

**FACTORS INFLUENCING THE SELECTION OF TABLE
APPOINTMENTS BY TEENAGE BRIDES**

by

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CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

Table appointments touch the life of each family member, but are probably the major responsibility of the homemaker, regardless of her age, training, or experience. Thereby, they may be indicative of her values and goals in life. Economic and cultural heritage influence these selections made by the very young homemaker-to-be in varied and important ways.

Since table appointments have many values as they serve the needs and satisfy the wants of the young couple, consideration of their use, maintenance, durability, as well as the inter-relationships of practices and real needs becomes most important. The resources of the young couple are closely related to choices and concerns. How young couples care for the selections, how much time is available for care, and how much knowledge they have or are willing to learn, concerning care of these items help to determine the satisfactions the couples will derive from the selections.

Many times table appointments are gifts for the bride; therefore, the selection involves not only the young bride and her husband, but the goals and values of both families, their friends, and business acquaintances as they select gifts for the new homemaker.

THE PROBLEM

Since the values and goals of an individual are evidenced by the choice of material possessions, the problem for this thesis is three fold: first, who influences the selection of table appointments made by the teenage bride; second, to what extent does the teenage bride give thought to these purchases; and third, were her selections sound economic investments, usable and satisfying to her personally and to her mode of living.

The following hypotheses have been formulated as a basis for this thesis:

1. that the selection of table appointments by the teenage bride is influenced by her mother, who does so as a status symbol,
2. that the young couple does not use the selections immediately after marriage,
3. that the selections are made without sufficient thought for immediate use, their care, and the replacement of pieces of table appointments,
4. that the teenage bride made her selections just before marriage primarily to meet the need for gift suggestions,
5. that after table appointments are acquired, they are stored.

Data were collected by means of a check sheet in order to find the answers to the above stated hypotheses and the threefold problem.

What were the bride's decision making habits a decade ago? What changes have taken place in time of selection of

table appointments, how and when table appointments were used and what were the influences 10 to 12 years ago? To find the answer to these questions a second check list was used in the same geographic area.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Certain terms will be used repeatedly in the development of this problem. For clearer understanding, these terms are briefly defined as follows:

Table appointments: In this study table appointments are used in reference to cutlery, dishes, glassware and table covers only.

Cutlery refers to flatware used in the serving of family meals. It is divided into three categories:

sterling silver contains 7.5 per cent copper for hardening solid silver;

plated silver is a plating of silver over an alloy base. Plating may be of various thicknesses, determining the quality grade of plated silver;

stainless steel is made of iron, carbon and chromium, and is resistant to rust and stain.

Dishes used in family meal service are referred to as:

fine china is translucent, vitrified, and nonporous;

Casual china is translucent to some extent, but heavier by weight than fine china;

stoneware is made from fused clay particles, is opaque and "--- is extensively used for better grades of so-called 'pottery' tableware." (16)

pottery is opaque with varying degrees of porosity and

breaks or chips easily.

Glassware used as a table appointment is divided into four classes:

cut glass is colorless quartz rock crystal with cut design;

fine crystal is glass containing lead and may or may not have design;

other crystal is made of sand, potash, and lead and is less brittle than ordinary glass, containing a higher lead content than fine crystal;

average glass is made of lime, sand and soda and is inexpensive (15).

Table covers: Any type of cover used on the table for meal service refers to table covers for this study. Table covers are further classified as linen, other textiles, and various types of place mats.

Teenage bride: In this study the teenage bride refers to junior or senior high school girls planning to marry, or already married during their current (1961-1962) school year.

Homemakers: Married 2 to 12 years.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

This study grew out of a need for information on factors that influence the selection of cutlery, dishes, glassware, and table covers by the high school or teenage bride. Some questions needed answers, such as, after the selections are made, is the bride happy with her selections? Are selections usable and do they fit into the first home or

apartment of the young couple? Are the selections adapted to the mode of living of the young couple? To what extent can changes be made? What training can be given before the selections are made in order to increase the possibilities for sound economic, usable and satisfying selections of table appointments by this group of young women?

Would training in high school or other organized educational groups relative to selection of satisfying table appointments give the teenage bride further experience in developing intelligent decision-making?

Homemakers who have been married two to twelve years could give some valuable and usable information of selections which they made as brides; how they used them or did not use them; which were satisfying and which were definitely a mistake for them as individuals.

ORGANIZATION OF THE REMAINDER OF THE THESIS

Chapter II deals with the review of literature on development of good art principles as they apply to the selection of table appointments, and reveals teenage patterns of developmental tasks and how and in what form art principles may be used by the teenage bride. The characteristics of adolescents or teenagers and their needs are discussed early in the chapter. A brief review of reports on economic factors and early marriages, as well as living

standards are included in this chapter. Change in customs, confusion of terminology and tastes, as well as long range satisfactions related to the selection of table appointments and art principles merited discussion.

Chapter III contains a further clarification of the problem and description of the methodology with the instruments used in collecting data. The results and interpretation of data are presented in Chapter IV. The summary and conclusions derived from the study are presented in Chapter V, including implications for use of this study and further research required.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Gates (1) says "adolescence is the period of growth which begins with puberty and ends with the general cessation of growth. It emerges from childhood and merges with adulthood". This period of adolescence, then, covers the seven or eight years from twelve to twenty for the average individual.

Needs of the adolescent are studied and discussed by educators, church leaders, civic organizations, parents, and others. Their needs, which are usually recognized by these educators and leaders, are listed according to Gates (1):

1. Need for freedom from dependence or psychological weaning. The adolescent must learn to accept responsibility and be free of parental control and domination.
2. Need for association with the opposite sex.
3. Need for self support. Desire of the adolescent to find his place in the world. Educational and vocational guidance are important at this time.
4. Need for a theory of life. This implies a certain balance between conflicting desires, impulses and ambitions that face the individual. During this time of adolescence, attitudes toward self, others, the world and God are important. Out of this comes the set of values the adult lives by.

"Living is learning and growing is learning, The human individual learns his way through life." (2). The

teenage bride will be living and learning each day and growing too. The disturbing fact is that adult decisions must be made by the adolescent bride, since she has taken on the role of an adult. Adolescence is the preparatory stage of life for adulthood, and yet the teenage bride is deprived of this preparatory period. She immediately takes on the role of an adult after the wedding, and she is poorly equipped for the job (2).

Nature lays down wide possibilities in the developing of the human body, and which possibilities shall be realized depends on what the individual learns. This is true even of such biological realities as feeding habits and sexual relations, while the more highly social realities of language, economic behavior and religion are almost completely the product of learning at the hands of society.

Havighurst (2) defines a developmental task as "a task which arises at or about a certain period in the life of an individual, successful achievement of which leads to his happiness and to success with later tasks; while failure leads to unhappiness in the individual, disapproval by society, and difficulty with later tasks". Therefore, lists and descriptions of developmental tasks will vary from one culture to another and from one class to another. Forty to fifty per cent of the population of the United States fall in the middle class (2). The middle class is thought of as

having an ideology of thrift, self improvement, and foresight for the future.

The middle-class part of American society uses the school for a wider variety of purposes than in any other society. "Since the American boys and girls are thrown together in school by age groups, the school becomes a place where they may learn the tasks of social development, and American educators consider the teaching of these tasks an important part of the school's responsibility" (2).

There are, according to Havighurst (2), six ways by which a person comes to desire an object or state of affairs; these are summarized as follows:

1. Through satisfaction of physiological drives (food satisfies hunger).
2. Through satisfactory emotional experience (certain sound arrangements, color arrangements, form and line arrangements, rhythms, scents, are pleasant to some people while others are unpleasant).
3. Through concrete reward and punishment. (This method is apt to be ineffective in turning an initially unpleasant act into a pleasant one.)
4. Through association of something with the love or approval of persons whose love and approval are desired.
5. Through fear or respect of someone in authority.
6. Through reasoning or reflective thinking.

The teenage bride and groom, or at least many of them are probably establishing homes without the benefit of achieving all of the developmental tasks of their age which

would make later tasks easier and life together happier. For the adolescent couple "attention is directed to the element of fitness -- fitness of purpose, fitness of material, fitness to environment" (3).

Moss (4) says that from one third to one half of the teenage brides are premaritally pregnant. In spite of this handicap the beginning family manages very well according to findings by Moss (4). In spite of their extreme youth and inexperience, in spite of the great emphasis on material things by American culture, and in spite of advertisers to buy now and pay later, these adolescent couples value their independence and try to manage their own affairs as much as possible. Parents are found to play an important supporting role in many ways. Gifts of furniture and equipment, gifts and loans of cash, emergency assistance, occasional meals, use of appliances and even club memberships are some of the tangible areas of assistance given by parents which are listed by Moss (4). Of the 21 young couples studied by Moss (4), 15 lived in furnished apartments; but, even so, 14 owned dining room furniture and 13 owned bedroom furniture. The value the teenage bride places on meal service may be indicated by the fact that 14 of the 21 couples studied owned dining room furniture while living in furnished apartments.

