CERTAIN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF NEGRO FAMILIES
IN SCOTLANDVILLE, LOUISIANA, HAVING
IMPLICATIONS FOR ADULT HOMEMAKING.

by

Lubertha Dyer Brantley

A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate Faculty
for the Degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE

Major Subject: Home Economics Education

Signatures have been redacted for privacy

Iowa State College
1944

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF TABLES	111
INTRODUCTION	1
REVIEW OF LITERATURE	4
METHOD OF PROCEDURE	14
FINDINGS	18
Income and Socio-Economic Status of Group Studied	18
Background Information about the Families ..	22
Housing of the Families in the Different Income Groups	39
Money Management in Income Groups	44
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	68
SUMMARY	70
REFERENCES	77
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	79
APPENDIX	80

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
1. Annual Family Incomes of Homemakers Interviewed.....	19
2. Annual Incomes of Families by Income Groups	20
3. Socio-Economic Status of Families by Income Groups..	21
4. Marital Status of Homemakers by Income Groups.....	23
5. Ages of Homemakers by Income Groups	24
6. Employment of Homemakers by Income Groups.....	25
7. Amount of Employment of Husbands by Income Groups...	25
8. Ages of Children in Families by Income Groups.....	26
9. Families Having Children Living at Home by Income Groups	27
10. Non-Members of the Family Living in the Home by Income Groups.....	28
11. Occupations of Employed Members of the Families by Income Groups	30
12. Years Husbands have been on Present Jobs by Income Groups.....	33
13. Education of Homemakers by Income Groups.....	34
14. Education of Husbands by Income Groups.....	35
15. General Interest Magazines Read by Families in Income Groups	36
16. Ways in Which Magazines Were Obtained by Families in Income Groups	38
17. Home Ownership Among Families by Income Groups.....	40
18. Average Number of Persons Per Family and Average Number of Persons Living in the Homes of Families by Income Groups.....	42

	Page
19. Home Conveniences of Families by Income Groups.....	43
20. Certain Practices in Money Management by Income Groups	45
21. Persons Responsible for Buying for the Home by Income Groups.....	48
22. Most Expensive Purchases of Families During the Last Twelve Months by Income Groups.....	50
23. Poorest Purchases Made by Income Groups.....	51
24. Families that Make Articles in the Home by Income Groups.....	52
25. Foodstuffs Produced at the Home by Income Groups...	54
26. Families that Raised Vegetable Gardens by Income Groups.....	55
27. Quarts of Foodstuffs Preserved during Last Year by Income Groups.....	56
28. Duties Shared by Children in the Home by Income Groups.....	58
29. Difficulties Which Homemakers Recognized by In- come Groups.....	60
30. Difficulties Recognized by Investigator but not by Homemakers.....	66

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study was to discover what economic problems involving money management and housing existed among Negro families in Scotlandville, Louisiana, that adult education in homemaking might help them to solve.

If one aim of homemaking education is to help one to do those things better that he does anyway in every day living; then it is important for teachers, who have classes in homemaking for adults, to discover situations where greatest help is needed. The writer agrees with Goodykoontz and others¹ that economic conditions have made more difficult many problems which families experience as they strive to attain the standard of living they would like to achieve. Changes in the family income, increase in the prices of goods, decrease in quality and quantity along with the introduction of substitutes have caused problems in home management which require intelligent understanding and careful planning with each family member contributing.

To be of greatest service to the homemakers in solving certain economic problems existing in the homes, the writer believed it to be her duty to go into the homes and find out what were the activities that were too time consuming and too

¹ Goodykoontz, Bess and Coon, Beulah, Co-Chairmen. Family living and our schools. New York, D. Appleton Century Co. 1941. p. 270.

difficult for homemakers to solve alone.

In order to aid the reader in understanding the material presented in this study the writer will explain here certain terms that are used. Whenever the term "economic family" appears it is used in the same manner as used in the Consumer Purchase study by Brady and others². The term refers to a group of persons living in the same house, sharing the same table, pooling their income, and depending upon the family money for most of their support. In addition to such persons living in the home, the economic family as used includes sons and daughters away from home, but depending on the family income for at least seventy-five per cent of their support. "Economic problems", as used in this study are maladjustments in the handling of the family income and of any other affairs directly related to the maintenance of the home.

In order to give the readers some knowledge of the locality studied the following description of the community is presented:

Scotlandville, Louisiana, located five miles north of the city of Baton Rouge, is a community that has grown from farm homes scattered here and there in 1914 to more than 400

² Brady, Dorothy S. and others. Family income and expenditures. Part 2. Miscellaneous publication. U. S. Dept. Agr. 396:401. 1940.

homes, inhabited by families who have come from every section of the state as well as from other states. Educational opportunities offered by Southern University, the state school for Negroes, and the advantages offered for making a living are largely responsible for this increase. Among the leading industries which offer earning opportunities are: The Standard Oil Refinery, Louisiana Chemical Company, Louisiana Steam Generating Corporation, and the Ethyl Gas Corporation.

The writer selected this community for the study because she has been teaching at Southern University for seven years, and is responsible for adult education in the community as well as for day school teaching in the training school. It was believed that a better understanding of certain activities, interests, and economic problems in the homes of families living in the community would aid in planning a more effective program of homemaking education for adults.

It is hoped that this material may be of some use to those home economic teachers throughout the state who may be responsible for adult classes for Negroes, as suggestive of types of problems which may need attention and of some kinds of classes that might be offered.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Since the present study deals with certain economic problems in the homes of Negro families in a small community in Louisiana, the writer will limit the review of literature to investigations which deal with housing and money management of Negro families in the southern states.

The first four studies to be reviewed are very closely related, in that the investigators studied the home conditions of a selected group of girls in their states, for the purpose of discovering their needs as a basis for improving the home economics curriculum on the secondary school level.

In 1932 Owens¹ made a study of home activities and housing of Negro girls in the rural secondary schools of Virginia. To secure the desired information questionnaires were answered by 256 girls, and menu blanks were kept by 382 girls.

The study revealed that the average family was composed of 7.5 persons. The average number of persons living in the home, including the immediate family, relatives, roomers, and boarders, was 6.2 persons.

The data on home ownership showed that 79 per cent of the

¹ Owens, A. Elnora. Home activities and housing conditions of Negro girls in the rural secondary schools of Virginia as an index of their curricular needs. Unpublished M. S. Thesis. Ames, Iowa, Iowa State College Library. 1932.

parents owned their homes and 13 per cent were either renters in town or tenants on the farm.

Owens found that farming and unskilled labor were the chief occupations engaged in by the fathers and brothers. The occupations in which the mothers and sisters were engaged were classed as domestic and non-domestic. The majority of the mothers in the 256 families were engaged in domestic work in and outside of the home. The mothers of the girls living in large towns did more domestic work than mothers who lived on the farm. However, Owens stated that she believed that the mothers living on the farm were engaged in productive activities about the home.

Nine per cent of the girls in the study checked from \$300 to \$800 as the yearly incomes of their families. The next salary level which was checked most frequently was \$1200 to \$1800 per year. Fifty-three per cent of the families had from one to three persons contributing to the income. Home production supplemented the income.

Yerwood² in 1936 made a study of the home activities and housing conditions of Negro girls in federally aided schools in 52 counties of Texas.

Data from 1,643 families were secured by means of the

2

Yerwood, Ada Marie. Certain housing conditions and activities of Negro girls enrolled in federally aided schools in Texas as one index of their educational needs. Unpublished M. S. Thesis. Ames, Iowa, Iowa State College Library. 1936.

questionnaire. Yerwood selected one school as an example and interpreted the findings of the study to show how needs of the girls could be met in the curriculum of that school. The community in which the school was located had a population of 520. Eighteen families of the girls enrolled in the home economics department were used in the study.

Sixty-one per cent of the families had children between the ages of 7 and 13 years, and 25 per cent had children older than 25 years. Responsibility for the care of pre-school children was shared by 67 per cent of the girls.

The average size of the family was 6.7 persons. There was an average of 2.5 persons per sleeping room. The rooms were small and the average home did not provide necessary furnishings nor suitable accessories to assure some degree of beauty and comfort.

It was found that 44 per cent of the families owned their homes, which may have accounted for 44 per cent of the homes being painted.

The occupations of the fathers included unskilled labor, farming and domestic work. Fifty-six per cent of the men were engaged in farming and 88 per cent of the women were engaged in industrial work either in the home or outside of the home. Seventy-seven per cent of the girls worked outside of the home for pay, which indicated that several family members in some instances contributed to the family's income.

As a means of supplementing the income the majority of the families had vegetable gardens, raised chickens, had cows, and raised hogs. Twenty-two per cent of the families canned meat, 26 per cent canned vegetables, and 78 per cent canned fruits. Clothing was made in 39 per cent of the homes. The majority of the dry cleaning was done in the homes, if done at all, as only 39 per cent of the families patronized dry cleaning establishments.

Yerwood's conclusions that related to the present study are as follows:

There is a need for training for economic improvement which will supplement the Negro family's income. Home Economics should develop some skill in the managerial and manipulative phases of home-making.

.

These data point to needs of a well planned adult program, and that certain of the needs indicated will be met easier and sooner through education of the adults.³

In 1937 Peebles⁴ made an investigation of certain home and community conditions of a certain group of Negroes in Arkansas. Two sets of questionnaires were used in collecting data. One set was answered by 669 girls enrolled in 31 county training schools. The other was answered by the home economics teachers.

The findings showed that slightly more than half of the families studied owned homes or farms. The average number of

³Ibid. p. 63.

⁴Peebles, Eula McGehee. Certain home and community conditions of rural Negroes in Arkansas as one basis for improving the home economics program at the secondary level. Unpublished M. S. Thesis. Ames, Ia., Iowa State College Library. 1937.

persons living in the home, including the immediate family, relatives, roomers and boarders, was 6.02. More children were reported in the age group 13 to 18 years than in the 7 to 12 year or the 1 to 6 year age groups. People other than the family lived in 39.2 per cent of the homes.

The average number of rooms per house was 4.4, and the average number of rooms per person was .73.

Data concerning the employment showed that the largest percentage of fathers and boys were engaged in unskilled labor; some were railroad workers, some porters. Forty-four of the women added to their incomes by keeping roomers or boarders. Slightly more than one-fourth of the children were engaged in work outside of the home for pay and nine-tenths of the children who worked contributed to the family income.

Peebles stated that careful planning of expenditures was neglected in many households and that records of past expenditures should help the families in planning for future spending. Of the entire group studied, 42.7 per cent of the families reported keeping records and 37.7 per cent reported saving a part of the income according to a plan. Very few children helped to decide how the family money should be spent, although 27.1 per cent of all children contributed to the family income.

The living conditions of Negro families in Choctaw County, Hugo, Oklahoma, were studied by Hall⁵ in 1940-1941. An attempt

⁵Hall, Elizabeth. Living conditions of Negro families in Choctaw County, Hugo, Oklahoma. M. S. Thesis. Colo. State College Library. 1941.

was made to study ways in which Negro girls could be helped to improve their living conditions in that community. Information sheets were filled during conferences with the girls. Data for 85 families were collected.

The findings showed that the houses were small and inconvenient, having only two or three rooms. The average number of children in the family was 5.8. Forty-one per cent of the families owned their homes and 59 per cent were renters.

