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A study of the activities and home responsibilities of 500 Vigo County girls and boys

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A STUDY OF THE ACTIVITIES AND HOME RESPONSIBILITIES
OF 500 VIGO COUNTY GIRLS AND BOYS

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

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

by
William Bitzegaio

July 1954

The thesis of William Bitzegaio,
Contribution of the Graduate School, Indiana State
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A STUDY OF THE ACTIVITIES AND HOME

RESPONSIBILITIES OF 500 VIGO

COUNTY GIRLS AND BOYS

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

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The five institutions of civilization are the family, the school, the state, the church, and the vocation.¹ The present-day family is faced with constantly changing needs and interests. The contents and methods of education must keep pace with present-day knowledge and activities, with the characteristics of the pupils involved, and with the needs and interests of those pupils and their families. This study will deal primarily with the offspring of the family, but the goal is betterment of the school so as to result in a richer, more wholesome, happier life for the families of the school community.

I. THE PROBLEM

Statement of the problem. It is the purpose of this study to reveal certain facts about the activities and home responsibilities of the average boy and girl of Vigo County, Indiana. The questionnaire investigated the home environment

¹ Bess Goodykoontz and Beulah I. Coon, co-chairmen, Family Living and Our Schools, Prepared by the Joint Committee on Curriculum Aspects of Education for Home and Family Living of the Home Economics Department of the National Education Association and the Society for Curriculum Study (New York: D. Appleton-Century Company, Inc., 1941), p. 5.

of the students in an attempt to discover the activities and home responsibilities that are most common to the boys and girls questioned.

Importance of the study. This study attempts to show a method which interested persons can use to get information about the high school boy or girl and his or her activities and responsibilities. It also attempts to provide information which will increase the understanding and knowledge of those persons concerned with the development of the minds and bodies of our young people.

Limitation of the problem. This study was limited to 200 boys and 300 girls in five schools in Vigo County. The questionnaires used represented 30 girls at Blackhawk High School, 55 girls at Honey Creek High School, 65 boys and girls at Fontanet High School, 173 boys and girls from Thornton Junior High School in Terre Haute, and 177 boys and girls at Valley High School of West Terre Haute. Table I gives complete distribution by schools, by grades, and by sex. The questionnaire was administered by home economics teachers of the schools during the spring of 1950.

II. SOURCES OF DATA

The sources of data which were used to form the bases for the conclusions of this study were questionnaires

TABLE I
DISTRIBUTION OF 500 GIRLS AND BOYS OF VIGO COUNTY
BY SCHOOLS, BY GRADES, AND BY SEX

	BLACKHAWK		HONEY CREEK		FONTANET		THORNTON		VALLEY		TOTALS		
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Totals</u>
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	22	17	13	51	35	86
8	4	0	10	0	17	14	21	36	24	14	76	64	140
9	14	0	28	0	1	3	33	27	22	19	98	49	147
10	5	0	10	0	3	1	0	0	23	21	41	22	63
11	2	0	7	0	7	3	0	0	6	18	22	21	43
12	5	0	0	0	7	9	0	0	0	0	12	9	21
TOTALS	30	0	55	0	35	30	88	85	92	85	300	200	500

and extensive research in textbooks, periodicals, pamphlets, government publications, and other literature.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

A review of the literature related to this study is presented in Chapter II.

Chapter III consists of the tabulation of data and the treatment of results, including specific findings and implications.

Chapter IV deals with summary and conclusions, followed by the bibliography. The appendix is next, containing the questionnaire form used to secure the information used in writing this paper, with the tabulated replies for girls and for boys.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Most of the research found in this field was concentrated on problems of a curricular nature at the secondary-school level. One of the earliest studies found, an analysis of the home responsibilities of girls as a basis for curriculum construction, was made in 1906.²

Very little research was found for the years between 1906 and 1926, and none was found that related to this study. The period from 1926 to 1934, however, revealed several related studies listed in a government bulletin.³

The first of the studies mentioned above was by Beeman,⁴ a study of sixty-six girls in grades ten, eleven, and twelve. The girls were investigated to determine basic interests. The basic interests had three main parts: the girl and her own affairs; her consideration of and

² Amy Daniels, "The Gap in Handtraining: 'Between Two Stools,' the Home and the School," Lake Placid Conference on Home Economics, Proceedings of the Ninth Annual Conference, 1907, pp. 25-27.

³ U. S. Office of Education, Bibliography of Studies of the Home-Economics Curriculum, 1926-1934, Vocational Education Bulletin No. 179, Home Economics Series No. 17, 1934, 70 pp.

⁴ Mary Beeman, "A Brief Study of the Interests of High School Girls in Home Activities," Journal of Home Economics, XXI, 12 (December, 1929), pp. 900-904.

relations with others; and her activities. The study compared observations of twenty-five teachers with the girls' reports about themselves. It suggested that activities which involve some managerial responsibilities could be included in the curriculum with special hope of success. Other suggestions included: desirable personal and family relationships, intelligent selection and management of a home, child development, management of income, economic use of time and energy, and others. This article pointed out that further study was needed and that a much larger number of subjects should be investigated.

An article by Binkley⁵ described a home crafts course for boys in the Tulsa, Oklahoma, high schools. The course, a pre-requisite for graduation, was combined with physical education; it had units on clothing, nutrition, social usage, family relationships, house planning, child care, and spending and saving the family income. In six years, thirty-five thousand boys had taken the course.

Coon stated in an article that:

by tying subject matter taught to the activities being participated in, the same fundamental ideas can be taught; and these can be made to function not only as information but also as judgments and abilities,

⁵ Martha Binkley, "Home Economics for Boys," Practical Home Economics, IX, (October, 1931), pp. 308-326.

provided adequate use is made of pupil activity in the classroom and in the home.⁶

Among important factors to be considered in a course in family relationships, McGinnis⁷ pointed out the following: the contribution of the child to the home; standards and ideals of a successful home and family life; and methods of getting along with people.

In the period from 1935 to 1941, many studies were made but very few were published. Significant findings gleaned from this relatively small group were:

1. Most junior-high-school girls assist with food preparation, general housekeeping, food buying and care of younger children, and carry major responsibility for washing and drying dishes and caring for their own rooms.

2. Most senior-high-school girls take greater responsibilities than do the younger girls for food preparation, family laundry, personal laundry, buying of food, buying own clothing, and making own clothing.

3. The percentages of girls found to have an allowance varied widely from 10 to 50, and the percentage of girls earning money varied even more widely from 13 to 75.

4. Many families have incomes that are inadequate for maintaining a decent standard of living.

⁶ Beulah I. Coon, "Selection of Subject Matter in Relation to Activities of Pupils," Home Economics News, II, (August, 1931), p. 73.

⁷ Esther McGinnis, "The Development of the Boy or Girl as a Worthy Member of the Home," Home Economics News, I, (July, 1930), pp. 73-4.

5. Family life is not making its full contribution to democratic living.

6. Very few girls budget their funds but about one-fourth of them do keep accounts.

7. Girls need information about desirable qualities of goods and services in the market.

8. Diets are frequently deficient in milk, fruit, vegetables and whole-grain cereals.⁸

The period from 1942 to the present time revealed more research and study pertaining to the subject under consideration. The White Plains, New York, Public Schools made a study of activities and home responsibilities (among others) in a curriculum revision attempt, and it was from this source that the questionnaire form for this study was obtained.⁹

Punke¹⁰ showed in an article that the school could improve relationships of parents and pupils by teaching practical economics. Among the things he suggested be taught were: teaching pupils to live within budgets; teaching pupils to enjoy non-material aspects of life;

⁸ Walter S. Monroe, Encyclopedia of Educational Research (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1950), p. 559.

⁹ Development of the Home Economics Curriculum of the Junior and Senior High Schools of White Plains, New York (Mimeographed manuscript, unpublished) June 1945, p. 142.

¹⁰ Harold H. Punke, "High School Youth and Family Quarrels," School and Society, LVIII, (December 25, 1943), p. 507-11.

and teaching pupils how to get the most for their money. Almost half of the quarrels with parents reported by boys and girls were of an economic nature.

In reporting on a class in family living, Dorothy J. Fuller¹¹ said that such a course could not be taught from textbooks. She described a course in family living which was planned and attended by parents as well as by pupils and teachers.

Stubbs¹² examined the role of education for improved family life at the secondary level and reported these four aspects as being vital to a successful role: what to teach, when to teach it, how to teach it, and how to administer the program. The school system should seek to put into practice functional education pointing to effective family life adjustment.

¹¹ Dorothy J. Fuller, "Family Living Course for Senior Boys and Girls," Practical Home Economics, XXVII, (December 1949), 616-18, and XXVIII, (January 1950), 17.

¹² E. W. Stubbs, "Implications of Education for Improved Family Life for Secondary School Programs," North Central Association Quarterly, XXVI, (January 1952), 276-80.

