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A STUDY OF HOUSING FACILITIES AS THEY CONTRIBUTE  
TO HOME RECREATION

by

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

A study of the various housing facilities in the homes of forty-six high school freshmen girls of fourteen and fifteen years of age in three rural-town high schools of Guilford County and their contribution to home recreation was made.

Due to her background and experience the investigator was interested in making a study of teen age girl's recreation and housing facilities. As a rural youth the investigator found that much of her recreation was dependent on the family, her friends who lived near by, and the facilities which were available at home. As her parents were aware of this, recreational equipment was provided and the house could be used for entertaining at all times, however, she was keenly aware of situations in the homes of friends who were not allowed freedom in the use of their house for recreation.

This problem was even more apparent to the investigator during three years of working with North Carolina Extension Service. The teenagers complained of little to do at home due to lack of play equipment and freedom in use of the house. Interest having been stimulated from youth, in the problem this was a natural subject to select for a thesis study.

The study was made in three schools in Guilford County, which is one of the wealthier counties of North Carolina. The schools selected were Bessemer, Guilford College, and Sumner, each of which is considered a rural-town school.



who were taking first year home economics. The investigator explained her interest in the data, then she read the questionnaire aloud while the girls checked or filled in the blanks as necessary. Time was allowed for the pupils to ask questions and review their answers.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A review of literature reveals few studies directly related to this study. However, some references did provide helpful information on recreation and its effect on the individual and the family, the need for recreation in the home and adequate facilities for home recreation.

Trilling and Nicholas offer a constructive concept of recreation and three tests of good recreation:

Recreation is a release from work, a stimulation, an outlet for personal expression. It brings the variety to life which is a relief from the monotony of work, and no matter how much one likes his work, continued work with no cessation does result in monotony. Recreation in the true sense of the word brings release from too much physical strain, from mental stress and worry, and restores vigor, mental, physical and moral.

The type of recreation which one needs depends upon personal interests and the type of work one does. The person who leads a sedentary life needs physical exercise, the person who works at manual labor needs other kinds of recreation, reading, theatre, music. . . . .

The first test of good recreation is whether it offers variety to the life of the individual. The second test is whether the individual is vitally interested in it. . . . . The third test of recreation is whether it is in any way injurious to the individual.<sup>1</sup>

Neumeyer and Neumeyer also recognize the effect of recreation on personality:

Personality growth can be brought about by play and recreation. If the chief value of life is a well balanced and an enriched personality functioning usefully in wholesome cooperative living together with an environment that makes abundant living possible,

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1. Mabel B. Trilling, and Florence Williams Nicholas, The Girl and Her Home. New York: Houghton-Mifflin Co., 1932, pp. 305-306.

then it is evident that leisure can contribute much to make its achievement possible. Play and recreation, in particular, contribute to the growth of personality.

That leisure pursuits affect the physical condition of a person, stimulate his mental and emotional life, motivate him to action, develop character, and aid in the acquisition of skills have long been recognized, but few objective studies have been made to measure the exact relationship.<sup>2</sup>

Neumeyer and Neumeyer recognize the value of home recreation:

The home was one of the first institutions around which play and recreation activities were organized. . . . Through genuine and wholehearted participation in home play activities, parents and children come to know each other and a foundation for a happy relationship is laid, which is the greatest protection against future stress. . . .

The home is the natural institution for play. It offers the best opportunity for such expression. Here children learn to do things through their play, and no child should be deprived of the benefits that accrue from it. Play is the business of childhood. . . . United family recreation makes home life colorful, alluring and happy.<sup>3</sup>

Wrenn and Harley feel that the home is an important recreation center and that life time recreation habits stem from memories of childhood participation in family recreation:

The home used to be the center of most of the recreational life of all members of the family. It is still through the home that the recreational interests and activities of youth receives their early direction. The home has youth longer each day than any other agency has; and despite the growth of professional services in the care and education of young people, parents are still very influential individuals in the lives of their children. If youth are to learn how to spend their leisure wisely when they become adults, there can hardly be a stronger influence in shaping the pattern of their life-time recreational interests than memories of pleasant hours at home. We should begin at the "source" of youth's daily life and give encouragement

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2. Martin H. Neumeyer and Esther S. Neumeyer, Leisure and Recreation. New York: A. S. Barnes and Co., 1949, p. 152.