Thirty-one per cent of the 85 families received aid from the government; 16 per cent were employed as common laborers; 41 per cent were farmers; and 13 per cent were domestic laborers. Only 39 per cent of the families had vegetable gardens, which was the only means indicated for supplementing the income.

Equipment in the home was very limited. Due to the fact that there was no electricity in the rural area, 80 per cent of the homes used kerosene lamps. Fifty-nine per cent of the families used wood stoves for cooking and 71 per cent used flat irons.

The above data show that the homes of the Negroes in this community were overcrowded; the incomes were very inadequate and home equipment was very limited. From an economic point of view, Hall stated that they needed help to repair, clean, and use what they had to the best advantage.

Lewis⁶, in 1939, made a study of the socio-economic status of families in Scotlandville, the same community in which the present study was made. Data from 436 families were collected through personal interviews. Lewis stated that her study was an attempt to present the life of the Negro in this community. She tried to show how this life has developed, and analyzed its advancement. A brief history of the growth of Scotlandville between 1876 and 1940 was given.

The data showed that the economic and social advancement of Scotlandville was affected by its nearness to Baton Rouge, and that the economic and social development within the area investigated has been slow.

The cash income of the Negro families in 1939 was from \$100 to \$3,000 per year. Two hundred of the 418 Negro families supplemented their incomes with gardens, chickens, and livestock.

This study further showed that half of the Negro families owned their homes and 7.45 per cent were purchasing them. One hundred and twenty-five, or 29.9 per cent, of the families lived in painted homes.

The median years of schooling for Negroes in this community was 7.5. It was interesting to note that 6.6 per cent were high school graduates; 1.8 per cent had reached freshman college, and 2.14 per cent had graduated from college.

⁶Lewis, Elsie Mae. The social and economic status of the community of Scotlandville, Louisiana. Southern University. Bul. 27, no. 3:3. 1941.

Newspapers were read by 303 of the Negro families and 120 subscribed for a paper. Among the magazines read were: Life, Liberty, Look, True Story, and certain agricultural and professional magazines.

In 1941 Madden made a study of the home conditions of 150 Negro families in Campbell County, Virginia. The purpose of this study was to obtain some knowledge of the existing living conditions; to determine the economic factors that influenced housing conditions; and to show how training in home economics may influence family living. Adults and children living in the country furnished information for the study through interviews and answering questionnaires.

Madden⁷ found that many of the homes lacked certain comforts and conveniences, for they were over-crowded and had limited equipment and furnishings. The average income of the 120 families did not exceed \$636.53. Eighty per cent of the families owned their homes and expressed a desire for improved living conditions. For lighting purposes 79.3 per cent of the families used kerosene lamps and 20.7 per cent used electricity. Thirty-two per cent of the families had ice boxes, 16.6 per cent had refrigerators, and 51.4 per cent had no method of refrigeration.

In conclusion, Madden stated that incomes were low and

⁷
Madden, Ida Mae. The housing conditions of one hundred and fifty Negro families in Campbell County, Va. M. S. Thesis. Virginia State College Library. 1941.

housing facilities were inadequate. She expressed a belief that ample educational facilities had not been provided for training adults for improved home living.

Madden finally suggested that adult education should become a definite part of the educational system. She suggested that individuals should be trained in the use of available materials for home improvement, and demonstrations should be given in remodeling houses, and using modern equipment and labor saving devices.

In 1943 a study of certain consumer practices was conducted by the Division of Education and the Department of Social Sciences of Southern University, a state school for Negroes in Louisiana. Ten students were trained in making interviews, and by use of that technique collected data from 778 Negro families in East Baton Rouge Parish, living in Baton Rouge and five small nearby communities. Williams⁸, an instructor in the division of education, interpreted the material collected from the standpoint of certain practices in expenditures and investment of the Negro families interviewed. The purpose of the study was to obtain certain facts which related to habits of spending, saving, and thrift among the Negro families of East Baton Rouge Parish.

8

Williams, F. A. Expenditures and investment cost-patterns of Negro families in Louisiana. Southern University. Bul. 30, no. 2:25. 1943.

Williams stated that the study denoted the following:

More home ownership among Negro families in the area is needed to assist in ameliorating living standards as shown by⁹ high rental costs and low home purchasing figures.

He said that since only five families kept adequate records of expenditures, family budgeting was necessary.

In order to aid in reducing family food costs, Williams was of the belief that an increase in the amount and variety of foodstuffs produced at home was necessary to enable the families to make more profitable investments and expand the consumption of other goods and services.

Data obtained from the studies reviewed here showed a considerable range in standards of living among Negro families within each group. They all indicated, however, that the economic status of the Negro was low, due in part to poor housing conditions, poor habits in spending, and failure to use available resources to the best advantage. Similar conditions will be noted in the findings of the present study.

⁹
Ibid. p. 49.

METHOD OF PROCEDURE

Since most of the information needed for the study was of a very personal nature, it was decided that personal interviews with homemakers was a very valuable technique to use.

Bingham and Moore¹ stated that,

The kinds of information sought by interview cover not only observable objective facts as to conditions or events, but also subjective facts such as opinions, interpretations and attitudes of the persons interviewed.

The schedule for recording information gained in the interview was formulated after a careful examination of schedules which were used by persons who had made similar investigations.

In order to develop some technique in making interviews, the writer made sixteen trial interviews with homemakers living in a nearby community. After each interview the schedule was filled and the information was examined carefully for omissions. By the end of the trial period the writer had become thoroughly familiar with the material listed on the schedule, improvement was made in the quality of material collected, and certain facility in interviewing had been acquired, so that the desired information was obtained with greater ease.

¹

Bingham, Walter Van Dyke and Moore, Bruce Victor. How to interview. New York, Harper & Brothers Publishers. 1941. p. 5.

It was believed that one-fifth of the homes in Scotlandville would be a representative sample for the study. As there was no map available the writer proceeded to draw a map for the town and plotted every house in which Negroes lived. On the plotted area, each house on every street was counted and every fifth house was encircled. Each house encircled was numbered. The first fifth house was given the number 1, and the numbering continued throughout the plotted area. Eighty houses were numbered.

The homemakers of families living in every fifth house were interviewed. If after a third call the homemaker was out or the writer failed to make the interview, the house which came after that house was tried. If contacts were not made, then the house before the one which was first contacted was visited.

The writer did not experience any great difficulty in making the interviews. There were only two cases in which the homemakers refused to give any information. In both cases the homemakers in the next house were interviewed. A third homemaker had illness in the home and, after a second call, the homemaker in the adjoining house was visited. There were about 12 homes to which a second and sometimes a third visit was made before making the interviews. The average time required for each interview was one hour. Eighty interviews were made.

In addition, interviews were held with three teachers, who

were employed in the community, with the Parish Supervisor, and with the Farm Demonstration Agent, to obtain a list of economic problems that they had observed to exist in the homes of families living in the community.

In order to test the accuracy of the information given by the homemakers, and to obtain additional information concerning the activities of the children in the homes a questionnaire was answered by the school children in grades seven to eleven.

For the purpose of determining the clarity in statements and ease in answering the questions used in the questionnaire, nine high school students and two seventh grade students living in a near by community answered the questionnaire. The questions proved satisfactory except for a few words and statements which had to be clarified.

In administering the questionnaire, only students living in the area of Scotlandville were used. There were 103 questionnaires answered by these students, who were attending the seventh through the eleventh grades inclusive in Southern University Training school and the Scotlandville Rosenwald school.

In the treatment of the data a frequency distribution was made of the incomes of the families. The schedules then were divided arbitrarily into three groups. Such a large number

had incomes between \$800 and \$1,775 that the group could not be divided conveniently into equal thirds. It was decided that by dividing the data into three groups, with 20 cases in each of the extreme groups which represented the upper and lower income groups, and 40 cases in the middle income group, comparisons could be much more interesting and meaningful.

In the findings a comparison of the economic problems and activities will be made between the lowest and highest income groups.

Chi square was computed to find if differences were significant, unless otherwise stated.

FINDINGS

Some understanding of the difficulties which homemakers have in managing and maintaining their homes is important in the determination of educational needs of a group. Information that might disclose such difficulties was sought in this study as it was believed that it would serve as a basis for planning a program of adult homemaking education designed to aid these families to obtain greater economic security.

The data relating to the families in this study are grouped and presented in the following order:

1. Income and socio-economic status of the group.
2. Background information about the families.
3. Housing of the families.
4. Money management practices.

Income and Socio-Economic Status of Group Studied

The family income, as reported by the homemakers is shown in Table 1 by \$500 intervals.

The majority of the families had an annual income of less than \$2,000; over one-third had less than \$1,000 per year. The writer was unable to secure adequate information about five of the families, therefore they were listed as unknown. However, from the facts obtained the writer feels quite safe in saying that they had very low incomes and consequently, there

Table 1

Annual Family Incomes of Homemakers Interviewed

Annual Income	Homemakers Reporting	
	N	%
\$2,000 or more	10	12.5
1,500 - 1,999	20	25.0
1,000 - 1,499	18	22.0
500 - 999	24	30.0
Less than 500	3	3.8
Unknown	5	6.2
Total	80	100.0

were 8, or 10 per cent, of the families who were probably making incomes of less than \$500 per year.

For the purpose of analysis the families were divided into three groups on the basis of their incomes. Table 2 presents the annual income of the families by income groups.

It was evident that three-fourths of the families had incomes of less than \$1775 per year, and one-half of the families had incomes between \$800 and \$1775. The highest income reported was \$6100. The husband of this family was employed in a war production industry and the homemaker was a professional worker.

The incomes which Lewis¹ found in her study of this community in 1939 were between \$100 and \$3000. These figures were somewhat lower than the findings in the present study. No doubt

Table 2

Annual Incomes of Families
by Income Groups

Income Groups	Families	
	N	%
Over \$1775	20	25.0
800 - 1775	40	50.0
Under 800	20	25.0
Total	80	100.0

the increase in wages in the war industries of the community accounts for the difference.

The groupings as given in Table 2 will be used throughout this report in making comparisons.

Data in Table 3 show the socio-economic status of the families of the three income groups.

The scale for measuring the socio-economic status of farm families in Oklahoma as constructed by Sewell² was used. He

¹ Lewis, Elsie Mae. The social and economic status of the community of Scotlandville, Louisiana. Southern University. Bul. 27, no. 3:3. 1941.

² Sewell, William H. Construction and standardization of scale for the measurement of socio-economic status of Oklahoma farm families. Okla. Agri. Exp. Sta. Bul. no. 9. Preface. 1940.

Table 3.

Socio-Economic Status of Families by Income Groups

Scores on Socio- Economic Scale*	Income Groups							
	Over \$1775		\$800 - \$1775		Under \$800		All Families	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
80 - 89	3	15.0					3	3.8
70 - 79	7	35.0	3	7.5			10	12.5
60 - 69	9	45.0	17	42.5	4	20.0	30	37.5
50 - 59	1	5.0	12	30.0	9	45.0	22	27.5
40 - 49			7	17.5	5	25.0	12	15.0
30 - 39			1	2.5	2	10.0	3	3.7
Total	20	100.0	40	100.0	20	100.0	80	100.0

*Sewell, Farm Family Socio-Economic Status Scale (Short Form)

expressed a belief that by restandardization of the scale to fit a particular group it would be useful not only for measuring the socio-economic status in studies of tenancy but also in home economics and any other field concerned with family life. This scale was restandardized³ and used on the white and Negro farm families in Lincoln Parish, in Louisiana. The results show a significant difference in the socio-economic status of the two groups. However, when used to measure the socio-economic status of the different tenure groups (owners, tenants, croppers, laborers) in the Negro samples the

³
Sewell, William H. Restandardization of Sociometric scale. Social forces. 21:302-311. 1943.

differences in the mean scores of the tenure group were so small that they were not significant, except for comparison between owners and tenants.