CHAPTER III

PRESENTATION OF THE DATA

The data for this thesis were collected by the use of the questionnaire. This study deals with the following types of subjects: places of birth, occupations of parents, automobile and truck ownership, ways of receiving money, ways of earning money, keeping accounts of money spent, making plans for spending money, decisions where money is concerned, papers in the home, magazines read from in the last month, meal preparation activities, household tasks, caring for clothing, spare-time activities, family sickness during last year, weekly meal balance, personal grooming habits, activities enjoyed frequently, use of cosmetics, opportunities to be with friends, group memberships, care of children, making of garments, reasons for not sewing at home, difficulties when sewing, who makes clothing, difficulties when buying clothing, where clothing is bought, and clothing selected for self within last year.

The subjects used for this study were 200 boys and 300 girls in five schools in Vigo County, Indiana. For distribution, see Table I on page 3.

Places of birth. All of the boys and girls in this study indicated their having been born in this country, and although the portion of the questionnaire concerning

birthplaces of the parents was generally misunderstood, none indicated that their parents were foreign-born. According to the Seventeenth Census of the United States,¹³ the foreign-born population of Vigo County is about two per cent, of which the majority resides in metropolitan Terre Haute. For the purposes of this study, then, foreign customs were disregarded.

Occupations of Parents. A large and varied group of occupations was listed for the fathers. Several occupations were listed for the mothers, but the vast majority were classified as housewives. A complete listing of occupations for both parents as they occurred during tabulations is shown in Table II.

The occupations of parents were grouped and compared with the state average for occupational groupings as given in the Seventeenth Census.¹⁴ The group average was lower than the state average in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. This low average was probably because 350 of the boys and girls were from Terre Haute and West Terre Haute. The group average was considerably higher than the state average in mining since Vigo County is located in the coal fields. In construction, the group average was again higher

¹³ Seventeenth Census of the United States: 1950, General Characteristics of the Population, Part II, Florida-Iowa. (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1952) p. 109.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 48.

TABLE II

OCCUPATIONS OF PARENTS AS REPORTED BY 500 GIRLS AND BOYS
OF VIGO COUNTY IN ORDER OF OCCURRENCE DURING TABULATIONS

NO.	FATHER'S OCCUPATION	GIRLS	BOYS	TOTALS
1	Laborer	11	11	22
2	Farmer	28	5	33
3	Miner	23	17	40
4	Plumber	5	1	6
5	Factory worker	44	20	64
6	Railroad	24	14	38
7	Radio repair	2	0	2
8	Hodcarrier	1	0	1
9	Coal dealer	2	0	2
10	Office worker	4	5	9
11	Dead	4	1	5
12	Crane operator	2	0	2
13	Milkman	2	3	5
14	Postal worker	3	5	8
15	Maintenance worker	2	1	3
16	Warehouseman	3	0	3
17	Teacher	5	1	6
18	Carpenter	4	4	8
19	Surveyor	1	0	1
20	Paperhanger	3	0	3
21	Truck driver or Bus driver	19	10	29
22	Guard	3	0	3
23	Unknown, none, or not given	17	17	34
24	Chemist	3	2	5
25	Public utility or service	6	6	12
26	Painter	3	2	5
27	Engineer (other than railroad)	2	2	4
28	Retired	2	2	4
29	Clerk	2	4	6
30	Poor health--doesn't work	2	0	2
31	Lumber worker	1	2	3
32	Businessman or merchant	17	11	28
33	Army	1	0	1
34	Janitor or custodian	2	1	3
35	Cleaning plant	5	2	7
36	Salesman	8	9	17
37	Fire chief	1	0	1
38	Mechanic or Machinist	8	8	16
39	Welder	4	3	7
40	Cab driver	2	0	2
41	Steel worker (construction)	4	0	4
42	Advertising	1	1	2
43	Government worker	2	1	3
44	Dentist	1	0	1
45	Cleans furnaces	1	0	1
46	Heating	2	0	2

TABLE II (continued)

OCCUPATIONS OF PARENTS AS REPORTED BY 500 GIRLS AND BOYS
OF VIGO COUNTY IN ORDER OF OCCURRENCE DURING TABULATIONS

NO.	FATHER'S OCCUPATION	GIRLS	BOYS	TOTALS
47	Lawyer	2	2	4
48	Newspaper (printing)	3	1	4
49	Minister	1	0	1
50	Bricklayer	2	1	3
51	Parts man	1	0	1
52	Accountant	1	0	1
53	Shoe repairman	1	0	1
54	Contractor	1	5	6
55	Woodcarver	1	0	1
56	County highway	1	1	2
57	Motion picture operator	1	0	1
58	Interior decorator	1	2	3
59	Electrician	0	2	2
60	Optometrist	0	1	1
61	Doctor	0	3	3
62	Bartender	0	3	3
63	Tile setter	0	1	1
64	Automatic Canteen Company	0	1	1
65	Dairy worker	0	1	1
66	Gas station	0	2	2
67	Fish for fish	0	1	1
68	Plasterer	0	1	1
69	Blacksmith	0	1	1

MOTHER'S OCCUPATION				
1	Housewife	202	135	337
2	Dead	6	0	6
3	Factory worker	8	8	16
4	Waitress or cook	7	4	11
5	Nurse	4	0	4
6	Office worker	8	1	9
7	Ill	2	0	2
8	Laundry or cleaners	2	1	3
9	Not given or none	26	37	63
10	Census taker	1	1	2
11	Janitress	1	0	1
12	Postal worker	1	1	2
13	Clerk	10	6	16
14	Beauty operator	2	0	2
15	Teacher	1	4	5
16	Assessment worker	1	0	1
17	Maid	2	2	4
18	Flower shop	1	0	1
19	Businesswoman	2	1	3
20	Piano player	0	1	1

than the state average probably because of building programs in progress at the time of this study. The group average was considerably lower than the state average in manufacturing; but it was higher again in the group for transportation, communication, and other public utility since Vigo County is largely a service community for the Wabash Valley. The group average, however, was lower than the state average in the wholesale and retail trades group. For the reason given above the business and repair services and personal services groups were high when compared to the state average. The remainder of the groups conformed fairly well to state averages except for industry not reported. The group average was high in this instance because many of the boys and girls either did not know or did not answer this part of the questionnaire. The complete breakdown of parents' occupations into groupings and comparisons with the state averages are shown in Table III.

Automobile and truck ownership. Of the 300 girls reporting, 80.67 per cent said that their families had an automobile, and 22.33 per cent reported having a truck. Of the 200 boys, 76 per cent reported automobile ownership, and 22.5 per cent reported having a truck.

Ways of receiving money. In ways they receive money for themselves, 25 per cent of the boys and girls reported

TABLE III

OCCUPATIONS OF PARENTS AS REPORTED BY 500 GIRLS AND BOYS
OF VIGO COUNTY COMPARED TO STATE AVERAGE AS GIVEN
IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES

GROUP*	STATE AVERAGE ¹⁵	GROUP AVERAGE	GIRLS	BOYS	TOTALS
1	11.6	7.6	29	9	38
2	1.0	8.8	27	17	44
3	5.1	13.4	31	36	67
4	34.8	12.8	44	20	64
5	7.4	19.6	59	39	98
6	17.6	7.6	22	16	38
7	2.6	2.0	5	5	10
8	2.2	8.2	26	15	41
9	4.7	6.0	15	15	30
10	.8	.8	1	3	4
11	7.6	3.4	10	7	17
12	3.2	1.2	5	1	6
13	1.6	9.2	26	20	46

*Occupational groupings as per United States Census:

- 1 Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries
(2, 31, 65, and 67 from Table II)
- 2 Mining
(3, 9, and 12 from Table II)
- 3 Construction
(1, 4, 8, 15, 18, 19, 26, 27, 39, 41, 50, 54, 59, 63,
and 68 from Table II)
- 4 Manufacturing
(5 from Table II)
- 5 Transportation, communication, and other public utility
(6, 14, 21, 25, 37, 40, 48, 56, and 66 from Table II)
- 6 Wholesale and retail trade
(7, 13, 16, 35, 36, 42, 51, and 64 from Table II)
- 7 Finance, insurance, and real estate
(10 and 52 from Table II)
- 8 Business and repair services
(20, 29, 32, 45, 46, and 53 from Table II)
- 9 Personal services
(24, 34, 38, 55, 58, and 69 from Table II)
- 10 Entertainment and recreation services
(57 and 62 from Table II)
- 11 Professional and related services
(17, 44, 47, 49, 60, and 61 from Table II)
- 12 Public administration
(22 and 43 from Table II)
- 13 Industry not reported
(11, 23, 28, 30, and 33 from Table II)

¹⁵Loc. cit. p.48

having an allowance. The girls reported 64.67 per cent asking for money needed compared to only 39.5 per cent of the boys. A larger percentage of the boys, 82 per cent, said they earned some money; 67.33 per cent of the girls reported that they earned some.

Ways of earning money. In ways of earning money, 47.67 per cent of the girls reported caring for children, 19.67 per cent said they did housework for others, and 7.33 per cent worked in stores. Other ways of earning money were listed by 31 per cent, but 20 per cent did housework at home as that other way of earning money. The boys reported 10.5 per cent earning money by caring for children, 3 per cent doing housework for others, and 11.5 per cent working in stores; but 69 per cent earned money in other ways.