From a study made by Shahinkaya and Cannon (5) to determine the influence of the Korean War upon the number

of marriages occurring between couples under 20 years of age in America, the analysis indicated:

1. Early marriages increased when America entered the war
2. Early marriages did not decrease with the end of the war.

The tendency toward earlier marriages is reflected in the census figures which show that the percentage of 20 year olds who were married are:

In 1910 -- 8.6 per cent males and 36.2 per cent females

In 1950 -- 17.7 per cent males and 48.9 per cent females.

According to the 1960 census, one fifth of all women married between 1955 and 1959 were not over seventeen years old and slightly over one fourth were not over nineteen years old. Within fourteen months after marriage about half of the women who were married for the first time from 1955 to 1959, were mothers and within eighteen months 60 per cent were mothers.

Broken families, strained parent-child relationships, early romantic and sexual involvement, and military service are among the conditions believed to contribute to early marriage (6). Inselberg (6) thinks that marriage at a young age is a consequence of an individual's failure to learn to love in his parental family; thus, the "love-hungry" individual would marry in an effort to find emotional response.

Inselberg (6) summarizes as shown in the figures below the common marital problems* of 71 young couples where either the husband or the wife was under 19 years of age:

Problems listed by 40 husbands Per cent of husbands

Financial difficulties	
(inadequate or no income)	52.5
Conflicting ideas on spending income	15.0
Interference of in-laws	15.0
Conflicting ideas on type of recreation	12.5
Inadequate recreation	12.5
Jealousy	10.0
Unsuitable home or living arrangements	10.0
Sex difficulties	7.5

Problems listed by 58 wives Per cent of wives

Financial difficulties	
(Inadequate or no income)	37.9
Interference of in-laws	37.9
Husband "running" around too much	13.8
Inadequate recreation	13.8
Conflicting ideas on spending income	12.1
Conflicting ideas on type of recreation	12.1
Sex difficulties	10.3
Division of labor at home	10.3
Unsuitable home or living arrangements	10.3
Mate not approving of respondent's friends	6.9

*Since no limit was placed on the number of problems each respondent could give, the sum of the percentages exceeds 100 per cent.

Little information on the economic factors involved in the teenage homes is available. Many of these homes are subsidized by one or both parents; many couples are employed, and still others are part-time employed and attending school as well; a few are trying to complete their educations in high school; many are attending college.

Financial status and living arrangements of the 71 young couples studied by Inselberg (6) was summarized as follows:

1. 18.9 per cent received monetary aid from parents
2. 25 per cent were living with others at time of interview
3. 75 per cent had lived with others during period of marriage covered by study
4. 8.6 per cent owned homes.

Paralleling the tendency toward younger marriages, teenage husband-wife problems and living arrangements, has been a marked increase in divorce. Burgess and Cottrell (7) summarized the chance of success or failure in marriage in relation to age at marriage as follows:

The women who married when they neared thirty were twice as apt to have a good marital adjustment as were the women who married under eighteen years of age. They also found that men who married under the age of twenty-two had the greatest chance of poor adjustment; whereas, those who married between twenty-eight and thirty had the least risk. Those men married after thirty made good adjustment less frequently.

The 1960 census shows that over 92 per cent of all men and women in the United States are, or have been, married by the end of the child bearing age. This vast majority of the population has set up households and made decisions concerning selection of materials for the home. Table appointments were some of the selections that had to be made. How the teenage bride selects these items is of importance in indicating her values and goals.

"A value is defined roughly as a quality or idea one esteems highly, and that, in the conduct of living, one would prefer to other things as 'worthy' to be achieved" (3). A value, then, is a motivating force, a selecting factor and an appraising concept which enables an individual to make choices.

The recognized worth of adolescent's value system is, within limits, directly proportional to the degree of his value organization. His interest in values is stimulated by increased familiarity with them as he explores value identification and clarification. The group influence in determining values demands that the adolescent test his values not only by personal satisfaction but also by their applicability in social situations. Since emerging values are enhanced through many experiences, the school has the responsibility to give students opportunities to examine their value patterns and reconstruct them whenever they no longer function as guides to effective and satisfying living (3).

Americans have often been accused of being culturally naive, as insensitive to beauty, as prizing the utilitarian more than the aesthetic. This neglect of aesthetic values could be attributed to the puritanical background, to the urgencies of the advancing frontier, and to the feeling that such interests were the prerogatives of the leisure class. These conditions are no longer instrumental in the American

culture. There is a growing awareness that aesthetic appreciations enhance the quality of daily living. It has been affirmed that aesthetic values arise through human experience. This implies uniqueness of value judgements for each individual (3). Rugg (9) says that the controlling agent in all aesthetic valuation is the self.

The aesthetic values of the adolescent are of mixed origin. The adolescent adopts some standards from his family, others he accepts from his peers or from the community. If the teenage bride's contacts with art form have been meager, she may have a positive distaste for whatever the school may do to broaden and sensitize her artistic appreciation. The adolescent feels that someone is always trying to re-make his aesthetic standards, however good or bad they may be. Although it is granted that aesthetic values are individual, the school and society apparently desire, in some way, to mold these values into a currently approved pattern (3). Burk (10) says: "American taste is changing for the better, and will continue to do so." Four forces are at work to elevate American taste:

1. Rising real income
2. More education, both formal and informal
3. Efforts of homemakers to spread their own gospel
4. The old American trait of striving for self betterment.

Jessup (11) believes good taste is rooted in, but not guaranteed, by native sensory equipment such as good eyes, good ears, and an alert mind.

The individual is, if normally endowed, born with the faculty of or capacity for good taste, but not with good taste itself. Good taste is not innate or ready-made. Good taste, besides being a keen taste is an educated taste; it is informed, experienced, and cultivated. In its operations it is discriminating, broad, tolerant, and unconfused. In its articulations it is sincere and honest. Finally, it is a taste which is refined and at the same time robust, not so over-refined that it loses its gusto and becomes finicky in the presence of the simple quality and unvarnished fact (11).

Blair (8) defines taste as "the power of receiving pleasure from the beauties of nature and art". Taste is more closely allied to a feeling or sense than to a process of the mind; taste is ultimately founded on a certain natural and instinctive sensibility of beauty. In Blair's (8) opinion taste is an innate faculty common in some degree to all men but is subject to greater improvement through environmental factors (2).

The importance of the use of art principles in the lives of people has been well expressed by Russell and Gwynne (13).

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The average individual needs clear and definite art standards or principles which will guide him in making

satisfactory combinations. As he has more experience and develops some degree of judgment ability, he begins to make application of the principles to their rightful place, a means to the desired end. The desired end is not only the enjoyment of beauty, but the ability to select and make wise use of articles in every day life which are good in design and color. It is that fine discrimination which is often designated as "good taste".

The standards of good taste are built upon a solid foundation of art principles. These standards have been accepted by trained and discriminating people for generations. They have stood the test of time. They do not vary with the whims of fashion, yet are flexible and can be adopted to the needs of any group or of any period of time.

Since for a bride, formal training in art principles has barely begun, it is imperative that she have close counseling and guidance from some trained person or persons if her table appointment selections are to be satisfying to her and her family.

"Since so many of the daily art problems are problems in selection, training which will develop judgment is more vital to the average individual than training in creative art" (13). Is this one approach to the problem of selections the teenage bride or prospective bride must make?

Determining who influences the selection of table appointments made by the teenage bride is one of the objectives of this study. Sometimes it appears to be doubtful as to which is the more important -- people or things. Overstreet (14), realizing the muddled state of affairs says, "The Sabbath, we have been told, was made for man, not man for the

Sabbath. Homes, schools, churches, political parties, economic and social institutions, nations -- these are made for man; not man for them." As a matter of fact, it is more than likely that we might properly be called newspaper made, radio made, money made and advertisement made people. "To put the matter succinctly, advertising halts psychological growth to the extent that it makes us do too much wanting and makes us want things for the wrong reasons." (14).

Gillespie (15) discusses the history of table appointments and their selections from the practical point of view. "From the popular acceptance of dinnerware today, it is difficult to realize that less than 200 years ago the average household could boast of no set of dishes and that most food was eaten largely with the fingers from non-sanitary vessels made from wood or pewter."

The practice of colonial times of handing down a best set of china to succeeding generations is being changed, since newly married couples often desire modern sets to fit present day living conditions.

Few customers, and still fewer teenage customers, understand the terms commonly associated with table appointments. The selection of silver offers much confusion according to Gillespie (15), "--- they have a vague familiarity with a few terms such as 'sterling silver' which customers are proud to possess." The name "Rogers" on silver usually attracts customers in droves when a sale of the ware is

advertised at an attractive price. Much to their dismay they find the silver on their bargains only one layer thick and that the name "Rogers" means nothing in the way of quality, since several manufacturers use the name on widely varying qualities of silverware. What does the customer think of stainless steel and how will it fit into her first home? Again, the teenage bride usually has had neither sufficient training nor experience to enable her to make wise selections.