Although the scale failed to differentiate between certain Negro groups in Lincoln Parish, the statistical treatment showed that when it was applied to the group in the present study the difference in the socio-economic status of the income groups was highly significant.

The socio-economic scores for 95 per cent of the cases in the upper income group were above 60 and in the lower income group 100 per cent of the cases had scores under 70. In the middle income group 72.5 per cent of the cases had scores between 50 and 69.

Background Information about the Families

In attempting to study the economic problems existing in the homes it is important to obtain some information about marital status, family composition, ages, and educational status of the group if interpretations are to be adequate. Data in Table 4 show the marital status of homemakers by income groups.

Over four-fifths of the homemakers were married and less than one-fifth, or 15, of the homemakers had broken homes due to separations or deaths. The greatest number of broken homes was found in the lower income group. The difference

Table 4

Marital Status of Homemakers by Income Groups

Marital Status of Homemakers	Income Groups						All Home- makers	
	Over \$1775		\$800 - \$1775		Under \$800		N	%
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Married	19	95.0	36	90.0	10	50.0	65	81.2
Separated					4	20.0	4	5.0
Divorced			2	5.0			2	2.5
Widow	1	5.0	2	5.0	6	30.0	9	11.3
Total	20	100.0	40	100.0	20	100.0	80	100.0

was highly significant. Furthermore, it was found that the homemakers in broken families were on the average older than those in unbroken families.

The writer, in collecting data for the study, was interested in obtaining information from homemakers representative in ages of the homemakers in the community. Table 5 presents the distribution of homemakers in each age group.

Seventy per cent of the homemakers in the lower income group were over 50 years of age and 80 per cent of the homemakers in the upper income group were less than 50 years of age. It is highly significant that the older the group the smaller the income. Probably this was due to the fact that homemakers who were younger had a greater chance for employment.

Table 5

Ages of Homemakers by Income Groups

Age Intervals	Income Groups							
	Over \$1775		\$800 - \$1775		Under \$800		All Home- makers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
60 Yrs. and Over			4	10.0	6	30.0	10	12.5
50 - 59	4	20.0	4	10.0	8	40.0	16	20.0
40 - 49	7	35.0	8	20.0	4	20.0	19	23.8
30 - 39	6	30.0	13	32.5	1	5.0	20	25.0
Under 30	3	15.0	11	27.5	1	5.0	15	18.7
Total	20	100.0	40	100.0	20	100.0	80	100.0

Some knowledge of the amount of employment of the family members is needed to provide a basis for understanding the group and in planning a program. Information in Table 6 shows the employment of the homemakers in each income group.

Of the 8 employed homemakers in the upper income group, 6 were employed full-time. Four of the five employed homemakers in the lower income group were employed part-time, and only one was employed full-time, and occasionally overtime. The direct relationship between the amount of employment and income status is evident.

Since 70 per cent of the homemakers were unemployed, the majority had much time to spend in caring for their homes and contributing to the income through home production.

Table 6

Employment of Homemakers by Income Groups

Amount of Employment	Income Groups							
	Over \$1775		\$800 - \$1775		Under \$800		All Home- makers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Part-time	2	10.0	8	20.0	4	20.0	14	17.6
Full-time	6	30.0	3	7.5			9	11.2
Over-time					1	5.0	1	1.2
Unemployed	12	60.0	29	72.5	15	60.0	56	70.0
Total	20	100.0	40	100.0	20	100.0	80	100.0

The status of employment of the husbands in each income group is presented in Table 7.

Table 7

Amount of Employment of Husbands by Income Groups

Amount of Employment	Income Groups							
	Over \$1775		\$800	- \$1775	Under \$800		All	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	Husbands N	%
Part-time			3	8.3	8	80.0	11	16.9
Full-time	12	63.1	29	80.6			41	63.0
Over-time	7	36.9	4	11.1			11	17.0
Retired					2	20.0	2	3.1
Total	19	100.0	36	100.0	10	100.0	65	100.0

All husbands in the upper income group were either employed full-time or over-time. On the other hand, the husbands in the lower income group were employed either part-time or were retired. Since the husbands were older in the lower income group this probably accounted for the part-time employment. In the middle income group 91.7 per cent of the husbands were employed either full-time or over-time.

Since economic problems existing in the homes of families that have children might vary according to the ages of the children, the ages of the children in families of each income group were studied and are shown in Table 8.

Table 8

Ages of Children in Families by Income Groups

Age Intervals	Children in Income Groups							
	Over \$1775		\$800 - \$1775		Under \$800		All Children	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Over 20 Yrs.	17	28.5	28	29.8	33	80.5	78	40.0
10 - 20 Yrs.	24	40.0	37	39.3	8	19.5	69	35.4
Under 10 Yrs.	19	31.5	29	30.9			48	24.6
Total	60	100.0	94	100.0	41	100.0	195	100.0

The families in the upper income group had a larger number of children than those in the low income group. Analysis of variance showed that the difference was highly

significant. Forty-three, or 72 per cent of the children in the families of the upper income group were less than 20 years of age, and 33, or 80 per cent of the children in the families of the low income group were above 20 years of age. Of the 43 children, who were below 20 years of age, in the upper income group, 19 were less than 10 years. Since the homemakers in the upper income group were younger than those in the low income group, one would expect to find younger children in that group.

Since the larger the number of children living in the home the greater would be the financial burden, the number of children living at home in each income group was studied and the data are presented in Table 9.

Table 9.

Families Having Children Living at Home
By Income Groups

Children Living at Home Per Family	Families in Each Income Group							
	Over \$1775		\$800 - \$1775		Under \$800		All Families	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Seven	1	5.0	1	2.5			2	2.5
Six			1	2.5			1	1.2
Five	2	10.0	1	2.5			3	3.8
Four	1	5.0	2	5.0			3	3.8
Three			3	7.5			3	3.8
Two	3	15.0	11	27.5	1	5.0	15	18.7
One	9	45.0	6	15.0	4	20.0	19	23.7
Others	4	20.0	15	37.5	15	75.0	34	42.5
Total	20	100.0	40	100.0	20	100.0	80	100.0

The families of the lower income group had only 6, or 14.6 per cent, of their children living at home. Three of these were more than 20 years of age. The majority of the families having children living at home had only one or two. There were two families that had as many as seven children living at home. These families were in the upper and middle income groups.

Persons aside from the immediate family members who live in the homes of families, may be there for economic reasons, as in the case of roomers and boarders. Usually relatives who live in the home impose a financial burden on the family. In Table 10 is shown the number of non-members of the family living in the homes.

Table 10

Non-Members of the Family Living in the Home
by Income Groups

Number of Non-Members Living in the Home	Families in Each Income Group							
	Over \$1775		\$800 - \$1775		Under \$800		All Families	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Three or More			3	7.5	1	5.0	4	5.0
Two	3	15.0	1	2.5	2	10.0	6	7.5
One	3	15.0	11	27.5	7	35.0	21	26.2
None	14	70.0	25	62.5	10	50.0	49	61.3
Total	20	100.0	40	100.0	20	100.0	80	100.0

Peebles⁴, in a study of 669 girls enrolled in the secondary schools of Arkansas, stated that 39.2 per cent of the total group reported that persons other than family members lived in the homes. That percentage is much higher than was found in the present study, as only 18.7 per cent of the families had non-family members living in the home.

In the low income group, 6 of the 15 non-members of the family living in the homes were relatives and 9 were roomers. In the upper income group there were 9 non-members living with the families; 5 were relatives and 4 were roomers. This difference between the upper and lower groups was not significant.

The type of occupation may indicate certain economic problems of the homes. The laborer has a different demand in clothing from the professional worker, and the professional worker is forced to spend large sums to keep improved professionally. These different demands create different economic problems in the homes. The information on the type of employment of the family members is presented in Table 11. The classification of occupations used by the U. S. Bureau of Census⁵ was used in this study.

⁴Peebles, Eula McGehee. Certain home and community conditions of rural Negroes in Arkansas as one basis for improving the home economics program at the secondary level. Unpublished M. S. Thesis. Ames, Ia., Iowa State College Library. 1937.

⁵U. S. 16th Census: 1940. Population, 3:234. 1943.

Table 11

Occupations of Employed Members of the Families
by Income Groups

Types of Occupations of Family Members	Income Groups							
	Over N	\$1775 %	\$800-\$1775 N	%	Under N	\$800 %	All Groups N	%
Husbands								
Laborers	9	47.4	29	80.5	3	37.5	41	65.1
Service workers			5	13.9	3	37.5	8	12.7
Professional and Semi-Prof.	5	26.3	1	2.8	1	12.5	7	11.1
Proprietor	3	15.8			1	12.5	4	6.3
Protective Service	2	10.5	1	2.8			3	4.8
Total	19	100.0	36	100.0	8	100.0	63	100.0
Homemakers								
Domestic service	3	37.5	4	36.4	1	20.0	8	33.3
Service workers			5	45.4	3	60.0	8	33.3
Professional workers	3	37.5	2	18.2			5	20.9
Proprietor	1	12.5			1	20.0	2	8.3
Laborers	1	12.5					1	4.2
Total	8	100.0	11	100.0	5	100.0	24	100.0
Boys								
Protective service	4	26.7	11	58.0	10	33.5	25	43.9
Service worker	2	13.3	2	10.5	4	17.4	8	14.0
Laborers	9	60.0	4	21.0	6	26.1	19	33.3
Employment unknown			2	10.5	3	13.0	5	8.8
Total	15	100.0	19	100.0	23	100.0	57	100.0
Girls								
Domestic service	3	33.4	2	25.0	3	50.0	8	34.7
Professional worker	4	44.4	1	12.5	1	16.6	6	26.1
Service workers	1	11.1	3	37.5			4	17.4
Protective service	1	11.1			1	16.7	2	8.7
Laborers			1	12.5	1	16.7	2	8.7
Proprietor			1	12.5			1	4.4
Total	9	100.0	8	100.0	6	100.0	23	100.0

For the most part the husbands, who were employed, were laborers employed in industrial plants, on the railroad, or as farm workers. The professional group included teachers, a brick mason, a mechanic and a preacher. Those men engaged in occupations classed as proprietors were owners of taxi lines, farm owners, and an owner of a saloon. Porters, janitors, barbers, and workers in cafés were classified as service workers. In the upper income group 47.4 per cent of the husbands were employed as laborers, and 42.1 per cent were proprietors or professional workers. In the middle income group 80.5 per cent of the men were laborers, and 5 of the 7 others employed were service workers. In the lower income group, there were as many service workers as laborers. Since the men in the lower income group were employed only part-time, as shown in Table 7, and inasmuch as they were older, they may have preferred the less arduous tasks of service workers.

A little less than half, or 43.9 per cent of the boys of the families, were in the armed forces and one-third were laborers. The large number of boys in the armed forces in the lower income group may be due to those boys being older. A number of homemakers who had sons in the armed forces stated that they contributed to the family income.

Thirty-three and three-tenths per cent of the 24 employed homemakers were domestic workers, 33.3 per cent service workers, and 20.9 per cent were professional workers. In the upper

income group there were as many professional workers as domestic workers. In the lower income group the majority who were employed were service workers. Although the majority of the employed homemakers worked only part-time, as shown in Table 6, they made some contribution to the family income.