Keeping account of money spent and making plans for spending money. Of the girls reporting, 20.33 per cent said they kept an account of the money they spent, and 37.33 per cent said they made a plan for spending their money. This compares with 21 per cent of the boys who said they kept an account of the money they spent, and 30.5 per cent who said they made a plan for spending their money. A few boys, 3.5 per cent in the first instance and 3 per cent in the second case, failed to answer this part of the questionnaire.

Decisions where money is concerned. In 39 per cent of the cases reported by girls, the entire family had a part in making decisions where money was concerned and in 31 per cent of the cases reported by boys. Reporting them as a group shows 35.8 per cent of the boys and girls participating in money decisions. When the entire family did not have a part in making decisions, 4.4 per cent reported the father as the controller of the purse strings, 7 per cent said the mother made the decisions, and 42.8 per cent said the mother and the father did the deciding. The reports on who makes decisions where money is concerned for boys and for girls individually, and for members of the family other than those listed here can be found in the tabulated forms in the appendix, under question 7, p. 56.

Papers in the home. In answer to the question concerning daily paper in the home, 89 per cent of the girls reported in the affirmative, and 90.5 per cent of the boys reported the same. About half of the boys and girls reported a weekly paper in the home, but very few reported a Sunday paper only.

Magazines read from in the last month. Of the 101 magazines reported, six were definitely not acceptable and three were of doubtful value. Table IV shows the magazines in the order of their frequency of occurrence.

TABLE IV

MAGAZINES FROM WHICH ARTICLES WERE REPORTED READ DURING
PREVIOUS MONTH BY 500 GIRLS AND BOYS OF VIGO COUNTY

MAGAZINE	GIRLS	BOYS	TOTAL	MAGAZINE	GIRLS	BOYS	TOTAL
Life	109	89	198	Family Circle	7	1	8
Look	60	32	92	American Home	6	2	8
Colliers	42	30	72	True	2	6	8
Sat. Eve. Post	31	39	70	Popular Mech.	1	7	8
Readers Digest	49	7	56	Outdoor Life	2	4	6
Ladies Home Jn.	38	5	43	Pathfinder	4	1	5
Movie	30	2	32	Parents	5	0	5
Womans H. Comp.	29	3	32	Farmers Guide	5	0	5
Sports	10	19	29	Cappers Farmer	3	2	5
American Girl	25	3	28	Detective	3	2	5
Time	13	13	26	Field and Stream	0	5	5
Good Housekeeping	24	1	25	Sports Afield	0	5	5
Seventeen	24	1	25	True Confessions	4	0	4
Senior Prom	25	0	25	Liberty	1	3	4
McCalls	20	3	23	See	0	4	4
True Story	21	2	23	Modern Romance	3	0	3
Better H. & G.	13	6	19	Southern Farmer	3	0	3
Boys Life	1	18	19	Cosmopolitan	3	0	3
Farm Journal	12	4	16	Holiday	2	1	3
Country Gent.	12	3	15	Jr. Scholastic	2	1	3
American	9	5	14	Polly Pigtales	3	0	3
Prairie Farmer	12	2	14	Argosy	0	3	3
True Romance	12	0	12	Air Trails	0	3	3
Quick	10	2	12	Hygeia	2	0	2
Successful Farm.	7	4	11	Farmers Wife	2	0	2
Newsweek	5	6	11	Charm	2	0	2
Redbook	8	3	11	American Legion	1	1	2
Coronet	9	2	11	Miss America	2	0	2
Open Road--Boys	0	10	10	Pic	0	2	2
Womans Day	8	2	10	New Yorker	0	2	2
Household	9	1	10	Hunting & Fishing	0	2	2
National Geog.	4	5	9	Hot Rod	0	2	2
Popular Science	1	8	9	Varsity	0	2	2
Calling All Girls	8	0	8				
For the following:	1	0	1	For the following:	1	1	
Full Cry, Brides Book, Vogue,				Motor Age, Pageant, Saturday			
Nature, Housewife, Harpers,				Review, Audobon, Photography,			
Modern Home, Police Gazette,				Model Railroads, Grit, Model			
Dancers, Esquire, My Baby,				Builders, Hunters Holiday,			
Future Home, Flair, Junior				Everybody's Digest, U.S. News,			
Miss, and Outdoor Indiana.				Small Stock, Auto Mechanics,			
				Healthways, Skyways, Flying,			
				Mechanics, and Science & Mech.			

Of the 500 boys and girls reporting, 27 per cent either reported no magazines read or failed to answer the question. The girls mentioned 71 magazines and the boys also named 71 publications.

Meal preparation activities. In activities having to do with meal preparation the girls assumed major responsibility only for setting the table, and washing and drying dishes. A fairly large percentage reported making salads, but less than one-third of them reported performing such duties as buying food, cooking vegetables, and planning meals. The boys assumed even less responsibility than the girls. Only about one-third of the boys reported setting the table and washing and drying the dishes as activities which they did last week. Less than one-fourth of the boys said they bought foods, cooked vegetables, and planned meals. A detailed account of responsibilities assumed is given in Table V.

Household tasks. In reporting household tasks which they did, 85.67 per cent of the girls said they made their own beds, 50.33 per cent made other beds, 79 per cent put their bedrooms in order, 75 per cent dusted furniture, and 60.67 per cent put other rooms in order. This compared with 49 per cent of the boys who reported that they made their own beds, 10.5 per cent who said they made other beds, 35 per

TABLE V

MEAL PREPARATION ACTIVITIES REPORTED PERFORMED
LAST WEEK BY 500 GIRLS AND BOYS OF VIGO COUNTY,
GIVEN BY PERCENTAGES

ACTIVITY	ALONE		WITH ASSISTANCE	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Set table	80	34	6.67	7.5
Dry dishes	76.67	30	15.33	12.5
Wash dishes	74.33	26.5	13	10.5
Make salads	41.67	6	5.67	2.5
Prepare lunch or supper	37	14	11.67	5
Buy canned foods	36.67	20	19.67	15.5
Buy meat	34	30.5	20	16.5
Prepare vegetables for cooking	33.33	12	7	3.5
Make cakes	33.33	6	8.33	2.5
Prepare breakfast	33	18.5	8	5.5
Serve refreshments	32.33	14.5	5.67	4
Buy dairy products	29.67	27.5	15	13.5
Cook vegetables	28.67	7	12	5
Prepare dinner	27.67	9	10	6
Pack lunches	27.67	15.5	4.67	4
Buy fresh vegetables	26.33	18.5	15.33	13.5
Plan meals	24.33	11	11.67	5
Buy bakery products	22.33	25	20.67	13.5
Make pies	16.67	4	8	2
Make muffins or biscuits	16	3	6.33	2
Make yeast bread	3.33	2	6.67	2

cent who put their bedrooms in order, 23 per cent who dusted furniture, and 15.5 per cent who put other rooms in order.

In cleaning, 28.33 per cent of the girls reported cleaning the bathroom, 56 per cent, the kitchen, and 58 per cent, the living room. The boys reported only 10.5 per cent cleaning the bathroom, 14 per cent cleaning the kitchen, and 12.5 per cent cleaning the living room.

Only 4 per cent of the girls and 2 per cent of the boys reported doing the family washing, but 34.67 per cent of the girls and 20.5 per cent of the boys said they helped with the washing. Over half of the girls, 56.67 per cent, said they laundered their own silk underwear. The boys, of course did not answer this part of the questionnaire.

More details on household tasks performed by girls and boys, including activities performed with assistance, are shown in Table VI.

Caring for clothing. In response to the question, "In caring for your clothing, which of these did you do during the last week?" the girls reported a much larger percentage who assumed responsibility for performing these duties than did the boys. Only in brushing of clothes did the boys in any way approximate the percentage of girls who performed this task, 41.5 per cent reporting for the boys compared to 59.67 per cent for the girls. In cleaning

TABLE VI

HOUSEHOLD TASKS REPORTED DONE BY 500 GIRLS AND BOYS
OF VIGO COUNTY, GIVEN BY PERCENTAGES

TASK	ALONE		WITH ASSISTANCE	
	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>
Make your bed	85.67	49	5.33	3
Put bedroom in order	79	35	5.33	4.5
Dust furniture	75	23	7	5
Put other rooms in order	60.67	15.5	11	4
Clean living room	58	12.5	12.33	3
Clean kitchen	56	14	15.67	5.5
Make other beds	50.33	10.5	5.33	1.5
Help with family washing	34.67	20.5	16.33	13
Clean bathroom	28.33	10.5	6.67	2
Do family washing	4	2	12	3.5

clothes, the girls reported 40.67 per cent compared to 12 per cent for boys. Neither group reported a high percentage for darning stockings, but 18.33 per cent of the girls reported performing this task while only 4 per cent of the boys reported the same fact. In ironing clothes, 78.67 per cent of the girls said they did, while only 16.5 per cent of the boys reported the same fact. The girls reported 56 per cent mending garments compared to 10.5 per cent for the boys. Pressing clothes found 55.67 per cent of the girls reporting compared to 15.5 per cent of the boys. Girls reported 36.33 per cent removing spots, and boys reported only 8.5 per cent. The girls reported 58.33 per cent washing clothing, but only 8 per cent of the boys said they washed. When asked to list others, 5.67 per cent of the girls listed other things and 2.5 per cent of the boys did the same. The percentages of both girls and boys who said they performed these duties in caring for clothing are shown in Table VII.