Only limited research has been reported on the aesthetic values of choices of specific home furnishings by high school pupils which include some practical suggestions for the high school homemaking teacher. However, table appointments were not included in this study (16).

Glass is made by fusing sand and other chemicals at great heat into a molten substance of taffy-like consistency which is then shaped and cooled. Glass today is a product of the chemistry laboratory and only simulates the colorless quartz, "rock crystal", that is mined from the earth. What must be known about this gleaming, transparent, crystal-like material to buy it, care for it, and use it skillfully? Though most homemakers and the teenage bride possess glassware, little is understood by the average person of its quality as related to care and use.

Table coverings, being less expensive and more easily

stored than dishes, glass and cutlery, can be more varied and provide the largest area of color or pattern in a table setting. Faulkner (16) states, "Ideally, tableware should be harmonious with the room in which it is used", but how can that be done when all but a few persons get their tableware long before they select permanent dining furniture? Do homemakers select or design dining rooms to harmonize with their dishes? Certainly not, except under unusual circumstances. How then, should selection of tableware be made? A sensible procedure is to keep use, economy, beauty and individuality firmly in mind, perhaps weighing beauty and individuality somewhat more heavily than in choosing a chair or bed.

Faulkner (16) suggests asking oneself four questions before choosing any item for the home:

1. Is it useful?
2. Is it economical?
3. Is it beautiful?
4. Does it have individuality?

The teenage bride would certainly do well to keep these four questions in mind even though she alone may not be able to answer them. Lack of training, experience and managerial ability would hamper the teenage bride in being able to answer these questions, but she could surely find the answers if she studies and seeks counsel from people who

are trained in this area of information.

According to Schlesinger (17) studies of decision making are important, in that they give a picture of one of the most important functions of the modern American family. The roles that family members play in decision making are important to the student of family life. There is a need for more accurate information on how decisions are made, what part each family member plays, and how some of these patterns of decision making change over the life cycle. The typical, as well as the deviations in decision making are important to the practical dimensions of marriage and family living. The following results were obtained from the study on decision making of 20 couples (17):

1. Split half reliability was reported as being generally adequate;
2. The beginning stage families appear to be the peak stage in joint decision making. This stage also had the highest level of satisfaction and the highest amount of consultation in decision making;
3. The families with teenagers had the lowest cooperation, the lowest level of satisfaction and the lowest amount of consultation in decision making.
4. The launching family returned to split reliability.

The following conclusions were drawn from and supported by percentile analysis of data concerning the repetitive, planned, impulsive, and deliberative decision-making pro-

cedures followed by 210 -- 15, 16, and 17 year old boys and girls attending Spalding County High School, Georgia (18):

1. The majority of the teenagers did not use repetitive decision-making procedures
2. The central tendency was for boys to use planned decision-making procedures
3. The majority of the girls made impulsive decisions of "happened to see the item and it appealed".

Regardless of how decisions are made, the teenage girls of today are an influential and powerful segment of society. According to the 1960 United States census, nine million teenage girls are between thirteen and nineteen years of age and nine million young men are of the same age range. They are influential both socially and economically.

Earle (20) reports that this nine million young women under twenty spend four and one-half billion dollars a year and spend it all -- no income taxes, no rent to pay, no insurance premiums to meet.

How do they happen to have so much money? Earle (20) found that 43 per cent of these girls work full-time with an average weekly income of \$9.53. Then, too, according to government figures, many of the teenagers come from higher-than-average income families -- 28 per cent higher to be more specific. The teenagers' fathers are usually at, or near, peak earning capacity and more mothers with teenage children are in the labor force than mothers with any other age group children, which adds to family income.

The following summary is taken from Barle's (20)

findings:

Of all first brides, 48 per cent are teenagers. More girls marry at eighteen than at any other age. Each year almost 600,000 more are getting married which means they will start over half a million new homes this year and every year.

What has caused these girls to grow up so quickly? It has been estimated that they are a full five years older than teens of the preceding generation. 30 per cent of the mothers work away from home and half of the teenagers help plan and prepare meals as well as shop. They might be called vice-presidents in charge of home management. Three other factors are found to contribute to the quick growing-up of teenagers. They are: the late war, the country's incredible economic growth, and undreamed of advances in scientific research and communications.

These are the years when the teenage girl wants to find out for herself, but they are also the years when her attitudes, her moral and social values will be established for life.

Bernice Fitz-Gibbon (21) called these years the "--- bridge between Maltex and Miltown, between mud pies and mud packs, between spinning the bottle and heating it in the middle of the night".

In order to help guide this growing girl, adults must try to find what she wants and be ready to offer the help and encouragement she needs while she is learning.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

In studying decision making practices of a group of people, there are many aspects which could be explored. Decision making of the teenage bride was chosen as the specific problem and an instrument was developed to collect data for this problem. The teenage bride's selections of table appointments, made many times before she is married, are among her first decisions as a homemaker and may be indicative of the social, cultural, aesthetic, and economic phases of her mode of living.

A questionnaire was developed according to research findings on making questionnaires by Goode and Scates (21) to obtain the desired data to solve the problem. Each question was carefully analyzed as to clarity and its value to the problem. A pre-test of the check sheet was made in a home economics education class. Two of the graduate students then pre-tested the questionnaire in two 4-H club meetings in Deaf Smith and Castro Counties. This pre-testing resulted in the deletion of some questions and in re-wording others.

The completed instrument was composed of two sections; the first section was designed to secure personal information concerning the cultural, social and economic background of

the girl and her family. The second section, which concerned the teenage bride and her table appointment selections, was designed to secure information concerning when the choices were made, their planned use, who and what were the influences, and the use and storage of these items.

The multiple choice type question was chosen for the instrument because these would be simple and fast to answer by the participant, as well as easy to tabulate accurately.

Junior and senior girls in selected high schools who married or planned to be married within the school year of 1961-1962 were invited to participate as subjects; only those who identified themselves as planning to be married were asked to fill out the questionnaire on selection of table appointments.

The high school counselors or homemaking teachers administered the questionnaire to junior and senior married girls and those girls who identified themselves as planning to be married during that current school year. Self addressed, stamped envelopes were included in the packet for the return of the completed instruments. A list of schools participating in this study is given in the appendix. A total of 100 instruments were sent to 15 schools, of which 56 completed instruments from thirteen schools were returned.

The five home demonstration agents in the five speci-

fied counties were contacted personally and their assistance in administering a questionnaire to homemakers married two to twelve years requested. They agreed to personally administer the questionnaires at home demonstration club, council, or training meetings. The women in these meetings identified themselves when told the requirements for participation.

The check sheet for the adult homemakers was composed of two sections; the first section was designed to secure personal information and the second to secure information concerning table appointment selections, similar to that asked of the teenage bride. Of the 100 instruments, 64 for the adult homemaker from five counties were returned for tabulation.

Five counties selected were chosen to secure background information for future programing with the Extension Service's program of work in this section of the state. A list of these counties and the number of participants is in the appendix. Letters were written to superintendents of high schools in these five counties requesting their permission to distribute the questionnaires to the girls meeting the characteristics required for this study. Fifteen of the 25 superintendents replied, stating their willingness to cooperate in the study. The questionnaires were then sent to counselors or homemaking teachers in the high schools where permission was granted.

After the instruments were returned, information was tabulated and comparisons were made. These findings and comparisons will be discussed in detail in the following chapter.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The chronological ages of the 56 participants who returned questionnaires are as follows: 61 per cent of these teenage brides were 18 to 20 years of age, 36 per cent were 15 to 17, and 3 per cent were 20 or over but still in high school. These percentages are similar to those of the study Moss (4) made in 1961.

Five (9 per cent) of the girls had no brothers nor sisters, while the others reported from one brother or sister to seven brothers and sisters. The respondents had an average of 2 brothers and 1.7 sisters for each household.

The teenagers reported that 95 per cent of the mothers and 93 per cent of the fathers were living, although 9 per cent reported that their fathers were not living in the home. Of the families, 66 per cent owned their home, which indicates that the study was made of a cross section of typical American families, of whom 60 per cent own their homes.

The number of meals eaten together each day by the families were:

Meal	Percentage of families
Breakfast	59
Lunch	25
Dinner	89
None	2

The study reveals the fact that these teenage girls had responsibilities at home. Only 9 per cent of the families had any outside help, while 44 per cent of the mothers worked outside of the home. Of the girls 86 per cent reported that they helped with family meal planning; 91 per cent helped with family meal preparation, and 91 per cent helped with house cleaning other than their own room. These findings are also in line with those of Moss (4). Although 31 mothers (56 per cent) do not work outside the home, the occupations of those who do work are as follows:

Occupational grouping	No.	Percentage
Professional	6	25
Semi-professional	2	8
Business owner	1	4
Skilled labor	3	13
Semi-skilled labor	2	8
Unskilled labor	<u>10</u>	<u>42</u>
Total	24	100

A point of interest is that 62 per cent of the working mothers, some whose husbands are professional men or business owners, are working as unskilled, semi-skilled, or skilled laborers.