Thirty-four and seven-tenths per cent of the girls were engaged in domestic service and a little more than one-fourth of the girls were engaged in professional work. The largest number of girls employed in the upper income group were professional workers. In the lower income group half of the girls were domestic workers. All of the girls who were employed and living at home contributed to the family income.

A large number of the families, who once existed on a meager income, were receiving allotments from the government, for which they were eligible as relatives of those in the armed forces. This increase in family income, though temporary, was used by some for purchasing homes to insure economic security for the future. However, it was evident to the writer that some of these homemakers needed help in the management of their money.

Rapid shifts from one job to another may bring about changes in one's economic status. In order to get some idea of the stability of the group, information concerning the number of years the husband had remained on the same job was obtained from each homemaker and is presented in Table 12.

Table 12

Years Husbands have been on Present Jobs
by Income Groups

Years on Present Job	Over \$1775		Husbands in Income Groups				All Husbands	
	N	%	\$800 - \$1775		Under \$800		N	%
Over 20 Yrs.	5	26.3	4	11.1	4	40.0	13	20.0
10 - 20	6	31.6	4	11.1			10	15.3
Under 10	8	42.1	28	77.8	4	40.0	40	61.6
Retired					2	20.0	2	3.1
Total	19	100.0	36	100.0	10	100.0	65	100.0

A little more than one-half of the husbands employed had been working in the same job for less than 10 years. It is the belief of the writer that the husbands who remained on the same jobs over the longer period had greater economic security due to gradual increases in wages. Among the 23 husbands who were employed over 10 years in the same job, there were only two who did not own their homes. Those were in the lower income group. Over three-fourths of the husbands in the middle income group had been employed on the same job less than 10 years. In the upper income group only 42.1 per cent had been employed on the same job less than 10 years.

Some knowledge of the education of heads of families will give some idea of their ability to secure independently, certain

information which would help in solving economic problems in the home. The data presented in Tables 13 and 14 show the educational status of the husbands and homemakers.

Table 13

Education of Homemakers by Income Groups

Grades Completed	Over \$1775		Homemakers in \$800 - \$1775		Income Groups Under \$800		All Homemakers	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
0 - 6*	4	20.0	20	50.0	10	50.0	34	42.5
7	4	20.0	6	15.0	6	30.0	16	20.0
8 - 10	6	30.0	10	25.0	4	20.0	20	25.0
11	1	5.0	1	2.5			2	2.5
Above 11	5	25.0	3	7.5			8	10.0
	20	100.0	40	100.0	20	100.0	80	100.0

*The intervals used are those in Sewell's Socio-Economic Scale for Farm Families.

Analysis of the data showed that 87.5 per cent of the homemakers and 90.8 per cent of the husbands had less than 11 years of schooling, and a little less than one-half of the husbands and homemakers had 6 years of schooling or less. In the higher income group 30 per cent of the homemakers and 21.1 per cent of the husbands had 11 years or more of training, and in the lower income group all of the husbands and homemakers had less than 11 years of training. Fifty per cent of the

husbands and homemakers in the lower income group had 6 years or less of training.

In the middle income group only 10 per cent of the homemakers and 5.5 per cent of the husbands had 11 years of training or more, and 50 per cent of the homemakers and 52.8 per cent of the husbands had 6 years or less of education.

Table 14
Education of Husbands by Income Groups

Grades Completed	Husbands in Income Groups							
	Over \$1775		\$800 - \$1775		Under \$800		All Husbands	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
0 - 6*	2	10.5	19	52.8	5	50.0	26	40.0
7	9	47.3	10	27.8	3	30.0	22	33.8
8 - 10	4	21.1	5	13.9	2	20.0	11	17.0
11								
Above 11	4	21.1	2	5.5			6	9.2
	19	100.0	36	100.0	10	100.0	65	100.0

*The intervals used are those in Sewell's Socio-Economic Scale for Farm Families.

In that the majority of the homemakers in the upper income group were younger, the educational advantages for the young group were much better than for the older group. Analysis of variance showed that there was a significant difference in the education of the upper and lower income groups. The more education the higher the economic status.

Some knowledge of the number and kinds of magazines the families read will give some basis for judgment as to their interest in reading. One who is interested in reading may seek some help in solving certain economic problems or difficulties in the home. The kinds and numbers of magazines the families read were obtained and are presented in Table 15.

Table 15

General Interest Magazines Read by Families
in Income Groups

Magazines Read	Families in Income Groups								Cultural Weight of Magazines
	Over \$1775		\$800-\$1775		Under \$800		All Families		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Better Homes and Gardens			3	7.5			3	3.8	6
Good Housekeeping	2	10.0	3	7.5			5	6.2	6
Life	5	25.0	5	12.5	3	15.0	13	16.2	5
Look	2	10.0	1	2.5	1	5.0	4	5.0	5
McCall's	7	35.0	5	12.5	4	20.0	16	20.0	4
Motion Picture			3	7.5			3	3.8	2
Parents' Magazine	1	5.0					1	1.2	6
Progressive Farmer			2	5.0	1	5.0	3	3.8	6
Reader's Digest	3	15.0					3	3.8	7
Southern Agri- culturist	2	10.0	4	10.0			6	7.5	6
True Confession	1	5.0	1	2.5			2	2.5	1
True Story	2	10.0	2	5.0			4	5.0	1
True Romance	3	15.0	1	2.5			4	5.0	1

Since 82 per cent of the magazines read by the families were of the general interest type, the writer applied the Morgan and Leahy scale⁶ for measuring the cultural content of general interest magazines. The general interest magazines ranged in cultural weight from 1 to 7, on a 10 point scale. The cultural weight averaged 4.3 points.

The McCall's and Life Magazines were read by more homemakers than any others. The average number of magazines read per family was .9. Special interest magazines read by 18 per cent of the families were: The Library Journal, The Instructor, Grade Teacher, American Builder and Building Age, and Industrial Arts Magazine.

Some knowledge of ways in which magazines were obtained may give some indication of the amount of money families invest in reading material. Information in Table 16 shows ways in which magazines were obtained by income groups.

Data in Table 16 indicate that 26 per cent of the families subscribed for magazines and 21.5 per cent of the families purchased them. Sixteen and three-tenths per cent of the families obtained magazines from friends and places of employment. Almost one-half of the families did not read magazines. Many of the homemakers, in giving the information, stated that they didn't read because of poor eye sight. Others said that they

6

Morgan, W. L. and Leahy, A. M. The cultural content of general interest magazines. Jour. Ed. Psychology 25:530-536. 1934.

listened to the radio instead of reading to get the daily news and also to learn helpful information on the care of the home. Still others stated that they just did not like to read.

Table 16

Ways in Which Magazines Were Obtained by Families
in Income Groups

Way Obtained	Over \$1775		Families in Income Groups				All	
	N	%	\$800 - \$1775		Under \$800		Families	
			N	%	N	%	N	%
Purchased	7	35.0	9	22.5	1	5.0	17	21.5
Borrowed	2	10.0	6	15.0	2	10.0	10	12.5
Subscribed for	8	40.0	9	22.5	4	20.0	21	26.0
Provided by Employer					3	15.0	3	3.8
None read	3	15.0	16	40.0	10	50.0	29	36.2
Total	20	100.0	40	100.0	20	100.0	80	100.0

The daily paper was read by less than one-third of the families. Eighty per cent of the families in the upper income group, 15 per cent of the families in the lower income group and 7.5 per cent of the families in the middle income group read newspapers. Several homemakers stated that they once subscribed to newspapers, but as results of shortages in labor the delivery of newspapers ceased. Papers were

delivered to a few homes, but the majority of the families that read the daily paper purchased them daily.

Housing of the Families in the Different Income Groups

On the schedules used to record data collected during interviews, the writer did not provide for recording any information regarding the condition of the houses; however, a brief account of the condition of the houses was written in after each interview. Many of the houses were only partially completed, although families had lived in them for several years. The floors, walls and woodwork, in many instances, were not finished. The furniture and furnishings in a number of homes were limited, also poorly selected, and arranged.

The exterior of many homes showed neglect. Houses were unpainted, and porches, steps, fences and gates needed repair. A few of the houses were being repaired. In some instances floors and walls were refinished, and houses were being painted. Some houses were being made larger by the addition of a living room, a dining room, or a bathroom. A few families were building new homes. It was interesting to note that some families proceeded with the building whenever cash was obtained, when the material could be found, or when the carpenters could make their rounds to the unfinished house.

There were houses in the community that were in good

condition. Some were finished throughout with furniture and furnishings selected and arranged with good taste. Some yards were well kept with fences and gates.

In order to get some idea of the investments of the families, information was gathered on the number of persons who owned or were buying their homes which is shown in Table 17.

Table 17

Home Ownership Among Families
by Income Groups

Home Ownership	Income Groups						All Families	
	Over N	\$1775 %	\$800- N	\$1775 %	Under N	\$800 %		
Home owned	16	80.0	20	50.0	15	75.0	51	63.8
Being pur- chased	1	5.0	9	22.5	1	5.0	11	13.7
Rented	3	15.0	11	27.5	4	20.0	18	22.5
Total	20	100.0	40	100.0	20	100.0	80	100.0

Data presented in the table showed that 77.5 per cent of the families either owned or were buying their homes. It was interesting to note that there was a difference of only one in the number of homes owned by the families in the higher and the lower income groups. It appeared that many families in the lower income group, who owned their homes, had purchased

them many years ago. These data are in agreement with the findings on home ownership of Negro families in two studies that were reviewed. Owens⁷, who gathered information from 256 Negro girls in the secondary schools of Virginia, found that 201, or a little more than three-fourths of the families, owned their homes. Madden⁸, in a study of the home conditions of 150 Negro families in one county in Virginia, also found that over three-fourths of the families owned their homes. In the other studies reviewed homes were owned by less than half of the families studied.

It was thought that information about the number living in the household might show whether there was over crowding among low income families to reduce the cost of shelter. Therefore, the number of family members living at home and the number of non-family members living in the house were studied. Table 18 gives information on the average number of persons living in the house.

The homes of the families in this community were less crowded than were those in the studies reviewed. Families were smaller and fewer non-members lived in the houses and the low income group had the smallest average number of

⁷Owens, A. Elnora. Home activities and housing conditions of Negro girls in the rural secondary schools of Virginia as an index of their curricular needs. Unpublished M. S. Thesis. Ames, Iowa, Iowa State College Library. 1932.

⁸Madden, Ida Mae. The housing conditions of one hundred and fifty Negro families in Campbell County, Va., M. S. Thesis. Virginia State College Library. 1941.

Table 18

Average Number of Persons Per Family and
Average Number of Persons Living in the Homes of Families
by Income Groups

Average No. Persons per Family and in Homes	Income Groups			All Groups
	Over \$1775 N	\$800-\$1775 N	Under \$800 N	
Members of Family	4.9	4.2	3.5	4.2
Members of Family liv- ing at Home	3.7	3.5	1.7	3.1
Others living in the Home	.4	.3	.8	.5
Total Persons Living in The Home	4.1	3.8	2.5	3.6

persons living in the house. For the total group the average number of rooms per household was 4.1, and the average number of persons per room was 1.1.