Spare-time activities. In reporting on spare-time activities, boys reported a larger percentage in only three categories: attending movies, playing games, and gardening. The girls reported more participation in the eleven remaining activities: listening to the radio, studying, going for a drive, going on walks, attending church, reading aloud,

TABLE VII

TASKS REPORTED DONE BY 500 GIRLS AND BOYS OF VIGO COUNTY
IN CARING FOR CLOTHING DURING LAST WEEK,
GIVEN IN ORDER OF FREQUENCY MENTIONED

GIRLS		BOYS	
<u>Duty</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Duty</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Iron	78.67	Brush	41.5
Brush	59.67	Iron	16.5
Wash	58.33	Press	15.5
Mend garments	56	Clean	12
Press	55.67	Mend garments	10.5
Clean	40.67	Remove spots	8.5
Remove spots	36.33	Wash	8
Darn stockings	18.33	Darn stockings	4
Others	5.67	Others	2.5

going on picnics, attending community gatherings, having special family dinners, dancing, and others. Table VIII gives the spare-time activities and the percentages reported for both girls and boys.

Family sickness during last year. The portion of the questionnaire which dealt with family sickness during the last year was poorly constructed and therefore generally misinterpreted or not answered by a great majority of the girls and boys. Of the questionnaires used, 65.5 per cent of the boys failed to answer this portion and 46 per cent of the girls failed to answer. Many who did answer did so only partially. For the reasons given above, the data are not presented here. The percentages may be seen in the appendix under question 14.

Weekly meal balance. In response to a question concerning certain basic foods in meals each week, there was a close similarity to the responses of the girls when compared to the boys' responses. The percentage of girls who reported a glass of milk in each meal for each child was 68.33 per cent, and the percentage of boys for the same basic food was 69 per cent. Fruit for each member of the family at least once a day was reported by 81 per cent of the girls and 70 per cent of the boys. Vegetables other than potatoes one or more times each day was indicated by

TABLE VIII

SPARE-TIME ACTIVITIES REPORTED ENGAGED IN DURING LAST WEEK
BY 500 GIRLS AND BOYS OF VIGO COUNTY, ARRANGED FROM
HIGHEST TO LOWEST BY PERCENTAGES

ACTIVITIES	GIRLS	BOYS
Listen to the radio	93.67	87.5
Study	83	60.5
Attend movies	67.67	75
Go for a drive	68	62.5
Play games	61.67	67.5
Attend church	64	52
Go on walks	65.67	48.5
Read aloud	30.67	23.5
Garden	22.67	30.5
Go on picnics	30	21
Have special family dinners	25	21
Attend community gatherings	29	16.5
Dance	22.67	16.5
Others	7	0

87.67 per cent of the girls and by 77.5 per cent of the boys. The girls reported 72.33 per cent having three or four eggs a week, and the boys reported 72 per cent. A whole grain cereal or breadstuff daily was reported by 71.33 per cent of the girls and 69.5 per cent of the boys. A serving of meat, fish, or poultry daily was checked by 87.33 per cent of the girls and by 79 per cent of the boys. About 2 per cent of the girls failed to answer this part of the questionnaire and more than 8 per cent of the boys did not respond.

Personal grooming habits. According to their own reports, the girls performed far more of the socially acceptable personal grooming habits than did the boys. The girls reported 83 per cent brushing teeth daily, while the boys reported only 56.5 per cent. In the next category, 93.67 per cent of the girls said they washed their hair every three weeks or oftener compared to 80.5 per cent of the boys. Waving their own hair was reported by 70 per cent of the girls but by only 20 per cent of the boys. Very few had their hair washed by an operator, only 6 per cent of the girls and 1.5 per cent of the boys reporting. Taking a bath two or three times a week was indicated by 93.33 per cent of the girls but by just 73 per cent of the boys. Manicuring nails was reported by 53.67 per cent of

the girls while 15.5 per cent of the boys said they did this. The girls reported 69 per cent cleaning fingernails daily, and the boys reported 29.5 per cent. Brushing coat weekly was reported by 46.33 per cent of the girls but by only 17.5 per cent of the boys. Only in polishing their shoes did the boys approach the higher percentages reported by girls. The girls reported 83.67 per cent compared to a close 77 per cent of the boys reporting.

Activities enjoyed frequently. A larger percentage of girls reported enjoying bicycling, picnicking, hiking, skating, dancing, and indoor games than did boys. Larger percentages of the boys reported preferring swimming, fishing, hunting, playing cards, and camping than did the girls. The girls and boys reported practically the same percentages for three activities, namely: outdoor games, other games, and riding horseback. The larger number of both boys and girls reported enjoying bicycling, outdoor games, and swimming, in that order. Percentages for each of the fourteen activities listed and preferences in order of frequency mentioned are given in Table IX.

Use of cosmetics. For the purpose of this study, only the answers of the girls were used since the use of cosmetics is generally considered to be a female prerogative. The answers given by the boys, however, are tabulated

TABLE IX

ACTIVITIES REPORTED ENJOYED FREQUENTLY BY 500 GIRLS
AND BOYS OF VIGO COUNTY, LISTED IN ORDER OF
FREQUENCY, BY SEX

GIRLS		BOYS	
<u>Activity Enjoyed</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Activity Enjoyed</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Bicycling	85	Swimming	79
Picnicking	81	Outdoor games	79
Outdoor games	79	Bicycling	73.5
Hiking	69	Fishing	72
Swimming	63.33	Hunting	64.5
Other games	53	Playing cards	61.5
Playing cards	51	Hiking	60
Riding horseback	49.67	Camping	55.5
Fishing	43.33	Other games	53.5
Skating	39	Picnicking	49
Dancing	35.33	Riding horseback	48.5
Indoor games	33.33	Indoor games	25
Camping	32	Skating	17.5
Hunting	17.67	Dancing	14

in the appendix under question 18, page 64. Ten items of cosmetics were listed and the girls reported using them as follows: hand lotion, 82.67 per cent; lip stick, 79 per cent; deodorant, 76.67 per cent; perfume, 75 per cent; powder, 71.67 per cent; cleansing cream, 45.67 per cent; liquid nail polish, 44.67 per cent; rouge, 10.33 per cent; mascara, 4.67 per cent; and eye shadow, 3 per cent.

Opportunities to be with friends. In reporting on opportunities to be with friends, boys showed a reluctance to answer the questions as evidenced by approximately 83 per cent responding compared to roughly 96 per cent of the girls answering. The answers given, however, show some remarkable similarities and a few dissimilarities. A complete breakdown of answers and a comparison of the two sexes are given in Table X on page 31 and in Table XI on page 32.

Group memberships. In reporting on membership in various groups listed, school clubs more than any other were indicated by both girls and boys. The girls reported 47.33 per cent belonging at present and 22.33 per cent who used to belong. The boys reported 33 per cent belonging at present and 11 per cent who used to belong.

Second in group membership was Young People's Church Group which was checked by 41 per cent of the girls in the "belong at present" column and by 22 per cent of the girls

TABLE X

OPPORTUNITIES TO BE WITH FRIENDS LAST WEEK AT VARIOUS
PLACES AS REPORTED BY 500 GIRLS AND BOYS
OF VIGO COUNTY, GIVEN IN PERCENTAGES

PLACE	GIRLS WITH GIRLS	BOYS WITH BOYS	GIRLS WITH BOYS	BOYS WITH GIRLS
At your own home	59.67	47	37.33	13.5
At their homes	56	45.5	13.33	22.5
At the movies	43.33	43.5	30.33	22.5
At church	46.33	29.5	17.67	17.5
At your club	19.33	20.5	3.67	7

TABLE XI

PERCENTAGES OF 500 GIRLS AND BOYS OF VIGO COUNTY
WHO ANSWERED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE SIX QUESTIONS
ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES TO BE WITH FRIENDS

QUESTIONS	GIRLS	BOYS
Do you have your friends for supper or dinner sometimes?	80.67	60
Do you have your friends at your home overnight?	67.33	45
Do you go away from home to visit for a few days?	71.67	50
Do you stay at a hotel sometimes?	13.67	21.5
Do you wait on tables at church suppers or other community gatherings?	36.33	13
Do you eat at a restaurant sometimes?	82.67	67.5

in "the used to belong" column. The boys indicated 17 per cent in the "belong at present" category and 8.5 per cent indicated that they used to belong.

The girls reported 15.33 per cent belonging at present to the Y.W.C.A. and 12 per cent who used to belong. The boys reported 15 per cent belonging at present to the Y.M.C.A. and 28.5 per cent who used to belong.