Of the 56 girls, 51 reported on their father's occupation, the five not reporting are those whose fathers do not live in the home. The fathers' occupations reported are:

Occupational grouping	No.	Percentage
Professional	5	10
Semi-professional	4	8
Business owner	4	8
Farm owner	20	39
Skilled labor	16	31
Semi-skilled labor	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	51	100

The 47 per cent of the fathers who are business or farm owners indicate that these families are highly stable in the community. The 31 per cent who are of skilled laborers constitute a much higher bracket of employment than was true for the mothers. There is no consistent relation between mother's occupation and that of the father.

With reference to hypothesis I, "Selection of table appointments by the teenage bride is influenced by her mother who does so as a status symbol", the following comparisons have been made:

1. Comparison of the choices made according to father's occupation.
2. Comparison of choices made according to mother's occupation.
3. Comparison of choices made according to number of children in the family.
4. Comparison of who or what influenced the selections made by the teenage girl as stated in item 32 of the questionnaire.
5. Comparison of who influenced the girl's selections as stated in items 20 through 31 in the questionnaire found in the appendix.

The professional men would, of necessity, have more formal training than those of any occupation. Granted that the skilled and semi-skilled workers are trained in a particular segment of work, they are not as well trained in general education including the social sciences and the arts as the professionally trained. The owners would naturally be the most heterogeneous in educational background. Table I shows the girls' choices of table appointments according to their fathers' employment.

TABLE I

Selections of table appointments compared
with occupations of fathers

No. of fathers	Profes- sional		Semi- pro.		Business owner		Farm Owner		Skilled labor	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
	5		4		4		20		16	
Fine china	4	80	1	25	3	75	9	45	9	56
Casual china	1	20	0	0	3	75	6	30	4	25
Stoneware	0	0	0	0	1	25	3	15	1	6
Pottery	1	20	0	0	1	25	6	30	4	25
Sterling	3	60	1	25	3	75	6	30	5	31
Plate silver	1	20	0	0	3	75	5	25	2	13
Stainless steel	3	60	1	25	3	75	9	40	9	56
Cut glass	0	0	0	0	1	25	5	25	4	25
Fine crystal	1	20	0	0	3	75	8	40	6	38
Other crystal	0	0	0	0	1	25	5	25	3	19
Average glass	2	40	3	75	3	75	6	30	10	63

Since only two fathers were in the semi-skilled occupational group and their two daughters had chosen only stainless steel and average glass, this group has been deleted from the table.

Teenage brides, whose fathers were business or farm owners, had made more choices of table appointments than those brides whose fathers were professional or in the labor groups. The types of table appointments chosen were not consistent with the father's occupation.

What about the occupations of the 24 mothers who work outside the home? The type employment and the amount of training necessary for the employment of the mothers are the two factors considered in Table II.

TABLE II

Selections of table appointments compared with occupations of the mothers working outside the home

No. of mothers	Profes- sional		Semi- pro.		Skilled labor		Semi- skilled		Un- skilled	
	6 no.	%	2 no.	%	3 no.	%	2 no.	%	10 no.	%
Fine china	3	50	2	100	1	33	0	0	5	50
Casual china	2	33	0	0	1	33	0	0	2	20
Stoneware	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Pottery	1	17	1	50	1	33	0	0	1	10
Sterling	2	33	0	0	1	33	1	50	3	30
Plate silver	2	33	0	0	1	33	0	0	2	20
Stainless steel	3	50	0	0	1	33	1	50	6	60
Cut glass	1	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	20
Fine crystal	1	17	0	0	2	67	0	0	4	40
Other crystal	1	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
Average glass	1	17	2	100	2	67	1	50	7	70

Business owners group has been deleted from the table since there was only one mother in the group. The mother's occupation does not appear to influence the selections made or variety of materials chosen.

Sharing among siblings and parents in a normal family is a healthy situation. The numbers who are in the family to share may affect an individual member of the family. The relation of the number of brothers and sisters of the teenage bride to her selections are shown in Table III.

TABLE III

Comparison of number of children in the family and selection of table appointments

Number of children in households	1		2		3		4		5	
	no.	%								
Fine china	3	60	4	50	7	50	8	50	2	40
Casual china	2	40	3	38	2	14	6	38	1	20
Stoneware	0	0	0	0	1	7	2	13	1	20
Pottery	2	40	0	0	2	14	5	31	2	40
Sterling silver	2	40	3	38	4	29	7	44	1	20
Plate silver	2	40	2	25	2	14	3	19	1	20
Stainless steel	3	60	3	38	8	57	8	50	2	40
Cut glass	2	40	1	13	2	14	3	19	1	20
Fine crystal	2	40	1	13	6	43	7	44	1	20
Other crystal	2	40	2	25	1	7	1	6	2	40
Average glass	3	60	3	38	8	57	9	56	2	40

Not shown in Table III are:

1. The teenage bride in the one family with six children who made no selections of table appointments;
2. One of the brides in the two families with seven children who chose fine china, plate silver, and fine crystal; while the other bride from a family with seven children chose stainless steel and average glass.

The selection of table appointments by teenage brides

apparently is not consistent with the number of children in the family.

Each individual has values and goals which affect the selection of table appointments by teenage girls. The factors which reflect values and affect the selection of table appointments by teenage brides are divided into six categories: care, usefulness and beauty could be considered as indicative of personal values; while the influence of a friend or relative or the choice for a shower or other reasons would reflect personal values also.

TABLE IV

Comparison of selection of table appointments according to the teenage bride's values

	Care		Useful- ness		Beauty		Friend relative		Shower choice		Other	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Fine china	8	15	8	15	26	46	2	4	2	4	4	7
Casual china	12	21	22	39	11	19	4	7	0	0	1	2
Stoneware	5	9	12	21	6	10	1	2	3	5	7	2
Pottery	8	15	15	27	5	9	1	2	2	4	1	2
Sterling	7	13	13	24	18	32	3	5	3	6	2	4
Plate silver	5	9	9	17	6	10	2	4	1	2	2	4
Stainless steel	19	34	29	52	12	22	4	7	1	2	1	2
Cut glass	3	5	6	10	8	15	3	5	2	4	1	2
Fine crystal	4	7	6	10	12	21	1	2	3	6	1	2
Other crystal	4	7	10	18	6	10	3	6	2	4	0	0
Average glass	16	29	27	49	11	19	2	4	3	6	3	6
Table covers	19	34	20	36	17	30	4	7	1	2	3	6

Results show that the teenage brides were more concerned about usefulness, beauty and care in selection than of the other values.

The final and most revealing question concerned with hypothesis I is that dealing with who affected the teenage brides' selections of table appointments. Because no one checked the column for "other teacher" and less than 2 per cent checked the column, home economics teacher, neighbor, friend, and home demonstration agent, these columns have been omitted from table V.

TABLE V

Comparison of persons influencing the teen age brides' selections of table appointments

	Mother		Other relative		Girl friend		Sales- man		Other		No one	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Fine china	13	23	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	12	21
Casual china	8	14	4	7	0	0	0	0	4	7	10	18
Stoneware	6	11	0	0	2	4	0	0	2	4	5	9
Pottery	6	11	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	11
Sterling	15	27	4	7	1	2	0	0	1	2	8	14
Plate silver	6	11	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	10	18
Stainless steel	15	27	2	4	0	0	2	4	3	5	12	21
Cut glass	4	7	2	4	0	0	1	2	0	0	7	13
Fine crystal	4	7	3	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other crystal	6	11	2	4	0	0	1	2	0	0	5	9
Average glass	13	23	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	4	16	29
Table covers	15	27	2	4	2	4	0	0	0	0	5	9

The data show that the mother has the most influence of any one person, even including the teenage bride, since the "no one" column would represent the bride herself.

Hypothesis II "The young couple does not use the selections immediately after marriage" was dealt with in the questionnaire by three questions. The first question is,

"How often do you expect to use the china, silver, linens, and glassware chosen; everyday, occasionally, or frequently?" To find out if these selections met a need and served the couple acquiring them is another goal of this study. Tabulations show that 32 girls (57 per cent) indicated that they considered how the selections would fit in their apartment or home, whereas, 8 girls (14 per cent) gave no consideration to this aspect of use. How often the teenage bride expects to use her selections is shown in Table VI.

TABLE VI

Comparison of expected use of table appointments
by teenage brides

	Everyday		Occasionally		Frequently	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Fine china	0	0	31	55	5	9
Casual china	16	29	8	14	9	16
Stoneware	10	18	6	11	6	11
Pottery	13	23	4	7	6	11
Sterling	4	7	18	32	9	16
Plate silver	6	11	7	13	5	9
Stainless steel	41	73	2	4	3	5
Cut glass	2	4	9	16	9	16
Fine crystal	2	4	20	36	7	13
Other crystal	2	4	13	23	5	9
Average glass	41	73	1	2	3	5
Table covers	16	29	17	30	9	16
Place mats	14	25	19	34	10	18
Others	5	9	2	4	1	2

Results indicate that, except for stainless steel and average glass, the teenage brides are not getting full use from their selections in the early phase of their marriages.