3. Ibid., pp. 350-351.

and direction to family leisure-time activities.<sup>4</sup>

Trilling and Nicholas interpret a slogan used by the National Recreation Association during campaigns to provide home play as follows:

The family that plays together stays together. We can interpret this to mean that the family which spends some of its leisure hours in playing games together, going on vacations together, and in picnicking, swimming, riding, or hiking together, will form stronger bonds of comradeship.<sup>5</sup>

Wrenn and Harley realize that facilities are not adequate for recreation in all homes and stress the importance of improving facilities for home recreation as follows:

It is true that the small amount of spare room in many houses is a serious hindrance to their use for recreational purposes. In planning new homes we must be careful to keep leisure needs in mind. Meanwhile, we should do all that we can with the means already available in order to strengthen the part the home can play in the recreational lives of our young people.<sup>6</sup>

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4. C. G. Wrenn and D. L. Harley, Time On Their Hands. American Council on Education, 1941, pp. 12.

5. Ibid., pp. 350.

6. Ibid., pp. 13.

## CHAPTER III

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The investigator was interested in knowing (1) the ages of the girls; (2) the occupation of fathers and mothers; (3) the persons living in the houses; and (4) how much time the girls spent away from home during the week before the questionnaire was answered.

#### Age of Girls

Of the forty-six girls who answered the questionnaire twenty-eight were fourteen years of age, and seventeen were fifteen (Table 1). One girl, nineteen years old, was a senior taking first year home economics as an elective.

#### Occupation of Fathers and Mothers

The girls reported a variety of occupations for their fathers. Textile workers and building industry workers were more prevalent than any other type (Table 2).

The occupations of the mothers were not so varied; twenty-three housewives; eight textile workers; four clerks; three office workers; two domestic workers; two teachers; and one cafe manager (Table 3).

#### Persons in the Home

There were thirty-eight of the fathers living at home (Table 4). Six fathers were deceased, one worked in Baltimore, and one did not live with the family. Forty-five of the mothers lived at home; the other one is deceased. Eighteen girls had older brothers while twenty-six had younger brothers and seven had both older and younger brothers at home.

TABLE 1

## AGE OF GIRLS

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College,  
and 15 at Sumner)

Age of Girls	Number of girls			
	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
14 years	11	6	11	28
15 years	6	7	4	17
19 years	-	1	-	1

TABLE 2

## OCCUPATIONS OF FATHERS

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College,  
and 15 at Sumner)

Occupations of fathers	Number of girls			
	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
Textile workers				
Cotton mill workers	3	1	1	5
Knitter	1	1	1	3
Mock Judson foreman at night	-	-	1	1
Weaver	-	-	1	1
Dyer	-	-	1	1
Building Industry				
Lumber products	1	-	-	1
Carpenter	-	-	1	1
Steel worker				
Baltimore, Maryland	1	-	-	1
Masonry contractor	1	-	-	1
Mechanical engineer	-	-	1	1
Painter	-	1	-	1
Roofing	-	1	-	1
Construction worker	-	1	-	1
Contractor	2	-	-	2
Railroad employee				
Brakeman	1	1	-	2
Expressman	-	-	1	1
Agriculture				
Farmer	-	-	1	1
Dairy farmer	-	1	-	1
Butcher	-	-	2	2
Service manager of garage	1	-	-	1
Truck driver	1	-	-	1
Salesman	1	-	-	1
Service station manager	1	-	-	1
Cardboard box industry	1	-	-	1
Plumbing superintendent	1	-	-	1
Dairy employee	-	1	-	1

TABLE 2 (continued)

## OCCUPATIONS OF FATHERS

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College,  
and 15 at Sumner)

Occupation of fathers	Number of girls			
	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
Elevator installer	-	-	1	1
Cafe manager	-	1	-	1
Oxygen company superintendent	-	-	1	1
Minister	-	-	1	1
Total	16	9	14	39*

\* 6 fathers were deceased, 1 girl reported no job for father



TABLE 3

## OCCUPATIONS OF MOTHERS

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College,  
and 15 at Sumner)

Occupations of mothers	Number of girls			
	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
Housewife	7	10	8	23
Textile worker	5	1	2	8
Office worker	2	-	1	3
Domestic worker	-	1	1	2
Clerk	3	1	-	4
Cafe manager	-	1	-	1
Teacher	-	-	2	2
Total	17	14	14	45*