The types of home conveniences may determine, to some extent, the problems involved in managing the home, and the ease with which tasks are accomplished. Conveniences may further indicate the different levels of incomes. Information on the home conveniences of the income groups is found in Table 19.

Table 19

Home Conveniences of Families
by Income Groups

Conveniences	Income Groups						All Groups	
	Over \$1775		\$800-\$1775		Under \$800		N	%
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Electric lights	20	100.0	31	77.5	11	55.0	62	77.5
Kerosene lamps			9	22.5	9	45.0	18	22.5
Electric iron	15	60.0	23	57.5	9	45.0	47	58.7
Mechanical refrigerator	9	45.0	5	12.5			14	17.5
Ice refrigerator	11	55.0	32	80.5	13	65.0	56	70.0
Radio	20	100.0	26	65.0	8	40.0	54	67.5
Telephone	4	20.0	2	5.0			6	7.5
Water piped in house	13	65.0	5	12.5	1	5.0	19	23.8
Kitchen sink	11	55.0	7	17.5	1	5.0	19	23.8
Oil cook stove	7	35.0	15	37.5	4	20.0	26	32.5
Wood cook stove	9	45.0	16	40.0	15	60.0	40	50.0
Gas cook stove	6	30.0	7	17.5			13	16.2
Automobile	10	50.0	6	15.0			16	20.0
Sewing machine	17	85.0	8	20.0	8	40.0	33	41.2

Electricity was the most common method used to light the homes. All families in the upper income group, 77.5 per cent of the families in the middle income group, and 55 per cent of the families in the lower income group used electricity. Only 22.5 per cent of the entire group used kerosene lamps, a figure much smaller than in other localities. Electric irons were used by a little more than half of the families. Mechanical refrigerators were used by less than one-sixth of the group. In the upper income group 45 per cent of the families

used mechanical refrigerators, but not any of the families in the lower income group used mechanical refrigerators. The ice refrigerator was the most common method of refrigeration. All of the families in the upper income group, but only 40 per cent of the families in the lower income group, had radios.

Wood was the most common fuel used in cooking. Twenty-three and eight-tenths per cent of the families had kitchen sinks, and water was piped into 23.8 per cent of the houses. Many homemakers said they would like to have water piped in their homes, but the low pressure of the water supply in one part of the community would not permit additional customers. This condition increased the problem of sewage disposal among families in that part of the community.

Money Management in Income Groups

One of the greatest responsibilities of the homemaker is that of managing the affairs of the home. This job of managing is a business enterprise which requires careful planning. Success in managing requires the cooperation of each member of the economic family. Nickell and Dorsey⁹ have said that the opportunity of family members to share in making plans for spending their incomes provides a living experience which can best be secured in the home. They further stated that family participation in decisions about resources was

⁹ Nickell, Paulena and Dorsey, Jean Muir. Management in family living. New York, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 1942. p. 20-21.

essential for successful management in the homes of today. The changes in incomes, and in the market, have made the problem of managing and making decisions more difficult.

Table 20 shows certain practices in money management by income groups.

Table 20

Certain Practices in Money Management
by Income Groups

Money Management Practices	Income Groups							
	Over \$1775 N	%	\$800-\$1775 N	%	Under \$800 N	%	All Families N	%
Children share in planning for spending	10	50.0	14	35.0	8	40.0	32	40.0
Records of expen- ditures are kept	8	40.0	2	5.0	4	20.0	14	17.5
Save part of in- come	20	100.0	40	100.0	19	95.0	79	98.8
Make temporary savings	16	80.0	34	85.0	16	80.0	66	82.5
Make permanent savings	17	85.0	32	80.0	5	25.0	54	67.5

There were 65 families who had children; a little less than half of these families had children who shared in making plans for spending the income. On the other hand, the most common practice was for both the husband and wife to participate in such decisions.

There were 103 children, attending the Training School at

Southern University and Scotlandville Rosenwald School who answered the questionnaire. Sixty-nine reported that their mothers and fathers made decisions regarding the spending of the income. There were only 7 children who reported that the entire family shared in making decisions about spending.

There were 66 families who did not keep records of expenditures and the majority of the 14 who did keep records were found in the upper income group. It appeared that the families in the upper group tended to practice a little better methods in handling money than those in the middle and lower income groups.

The information given by the 103 children about the records kept by the families showed that 35.9 per cent of their families kept records of expenditures, which was higher than the percentage reported by the homemakers; for only 17.5 per cent reported that their families kept records. This high percentage reported by the youngsters may have been due to the fact that they did not know what keeping records meant.

Some form of saving was generally practiced by the families studied. Temporary saving was made through government bonds, bank deposits, postal savings, and savings at home. A small number of the homemakers indicated that they had not invested in government bonds. Those who saved their money at home said that they didn't have enough to be troubled with banking money.

A larger proportion of families in the upper and middle income groups had permanent savings than those in the lower income group. Permanent savings included investments in insurance. It is highly significant that more families in the upper income group had permanent savings than in the lower income group.

There was only one homemaker who said that her family did not save. This homemaker was 68 years of age and the husband appeared to be much older. She said that they barely made enough money from the sale of chickens, eggs and vegetables to live on. The daughter who lived in an adjoining house kept up burial insurance for her parents and gave them money whenever the need arose.

In studying the problem of money management, the writer collected information about persons responsible for buying for the home. This information is given in Table 21.

A little more than half of the homemakers were responsible for the buying of food, furniture and furnishings for the home. The homemaker and her husband jointly purchased clothing, furnishings and food in two-fifths, one-third, and one-fifth of the families, respectively. A larger number of homemakers and husbands bought clothing jointly than any other item listed. The children alone assumed very little responsibility for buying for the home; however, the children and homemakers made purchases together.

Table 21

Persons Responsible for Buying for the Home
by Income Groups

Persons Responsible for Buying	Income Groups							
	Over \$1775 N	\$1775-\$800 %	\$800-\$1775 N	\$800-\$1775 %	Under \$800 N	Under \$800 %	All Families N	All Families %
Food								
Homemaker	12	60.0	23	57.5	9	45.0	44	55.0
Homemaker and Husband	4	20.0	7	17.5	6	30.0	17	21.2
Homemaker and children	2	10.0	3	7.5	1	5.0	6	7.5
Husband	1	5.0	3	7.5	1	5.0	5	6.2
Children			2	5.0	2	10.0	4	5.0
Several family members	1	5.0	2	5.0			3	3.8
Others					1	5.0	1	1.2
Clothing								
Homemaker and husband	10	50.0	18	45.0	5	25.0	33	41.2
Homemaker	3	15.0	14	35.0	6	30.0	23	28.8
Several family members	4	20.0	4	10.0	3	15.0	11	13.8
Homemaker and children	3	15.0			4	20.0	7	8.8
Children					2	10.0	2	2.5
Husband			1	2.5			1	1.2
Others					1	2.5	1	1.2
Furniture and Furnishings								
Homemaker	9	45.0	22	55.0	10	50.0	41	51.2
Homemaker and husband	9	45.0	13	32.5	5	25.0	27	33.8
Homemaker and children	2	10.0	4	10.0	2	10.0	8	10.0
Others			1	2.5	1	5.0	2	2.5
Husband					1	5.0	1	1.2
Children					1	5.0	1	1.2

The question about what children bought with their spending money was checked by the 103 children who answered the questionnaire. The largest number indicated that they bought school supplies, government bonds, clothing, clothing accessories, and candy.

Since the homemakers and the husbands in most of the families did the buying, the writer suggests that special emphasis be placed on buying in an adult program planned to help these families. Also that a joint class of homemakers and husbands would be important.

In order to get some idea of the things that families valued most in their homes, data were obtained on the items purchased during the last year which cost the largest sum of money. This information is given in Table 22.

It was found that the largest percentage of families in all groups spent the largest sums for clothing, bedding, furniture, foodstuffs, and material for repair of homes, in the order given. Among other most expensive purchases reported by a few families were real estate, a horse, floor covering, also curtains and draperies.

From observations made by the writer, it seemed apparent that considerable amounts of money had been spent during the past year for furniture. Judging from the purchases made and from observation several of the families were taking advantage of an increase in incomes to furnish their homes more comfortably.

Table 22

Most Expensive Purchases of Families
During the Last Twelve Months
by Income Groups

Most Expensive Purchases	Income Groups						All	
	Over	\$1775	\$800-	\$1775	Under	\$800	Families	%
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Clothing	9	45.0	10	25.0	7	35.0	26	32.5
Furniture	7	35.0	14	35.0	3	15.0	24	30.0
Bedding	3	15.0	5	12.5	5	25.0	13	16.2
Foodstuffs	1	5.0	7	17.5	4	20.0	12	15.0
Material for repairing houses	2	10.0	6	15.0	1	5.0	9	11.2
Curtains and draperies	2	10.0	4	10.0			6	7.5
Floor covering	1	5.0	3	7.5	1	5.0	5	6.2
Refrigerator	2	10.0	2	2.5	1	5.0	5	6.2
Stove			2	5.0	3	15.0	5	6.2
Heater	2	10.0					2	2.5
Horse	1	5.0					1	1.2
Property	1	5.0					1	1.2
Fuel					1	5.0	1	1.2
Bathroom fixtures			1	2.5			1	1.2
Radio			1	2.5			1	1.2
Dental work			1	2.5			1	1.2

In order to get some idea of the extent to which families recognized poor purchases, information was obtained on the poorest purchases made by the families during the last six months, as shown in Table 23.

Table 23

Poorest Purchases Made by Income Groups

Poorest Purchases	Income Groups						All Families	
	Over \$1775		\$800-\$1775		Under \$800		N	%
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Clothing and accessories	8	40.0	18	45.0	8	40.0	34	42.5
Bedding			2	5.0	2	10.0	4	5.0
Furniture	1	5.0			2	10.0	3	3.8
Curtains and draperies			3	7.5			3	3.8
Foodstuff	1	5.0			1	5.0	2	2.5
Rug			1	2.5	1	5.0	2	2.5
Refrigerator	1	5.0					1	1.2
Heater			1	2.5			1	1.2

The poorest purchases which the largest percentage of the families made were purchases in clothing and accessories. There was a very little difference in the number of poor purchases reported by the upper and lower income groups. Among the articles of clothing and accessories in which poor

purchases were made were shoes, hose, piece goods, and garments for children. The items listed as poorest purchases were some of the same items listed as most expensive purchases.

The problem of buying ready-made garments and household accessories has been eliminated, to some extent, in many homes due to the ability of family members to make things in their homes. Since some saving might be effected by home production of clothing and accessories for the home a study was made of the articles made at home by families of the three income groups. The garments and home accessories made in the home are presented, according to the income groups, in Table 24.

Table 24

Families that Make Articles in the Home
by Income Groups

Articles Made at Home	Income Groups						All	
	Over \$1775		\$800-\$1775		Under \$800		Families	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Pillow Cases	15	75.0	32	80.0	14	70.0	51	76.2
Sheets	14	70.0	32	80.0	13	65.0	59	73.8
Curtains	15	75.0	30	75.0	12	60.0	57	71.2
Aprons	12	60.0	25	62.0	10	50.0	47	58.8
Womens' dresses	13	65.0	23	57.5	9	40.0	45	56.2
Blouses	10	50.0	24	60.0	7	35.0	41	51.2
Sleeping garments	12	60.0	19	47.5	6	30.0	37	46.2
Childrens' garments	12	60.0	18	45.0	4	20.0	34	42.5
Skirts	9	45.0	17	42.5	6	30.0	32	40.0
Coats	5	25.0	2	5.0	2	10.0	9	11.2
Mens' shirts	4	20.0	2	5.0	2	10.0	8	10.0
Panties	1	5.0					1	1.2

The articles made in more than half of the homes were pillow cases, sheets, curtains, aprons, womens' dresses and blouses. Sleeping garments, and garments for children, were made in a little less than half of the homes. Families in the upper income group did a little more of sewing than in the lower income group. Families in the middle income group did quite an amount of sewing, but such items as childrens' clothing, skirts, coats, and men's shirts were made by more families in the upper income group.