The third question relative to hypothesis II concerns

the time the selections are to be used by the young couple. The teenage brides reported that 56 per cent expected to use their selections of table appointments "soon after marriage"; 10 per cent reported plans for use when their permanent home is built; while 33 per cent indicated that the time of use was indefinite.

Hypothesis III, reads, "The selections are made without sufficient thought for immediate use, their care and the replacement of pieces of table appointments". To determine the validity of this statement, three categories of the questionnaire were outlined for study:

1. Personal statements made by the girls which were included in the questionnaire.
2. The number of girls who chose "open stock" selections and their consideration of cost of replacements.
3. The care required of silver, glassware, china, and table covers was considered when selections were made.

The following statement, by a 15 to 17 year old, expresses the feelings of the 10 participants who included a personal statement in the returned questionnaire. This 16 year old bride has two brothers, no sisters; her father is a skilled laborer and her mother is a semi-skilled employee. The teenage bride's statement is:

I think china, silver, and crystal are nice to have but I would prefer melmac, stainless steel, and such glasses as 6 for 59¢ for the beginning. I think it is nonsense to spend so much money on it when you could use the money in some other way. I don't think

a girl or woman needs her china, crystal, etc. until she is older and has her family grown or old enough to help her take care of it. Because by the time you're old enough to really enjoy it, your family and friends have broken some of the different pieces and some of the pieces are lost and etc.

A statement by a twenty year old high school bride may be stated in better form but the ideas portrayed seem to be the same. The following statement is made by this twenty year old bride from a family of four, whose parents are professional people:

I plan to use stainless steel and casual china immediately after I am married. I also plan to use my nicer things, which are easy to care for and relatively inexpensive to replace, occasionally.

I plan to wait until I have more storage room before buying fine china and crystal and before buying most of the other things I have not yet selected. I believe I will enjoy them more when I have room to properly store them. I also think I will probably make a wiser choice after having more experience at housekeeping.

Of the teenage brides, 90 per cent reported that cost of replacements was considered when the selections were made. One factor determining the cost of replacements is whether the selections are open stock.

TABLE VII

Choice of open stock patterns of table
appointments by teenage brides

	Selection of open stock patterns	
	no.	%
Fine china	20	87
Casual china	16	100
Stoneware	3	100
Pottery	9	100
Sterling	17	100
Plate silver	6	86
Stainless steel	27	100
Cut glass	7	100
Fine crystal	14	70
Other crystal	5	100
Average glass	29	97

The majority of the teenage brides chose open stock patterns for the majority of items of selection.

In relation to care of table appointments 80 per cent chose silver considering its care; 90 per cent chose china on the basis of care it required; 90 per cent chose glassware based on care and 92 per cent chose table covers with consideration of their care. These high percentages show that teenage brides are concerned with the care of their table appointments.

To determine the validity of hypothesis IV, "The teenage bride made her selections just before marriage primarily to meet the need for a gift suggestion", one question with three parts is applicable. From the tabulation of this question, results show that from 5 to 38 per cent of the teenage brides made their selections of various ones of the

table appointments just before marriage. From 2 to 16 per cent of the girls made selections at graduation; 46 per cent to 95 per cent of them indicated that they had not yet chosen various ones of their table appointments.

TABLE VIII

Comparison of time in life selection of table appointments were made by teenage brides

	At graduation		Just before marriage		Not yet chosen	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Fine china	9	16	14	25	33	59
Casual china	1	2	15	27	40	71
Stoneware	2	4	1	2	53	95
Pottery	5	9	4	7	47	84
Sterling	8	14	9	16	36	64
Plate silver	1	2	6	11	46	82
Stainless steel	9	16	18	32	26	46
Cut glass	1	2	6	11	46	82
Fine crystal	1	2	19	34	36	64
Other crystal	2	4	3	5	51	91
Average glass	9	16	21	38	26	46

The data show that the majority of the teenage brides had not chosen the majority of their table appointments except for stainless steel and average glass.

In considering hypothesis V, "After table appointments are acquired, they are stored", the girls were asked to indicate where their selections were stored if they did not plan to use them immediately.

TABLE IX

Comparison of planned storage places for table appointments
not to be used immediately after marriage

	Mother		Mother- in-law		Boxes with you		Other	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Fine china	10	18	2	4	21	38	0	0
Casual china	4	7	2	4	14	25	1	2
Stoneware	2	4	0	0	13	23	0	0
Pottery	2	4	0	0	15	27	1	2
Sterling	7	13	0	0	19	34	0	0
Plate silver	2	4	0	0	16	29	0	0
Stainless steel	4	7	1	2	20	36	1	2
Cut glass	5	9	0	0	10	18	1	2
Fine crystal	7	13	1	2	12	21	0	0
Other crystal	3	5	1	2	12	23	1	2
Average glass	6	11	1	2	21	38	1	2
Table covers	6	11	1	2	20	36	1	2
Place mats	6	11	1	2	15	27	1	2
Other	4	7	1	2	10	18	1	2

Does the girl derive a feeling of security to have her
selections with her, though stored in boxes and not in use,
or does she require them as a status symbol?

TABLE X

Comparison of patterns chosen for table appointments
selected by teenage brides

	Very ornate		Ornate		Plain	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Fine china	3	5	10	18	16	29
Casual china	1	2	12	21	16	29
Stoneware	1	2	6	11	8	14
Pottery	0	0	7	13	8	14
Sterling	5	9	10	18	11	20
Plate silver	2	4	6	11	5	9
Stainless steel	2	4	11	20	27	48
Cut glass	1	2	5	9	8	14
Fine crystal	4	7	9	16	7	13
Other crystal	0	0	7	13	9	16
Average glass	0	0	9	16	27	48
Table covers	3	5	16	29	18	32
Place mats	2	4	8	14	20	36

It is interesting to note the designs which are chosen in table appointments by the teenage brides. The fact that design was considered in choosing would indicate that some thought had been given to the aesthetic values of table appointments.

Comparison of Table Appointment Selections
Made by Women Married Two to Twelve
Years With Teenage Brides

Of the 64 women married two to twelve years participating in the study, 8 per cent (5 women) were married 2 years; 25 per cent (16 women) were married 3 to 5 years; 27 per cent (17 women) were married 6 to 10 years; and 41 per cent (26 women) were married 10 to 12 years.

These 64 homemakers had a total of 92 children, with

an average number of 1.5 children per homemaker. According to the 1960 United States census figures the population per household is 3.36, which would indicate that the survey of homemakers and that of teenage bride's families are representative of the size of typical American families. The tabulations reveal that:

17 homemakers (27 per cent) had no children
 12 homemakers (19 per cent) had one child
 27 homemakers (42 per cent) had two children
 8 homemakers (13 per cent) had three or more children

Further to identify these homemakers, the following chart shows which homemakers had children:

How long married	2 years	3-5 years	6-10 years	10-12 years
No. of homemakers	5	16	17	26
No. of children	1	12	31	48

It does not seem feasible to compare the occupations of the husbands and wives of the couples married two to twelve years with that of the teenage brides' parents since there is such a difference in years of marriage.

A decade ago neither money was as plentiful nor credit as easy to obtain. Would these two factors make a difference in the bride's selection of table appointments? Table XI gives a comparison of the selections made by the 56 teenage brides in 1961 with those of the 64 women married two to twelve years:

TABLE XI

Comparison of selections made by teenage brides and those made by homemakers married 2 to 12 years

	At graduation		Just before marriage		Not yet chosen	
	Teen bride	Married 2-12 yrs.	Teen bride	Married 2-12 yrs.	Teen bride	Married 2-12 yrs.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Fine china	16	6	25	19	59	34
Casual china	2	0	27	36	71	20
Stoneware	4	0	2	8	95	41
Pottery	9	3	7	38	84	27
Sterling	14	13	16	16	64	38
Plate silver	2	6	11	45	82	17
Stainless steel	16	3	32	41	46	5
Cut glass	2	2	11	8	82	47
Fine crystal	11	5	14	19	75	33
Other crystal	4	0	5	11	91	36
Average glass	16	2	38	45	46	8

Results indicate that more of the brides 2 to 12 years ago chose the majority of their selections of table appointments just before marriage than did the teenage bride of 1961; however, more of the teenage brides than the homemakers made selections at graduation.

Totals for either group may not equal 100 per cent due to the insignificance of the number choosing table appointments later or after marriage.

Some educators believe that the teenage population of today is at least five years more mature than the same age group a generation ago. A comparison of the teenage bride of 1961 with homemakers who were brides as long as a decade ago is of interest as to use, choice of open stock, cost of

replacements and care of silver, china, and table covers.