The girls reported 34.33 per cent belonging at present to choir and 16 per cent who used to belong. This compares to a relatively low 6.5 per cent of the boys who said that they belonged at present and 7.5 per cent who said they used to belong.

Group memberships are listed on Table XII for both girls and boys, and percentages are given for both "belong at present" and "used to belong" categories.

Care of children. When given the opportunity for checking the things which they did for children last week, only a small percentage of the girls reported having care of children regularly. Daily responsibilities were reported by only 18.33 per cent who said they dressed children and 18 per cent who said they put children to bed. Other daily duties were reported by an even smaller percentage.

Weekly responsibilities were reported by a much smaller percentage of girls, with 6.33 per cent caring

TABLE XII.

GROUP MEMBERSHIP AS REPORTED BY 500 GIRLS AND BOYS
OF VIGO COUNTY, GIVEN IN PERCENTAGES

GROUP	USED TO BELONG		BELONG AT PRESENT	
	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>
School clubs	22.33	11	47.33	33
Young People's Church	22	8.5	41	17
Choir	16	7.5	34.33	6.5
Y.W.C.A.	12		15.33	
Y.M.C.A.		28.5		15
Girl Scouts	31		12.33	
Boy Scouts		2		7
Girl Reserves	5.67	.5	4.33	0
Campfire	3.67	1	1	.5
Sorority	2.33	0	3.33	0

for children in the afternoon being the largest percentage reported.

The largest percentage reported for occasional care of children was 27.67 per cent who reported telling stories to children. The percentages tapered then to 18 per cent who said they occasionally prepared food for children.

Even fewer of the boys indicated care of children. The largest percentages reporting were in the occasionally column where 12 per cent said they occasionally bought toys for children and 11.5 per cent said they occasionally cared for children in the afternoon.

Table XIII shows percentages for both girls and boys with columns for: daily, weekly, and occasionally.

Making of garments. Many garments were made during the previous year by the girls reporting, although more were made at school than at home. No statistics are given for the boys since they do not generally make garments for themselves, and the great majority did not answer this part of the questionnaire.

A blouse was indicated by the greatest number of girls as the garment most often made at school, with 21.67 per cent checking this item. Running a close second was a skirt, with 19.67 per cent indicating having made this garment. The garment mentioned third most often was a wash

TABLE XIII

ITEMS CHECKED BY 500 GIRLS AND BOYS OF VIGO COUNTY SHOWING
ACTIVITIES LAST WEEK IN CARING FOR CHILDREN,
GIVEN IN PERCENTAGES

ITEMS	DAILY		WEEKLY		OCCASIONALLY	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Bathe	13	1.5	4.67	3	22.67	3
Buy books for children	1	1	3.33	.5	19	6.5
Buy clothing for children	1	0	1	0	18.67	4
Buy toys for children	1.33	1	4	0	26	12
Care for them in afternoon	14	3	6.33	2	25.67	11.5
Dress	18.33	3	3	.5	27.33	7
Feed	15	1.5	3.67	3.67	21.67	5
Prepare food	15	1.5	4	1	18	5
Put to bed	18	2.5	4.67	1	22	6
Take walking	10	2.5	4.33	1	27	10
Tell stories	11.33	2	5.33	3	27.67	10.5
Others:	Girls, 3 per cent; Boys, .5 per cent.					

dress, and it was indicated by 12.67 per cent of the girls. Table XIV shows garments reported made at school and at home by girls.

Reasons for not sewing at home. The reason most often checked for not sewing at home was lack of time with 29.67 per cent of the girls giving that as a reason. Lack of skill was indicated by 23.67 per cent, while 21.33 per cent gave dislike for sewing as the reason, and lack of machine was reported by 20 per cent. Only 4.67 per cent listed eye trouble as a reason for not sewing at home, and only 3.67 per cent said it was less expensive to buy. Other reasons for not sewing at home were listed by 4.33 per cent.

Difficulties when sewing. When asked to check common difficulties when sewing, the girls indicated 30.33 per cent having difficulty cutting the garment, 29.33 per cent having difficulty finishing the garment, 29 per cent having difficulty fitting the garment, and 16 per cent having difficulty planning the garment. A few, 5.33 per cent, listed other difficulties.

Who makes clothing. The girls were asked to check a list to indicate by whom clothing was made when ready-to-wear garments were not purchased. The mother was indicated by 39.67 per cent of the girls, 29.67 per cent reported

TABLE XIV
 GARMENTS REPORTED MADE AT HOME AND AT SCHOOL
 BY 300 GIRLS OF VIGO COUNTY,
 GIVEN IN PERCENTAGES

GARMENT	MADE AT SCHOOL	MADE AT HOME
Blouse	21.67	10.33
Skirt	19.67	11.67
Wash dress	12.67	3
Dress-up-dress for self	6.33	7.67
Children's clothing	5	10
Pajamas	3.33	8.33
Made-over garments	2	9.67
Slip	1.33	5.33
Underwear	1.33	2
Jacket	1.33	.67
Dress for mother	1	2.67
Wool dress	.67	.67
Slacks	.67	2.33
Suit	.33	2
Coat	0	.33

making the garments themselves, assisted by their mother, 12.67 per cent reported garments made by an aunt, 12 per cent said a dressmaker made garments, 11.33 per cent said garments were made by a grandmother, 10 per cent said they were made entirely by themselves, and 5 per cent reported a sister as the garment-maker. Many of the boys failed to answer this part of the questionnaire, but 19.5 per cent did indicate the mother as the person who made clothing that is not purchased ready-made.

Difficulties when buying clothing. The difficulty most often encountered by girls and boys when purchasing ready-made garments was reported as "proper fit". This difficulty was checked by 46.67 per cent of the girls and by 26 per cent of the boys. The difficulty ranked second, "pleasing style", was checked by 42.33 per cent of the girls and by 17.5 per cent of the boys. The difficulty indicated third most often was "becoming color", checked by 30.33 per cent of the girls and by 15.5 per cent of the boys. "Satisfactory material" was the next choice of difficulties, being chosen by 27 per cent of the girls and by 13 per cent of the boys. "Satisfactory construction" was the choice of 21.33 per cent of the girls and by 8 per cent of the boys. "Matching other garments" was the choice least often checked, being indicated by 17.33 per cent of the girls and by only

6 per cent of the boys. Other difficulties were listed by 1.67 per cent of the girls and by .5 per cent of the boys.

Where clothing is bought. In answer to the question, "Where do you buy your clothing?" 87.67 per cent of the girls indicated local stores, 17 per cent reported another town, 5.67 per cent checked mail order houses, and .67 per cent listed others. The boys reported 65 per cent bought their clothing at local stores, 17.5 per cent checked another town, 6.5 per cent indicated mail order houses, and no one listed others.

Clothing selected for self within last year. The questions in this part of the questionnaire were designed for girls and so probably lost some of their reliability when applied to boys. However, both boys and girls reported shoes as the article most commonly selected for themselves within the past year. The girls reported, 60 per cent or over, selecting articles for themselves in all categories except hats. The boys reported 45.5 per cent selecting shoes and coats, and about 25 per cent selecting hats, underwear, and sweaters. Table XV gives percentages for boys and girls for the ten articles of wearing apparel listed.

TABLE XV
CLOTHING SELECTED FOR SELF WITHIN THE LAST YEAR
AS REPORTED BY 500 GIRLS AND BOYS
OF VIGO COUNTY

GIRLS		BOYS	
<u>Articles</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Articles</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Shoes	84.67	Shoes	45.5
Dresses	80.33	Coats	45.5
Underwear	67.67	Hats	25
Hose	64.67	Underwear	24
Slips	64.67	Sweaters	24
Coats	62.33	Hose	7.5
Pattern for a garment	61.67	Slips	3
Sweaters	60.67	Pattern for a garment	2.5
Dress material	60	Dresses	2
Hats	24.67	Dress Material	.5

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Summary of Purpose and Procedure. The adolescent's need to become independent by finding a way to earn a living and to achieve economic security cannot be disregarded by the school.¹⁶ The school, in order to perform its functions satisfactorily, needs to know its pupils at home as well as in the school. This study attempts to reveal certain facts about the activities and home responsibilities of girls and boys in Vigo County, Indiana. A questionnaire was administered to 500 boys and girls during the spring of 1950, in order to collect the data.

Summary of Findings. Girls and boys enrolled in Vigo County schools are almost all native-born children, and the vast majority of their parents were also born in this country. Foreign customs, therefore, need have little, if any, influence on the planning of content of courses of study for the schools of the county.

Occupations of parents of the girls and boys of Vigo County are varied widely, and it follows that the economic status of the families varies considerably also. Although this study does not investigate the family incomes, it is

¹⁶ Helen Mougey Jordan, M. Louisa Ziller, and John Franklin Brown, Home and Family (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1939), p. 18.

apparent that the incomes will range from very low to very high when one considers the long list of occupations of parents given.

Ours has become a mobile world, as evidenced by the large percentages of girls and boys who reported their families as having an automobile or a truck. This fact must also be considered when planning what we will teach our youngsters.