\* 1 mother was deceased

TABLE 4

## PERSONS LIVING IN THE HOME

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Persons living in the home	Number of girls			
	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
Father	14	11	13	38*
Mother	17	14	14	45**
Brothers only				
Older	5	6	7	18
Younger	11	10	5	26
Older and younger	3	3	1	7
Sisters only				
Older	4	1	3	8
Younger	8	8	6	22
Older and younger	1	-	-	1
Twin	-	-	1	1
Brothers and sisters	9	8	8	25
Grandfather	1	1	-	2
Grandmother	2	2	-	4
Uncle	3	1	-	4
Aunt	2	1	-	3
Cousin	1	1	-	2
Niece or nephew	-	1	1	2
Great Uncle	-	-	1	1

\* 6 fathers were deceased, 1 worked in Baltimore, and 1 did not live with the family but was a textile worker

\*\* 1 mother was deceased

Eight girls had older sisters, twenty-two had younger sisters, one had both older and younger sisters, and one was a twin. Twenty-five girls had both brothers and sisters at home.

Only nine families had relatives who lived with them: one family had a grandmother, grandfather, aunt and uncle; two families had an aunt, uncle, and cousin; one family had a grandmother and uncle; one family had a grandfather and grandmother; two families had a niece or nephew; one family had a grandmother; and one family had a great uncle.

The Hours Spent Away From Home During the Week  
Before the Questionnaire Was Answered

Social activities kept more girls away from home than any other activity. Fifty per cent of the girls were away from one to five hours; about thirty per cent, from six to ten hours; about twenty per cent, from eleven to twenty-five hours (Table 5).

Church activities kept seventy-two per cent of the girls away from home from one to five hours; fifteen per cent from six to ten hours,

Working for pay kept about twenty-five per cent of the girls away from home from one to five hours; fourteen per cent from six to fifteen hours.

School activities kept eighteen per cent of the girls away from home from one to five hours; two per cent from six to ten hours.

TABLE 5

## HOURS SPENT AWAY FROM HOME LAST WEEK

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Hours spent away from home:	Number of girls				Per cent of girls			
	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
In social activities								
None	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	7	9	7	23	41	65	47	50
6 - 10	5	3	5	13	29	21	33	28
11 - 15	1	1	3	5	6	7	20	11
16 - 20	3	1	-	4	18	7	-	9
21 - 25	1	-	-	1	6	-	-	2
Total	17	14	15	46	100	100	100	100
In church activities								
None	1	5	-	6	6	36	-	13
1 - 5	12	7	14	33	71	50	93	72
6 - 10	4	2	1	7	23	14	7	15
Total	17	14	15	46	100	100	100	100
In working for pay								
None	7	10	12	29	41	72	80	63
1 - 5	7	1	3	11	41	7	20	23
6 - 10	2	1	-	3	12	7	-	7
11 - 15	1	2	-	3	6	14	-	7
Total	17	14	15	46	100	100	100	100

TABLE 5 (continued)

## HOURS SPENT AWAY FROM HOME LAST WEEK

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Hours spent away from home:	Number of girls				Per cent of girls			
	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
In school activities								
None	15	9	13	37	88	64	87	80
1 - 5	2	4	2	8	12	29	13	18
6 - 10	-	1	-	1	-	7	-	2
Total	17	14	15	46	100	100	100	100

## CHAPTER IV

### THE GIRLS' HOME RECREATION

The investigator wanted to know the most outstanding recreation the girls participated in last year and all of the recreation which they enjoyed last week.

#### High And Low Spots In The Girls' Home Recreation Last Year

The girls were asked to state (1) what was the most fun of anything they did last year giving reasons for enjoying it; (2) to tell what they planned, if anything, which ended in a "flop" giving the reasons why it was a "flop."

#### The Most Fun of Anything Done Last Year

The girls mentioned parties more frequently than anything else (Table 6). Dates, friendly visits, and outdoor activities were also mentioned.

Surprisingly, working with the family was mentioned by three girls.

The reasons stated for enjoyment of parties, dates, and friendly visits almost all had to do with being with friends who enjoyed the same activities. The girls enjoyed working with the family as they felt that they accomplished something worthwhile and liked being together as a family.