Both groups, (78 per cent of the homemakers, 80 per cent of the teenage brides) indicated they considered the care which silver would require before selecting it. For china 42 per cent of the older group and 90 per cent of the teenage group considered care of china; while 59 per cent of the older group and 90 per cent of the teenage group considered care of crystal. Care of table covers was considered by both groups -- 72 per cent of the older group and 92 per cent of the teenage group.

A comparison of the use of the selections made by the two groups is shown in Table XII.

TABLE XII

Comparison of uses of table appointments by teenage brides and homemakers married 2 to 12 years

	Every day		Occasionally		Frequently	
	Teen bride	Married 2-12 yrs	Teen bride	Married 2-12 yrs.	Teen bride	Married 2-12 yrs.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Fine china	0	2	55	39	9	6
Casual china	29	30	14	22	16	5
Stoneware	18	9	11	0	11	2
Pottery	23	48	7	8	11	6
Sterling	7	2	32	22	16	5
Plate silver	11	25	13	22	9	5
Stainless	73	78	4	3	5	0
Cut glass	4	6	16	9	16	0
Fine crystal	4	0	36	28	13	3
Other crystal	4	2	23	17	9	3
Average glass	73	73	2	2	5	2
Table covers	29	14	30	56	16	17
Place mats	25	28	34	28	18	2

The data reveal no significant difference between the planned use of selections by teenage brides and actual use by the homemakers married two to twelve years.

Cost of replacements of table appointment selections was given consideration by 77 per cent of the older group and 80 per cent of the teenage group. Choice of open stock patterns over others ranged from a low of 9 per cent for cut glass to a high of 53 per cent for pottery among the older group. For the teenage bride group this range is from 70 per cent for fine crystal to 100 per cent for seven of the eleven items. Open stock for sterling silver was chosen by 33 per cent of the homemakers and 100 per cent for the teenage bride; for casual china the comparison is 31 per cent chosen by the older group and 100 per cent for the teenage group. Open stock in fine crystal was chosen by 31 per cent of the older group and 70 per cent of the teenage group.

Who influenced the bride's selections a decade ago? Table XIII shows the comparison of the six most influential persons for homemakers and for the teenage brides group of 1961:

TABLE XIII

Comparison of persons influencing teenage brides and homemakers married 2 to 12 years in their selection of table appointments

	Mother		Other relative		Girl friend salesman other		No one	
	Teen bride %	Home- maker %	Teen bride %	Home- maker %	Teen bride %	Home- maker %	Teen bride %	Home- maker %
F. china	23	13	2	5	2	6	21	23
C. china	14	5	7	5	7	16	18	33
Stoneware	11	2	0	6	8	0	9	6
Pottery	11	13	5	6	0	8	11	25
Sterling	27	9	7	2	4	10	14	25
Plate S.	11	20	0	9	4	12	18	20
Stainless	27	13	4	20	9	22	21	28
Cut glass	7	2	4	0	2	2	13	9
F. crystal	7	8	5	0	4	3	13	25
O. crystal	11	2	4	2	2	5	9	19
A. glass	23	3	2	5	4	4	29	27
Table C.	27	17	4	5	4	10	9	45

Are there unidentified forces which influence the teenage bride, or the homemaker of up to a decade ago for that matter, which are not recognized? Though the mothers influenced the teenage bride's selections more than anyone else and more than the mothers of homemakers, the majority of selections were made by the teenage bride or the homemaker herself.

The homemaker did not indicate that she considered her future home or apartment in relation to table appointment selections as much as did the teenage bride today; 69 per cent of the older group said they considered how their selections

would fit in the home or apartment while 89 per cent of the teenage group indicated that they considered how the selections would fit in their home or apartment.

TABLE XIV

Use made of table appointments by homemakers married 2 to 12 years

	Soon after marriage		When home was built		Other	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Fine china	16	25	4	6	6	9
Casual china	24	38	0	0	7	11
Stoneware	7	11	0	0	2	3
Pottery	26	41	1	2	7	11
Sterling	19	30	0	0	3	5
Plate silver	22	34	1	2	7	11
Stainless	34	53	4	6	9	14
Cut glass	6	9	0	0	2	3
Fine crystal	12	19	3	5	6	9
Other crystal	12	19	2	3	2	3
Average glass	39	61	0	0	4	6
Table covers	45	70	0	0	6	9

Results show that only stainless steel, average glass, and table covers were used soon after marriage by 50 per cent or more of the homemakers; sterling silver, fine china and fine crystal, which represent the greatest investment of money, have been used by 39 per cent or less of the homemakers.

One homemaker, married ten years, reported that she had never used nor expected to use her sterling silver because she has changed her style in house plan, design and furnishings as well as her mode of living.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the study show that selections of table appointments probably will continue to be made by the teenage brides themselves.

Data concerning hypothesis I, "Selection of table appointments by the teenage bride is influenced by her mother, who does so as a status symbol" indicated the following conclusions:

1. A study of the selections made according to the mother's occupation, show that the occupation had no influence either on the type of appointments chosen or on the number who had made choices of all types.
2. The type of table appointment chosen was not consistent with the father's occupation. The brides, whose fathers were professional men, had made fewer choices of table appointments than the brides whose fathers were business and farm owners.
3. The mother and "no one" (who is the bride herself) are the two major influential factors affecting the selection of table appointments by teenage brides. Assuming that the bride made her own choices raises the question of influence of advertising in magazines, news papers, store displays, or television and radio on her choices.

Hypothesis II, "The young couple does not use the selections immediately after marriage" deals with how the selections chosen meets the needs of the young couple. Results indicate the conclusion that the teenage brides may not be getting the full use from their selections because of the lack

of use, with the exception of stainless steel and average glass.

Results of findings for hypothesis III, "The selections are made without sufficient thought for immediate use, their care, and the replacement of pieces of table appointments", reveal that the teenage brides considered the use, care and cost of replacements. The extent and understanding of the brides about these items require further study.

Results of findings concerning hypothesis IV, "The teenage bride made her selections just before marriage primarily to meet the need for gift suggestions", prove this statement untrue because the majority of the teenage brides have not made their selections of all table appointments. The conclusion would be that selections are made gradually with various table appointments chosen at different times.

Hypothesis V, "After table appointments are acquired, they are stored", is supported by the findings of this study. The majority of the teenage brides have a portion of their selections stored in boxes and kept with them. There is no indication that the selections were removed from the boxes and used.

Conclusions derived from comparisons of the teenage bride of 1961 with the homemaker who was a bride up to a decade ago reveal that:

1. the teenage bride of 1961 is giving more thought to care and use of table appointment selections as well as cost of replacements and choice of open stock patterns than did the homemaker.
2. mother was not as influential a decade ago as she is in 1961 in affecting a bride's selection of table appointments.
3. the bride a decade ago may not have used her selections sufficiently to justify the investment; the teenage bride reports plans for use comparable to that reported by the older group.

Recommendations are that:

1. the findings from this study could be used in teaching units on management, consumer education, and family living to 4-H clubs and to home demonstration clubs in the five counties where the data were collected;
2. the findings be written in a popular style and published in a farm magazine;
3. some instrument be developed which would assist the teenage bride, as well as all brides and consumers, in decision making;
4. these weaknesses of this study be recognized:

the participants were not given a list of descriptive definitions for the terms used;

in an effort to write the questions in terms understandable by teenagers, standard terms were not used and may have been confusing to both the participants and the one who administered the questionnaire;

a pilot study was not made from which the high school homemaking teacher or counselor could derive definite instructions for administering the instrument;

the questionnaire was simplified to the extent that some data are of questionable significance.

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LIST OF REFERENCES

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APPENDIX

**LIST OF COUNTIES PARTICIPATING
AND NUMBER OF HOMEMAKERS**

1.	Lubbock County	15 homemakers
2.	Lamb County	7 homemakers
3.	Cochran County	18 homemakers
4.	Terry County	11 homemakers
5.	Hockley County	13 homemakers

LIST OF HIGH SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING

1. **Levelland High School, Levelland, Texas**
2. **Monterey High School, Lubbock, Texas**
3. **Lubbock High School, Lubbock, Texas**
4. **Pep High School, Pep, Texas**
5. **Sundown High School, Sundown, Texas**
6. **Sudan High School, Sudan, Texas**
7. **Morton High School, Morton, Texas**
8. **Brownfield High School, Brownfield, Texas**
9. **Olton High School, Olton, Texas**
10. **Idalou High School, Idalou, Texas**
11. **Ropesville High School, Ropesville, Texas**
12. **Whiteface High School, Whiteface, Texas**
13. **Anton High School, Anton, Texas**

Court House Annex
Levelland, Texas
November 1, 1961

Dear Superintendent:

I am making a study of the attitudes and practices of young homemakers in the selections they make of their first household purchases. I am making this study in an effort to find the answers to the following questions:

1. Does the young homemaker give sufficient thought to her first purchases?
2. Who influences these purchases?
3. Are her selections sound economic investments, usable and satisfying?