Girls and boys need training in economic matters while they are in school to help them to spend wisely and well. They reported having many opportunities for handling money and aiding in decisions where money was concerned, but showed a great lack of keeping accounts or of making plans for spending their money.

That girls and boys have opportunities to keep well informed is evidenced by the reports of papers in the vast majority of homes and the large numbers of magazines read from in the last month. The school has an opportunity here for guidance in good reading habits that should not be overlooked.

Girls and boys in this study reported ample opportunity for performing menial tasks around the home, such as, washing and drying dishes, setting the table, and making their own beds; but tasks involving managerial responsibilities were not performed by any appreciable number.

Girls did assume a larger portion of the responsibility for caring for their own clothes than did boys.

A very large percentage of the girls and boys reported listening to the radio, studying, and attending movies as spare-time activities. Many listed going for a drive, playing games, going on walks, and attending church. Fewer reported reading aloud, gardening, going on picnics, attending community gatherings, having special family dinners, and dancing as activities in which they engaged in their spare time.

Certain basic foods were lacking in the diets of the families as reported by the girls and boys in this study. Speaking conservatively, it seemed that about one-fifth of the families were not eating well-rounded, nutritious meals.

Personal grooming habits were higher for girls than for boys, but there was much room for improvement in all categories.

Principal activities enjoyed by the girls and boys were bicycling, outdoor games, and swimming. The girls preferred bicycling, picnicking, outdoor games, hiking, and swimming, in that order of preference. The boys showed a preference for swimming, outdoor games, bicycling, fishing, and hunting, also given in the order of preference.

Cosmetics reported used by over 70 per cent of the girls were hand lotion, lip stick, deodorant, perfume, and

powder. About 45 per cent reported using cleansing cream and liquid nail polish. The percentages reported using rouge, mascara, and eye shadow were negligible.

Girls and boys did not report a large percentage of opportunities to be with friends of either sex even at their own homes. The girls reported larger percentages than did the boys in having friends over, visiting away from home, eating at restaurants, and waiting on tables at community gatherings. More boys reported staying at a hotel sometimes than did girls.

School clubs were indicated as the most popular group for membership by both girls and boys. The girls and boys reported membership in church groups and the Y.W.C.A. or Y.M.C.A. as second and third, respectively, in popularity.

Caring for children was reported by a very low percentage of the girls and boys. Even occasional duties were few. Daily responsibilities were reported by less than one-fifth of the girls and by almost none of the boys.

Reasons for not sewing at home were lack of time, lack of skill, dislike for sewing, and lack of machine, ranging from 20 per cent reporting lack of machine up to almost 30 per cent who said they lacked time. Difficulties when sewing were with cutting, finishing, fitting, and planning the garments in that order. Planning the garment as a difficulty was mentioned by 16 per cent of the girls who

reported; and cutting, finishing, and fitting the garment were reported as difficulties by about 30 per cent.

The person most often indicated as the one who made clothing when ready-to-wear garments were not purchased was the mother; followed by the girls, assisted by their mother; then an aunt; a dressmaker; the grandmother; entirely by themselves; and a sister; in that order. Those of the boys who reported also said the mother was the principal garment-maker.

The difficulties encountered when purchasing ready-made garments were reported as follows by both girls and boys: proper fit, pleasing style, becoming color, satisfactory material, satisfactory construction, and finally, matching other garments.

Most of the girls and boys reported buying their clothing at local stores, a few checked another town, and a fairly small percentage said they bought their clothing from mail order houses.

The girls and boys reported selecting some clothing for themselves, but shoes were the main article reported being purchased. The girls reported many more articles being selected for themselves than did the boys; however, the questionnaire was designed for girls, and that may account for the low percentages reported by boys. Boys were not expected to check items such as dresses and slips.

Conclusions. The conclusions drawn as a result of this study are enumerated and given below:

1. Foreign customs need not be taken into consideration when planning courses of study for girls and boys in Vigo County.

2. A wide diversification of occupations and incomes must be considered when planning courses.

3. The vast majority of families have some means of transportation, and this must be taken into consideration also.

4. The teaching of wise expenditure of money, as well as emphasis on planning and budgeting should start early and continue through high school.

5. The girls and boys have every opportunity to keep well informed. It is a function of the school to guide their reading and listening habits into proper channels so that they are given ample opportunity for judging what is best for them and their community. Having better reading materials is a goal toward which the school community should constantly strive.

6. More managerial responsibilities could and should be given to girls and boys in helping to maintain the household and in caring for their clothing.

7. A large proportion of the spare time of girls and boys is taken up with listening to the radio and by

attending movies. Girls and boys apparently need training in the social graces, such as, how to entertain easily and how to mix with peers. The spare-time activities should show more active and less passive participation.

8. More attention should be given to proper meal balance and the basic foods. This guidance should start early and continue through high school, since many of the families were reported as not having well-rounded, nutritious meals.

9. Personal grooming habits showed an appalling laxity in most categories. The school has a definite role to play in teaching girls and boys that it should be an individual responsibility to safeguard one's health by taking a personal pride in cleanliness and in good health habits.

10. The girls should be given help and instruction in the proper selection and use of cosmetics.

11. Instruction is apparently needed in the area of family living as evidenced by the fairly low percentages of girls and boys reporting opportunities to be with friends. There seemed to be a need for knowledge of manners and conduct in public places.

12. Memberships in church groups were fairly high and school clubs were reported very popular. Girls and boys should be encouraged even further in participation and in

memberships in those organizations which have proved themselves as socially desirable.

13. Some work in child care is important, especially in entertainment of small children. An attempt probably should be made to point out the responsibilities that could be assumed by girls and boys to alleviate responsibilities now evidently left largely to parents.

14. Clothing classes should strive to emphasize wise selection of fabrics, suitable patterns, and finishing details. Planning work and working habits should be taught so as to develop independence in the pupils. Boys are interested in these things, too, as evidenced by their responses to those items about clothing given in the questionnaire. Consumer education along all lines of clothing selection would be valuable to all age levels.

Recommendations. A practical, realistic program of education for home and family life must occupy an important place in the educational services offered by the schools.¹⁷ The teaching personnel (with the home economics teacher taking a major role) and community representatives should make a cooperative effort to provide the instruction in family living that is needed and wanted in their situation.

¹⁷ American Association of School Administrators, Education for Family Life (Nineteenth Yearbook, Washington, D. C.; the Association, a department of the National Education Association, 1941) p. 18.

As a result of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Strive for better cooperation between faculty and parents in planning what will be taught, when it will be taught, and how it will be taught.
2. Allow pupils to take as great a share as is possible in planning what will be taught, when it will be taught, and how it will be taught.
3. Include both girls and boys in all phases of planning for family-life education.
4. Use community resources to enrich the material offered in the curriculum.
5. Add meaningful units wherever and whenever the need is indicated.
6. Have an over-all plan to avoid repeating material taught elsewhere. That is not to say that nothing will be repeated because education is repetition, but those facts which have already been taught need not be presented again.

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APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE SUBMITTED TO 300 VIGO COUNTY GIRLS
AND TABULATED REPLIES

This questionnaire has been prepared to collect material which will be useful in providing a basis for a revision of the Vigo County course of study for Home Economics. We ask you to read each statement carefully, then answer as indicated in the blank provided. By giving this serious consideration you are cooperating with others in doing a piece of work which will be of value to the county and to yourself. From your opinions and the facts collected, the committee will judge what is best to offer in the field of homemaking. If you have any questions about the statements as you answer them, ask your teacher for an explanation.

Date _____ Name of School 300 Girls

Name of Town _____ State or country where
you were born _____

Father _____ Mother _____

Present occupation of father See Table II on page 12
and Table III on page 15

Present occupation of mother See Table II on page 12

1. Does your family have an automobile? Yes 80.67% No 19.33%
Does your family have a truck? Yes 22.33% No 77.67%

2. In what ways do you receive money for yourself?

25% Allowance
63.67% Ask for it as needed
67.33% Earn some of it

3. If you earn, in what ways do you earn money?

47.67% Care for children
19.67% Housework for others
7.33% Work in store

Other ways 31% listed other ways, but 20% listed
that other way as housework at home.

4. Do you keep an account of the money you spend? Yes 20.33%
No 79.67%

5. Do you make a plan for spending your money? Yes 37.33%
No 62.67%

6. Does the entire family have a part in making decisions where money is concerned? Yes 39 %
No 61 %
7. If not, who makes the decisions?