There were 11 families that did no sewing. Only 33 families had sewing machines as indicated in Table 19. Several homemakers who did not have machines used their neighbors' machines. Others said that they made such articles as curtains, aprons, sheets and pillow cases by hand. Because of poor qualities in ready-made garments and the limited number in stores, articles such as coveralls and childrens' garments, sheets and pillow cases were made more extensively in the homes now than formerly.

Among families in the lower income group, more money was commonly spent for food than for any other item in the home. As a means of supplementing the income many families produce certain food material at home. Table 25 presents data on the foodstuffs produced at home by the families studied.

The majority of the families produced such foods as eggs, chickens and hogs. Very little food was produced for sale.

Only six families in the lower income group and two families in each of the other income groups produced foods for sale. As many or more families in the lower income group produced foodstuffs as in the upper income group, and fewer families

Table 25

Foodstuffs Produced at the Home
by Income Groups

Foods Produced at Home	Income Groups						All Families	
	Over N	\$1775 %	\$800-\$1775 N	%	Under N	\$800 %		
Eggs								
For home use	14	70.0	27	67.5	14	70.0	55	68.8
For sale	2	10.0			5	25.0	7	8.8
Fruits								
For home use	7	35.0	11	27.5	7	35.0	25	31.2
For sale			1	2.5	3	15.0	4	5.0
Milk								
For home use	5	25.0	1	2.5	3	15.0	9	11.2
For sale					1	5.0	1	1.2
Chickens								
For home use	14	60.0	29	72.5	15	75.0	58	72.5
For sale								
Hogs								
For home use	13	65.0	18	45.0	12	60.0	43	53.8
For sale	1	5.0	1	2.5	1	5.0	3	3.8
Geese								
For home use	1	5.0	4	10.0	1	5.0	6	7.5
For sale								

in the middle income group produced all foodstuffs except chickens, than in either of the other two groups.

Table 26 presents information, for each income group, concerning families that had vegetable gardens.

Table 26

Families that Raised Vegetable Gardens
by Income Groups

Vegetable Garden	Income Groups						All	
	Over \$1775		\$800-\$1775		Under \$800		Families	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Spring	3	15.0	9	22.5	4	20.0	16	20.0
Spring-fall	7	35.0	17	42.5	9	45.0	33	41.2
Year round	5	25.0	7	17.5	4	20.0	16	20.0
None	5	25.0	7	17.5	3	15.0	15	18.8
Total	20	100.0	40	100.0	20	100.0	80	100.0

There were 65, or 85 per cent, of the families who had vegetable gardens. The largest percentage had spring and fall gardens. There were six families who stated that they were unable to find someone to get their gardens in shape for planting, and four stated that they did not have space for a garden.

It is the writer's opinion that the gardens were too small, and the varieties of vegetables too limited. Some of the families that sold vegetables might have used them

for canning or home use; however, the sales may have been for the purpose of obtaining money to purchase some articles needed by the family that could not have been obtained otherwise.

Food preservation has two outstanding advantages among Negro families. It is one method of avoiding waste of surplus foods produced at home and also helps to solve the food problem during certain periods of the year when some foods are scarce. The extent to which the families preserved foods is shown in Table 27.

Table 27

Quarts of Foodstuffs Preserved during Last Year
by Income Groups

Quarts of Foodstuffs	Income Groups						All Families	
	Over \$1775	\$800-\$1775	Under \$800				N	%
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Fruits								
Over 80	11	55.0					11	13.8
40 - 80	4	20.0	3	7.5	4	20.0	11	13.8
Under 40	1	5.0	27	67.5	9	45.0	37	46.2
None								
Vegetables								
Over 80	5	25.0	1	2.5	5	25.0	11	13.7
40 - 80	3	15.0	9	22.5	7	35.0	19	23.7
Under 40	7	35.0	14	35.0	1	5.0	22	27.5
None								
Meat								
Under 40	2	10.0					2	2.5
None								

There was some evidence that families in the upper income group preserved more foodstuffs than did those in the lower income group. There were 11 families in the upper income group that preserved more than 80 quarts of fruit, and of the 13 families in the lower income group who preserved fruits not any preserved more than 80 quarts. Analysis of variance showed that it was highly significant that families in the upper income group canned more fruit than those in the lower income group. Since families had to buy some of the fruits, that may have accounted for fewer quarts preserved among families of the lower income group.

Data in the table show that the families in the lower income group preserved a larger number of quarts of vegetables than fruits. Analysis of variance showed that there was no significant difference in the number of quarts of vegetables preserved among the income groups.

Very little meat was canned by the families. Pork was cured by smoking and the use of salt and chickens were killed and used as needed. Only two persons in the upper income group reported that meat was canned, and they canned less than 40 quarts of meat each.

Success in managing a home depends upon the extent to which the families cooperate in the activities of the home. In order to get some idea of the extent to which children shared in home duties, information was obtained about their duties and is presented in Table 28.

Table 28

Duties Shared by Children in the Home
by Income Groups

Duties Shared by Children	Income Groups						All Families	
	Over \$1775		\$800-\$1775		Under \$800		N	%
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Washing and ironing	16	80.0	27	67.5	8	40.0	51	65.7
Care of the house	7	35.0	20	50.0	6	30.0	33	41.2
Care of chickens	8	40.0	13	32.5	9	45.0	30	37.5
Preparation of food	7	35.0	15	37.5	6	30.0	28	35.0
Care of hogs	17	85.0	10	25.0	1	5.0	28	35.0
Working in garden	4	20.0	7	17.5	2	10.0	13	16.2
Care of yard	5	25.0	7	17.5	1	5.0	13	16.2
Care of garden	4	20.0	7	17.5	1	5.0	12	15.0
Washing dishes	2	10.0	7	17.5			9	11.2
Sewing	2	10.0	3	7.5			5	6.2
Cutting wood	1	5.0	3	7.5			4	5.0
Milking the cow	2	10.0	2	5.0			4	5.0

Over half of the children shared in the washing and ironing. Among other duties shared by children were: the care of the house, care of children, preparation of food, the care of hogs and chickens. Several parents stated that their children failed to cooperate with the duties of the home. Others stated that the extra-curricular activities at school consumed so much time that the children were unable to do very much when they returned home. Still others said that their children had special duties that they were responsible for, and they shared willingly with other duties in the home.

In order to arrive at certain economic problems in

managing the home, the writer secured information from the homemakers about the difficulties in home management they experienced. These data are presented in Table 29.

In the upper income group a total of 77 problems were reported by 19 homemakers, an average of 3.8 problems per person; 38 different problems were recognized. In the middle income group a total of 151 problems were recognized by 37 homemakers, with an average of 3.9 problems per person. There were 38 different problems recognized in that group. In the lower income group 17 persons recognized a total of 50 difficulties, or an average of 2.5 per person; 23 different problems were recognized.

Thirty per cent of the entire group found planning meals difficult and 46.2 per cent of the entire group indicated having difficulty with finding foods that were wanted in the market. On the whole, problems in buying were recognized as difficult by the largest percentage of homemakers. In the upper income group the problems under buying foods averaged one per homemaker; in the lower income group the problems in buying food averaged three-fourths per homemaker.

During the period of interviews with the homemakers occasionally the interviewer was able to infer certain difficulties which the homemakers did not recognize. These were recorded together with any that were evident by observation.

Table 29

Difficulties Which Homemakers Recognized by Income Groups

Difficulties which Homemakers Recognized	Income Groups							
	Over \$1775		\$800-\$1775		Under \$800		All Groups	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Selection of food								
Satisfying likes of family members	3	15.0	4	10.0			7	8.7
None	17	85.0	36	90.0	20	100.0	73	91.2
Preparation of food								
Planning of meals	5	25.0	14	35.0	5	25.0	24	30.0
Learning new ways of preparing food	1	5.0	3	7.5	2	10.0	6	7.7
Budgeting of time	1	5.0	3	7.5			4	5.0
Preparing enough to go around			3	7.5			3	3.8
Making attractive salads			2	5.0			2	2.5
None	12	60.0	29	72.5	14	70.0	55	68.7
Care of clothing								
Protection from household pests and mildew	5	25.0	7	17.5	2	10.0	14	17.5
Lack of proper storage facilities	1	5.0	4	10.0	3	15.0	8	10.0
Washing of clothes	1	5.0	5	10.0	1	5.0	6	7.5
Cleaning of rayon and woolen garments	2	10.0	2	5.0			4	5.0
Mending of clothes	1	5.0	2	5.0	1	5.0	4	5.0
Ironing of clothes			2	5.0			2	2.5
Keeping children's clothes clean	1	5.0	3	7.5			4	5.0
None	10	50.0	24	60.0	14	70.0	48	60.0

Table 29 (Continued)

Difficulties which Homemakers Recognized	Income Groups							
	Over \$1775		\$800-\$1775		Under \$800		All Groups	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Care and guidance of children								
Guiding children in formation of good habits	5	25.0	7	17.5	2	10.0	14	17.5
Keeping baby clean	1	5.0	3	7.5	1	5.0	5	6.2
Teaching the child to care for clothing	1	5.0	3	7.5	1	5.0	5	6.2
Getting cooperation from older children in caring for younger ones	1	5.0	3	7.5			4	5.0
Getting children to school on time	1	5.0					1	1.2
Finding someone to care for baby	1	5.0	2	5.0			3	3.8
Improving the disposition of child			2	5.0			2	2.5
Keeping daughter in school	1	5.0					1	1.5
None	13	65.0	21	52.5	17	85.0	51	63.8
House care								
Keeping the house clean and orderly	2	10.0	3	7.5	3	15.0	8	10.0
Arranging furniture and furnishings	2	10.0	3	7.5	1	5.0	6	7.5
Getting cooperation from children in keeping house clean	1	5.0	3	7.5	2	10.0	6	7.5
Regaining of health in order to be able to look after the home			1	2.5	4	20.0	5	6.2
Budgeting of time	3	15.0					3	3.8
Finding help when wanted	1	5.0	1	2.5			2	2.5

Table 29 (Continued)

Difficulties which Homemakers Recognized	Income Groups							
	Over \$1775 N %	\$800-\$1775 N %	Under \$800 N %	All Groups N %				
House care (Continued)								
Disposal of garbage	2 10.0			2 2.5				
Disposal of sewage	1 5.0			1 1.2				
Washing dishes	1 5.0							
None	10 50.0	33 82.5	14 60.0	57 71.2				
Buying of food								
Finding foods in market that are wanted	10 50.0	19 47.5	8 40.0	37 46.2				
Keeping within the food allowance	4 20.0	8 20.0	3 15.0	15 18.8				
Buying food from standpoint of body needs	2 10.0	5 12.5	2 10.0	9 11.2				
Finding fresh vegetables	2 10.0	3 7.5	1 5.0	6 7.5				
Finding variety in foods	2 10.0	3 7.5	1 5.0	6 7.5				
Buying of clothing								
Finding quality in ready made garments	3 15.0	4 10.0	1 5.0	8 10.0				
Selecting appropriate style	1 5.0	4 10.0	2 10.0	7 8.8				
Keeping within the clothing allowance	1 5.0	5 12.5		6 7.5				
Finding quality in piece goods	3 15.0	3 7.5		6 7.5				
Finding the clothing wanted	1 5.0	2 5.0	1 5.0	4 5.0				
Buying clothing that fit	1 5.0	1 2.5	2 10.0	4 5.0				
Teaching children to buy	1 5.0	1 2.5		2 2.5				

Table 29 (Continued)

Difficulties which Homemakers Recognized	Income Groups							
	Over \$1775 N	%	\$800-\$1775 N	%	Under \$800 N	%	All Groups N	%
General Buying								
Budgeting of money	3	15.0	3	7.5	1	5.0	7	8.8
Finding goods in store			3	7.5			3	3.8
Getting my money's worth	2	10.0	1	2.5	1	5.0	4	5.0
Finding reasonable prices in goods			2	5.0	1	5.0	3	3.8
Getting service from stores	1	5.0					1	1.2
None	5	40.0	8	20.0	4	20.0	17	21.2

The information in Table 30 presents certain problems that the investigator recognized but the homemaker did not.