I plan to collect this information by means of check forms from Junior and Senior high school girls who plan to marry this school year--1961--1962.

I would like your permission to send 25 copies of the check sheet to your high school homemaking instructors and counselors for their assistance in getting the check sheet filled in. It will require approximately 15 minutes for the girls to fill in the check sheets.

The results of this study will be made available to the Home Economics instructors and counselors for their use in teaching and counseling with high school girls.

A stamped self addressed envelope is enclosed. I would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours very truly

Jewel P. Robinson

JPR:tk
encl.

Levelland, Texas
Court House Annex
January 12, 1962

Dear Homemaking Instructors and Counselors:

I am making a study of the attitudes and practices of young homemakers in the selection and use of china, glassware, silverware and table covers in the home. I am making this study in an effort to find the answers to the following questions:

1. Do the girls give sufficient thought to china, silver, glassware and table covers so that the four are comparable?
2. Who influences their selections?
3. What factors influence their selections?
4. Are the selections useable, economical, and satisfying to the individual?

I plan to collect the information for this study by means of check sheets for junior and senior high school girls who are planning to be married this school year — 1961-62. Would you help me by asking the junior and senior girls in your high school, who marry, or plan to be married this year, to fill out one of the enclosed check sheets? I have permission from your superintendent to contact you.

The results of this study will be made available to you for use in teaching and counseling with high school girls. The girls names, nor yours, will appear in the report and all reports will be treated confidentially.

I shall appreciate, as soon as convenient and preferably not later than March 1st, your efforts in getting the survey forms filled out and returned to me. For your convenience a self addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely

Jewel P. Robinson

JPR:tk
encl.

Court House Annex
Levelland, Texas
March 28, 1962

Dear Homemaking Instructor:

To date a large number of the check sheets on Selection of Table Appointments by Teenage Brides classed as juniors or seniors in high school, have been returned. I know I am overly anxious to receive these check sheets from all schools and I know, too, that you are a very busy person with many demands on your time.

I would appreciate so very much having the check sheets as soon as possible. In case you do not have any junior or senior girls in your high school planning to be married or already married, would you please return the blank sheets? This will enable me to request assistance from another school.

I do appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely

Jewel P. Robinson

JPR:tk

Court House Annex
Levelland, Texas
May 18, 1961

Dear Homemaker:

I am making a study of the selections brides and brides-to-be make in silver, china, glassware and table covers. I am making this study to find the answer to the following questions:

1. Do girls give sufficient thought to china, silver, glassware and table covers, so that the four are comparable?
2. Who influences their selections?
3. What factors influence their selections?
4. Are the selections useful, economical, and satisfying to the individual?
5. Could I, as a home economist, offer training that would be helpful to the girls in making their selections?

I plan to collect this information by means of a survey form from one hundred homemakers who have been married over three years. Your name will never appear in the report, and all reports will be treated confidentially.

I will appreciate your filling out the enclosed survey form and returning it to me in the enclosed envelope by May 1, 1962. Should this letter be delayed in reaching you, will you please send your response at your earliest convenience?

Thank you so much for your assistance in this study.

Sincerely

Jewel P. Robinson

JPR:tk

CHECK SHEET ON

SELECTION OF TABLE APPOINTMENTS

By Junior and Senior High School Girls

PART I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. What is your age?
 - 15 to 17 years of age _____
 - 18 to 20 years of age _____
 - 20 and above _____
2. How many children are there in your family?
 - Number of brothers _____
 - Number of sisters _____
3. Is your mother living? Yes _____ No _____
4. Is your father living? Yes _____ No _____
5. Do your parents own their home? Yes _____ No _____
6. Does your family have outside help in the home? Yes _____ No _____
7. Do you help with family meal plans? Yes _____ No _____
8. Do you help with family meal preparation? Yes _____ No _____
9. Do you help with house cleaning, other than your own room? Yes _____ No _____
10. Which meals each day does your family eat together?
 - Breakfast _____
 - Lunch _____
 - Dinner _____
 - None _____
11. If not each day, does your family eat meals together?
 - Frequently _____
 - Occasionally _____
 - Seldom _____
12. What is your father's occupation? _____
13. Does your mother work outside the home? Yes _____ No _____
14. What is your mother's occupation? _____

PART II. FACTORS INFLUENCING THE SELECTION OF SILVER, CHINA, GLASSWARE AND TABLE COVERS

15. When did you choose your	At graduation	Just before marriage	Not yet chosen
a. Fine china	_____	_____	_____
b. Casual china	_____	_____	_____
c. Stoneware	_____	_____	_____
d. Pottery	_____	_____	_____
e. Sterling	_____	_____	_____
f. Plate silver	_____	_____	_____
g. Stainless steel	_____	_____	_____
h. Cut glass	_____	_____	_____
i. Fine crystal	_____	_____	_____
j. Other crystal	_____	_____	_____
k. Average glass	_____	_____	_____

16. How do you describe the pattern that you chose? (Check)

	Very ornate	Ornate	Plain
a. Fine china			
b. Casual china			
c. Stoneware			
d. Pottery			
e. Sterling			
f. Plate silver			
g. Stainless steel			
h. Cut glass			
i. Fine crystal			
j. Other crystal			
k. Average glass			
l. Table cloths			
m. Place mats			

17. How do you expect to use? (Check.)

	Every day	Occasionally	Frequently
a. Fine china			
b. Casual china			
c. Stoneware			
d. Pottery			
e. Sterling			
f. Plate silver			
g. Stainless steel			
h. Cut glass			
i. Fine crystal			
j. Other crystal			
k. Average glass			
l. Table cloths			
m. Place mats			
n. Others			

18. Did you choose open stock? (Check.)

	Yes	No
a. Fine china		
b. Casual china		
c. Storeware		
d. Pottery		
e. Sterling		
f. Plate silver		
g. Stainless steel		
h. Cut glass		
i. Fine crystal		
j. Other crystal		
k. Average glass		

19. If you do not plan to use immediately, where do you plan to store 64
(Check one.)

	Mother's	Mother-in-law	Boxes with you	Other
a. Fine china				
b. Casual china				
c. Stoneware				
d. Pottery				
e. Sterling				
f. Plate silver				
g. Stainless steel				
h. Cut glass				
i. Fine crystal				
j. Other crystal				
k. Average glass				
l. Table cloths				
m. Place mats				
n. Others				

20. Who influenced your selection of strling silver? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)
 Mother ___ Other relative ___ Gilr friend ___ H. E. teacher ___
 Other teacher ___ Neighbor ___ Mother's friend ___ H. D. agent ___
 Salesman ___ Other ___ No one ___.
21. Who influenced your selection of plate silver? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)
 Mother ___ Other relative ___ Girl friend ___ H. E. teacher ___
 Other teacher ___ Neighbor ___ Mother's friend ___ H. D. agent ___
 Salesman ___ Other ___ No one ___.
22. Who influenced your selection of stainless steel? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)
 Mother ___ Other relative ___ Girl friend ___ H. E. teacher ___
 Other teacher ___ Neighbor ___ Mother's friend ___ H. D. agent ___
 Salesman ___ Other ___ No one ___.
23. Who influenced your selection of cut glass? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)
 Mother ___ Other relative ___ Girl friend ___ H. E. teacher ___
 Other teacher ___ Neighbor ___ Mother's friend ___ H. D. agent ___
 Salesman ___ Other ___ No one ___.
24. Who influenced your selection of fine crystal? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)
 Mother ___ Other relative ___ Girl friend ___ H. E. teacher ___
 Other teacher ___ Neighbor ___ Mother's friend ___ H. D. agent ___
 Salesman ___ Other ___ No one ___.
25. Who influenced your selection of other crystal? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)
 Mother ___ Other relative ___ Girl friend ___ H. E. teacher ___
 Other teacher ___ Neighbor ___ Mother's friend ___ H. D. agent ___
 Salesman ___ Other ___ No one ___.
26. Who influenced your selection of good glass? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)
 Mother ___ Other relative ___ Girl friend ___ H. E. teacher ___
 Other teacher ___ Neighbor ___ Mother's friend ___ H. D. agent ___
 Salesman ___ Other ___ No one ___.