4 % father	0 % children
8.33% mother	2 % others
43.33% father and mother	5.33% do not know
8. In your home do you regularly have a daily paper? Yes 89 %
No 9 %
 In your home do you regularly have a weekly paper? Yes 40.33%
No 57.67%
 In your home do you have a Sunday paper only? Yes 4.67%
 (Note: 2% failed to answer this question.) No 93.33%
9. List the magazines from which you have read articles during the last month:
See Table IV on page 18
10. Check which of the following you did last week:
- | | <u>Alone</u> | <u>With Assistance</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Buy foods | | |
| bakery products | 22.33% | 20.67% |
| canned | 36.67% | 19.67% |
| Dairy products | 29.67% | 15 % |
| fresh vegetables | 26.33% | 15.33% |
| meat | 34 % | 20 % |
| Cook vegetables | 28.67% | 12 % |
| Make cakes | 33.33% | 8.33% |
| Make muffins or biscuits | 16 % | 6.33% |
| Make pies | 16.67% | 8 % |
| Make salads | 41.67% | 5.67% |
| Make yeast bread | 3.33% | 6.67% |
| Pack lunches | 27.67% | 4.67% |
| Plan meals | 24.33% | 11.67% |
| Prepare breakfast | 33 % | 8 % |
| Prepare dinner | 27.67% | 10 % |
| Prepare lunch or supper | 37 % | 11.67% |
| Prepare vegetables for cooking | 33.33% | 7 % |
| Serve refreshments | 32.33% | 5.67% |
| Set table | 80 % | 6.67% |
| Wash dishes | 74.33% | 13 % |
| Dry dishes | 76.67% | 15.33% |
11. Check the following activities which you do:
- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|-------|
| Make your bed | 85.67% | 5.33% |
| Make other beds | 50.33% | 5.33% |
| Put bedroom in order | 79 % | 6.33% |
| Dust furniture | 75 % | 7 % |
| Put other rooms in order | 60.67% | 11 % |

Clean bathroom	28.33%	6.67%
Clean kitchen	56	15.67%
Clean living room	58	12.33%
Do family washing	4	12
Help with family washing	34.67%	16.33%

Do you launder your own silk underwear? Yes 56.67% No 35.67%

12. In caring for your clothing which of these did you do during the last week?

<u>59.67%</u> brush	<u>55.67%</u> press
<u>40.67%</u> clean	<u>36.33%</u> remove spots
<u>18.33%</u> darn stockings	<u>58.33%</u> wash
<u>78.67%</u> iron	List others <u>5.67%</u>
<u>56</u> % mend garments	<u>listed other things</u>

13. During last week which of the following did you do?

<u>64</u> % attend church	<u>25</u> % have special family dinners
<u>67.67%</u> attend movies	<u>93.67%</u> listen to radio
<u>22.67%</u> dance	<u>61.67%</u> play games
<u>22.67%</u> gardening	<u>30.67%</u> read aloud
<u>68</u> % go for a drive	<u>83</u> % study
<u>30</u> % go on picnics	<u>29</u> % attend community gathering
<u>65.67%</u> go on walks	List others <u>7</u> % listed others

14. Check the number of days members of the family have been sick in bed during past year:

	Less than 5 days	One to 2 weeks	More than 2 weeks
Yourself	<u>34.67%</u>	<u>6.67%</u>	<u>5.33%</u>
Mother	<u>22.33%</u>	<u>9.67%</u>	<u>11.33%</u>
Father	<u>26.33%</u>	<u>4</u> %	<u>5</u> %
Sisters	<u>18.33%</u>	<u>6</u> %	<u>4.33%</u>
Brothers	<u>18</u> %	<u>4.33%</u>	<u>4</u> %
Others	<u>3</u> %	<u>2.33%</u>	<u>3</u> %

(Note: 46% of the girls failed to answer this question.)

15. Do your meals each week (7 days) provide the following?

	Yes	No
A glass of milk in each meal for each child	<u>68.33%</u>	<u>30</u> %
Fruit for each member of the family at least once a day	<u>81</u> %	<u>16.67%</u>
Vegetables other than potatoes at least once and better, twice a day	<u>87.67%</u>	<u>11</u> %
Eggs three or four a week	<u>72.33%</u>	<u>26.33%</u>
A whole grain cereal or breadstuff daily	<u>71.33%</u>	<u>27</u> %
A serving of meat, fish or poultry daily	<u>87.33%</u>	<u>11.33%</u>
(Note: 1.67% of the girls failed to answer the first part of this question, 2.33% failed to answer the second part, 1.33% failed to answer the third, fourth, and sixth parts, and 1.67% failed to answer the fifth part.)		

16. Which do you do?

83	%	Brush teeth daily
93.67%		Wash your hair every 3 weeks or oftener
70	%	Wave your own hair
6	%	Have your hair washed by an operator
93.33%		Take a bath two or three times a week
53.67%		Manicure your nails
69	%	Clean fingernails daily
46.33%		Brush coat weekly
83.67%		Polish your shoes

17. Check those activities which you enjoy doing frequently:

<u>51</u>	<u>%</u>	play cards	<u>43.33%</u>	fishing	
<u>32</u>	<u>%</u>	camping	<u>69</u>	<u>%</u>	hiking
<u>85</u>	<u>%</u>	bicycling	<u>33.33%</u>	indoor games	
<u>17.67%</u>		hunting	<u>53</u>	<u>%</u>	other games
<u>81</u>	<u>%</u>	picnicking	<u>79</u>	<u>%</u>	outdoor games
<u>49.67%</u>		riding horseback	<u>39</u>	<u>%</u>	skating
<u>35.33%</u>		dancing	<u>63.33%</u>	swimming	

18. Check which of the following you use:

45.67%	cleansing cream	79	%	lip stick	
76.67%	deodorant	4.67%		mascara	
3	%	eye shadow	74	%	perfume
82.67%	hand lotion	71.67%		powder	
44.67%	liquid nail polish	10.33%		rouge	

19. If you had any opportunities last week to be with friends, list number of times:

	With girl friends	Boy friends
At your own home	59.67%	37.33%
At their homes	56	13.33%
At movies	43.33%	30.33%
At church	46.33%	17.67%
At your club	19.33%	3.67%

Do you:

	Yes	No
Have your friends for supper or dinner sometimes	60 %	22.5%
Have your friends home over night	45 %	38 %
Go away from home to visit for a few days	50 %	33 %
Stay at a hotel sometimes	21.5%	61.5%
Wait on tables at church suppers or other community gatherings	13 %	69.5%
Eat at a restaurant sometimes	82.67	13 %

20. If you are, or have been a member of any group, check below:

	<u>Used to belong</u>	<u>Belong at present</u>
School clubs	22.33%	47.33%
Campfire	3.67%	1
Girl Reserves	5.67%	4.33%
Sorority	2.33%	3.33%
Girl Scouts	31	12.33%
Young People's Church Group	22	41
Choir	16	34.33%
Y.W.C.A.	12	15.33%

21. If you have any care of children, check the things which you did for them last week:

	<u>Daily</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Occasionally</u>
Bathe	13	4.67%	22.67%
Buy books for children	1	3.33%	19
Buy clothing for children	1	1	18.67%
Buy toys for children	1.33%	4	26
Care for them in afternoon	14	6.33%	25.67%
Dress	18.33%	3	27.33%
Feed	15	3.67%	21.67%
Prepare food	15	4	18
Put to bed	18	4.67%	22
Take walking	10	4.33%	27
Tell stories	11.33%	5.33%	27.67%
Others 3%			

22. If you have made any garments during the last year indicate the number after each:

	<u>At School</u>	<u>At Home</u>
Children's clothing	5	10
Blouse	21.67%	10.33%
Dress for mother	1	2.67%
Dress-up-dress for self	6.33%	7.67%
Made-over garments	2	9.67%
Pajamas	3.33%	8.33%
Skirt	19.67%	11.67%
Slip	1.33%	5.33%
Underwear	1.33%	2
Wash dress	12.67%	3
Wool dress	.67%	.67%
Jackets	1.33%	.67%
Suits	.33%	2
Coats	0	.33%
Slacks	.67%	2.33%

23. If you do not sew at home, check the reason or reasons:

21.33% dislike for sewing	29.67% lack of time
4.67% eye trouble	3.67% less expensive to buy
20% lack of machine	23.67% lack of skill
List others 4.33%	listed other reasons

24. Check any of the following with which you have difficulty when sewing:

<u>30.33%</u> cutting the garment	<u>16</u> % planning the garment
<u>29.33%</u> finishing the garment	<u>29</u> % fitting the garment
<u>List others 5.33% listed other difficulties</u>	

25. When ready-to-wear garments are not purchased, by whom is clothing made?

<u>10</u> % entirely by self	<u>12</u> % dressmaker
<u>29.67%</u> self, assisted by mother	<u>12.67%</u> aunt
<u>11.33%</u> grandmother	<u>39.67%</u> mother
<u>5</u> % sister	

26. Check any of the following choices with which you have difficulty, when purchasing ready-made garments:

<u>30.33%</u> becoming color	<u>21.33%</u> satisfactory construction
<u>46.67%</u> proper fit	<u>27</u> % satisfactory material
<u>42.33%</u> pleasing style	<u>17.33%</u> matching other garments
<u>List others 1.67% listed other difficulties</u>	

27. Where do you buy your clothing?

<u>87.67%</u> local stores	<u>17</u> % another town
<u>5.67%</u> mail order houses	<u>.67%</u> list others

28. Estimate the number of each of the following articles that you have selected for yourself within the last year:

<u>62.33%</u> coats	<u>61.67%</u> pattern for a garment
<u>80.33%</u> dresses	<u>84.67%</u> shoes
<u>60</u> % dress material	<u>64.67%</u> slips
<u>24.67%</u> hats	<u>60.67%</u> sweaters
<u>64.67%</u> hose	<u>67.67%</u> underwear

QUESTIONNAIRE SUBMITTED TO 200 VIGO COUNTY BOYS
AND TABULATED REPLIES

This questionnaire has been prepared to collect material which will be useful in providing a basis for a revision of the Vigo County course of study for Home Economics. We ask you to read each statement carefully, then answer as indicated in the blank provided. By giving this serious consideration you are cooperating with others in doing a piece of work which will be of value to the county and to yourself. From your opinions and the facts collected, the committee will judge what is best to offer in the field of homemaking. If you have any questions about the statements as you answer them, ask your teacher for an explanation.