Poor sewage disposal, poor garbage disposal, inability to keep the house clean and orderly, poor arrangement of furniture and furnishings and inadequate budgeting of time were problems in 15 to 22 per cent of the homes, but seemed to be unrecognized as problems by the homemakers. There were 17 homes that had obviously poor sewage disposal and 14 homes that had poor garbage disposal. However, the homemakers were not aware of that difficulty.

There were 14 homemakers who were not conscious of a need for variety in the preparation of certain foods and 10 who were not conscious of a need for proper storage space.

The investigator classified several problems as "other problems" which existed in a number of homes. Those were growing enough vegetables for the family, planting a variety of vegetables, making enough money to live on, and raising chickens. The garden plots were much too small and there were only a few different kinds of vegetables found in a number of gardens.

There were five educational leaders interviewed by the investigator to find out what general problems of an economic nature they observed as existing in the homes of Negro families living in Scotlandville. All of the educators pointed out the following as economic problems: making homes more comfortable with available resources, lack of sufficient

size in gardens, and lack of variety in vegetables. They all indicated that proper sewage and disposal of garbage were needed by many families. Four of the educational workers pointed out problems in the proper storage of clothing, making homes more comfortable and convenient, and developing the habit of saving. Three of them pointed out such problems as: greater interest in home production, budgeting of the family's money, planning of the family meals and making decisions in the home.

There is a great need for these homemakers to be aware of certain existing problems that they do not recognize, and a program in adult homemaking education should be planned which will give these homemakers some help in recognizing, attacking, and solving these problems.

Table 30

Difficulties Recognized by Investigator
but not by Homemakers

Difficulties Recognized by Investigator	All Groups	
	N	%
Preparation of Food		
Planning of meals	15	18.7
Using variety in methods of preparation	14	17.5
Care of Clothing		
Lack of proper storage facilities	10	12.5
Protection from household pests	5	6.2
Care and Guidance of Children		
Giving children proper care and protection	9	11.2
Aiding children in formation of good habits	5	6.2
Securing cooperation of older children in caring for younger ones	5	6.2
Buying of Food		
Budgeting the food money	4	5.0
Buying of Clothing		
Identifying quality in clothing	8	10.0
Selecting clothing suitable for family members	8	10.0
Budgeting money for clothing	4	5.0
General Buying		
Living within the family's income	6	7.5
Planning the spending	4	5.0
House Care		
Proper sewage disposal	18	22.5
Proper garbage disposal	16	20.0
Keeping the house clean and orderly	16	20.0
Arranging of furniture and furnishings	14	17.5
Budgeting of time	12	15.0
Cooperation of husband in caring for premises	8	10.0
Cooperation of children in home duties	5	6.2

Table 30 (Continued)

Difficulties Recognized by Investigator	All Groups	
	N	%
Other Problems		
Planting enough vegetables for family	20	25.0
Planting a variety of vegetables	18	22.5
Making enough money to live on	8	10.0
Raising chickens	8	10.0

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the information obtained from the study the writer concludes that an adult education program should give assistance with the following:

1. Better planning for the use of the family income, and better selection of articles purchased, especially furniture and food.

2. Encouraging greater cooperation among family members in planning for the use of the income.

3. The utilization of available resources for making simple repairs and improvements in the home which would mean more comfortable living.

4. Improvements in the sanitary conditions in the homes and surroundings which would contribute to raising the health standard of the homes.

5. Increasing the income of some families through production of greater quantity and variety of foodstuffs.

6. Improvement in the care and protection of clothing.

7. Arousing greater interest in reading which would help the families to keep up-to-date with those changes which affect family living.

8. Recognition of problems needing attention in the home and arousing interest in solving them.

The writer wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. That a long-time program in homemaking for adults in this community should be planned, under the joint leadership of the agricultural and home economics departments of the university and the county farm agent, that will aid in solving the economic problems revealed by this study. Special efforts should be made to reach adults on all levels of income.

2. That the cooperation of all educational agencies in the community should be sought in planning and carrying out this program.

3. That a joint class of men and women should be organized to study the problems of planning the use of income and of buying, since both shared in these activities, and there was evidence that often poor judgment had been used.

4. That the following problems should be given special attention in planning a program in adult homemaking:

Better health and sanitary practices

Improved judgment in buying food

Better care of clothing

More adequate planning of meals

Improvement of the house and its surroundings.

SUMMARY

This study sought to discover what problems of money management and housing existed among Negro families in Scotlandville, Louisiana, that adult education in homemaking might help them to solve.

Data for the study were collected by personal interviews with 80 homemakers, which represented one-fifth of the families living in the area studied.

The data were divided into three groups, on the basis of annual income, and comparisons were made between the upper and lower income groups, which included 20 cases each.

Chi square and analysis of variance were used to test differences.

It was found that:

1. Three-fourths of the families had incomes of less than \$1775 per year and one-half of the families had incomes between \$800 and \$1775 per year.

2. Over four-fifths or 81.2 per cent of the homemakers were married; 18.8 per cent had broken homes due to separation, divorce or deaths. The largest number of broken homes was among families with low incomes.

3. Seventy per cent of the homemakers in the lower income group were over 50 years of age and 80 per cent

of the homemakers in the upper income group were less than 50 years of age.

4. The higher income group had more and younger children than the lower income group.

5. The occupations of 65.5 per cent of the fathers were classed as laborers, and the others were employed as professional workers, proprietors, and in protective service. Sixty-one and six-tenths per cent of the husbands had been employed in the same job less than ten years, and 20 per cent had been employed over twenty years.

6. Forty-three and nine-tenths per cent of the boys were in the armed service and 33.3 per cent were employed as laborers.

7. One-third of the 24 homemakers who were employed were in domestic service, one-third were service workers, and about one-third were professional workers.

8. The largest group of girls were employed in domestic service, but 26.1 per cent were engaged in professional work.

9. Nearly all of the men and women of these households had less than 11 years of schooling. A little less than half of them had 6 years or less of education.

10. The number of magazines read per family averaged .9. The McCall's and Life Magazines were read more than

any others. The daily paper was read by less than one-third of the families. Families who made lower incomes read less.

11. Of the total group studied, 77.5 per cent either owned or were buying their homes and 22.5 per cent were renters.

12. The average number of rooms per household was 4.1 and the average number of rooms per person was 1.1. The average number of persons living in the house, including the non-members of the family, was 3.6 per family.

13. A study of the home conveniences revealed that 79.5 per cent of the families had electric lights, 58.7 per cent had electric irons, and 17.5 per cent had mechanical refrigerators. Radios were owned by 67.5 per cent of the families, automobiles were owned by 20 per cent, and only 7.5 per cent of the families had a telephone. Water was piped into 23.8 per cent of the homes and 23.8 per cent of the homes had kitchen sinks. Wood was the most common fuel used for cooking; only 16.2 per cent of the families used gas.

14. Children shared in making plans for spending in 40 per cent of the homes of parents who had children. The most common practice in making decisions for spending in the home was for the husband and homemaker to participate jointly.

15. Records of expenditures were kept by 17.5 per cent of the families.

16. There was only one family who did not have any savings. Temporary savings were made by 82.5 per cent of the families in the form of government bonds, bank deposits, postal savings, and savings at home. Permanent savings were investments in insurance and real estate.

17. The homemaker, in a little more than half of the families, was responsible for buying food, furniture and furnishings. The homemaker and husband in a little less than half of the families bought clothing jointly. The children of a few families did some buying. In more cases they participated with the homemaker in buying.

18. The most expensive purchases of the largest number of families during the preceding year were: first, clothing; then furniture, bedding, foodstuffs, and material for building and repair of homes. Fewer families spent the largest sums of money for such items as curtains and draperies, floor coverings, refrigerators, a horse, property, and fuel.

Forty-two and five-tenths per cent of the homemakers made poor purchases in clothing and accessories.

19. Only 11 families of the entire group did not sew in their homes. Articles that were made in more

than half of the homes were pillow cases, sheets, curtains, aprons, women's dresses and blouses. Articles made in the fewest homes were coats, men's shirts, and panties.

20. The majority of the families supplemented the income by producing certain foodstuffs, primarily, eggs, chickens, and hogs. A small percentage of the total group had fruits, milk, and geese for home use. Only ten persons in the entire group produced foodstuffs for sale. Eighty-one and one-tenth per cent of the families raised vegetable gardens.

21. The majority of the families preserved and stored fruits and vegetables in their homes but not in large quantities. A very few families canned meat. Smoking and salting were common practices in preserving pork.

22. Washing and ironing were shared by 66.7 per cent of the children in the homes of families that had children. Other duties shared in the largest number of homes were: care of the house, care of chickens, preparation of food, and care of hogs. There were other duties which fewer families shared.

23. Among the difficulties recognized by the largest number of homemakers were: planning of meals, and finding foods in the market that were wanted.

Other problems recognized by from 10 to 19 per cent of the homemakers were: keeping within the food allowance, protection of clothing from household pests and insects, guiding children in the formation of good habits, keeping the house clean and orderly, lack of proper storage facilities for clothing, and buying foods from the standpoint of body needs.

24. Problems noted by the writer in from 10 to 25 per cent of the homes studied, which the homemaker failed to recognize as difficulties, were such problems as improper sewage and garbage disposal, keeping the house clean and orderly, poor arrangement of furniture and furnishings, planting insufficient vegetables for the family, planting an insufficient variety of vegetables, poor storage facilities, poor recognition of quality in clothing, selecting clothing not suitable for family members, and poor care of premises.

It was concluded that the families needed assistance with planning for the use of the income; with buying practices; with better utilization of available resources; with the development of greater interest in reading, in order to keep up-to-date with the changes affecting family living; with the improvement of the sanitary conditions in the homes; and with the development of increased awareness of problems existing

as well as of increased interest in solving them cooperatively.

It was recommended that a long time program in adult homemaking education, planned to reach families on all levels of income, should be initiated with the cooperation of all educational forces in the community, and that first attention should be given to solving the problems pointed out by this study.