27. Who influenced your selection of fine china? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)
 Mother ____ Other relative ____ Girl friend ____ H. E. teacher ____
 Other teacher ____ Neighbor ____ Mother's friend ____ H. D. agent ____
 Salesman ____ Other ____ No one ____.
28. Who influenced your selection of casual china? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)
 Mother ____ Other relative ____ Girl friend ____ H. E. teacher ____
 Other teacher ____ Neighbor ____ Mother's friend ____ H. D. agent ____
 Salesman ____ Other ____ No one ____.
29. Who influenced your selection of stone ware? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)
 Mother ____ Other relative ____ Girl friend ____ H. E. teacher ____
 Other teacher ____ Neighbor ____ Mother's friend ____ H. D. agent ____
 Salesman ____ Other ____ No one ____.
30. Who influenced your selection of pottery? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)
 Mother ____ Other relative ____ Girl friend ____ H. E. teacher ____
 Other teacher ____ Neighbor ____ Mother's friend ____ H. D. agent ____
 Salesman ____ Other ____ No one ____.
31. Who influenced your selection of table covers? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)
 Mother ____ Other relative ____ Girl friend ____ H. E. teacher ____
 Other teacher ____ Neighbor ____ Mother's friend ____ H. D. agent ____

32. What influenced your selection the most? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)
 Because

	Care	Useful- ness	Beau- ty	friend or relative	Shower sugges- tion	Other
a. Fine china						
b. Casual china						
c. Stoneware						
d. Pottery						
e. Sterling						
f. Plate silver						
g. Stainless						
h. Cut glass						
i. Fine crystal						
j. Other crystal						
k. Average glass						
l. Table cloths						
m. Place mats						

33. Have you considered how your selections will fit in your home or apartment? Yes ____ No ____

34. How soon do you plan to use your selections?

- a. As soon as you are married? _____
- b. When you build a home? _____
- c. Other? _____
- d. Some time in the future, but time is indefinite? _____

35. Have you planned or considered cost of, or possibility of replacements? Yes _____ No _____

36. Have you considered the care of these items when you selected them?

	Yes	No
a. Silver _____		
b. China _____		
c. Glassware _____		
d. Table covers _____		

Your Name _____

Address _____

CHECK SHEET ON
SELECTION OF TABLE APPOINTMENTS

By Homemakers

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PART I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. How long have you been married?
 3 to 5 years _____
 6 to 10 years _____
 Over 10 years _____
2. How many children do you have
 None _____
 1 child _____
 2 children _____
 3 or more _____
3. Do you have out side help in your home? Yes _____ No _____
4. Do you own your home? Yes _____ No _____
5. Which meals each day does your family eat together?
 Breakfast _____
 Lunch _____
 Dinner _____
 None _____
6. If not each day, does your family eat meals together?
 Frequently _____
 Occassionally _____
 Seldom _____
7. What is your husband's occupation? _____
8. Do you work outside the home? Yes _____ No _____
9. If so, what is your occupation? _____

PART II. FACTORS INFLUENCING THE SELECTION OF SILVER, CHINA, GLASSWARE
AND TABLE COVERS

10. When did you choose your

	At graduation	Just before marriage	Not yet chosen	After married 1 to 3 years	Later
a. Fine china	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. Casual china	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. Stoneware	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
d. Pottery	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
e. Sterling	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
f. Plate silver	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
g. Stainless steel	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
h. Cut glass	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
i. Fine crystal	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
j. Other crystal	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
k. Average glass	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
l. Table covers	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
m. Place mats	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

11. How do you describe the pattern that you chose? (Check.)

	Very ornate	Ornate	Plain
a. Fine china			
b. Casual china			
c. Stoneware			
d. Pottery			
e. Sterling			
f. Plate silver			
g. Stainless steel			
h. Cut glass			
i. Fine crystal			
j. Other crystal			
k. Average glass			
l. Table covers			
m. Place mats			

12. How do you use your

	Every day	Occasionally	Sundays
a. Fine china			
b. Casual china			
c. Stoneware			
d. Pottery			
e. Sterling			
f. Plate silver			
g. Stainless steel			
h. Cut glass			
i. Fine crystal			
j. Other crystal			
k. Average glass			
l. Table covers			
m. Place mats			

13. Did you choose open stock?

	Yes	No
a. Fine china		
b. Casual china		
c. Stoneware		
d. Pottery		
e. Sterling		
f. Plate silver		
g. Stainless steel		
h. Cut glass		
i. Fine crystal		
j. Other crystal		
k. Average glass		

14. If you did not use immediately, where did you store:

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	Mother's	Mother-in-law	Boxes with you	Other
a. Fine china				
b. Casual china				
c. Stoneware				
d. Pottery				
e. Sterling				
f. Plate silver				
g. Stainless steel				
h. Cut glass				
i. Fine crystal				
j. Other crystal				
k. Average glass				
l. Table cloths				
m. Place mats				
n. Others				

15. Who influenced your selection of sterling silver? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)

Mother _____ Other relative _____ Girl friend _____ H. E. teacher _____
 Other teacher _____ Neighbor _____ Mother's friend _____ H. D. agent _____
 Salesman _____ Other _____ No one _____.

16. Who influenced your selection of plate silver? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)

Mother _____ Other relative _____ Girl friend _____ H. E. teacher _____
 Other teacher _____ Neighbor _____ Mother's friend _____ H. D. agent _____
 Salesman _____ Other _____ No one _____.

17. Who influenced your selection of stainless steel? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)

Mother _____ Other relative _____ Girl friend _____ H. E. teacher _____
 Other teacher _____ Neighbor _____ Mother's friend _____ H. D. agent _____
 Salesman _____ Other _____ No one _____.

18. Who influenced your selection of cut glass? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)

Mother _____ Other relative _____ Girl friend _____ H. E. teacher _____
 Other teacher _____ Neighbor _____ Mother's friend _____ H. D. agent _____
 Salesman _____ Other _____ No one _____.

19. Who influenced your selection of fine crystal? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)

Mother _____ Other relative _____ Girl friend _____ H. E. teacher _____
 Other teacher _____ Neighbor _____ Mother's friend _____ H. D. agent _____
 Salesman _____ Other _____ No one _____.

20. Who influenced your selection of other crystal? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)

Mother _____ Other relative _____ Girl friend _____ H. E. teacher _____
 Other teacher _____ Neighbor _____ Mother's friend _____ H. D. agent _____
 Salesman _____ Other _____ No one _____.

21. Who influenced your selection of good glass? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)

Mother _____ Other relative _____ Girl friend _____ H. E. teacher _____
 Other teacher _____ Neighbor _____ Mother's friend _____ H. D. agent _____
 Salesman _____ Other _____ No one _____.

22. Who influenced your selection of fine china? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)

Mother _____ Other relative _____ Girl friend _____ H. E. teacher _____
 Other teacher _____ Neighbor _____ Mother's friend _____ H. D. agent _____
 Salesman _____ Other _____ No one _____.

23. Who influenced your selection of casual china? (Check 1, 2 and 3.)
 Mother _____ Other relative _____ Girl friend _____ H. E. teacher _____
 Other teacher _____ Neighbor _____ Mother's friend _____ H. D. agent _____
 Salesman _____ Other _____ No one _____.
24. Who influenced your selection of stoneware? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)
 Mother _____ Other relative _____ Girl friend _____ H. E. teacher _____
 Other teacher _____ Neighbor _____ Mother's friend _____ H. D. agent _____
 Salesman _____ Other _____ No one _____.
25. Who influenced your selection of pottery? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)
 Mother _____ Other relative _____ Girl friend _____ H. E. teacher _____
 Other teacher _____ Neighbor _____ Mother's friend _____ H. D. agent _____
 Salesman _____ Other _____ No one _____.
26. Who influenced your selection of table covers? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)
 Mother _____ Other relative _____ Girl friend _____ H. E. teacher _____
 Other teacher _____ Neighbor _____ Mother's friend _____ H. D. agent _____
 Salesman _____ Other _____ No one _____.
27. What influenced your selection the most? (Rate 1, 2 and 3.)

	Care	Useful- ness	-Beau- ty	Because of friend or relative	Shower sugges- tion	Other
a. Fine china						
b. Casual china						
c. Stoneware						
d. Pottery						
e. Sterling						
f. Plate silver						
g. Stainless steel						
h. Cut glass						
i. Fine crystal						
j. Other crystal						
k. Average glass						
l. Table covers						
m. Place mats						

Yes No

28. Did you consider how your selections would fit in your home or apartment when first chosen? _____

	Soon after marriage	When home was built	Other
a. Fine china _____			
b. Casual china _____			
c. Stoneware _____			
d. Pottery _____			
e. Sterling _____			
f. Plate silver _____			
g. Stainless _____			
h. Cut glass _____			
i. Fine crystal _____			
j. Other crystal _____			
k. Average glass _____			
l. Table covers _____			

30. Did you consider the initial cost of, or replacement cost of selections? Yes _____ No _____

31. Did you consider the care of these items when you selected them?
 a. Silver or stainless _____
 b. China _____
 c. Glassware _____
 d. Table covers _____

32. Are your table covers stored so that they remain useable? Yes _____ No _____

33. Do you object to using table covers? Yes _____ No _____

34. If you do object, why?
 a. Too much trouble to change _____ c. Washing _____
 b. Ironing _____ d. Other _____

35. Do you use a table cloth, and eat on place mats? Yes _____ No _____

36. How many table cloths do you have? None _____ One _____ Two _____
 Three or more _____

37. What kind of table covers do you use every day?
 a. Linen _____ d. Other _____
 b. Crash _____ e. None _____

38. What kind of place mats do you use?
 a. Straw _____ d. Crash _____
 b. Linen _____ e. Other _____
 c. Plastic _____ f. None _____

Your Name _____

Address _____





