Date _____ Name of School 200 Boys

Name of Town _____ State or country where
you were born _____

Father _____ Mother _____

Present occupation of father See Tables II on page 12
and Table III on page 15

Present occupation of mother See Table II on page 13

1. Does your family have an automobile? Yes 76 % No 24 %
Does your family have a truck? Yes 22.5% No 77.5%

2. In what ways do you receive money for yourself?
25 % Allowance
39.5% Ask for it as needed
82 % Earn some of it

3. If you earn, in what ways do you earn money?

10.5% Care for children
3 % Housework for others
11.5% Work in store

Other ways 69% listed other ways

4. Do you keep an account of the money you spend? Yes 21 %
(Note: 3.5% failed to answer this question.) No 75.5%

5. Do you make a plan for spending your money? Yes 30.5%
(Note: 3% failed to answer this question.) No 66.5%

6. Does the entire family have a part in making decisions where money is concerned? Yes 31 %
 No 65.5%
 (Note: 3.5% failed to answer this question.)

7. If not, who makes the decisions?

<u>5 %</u> father	<u>1 %</u> children
<u>5 %</u> mother	<u>2.5%</u> others
<u>42 %</u> father and mother	<u>10.5%</u> do not know

8. In your home do you regularly have a daily paper? Yes 90.5%
 No 4 %
 In your home do you regularly have a weekly paper? Yes 54.5%
 No 40 %
 In your home do you have a Sunday paper only? Yes 2 %
 (Note: 5.5% failed to answer this question.) No 92.5%

9. List the magazines from which you have read articles during the last month: See Table IV on page 18

10. Check which of the following you did last week:

	<u>Alone</u>	<u>With Assistance</u>
Buy foods		
bakery products	25 %	13.5%
canned	20 %	15.5%
dairy products	27.5%	13.5%
fresh vegetables	18.5%	13.5%
meat	30.5%	16.5%
Cook vegetables	7 %	5 %
Make cakes	6 %	2.5%
Make muffins or biscuits	3 %	2 %
Make pies	4 %	2 %
Make salads	6 %	2.5%
Make yeast bread	2 %	2 %
Pack lunches	15.5%	4 %
Plan meals	11 %	5 %
Prepare breakfast	18.5%	5.5%
Prepare dinner	9 %	6 %
Prepare lunch or supper	14 %	5 %
Prepare vegetables for cooking	12 %	3.5%
Serve refreshments	14.5%	4 %
Set table	34 %	7.5%
Wash dishes	26.5%	10.5%
Dry dishes	30 %	12.5%

11. Check the following activities which you do:

Make your bed	49 %	3 %
Make other beds	10.5%	1.5%
Put bedroom in order	35. %	4.5%
Dust furniture	23 %	5 %
Put other rooms in order	15.5%	4 %

Clean bathroom	10.5%	2 %
Clean kitchen	14 %	5.5%
Clean living room	12.5%	3 %
Do family washing	2 %	3.5%
Help with family washing	20.5%	13 %

Do you launder your own silk underwear? (Not answered by boys)

12. In caring for your clothing which of these did you do during the last week?

41.5%	brush	15.5%	press
12 %	clean	8.5%	remove spots
4 %	darn stockings	8 %	wash
16.5%	iron	List others	2.5%
10.5%	mend garments	listed other things	

13. During last week which of the following did you do?

52 %	attend church	21 %	have special family dinners
75 %	attend movies	87.5%	listen to radio
16.5%	dance	67.5%	play games
30.5%	gardening	23.5%	read aloud
62.5%	go for a drive	60.5%	study
21 %	go on picnics	16.5%	attend community gatherings
48.5%	go on walks	List others	0% listed others

14. Check the number of days members of the family have been sick in bed during past year:

	Less than 5 days	One to 2 weeks	More than 2 weeks
Yourself	19.5%	5.5%	4 %
Mother	16.5%	4 %	4 %
Father	14 %	5.5%	4 %
Sisters	11.5%	1.5%	2 %
Brothers	13 %	1.5%	1.5%
Others	5.5%	0 %	1 %

(Note: 65.5% of the boys failed to answer this question.)

15. Do your meals each week (7 days) provide the following?

	Yes	No
A glass of milk in each meal for each child	69 %	23 %
Fruit for each member of the family at least once a day	70 %	21.5%
Vegetables other than potatoes at least once and better, twice a day	77.5%	14 %
Eggs three or four a week	72 %	19 %
A whole grain cereal or breadstuff daily	69.5%	22 %
A serving of meat, fish or poultry daily	79 %	12.5%

(Note: 8% of the boys failed to answer the first part of this question, 8.5% failed to answer the second, third, fifth, and sixth parts, and 9% failed to answer the fourth part.)

16. Which do you do?

56.5%	Brush teeth daily
80.5%	Wash your hair every 3 weeks or oftener
20 %	Wave your own hair
1.5%	Have your hair washed by an operator
73 %	Take a bath two or three times a week
15.5%	Manicure your nails
29.5%	Clean fingernails daily
17.5%	Brush coat weekly
77 %	Polish your shoes

17. Check those activities which you enjoy doing frequently:

61.5%	play cards	72 %	fishing
55.5%	camping	60 %	hiking
73.5%	bicycling	25 %	indoor games
64.5%	hunting	53.5%	other games
49 %	picnicking	79 %	outdoor games
48.5%	riding horseback	17.5%	skating
14 %	dancing	79 %	swimming

18. Check which of the following you use:

2.5%	cleansing cream	0 %	lip stick
5.5%	deodorant	0 %	mascara
0 %	eye shadow	3 %	perfume
8 %	hand lotion	4.5%	powder
0 %	liquid nail polish	.5%	rouge

19. If you had any opportunities last week to be with friends, list number of times:

	<u>With girl friends</u>	<u>Boy friends</u>
At your own home	13.5%	47 %
At their homes	22.5%	45.5%
At movies	22.5%	43.5%
At church	17.5%	29.5%
At your club	7 %	20.5%

Do you:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Have your friends for supper or dinner sometimes	60 %	22.5%
Have your friends home over night	45 %	38 %
Go away from home to visit for a few days	50 %	33 %
Stay at a hotel sometimes	21.5%	61.5%
Wait on tables at church suppers or other community gatherings	13 %	69.5%
Eat at a restaurant sometimes	67.5%	15.5%

20. If you are, or have been a member of any group, check below:

	<u>Used to belong</u>	<u>Belong at present</u>
School clubs	11 %	33 %
Campfire	1 %	.5 %
Girl Reserves	.5 %	0 %
Sorority	0 %	0 %
Boy Scouts	2 %	7 %
Young People's Church Group	8.5 %	17 %
Choir	7.5 %	6.5 %
Y.M.C.A.	28.5 %	15 %

21. If you have any care of children, check the things which you did for them last week:

	<u>Daily</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Occasionally</u>
Bathe	1.5 %	3 %	3 %
Buy books for children	1 %	.5 %	6.5 %
Buy clothing for children	0 %	0 %	4 %
Buy toys for children	1 %	0 %	12 %
Care for them in afternoon	3 %	2 %	11.5 %
Dress	3 %	.5 %	7 %
Feed	1.5 %	1 %	5 %
Prepare food	1.5 %	1 %	5 %
Put to bed	2.5 %	1 %	6 %
Take walking	2.5 %	1 %	10 %
Tell stories	2 %	3 %	10.5 %
Others .5 %			

- 22, 23, 24, and 25. These questions pertain to activities performed by girls only and were not answered by the great majority of the boys.

26. Check any of the following choices with which you have difficulty, when purchasing ready-made garments:

15.5 %	becoming color	8 %	satisfactory construction
26 %	proper fit	13 %	satisfactory material
17.5 %	pleasing style	6 %	matching other garments
<u>List others .5 % listed other difficulties</u>			

27. Where do you buy your clothing?

65 %	local stores	17.5 %	another town
6.5 %	mail order houses	0 %	list others

28. Estimate the number of each of the following articles that you have selected for yourself within the last year:

45.5 %	coats	2.5 %	pattern for a garment
2 %	dresses	45.5 %	shoes
.5 %	dress material	3 %	slips
25 %	hats	24 %	sweaters
7.5 %	hose	24 %	underwear