REFERENCES

1. Bingham, Walter Van Dyke and Moore, Bruce Victor. How to interview. New York, Harper & Brothers Publishers. 1941. p. 5.
2. Brady, Dorothy S. and others. Family income and expenditures. Part 2. U. S. Dept. Agr., Miscellaneous publication. 396:401. 1940.
3. Goodykoontz, Bess and Coon, Beulah, Co-Chairmen. Family living and our schools. New York, D. Appleton Century Co. 1941. p. 270.
4. Hall, Elizabeth. Living conditions of Negro families in Choctaw County, Hugo, Oklahoma. Unpublished M. S. Thesis. Fort Collins, Colo., Colo. State College Library. 1941.
5. Lewis, Elsie Mae. The social and economic status of the community of Scotlandville, Louisiana. Southern University Bul. 27, no. 3:3. 1941.
6. Madden, Ida Mae. The housing conditions of one hundred and fifty Negro families in Campbell County, Va. Unpublished M. S. Thesis. Blacksburg, Va., Virginia State College Library. 1941.
7. Morgan, M. L. and Leahy, A. M. The cultural content of general interest magazines. Jour. Ed. Psychology. 25: 530-536. 1934.
8. Nickell, Paulena and Dorsey, Jean Muir. Management in family living. New York, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 1942. p. 20-21.
9. Owens, A. Elnora. Home activities and housing conditions of Negro girls in the rural secondary schools of Virginia as an index of their curricular needs. Unpublished M. S. Thesis. Ames, Iowa, Iowa State College Library. 1932.
10. Peebles, Eula McGehee. Certain home and community conditions of rural Negroes in Arkansas as one basis for improving the home economics program at the secondary level. Unpublished M. S. Thesis. Ames, Iowa, Iowa State College Library. 1937.

11. Sewell, William H. Construction and standardization of scale for the measurement of socio-economic status of Oklahoma farm families. Okla. Agri. Exp. Sta. Bul. no. 9. Preface. 1940.

-----Restandardization of socio-metric scale. Social forces. 21:302-311. 1943.
12. U. S. 16th Census; 1940. Population, 3:234. 1943.
13. Williams, F. A. Expenditures and investment cost-patterns of Negro families in Louisiana. Southern University Bul. 30, no. 2:25. 1943.
14. Yerwood, Ada Marie. Certain housing conditions and activities of Negro girls enrolled in federally aided schools in Texas as one index of their educational needs. Unpublished M. S. Thesis. Ames, Iowa, Iowa State College Library. 1936.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer wishes to express her sincere appreciation to Dr. Mary S. Lyle, Professor of Home Economics Education, for her interest, patience, encouragement, and valued criticisms in directing this study. She is also grateful to Dr. James E. Wert, Professor of Vocational Education, for the helpful suggestions in the statistical treatment of the data.

Acknowledgement is made to the members of the faculty and students of Southern University and Scotlandville Rosenwald School, also to the adults of the community for their cooperation in furnishing the information needed for this study.

APPENDIX

Date of Interview _____

SCHEDULE OF INTERVIEWS

A. Background information

1. Name of Interviewee _____ Approximate age _____
2. Employed: PT _____ FT _____ OT _____ Estimated Income _____
3. Marital Status: S _____ M _____ Sep _____ D _____ W _____
4. Husband employed: PT _____ FT _____ OT _____ Estimated Income _____
5. No. of years on present job: _____
6. Any training for the Job: _____
7. Reported changes in Occupation or Income: _____

8. Number of Children _____ 14. Girls: _____
9. Boys: _____ 15. Ages: _____
10. Ages: _____ 16. Type of Employment of each:
a. _____ PT _____ FT _____
b. _____ PT _____ FT _____
c. _____ PT _____ FT _____
11. Type of Employment of each:
a. _____ PT _____ FT _____
b. _____ PT _____ FT _____
c. _____ PT _____ FT _____
12. Hours employed per week: _____ 17. Hours employed per week: _____
13. Estimated Income: _____ 18. Estimated Income: _____
19. Number of Children Living at home: _____
20. Number contributing to Family Income: _____
21. Others Living in the Home: _____
22. Contribution of Others to Family Income: _____
23. Number depending on Family Income: _____
24. Home owned: _____ Being Purchased: _____ Rented: _____
Other: _____
25. Home Conveniences: Sewing Machine in workable condition: _____
Cook Stove: Oil _____ Wood _____ Gas _____ Electricity _____ Other _____
Electric Iron: _____ Kitchen Sink: _____
26. Magazines read regularly: _____
How available: _____

Money Management:

27. Children share in making plans for spending money in home:

28. Are records kept of expenditures systematically: _____

29. Is the family able to do any saving: _____ Temporarily: _____
Long time or permanent: _____

30. Who does the buying in the home:

Food: _____

Clothing: _____

Furniture and Furnishing: _____

31. The poorest purchases made during the last six months: _____

32. Big Purchases of items during past year: _____

33. Illness in the home during the last year which demanded treatment by a doctor: _____

Home Production:

34. Grow Vegetable Garden: Spring _____ Fall: _____
Spring-Fall: _____ Year-round: _____

35. Is size of garden sufficient to furnish vegetables for:
Home Use: _____ Canning: _____ Sale: _____

36. Are any of the following foods produced at home:

<u>Foods</u>	<u>For Family use</u>	<u>For Sale</u>
Eggs	_____	_____
Fruits	_____	_____
Milk	_____	_____
Meats: Chickens	_____	_____
Hogs	_____	_____
Others	_____	_____

37. Number of quarts of Foodstuffs preserved during past year:

Fruits: _____ Vegetables: _____ Meats: _____

38. Which of the following articles are made in the Home:

Garments for children: _____	Pillow Cases: _____
Ladies' Dresses: _____	Sheets: _____
Sleeping garments: _____	Others: _____
Panties: _____	_____
Men's shirts: _____	_____
Coats: _____	_____
Blouses: _____	_____
Skirts: _____	_____
Curtains: _____	_____

39. Are woolen garments cleaned at home: _____

40. Are rayon garments cleaned at home: _____

41. Duties shared by children in the home:

Care of small children: _____

Milk Cows: _____

Preparation of Food: _____

Others: _____

Washing of Clothes: _____

Care of Hogs: _____

Care of Chickens: _____

42. Activities in which difficulties were recognized by homemakers:

Preparation of Food:

Selection of Foods:

Care of Clothing:

Care of Children:

Buying:

House Care:

44. Interviewer's observation of problems not recognized:

FARM FAMILIES SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

Name of Interviewee _____

<u>Score</u>	<u>Scale items</u>
_____	1. Construction of house: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> Brick or Painted Frame _____5_____ Unpainted Frame _____3_____ </div>
_____	2. Room-Person Ratio: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Number of rooms _____ Number of Persons _____ </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Ratio below 1.00 1.00 - 1.99 2.00 and up </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> Score: _____3_____ _____5_____ _____7_____ </div>
_____	3. Lighting Facilities: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> Electric Score: _____8_____ Gas _____6_____ Oil Lamp _____3_____ </div>
_____	4. Water piped in house: Yes _____8_____ No _____4_____
_____	5. Power Washer: Yes _____6_____ No _____3_____
_____	6. Refrigerator: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> Mechanical Score: _____8_____ Ice _____6_____ None _____3_____ </div>
_____	7. Radio: Yes _____6_____ No _____3_____
_____	8. Telephone: Yes _____6_____ No _____3_____
_____	9. Automobile, other than truck: Yes _____5_____ No _____2_____
_____	10. Family takes Daily Paper: Yes _____6_____ No _____3_____
_____	11. Wife's Education: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Grades completed: 0-6 7 8-10 11 above 11 </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> Score _____2_____ _____4_____ _____6_____ _____7_____ _____8_____ </div>
_____	12. Husband's Education: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Grades completed: 0-6 7 8-10 11 above 11 </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> _____2_____ _____4_____ _____6_____ _____7_____ _____8_____ </div>
_____	13. Husband attends Church or Sunday school: Yes _____5_____ No _____2_____
_____	14. Wife attends Church and Sunday School: Yes _____5_____ No _____2_____
_____	TOTAL SCORE

General Directions:

Give as much as you can of the requested information asked for below. If you are not sure of the correct answer, indicate by writing "I do not know" or "no". Answer by filling in the blanks with the correct words or numbers.

1. Name of student _____
2. Grade _____
3. Name of mother _____
4. Where does your family live? _____
5. What kind of work does your mother do in the home to earn money? _____
6. What kind of work does your mother do away from home? _____
7. Name of father _____
8. What kind of work does your father do? _____
9. Does your father work all of the day? _____
 - (a) Part of the day? _____
10. How many sisters have you? _____ Ages _____
 - (a) Number away from home _____
11. How many brothers have you? _____ Ages _____
 - (a) Number away from home _____
12. What kind of work do you do outside of the home to earn money? _____
 - (a) Your sisters _____
 - (b) Your brothers _____
13. Is any of the money earned by you, your sisters and brothers used to help the rest of the family? _____
14. How many persons not members of your family, are living in your home? _____
15. Do they contribute to the family income? _____
16. How many members of your family are living at home? _____
17. Does your family own its home? _____ Rent: _____
18. Is your family buying the home? _____
19. How many rooms do you have in your house? _____
20. Do you have spending money given to you regularly? _____

21. Do you have spending money only as you ask for it? _____
22. What do you buy with money that is yours to spend? _____
23. Does your family keep any written accounts or records of money spent? _____
24. Who does most of the buying of the things listed below:

Food _____

Clothing _____

Home furnishings _____

Answer by checking (x) in the proper place at right.

25. Who decides how the money should be spent in the home?

Entire family _____

Mother and father _____

Mother _____

Do not know _____

Father _____

26. Which of these things do you do at home?

Duties	Most of the time	Sometime	Never
Plan the meals	_____	_____	_____
Serve meals	_____	_____	_____
Wash dishes	_____	_____	_____
Help with family washing	_____	_____	_____
Help with family ironing	_____	_____	_____
Help to cook	_____	_____	_____
Help with outdoor work	_____	_____	_____
Care for children	_____	_____	_____
Clean your room	_____	_____	_____
Clean rest of house	_____	_____	_____
Mend or darn clothing	_____	_____	_____
Buy groceries	_____	_____	_____

27. Who makes the clothing for your family?

Mother _____

Dressmaker _____

A sister _____

Yourself _____

No one _____

28. Which of the following articles are made in your home?

Garments for children _____

Dresses for ladies _____

Sleeping garments _____

Men's shirts _____

Overcoats _____

Curtains _____

Sheets _____

Pillow cases _____

Blouses _____

Skirts _____

Suits _____
 Indicate others _____

Shorts _____
 Panties _____

29. Which of the following articles are bought ready made?

Garments for children _____
 Dresses for ladies _____
 Sleeping garments _____
 Men's shirts _____
 Overcoats _____

Curtains _____
 Sheets _____
 Pillow cases _____
 Blouses _____
 Shirts _____
 Shorts _____
 Panties _____
 Indicate others _____

If the following statements apply to your family, answer (Yes), if not, leave blank:

30. Does your family:

(a) Have a vegetable garden? _____

Spring garden _____ Spring and fall garden _____

Fall garden _____ Year 'round garden _____

(b) Raise pigs for home use? _____ For Sale? _____

(c) Raise chickens for home use? _____ For Sale? _____

(d) Own a milch cow? _____

31. How many quarts of foodstuff did your family can during the year? _____

Write the number of quarts in the lines to the right below.

Fruits _____

Vegetables _____

Meats _____

I do not know _____