per cent of the fourteen year old boys, 12 per cent of the fifteen year old boys, 14 per cent of the sixteen year old boys, 16 per cent of the seventeen year old boys, 24 per cent of the eighteen year old boys, and 26 per cent of the nineteen year old boys reported going steady. The same report was received from 13 per cent of the fourteen year old girls, 20 per cent of the fifteen year old girls, 22 per cent of the sixteen year old girls, 25 per cent of the seventeen year old girls, and 26 per cent of the eighteen and nineteen year old girls.

The fourteen year old boy indicated that he had gone steady for a period of 2 weeks. From 3 weeks to 8 months was the length of time that fifteen year old boys had gone steady; however, in most instances the period of time was specified as 6 weeks. The larger per cent of sixteen year old boys reported that they had gone steady for 3 months; however, time limits ranged from 1 to 18 months. A range of from 2 to 24 months was reported as the length of time that seventeen year old boys had steadily dated the same girls. Five months was the most frequently designated length of time. The length of time of having gone steady, as reported by eighteen year old boys, ranged from 2 to 24 months. In most instances, 10 months was the length of time specified. Nineteen year old boys reported having gone steady for 1 year.

From 1 to 2 months was the length of time that the fourteen year old girls reported that they had gone steady, 2 months being the median length of time. Fifteen year old girls indicated having gone steady for periods ranging from 3 weeks to 17 months, 3 months being reported most frequently. Five months was the length of time that the majority of sixteen year old girls reported having gone steady; however, a range of from 3 weeks to 18 months was indicated. Seventeen year old girls reported a steady dating relationship for periods ranging from 1 to 24 months; however, in the majority of instances, 7 months was the period of time designated. The median length of time that 18 year old girls had gone steady was 1 year; however, periods ranging from 2 months to 16 months were reported. The length of time of having gone steady reported by eighteen year old girls ranged from 6 to 31 months. The median length of time was 14 months.

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

I. SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to reveal the adolescents' (1) out-of-school associates, (2) out-of-school activities, and (3) dating policies.

The study was conducted by use of the normative survey method, utilizing a questionnaire as the data gathering device. One thousand forty-two Rockford, Illinois, adolescents, ranging from 14 to 20 years of age, responded to the questionnaire. Due to the wide range of ages represented in the sophomore, junior, and senior classes, the data presented in the study were based on the age, rather than the classification of adolescents.

II. CONCLUSIONS

The study revealed that 98 per cent of the female and 99 per cent of the male high school students frequently associated with a group of persons of their own sex. The ages of members of the groups varied; but in the majority of cases, members were within two or three years of being the same age.

No apparent relationship between the size of homogeneous groups and the age of adolescents was revealed; however, a noticeable sex difference in the size of groups existed. A comparison of the size of male and female homogeneous groups revealed

that girls, at all age levels, associated with a larger group of members of their own sex than did boys.

Participating in sports was indicated by boys 14 to 17 as their principal homogeneous group activity. Equally popular at the 18 and 20 year level was talking. All age groups of adolescent girls indicated that talking was their major leisure-time activity when with a group of girls.

It was found that 98 per cent of the female and 94 per cent of the male adolescents had a best friend. The data revealed that the majority of 14 to 17 year old students selected a best friend either their age or one year their senior. The majority of 18 year old students indicated a 17 year old best friend, and the majority of 19 year old students indicated an 18 year old best friend. The 20 year old student indicated having a best friend 17 years of age.

An analysis of the responses of 15 to 20 year old students to the question, "Do you go around with a group of both boys and girls?" indicated a decrease in interest in heterosexual groups paralleling increases in age. It was revealed that heterosexual groups were generally composed of an equal number of male and female members; and in the majority of instances, from two to four persons of each sex. Fifteen to twenty year old students indicated that dancing was the major heterosexual group activity. The fourteen year old students ranked playing games first, followed by social dancing.

Over 50 per cent of the adolescents reported having dates. The data indicated an increase in the number of students dating with an increase in age. At the 14 to 18 year level, a larger percentage of girls than boys reported dating. One hundred per cent of the 19 and 20 year old students reported participation in this type of activity.

Dating expenditures, as indicated by boys 14 to 20, ranged from one cent to twenty-two dollars. The data revealed that the majority of boys considered formal dances as the most expensive and purchasing sodas, sundaes, and cokes as the least expensive dating activity.

An analysis of the data regarding going steady revealed that a larger percentage of girls at all age levels went steady than did boys of an equal age. It was further revealed that all ages of girls had gone steady for a longer period of time than had boys of an equal age.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. BOOKS

- Bell, Howard M., Youth Tell Their Story. Washington: American Council on Education, 1939. 273 pp.
- Dimock, Hedley S., Rediscovering the Adolescent. New York: Association Press, 1937. 287 pp.
- Fleege, Urban H., Self-Revelation of the Adolescent Boy. Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing Company, 1945. 384 pp.
- Furfey, Paul H., The Gang Age. New York: Macmillan Company, 1926. 189 pp.
- Lehman, H. C., and Paul A. Witty, Psychology of Play Activities. Milwaukee: A. S. Barnes Company, 1926. 242 pp.
- Mitchell, Alice M., Children and Movies. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1929. 181 pp.
- Partridge, E. DeAlton, Social Psychology of Adolescence. New York: Prentice-Hall, 1938. 361 pp.
- Taylor, Katherine W., Do Adolescents Need Parents? New York: D. Appleton Century Company, 1938. 380 pp.
- Tryon, Caroline M., "The Adolescent Peer Cult," Forty-Third Yearbook of the National Society for the Study of Education, Part I. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1944. Pp. 226-29.

B. PERIODICAL ARTICLES

- Cook, Inez and T. V. Goodrich, "How High School Pupils Spend Their Time," School Review, 36: 771-78, December, 1928.
- Furfey, Paul H., "Some Factors Influencing the Selection of Boys' Chums," Journal of Applied Psychology, 11: 47-51, January, 1928.
- Hildreth, Gertrude, "Adolescent Interests and Abilities," Journal of Genetic Psychology, 43: 65-92, September, 1943.

- Horvoth, Kenneth G., "Earnings and Expenditures of 130 Boys in A General Vocational School," N.E.A. Bulletin of the Secondary School Principals, 29: 59-72, February, 1945.
- Kuhlen, R. G., and B. J. Lee, "Personality Characteristics and Acceptability in Adolescence," Journal of Educational Psychology, 36: 321-40, September, 1943.
- Lucina, Sister M., "Sex Differences in Adolescent Attitudes Toward Best Friends," School Review, 48: 512-16, September, 1940.
- Olds, Edward B., "How Do Young People Spend Their Leisure Time?" Recreation, 42: 458-62, January, 1949.
- Partridge, E. DeAlton, "A Study of Friendships Among Adolescent Boys," Journal of Genetic Psychology, 43: 472-77, December, 1933.
- Punke, Harold H., "Dating Practices of High School Youth," Bulletin of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, 28: 47-54, January, 1944.
- Remmers, H. H., and Lyle M. Spencer, "All Young People Have Problems," N.E.A. Journal, 39: 183, March, 1950.
- Van Dyne, Virginia, "Personality Traits and Friendship Formation in Adolescent Girls," Journal of Social Psychology, 12: 291-303, November, 1940.
- Wellman, Beth, "The School Child's Choice of Companions," Journal of Educational Research, 14: 120-32, September, 1926.
- Witty, Paul, and Anne Coomer, "Activities and Preferences of a Secondary School Group," Journal of Educational Psychology, 43: 65-76, February, 1943.
- Zackry, Caroline B., "Later Childhood, Some Questions for Research," Progressive Education, 15: 522-23, November, 1938.