TABLE 6

THE MOST FUN OF ANYTHING DONE LAST YEAR  
AND THE REASONS FOR ENJOYING IT

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Most fun of anything done at home last year	Reasons* for enjoyment
Parties:	
I went to a New Year's Eve Party (2)	<p>"I had fun because I could enjoy myself with a group of girls and boys my own age or a little older because they liked to do the same things I wanted and liked to do. I enjoyed it because there was a gang and we played ping pong, shuffle board, wink and many other games and of course we had delicious refreshments."</p> <p>"All my friends were there and when twelve o'clock came we raced car motors, shot guns and shouted."</p>
Gave a Hallow'een Party (2)	<p>"All my friends and younger brothers and sisters' friends came and we went out for a little while in a group then came back home for refreshments."</p> <p>"All of my friends were there and we played games and danced."</p>
<p>Christmas party when all our Youth Fellowship went caroling to people who were sick in bed. We took a basket of food to a colored family (1)</p>	<p>"I think our caroling made those people feel better. We gave the food to a family who needed food very much."</p>

TABLE 6 (continued)

THE MOST FUN OF ANYTHING DONE LAST YEAR  
AND THE REASONS FOR ENJOYING IT

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Most fun of anything done at  
home last year

Reasons\*for enjoyment

Some of my friends and I went  
riding to see Christmas Dec-  
orations Christmas Eve, then  
came home for games and  
refreshments (1)

"I was with some of my closest friends. We cut up and  
did a couple of crazy pranks. We acted very childish."

Had a birthday party for a  
friend (1)

"She was surprised. We played several games and the  
party seemed a success."

I had a party on my birthday (1)

"I enjoyed it because everyone I invited came. Every-  
one seemed to have a nice time. They all cooperated  
in the games we played. We went walking and had  
refreshments. The party broke up about 11:00."

Parties (4)

"It was with the family and we always have a lot of fun  
doing things together and all my friends were at the  
party."

"Most all of my friends were there. We played funny  
games and all the girls took part in each thing and  
had something humorous to say."

"It was fun being with other people."

"We played games and all our friends were there and  
I was with the boy I like."



TABLE 6 (continued)

THE MOST FUN OF ANYTHING DONE LAST YEAR  
AND THE REASONS FOR ENJOYING IT

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Most fun of anything done at home last year	Reasons* for enjoyment
Pajama party (2)	<p>"It was with my friends. We played records and had a good time."</p> <p>"I was with my friends. I had a good time because I think that it is fun to be with my friends and discuss different things."</p>
Class party (1)	<p>"All the boys and girls there were about my age and that makes a party more fun."</p>
Party for B. T. U. class (1)	<p>"It was something that brought us together to have a good time and have a fellowship with one another."</p>
Dates and friendly visits:	
New Year's my date and I watched television (1)	<p>"It was something different. I hadn't done it before."</p>
Friendly get together at night (1)	<p>"I like to be with my friends and dance, talk and different things."</p>
Girl friends spending night with me	<p>"I liked having my girl friends over to spend the night so that we could discuss our problems together."</p>

TABLE 6 (continued)

THE MOST FUN OF ANYTHING DONE LAST YEAR  
AND THE REASONS FOR ENJOYING IT

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Most fun of anything done at  
home last year

Reasons\*for enjoyment

Girl friends dropping by  
after school (1)

"When girl friends drop in after school we could  
discuss our days events."

A girl friend came over at  
my house one Sunday and we  
cooked dinner (1)

"We did it ourselves and it turned out very good."

When my girl friend came to  
my house last summer, we  
baked a cake, then took a  
hose and put water on each  
other, then we lay out in  
the sun (1)

"My girl friend is very much fun and it was fun  
cooking and eating our cake we baked."

Outdoor Activities

"Several friends came and we had a very nice time play-  
ing games and talking."

Weiner roast (5)

"I like to be with my friends and dance, talk, and  
different things."

"It is so much fun to be with my family doing recrea-  
tional things. I enjoyed it because we all worked  
together and played together."

"I was in a crowd that I liked very much." (2)

TABLE 6 (continued)

THE MOST FUN OF ANYTHING DONE LAST YEAR  
AND THE REASONS FOR ENJOYING IT

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Most fun of anything done at home last year	Reasons* for enjoyment
Riding horseback (1)	"Horseback riding is my favorite pastime."
Playing croquet with my sister and friends (1)	"I like to play croquet and I think it is fun."
Two girl friends came home with me from church and we played basketball (1)	"It was something interesting to do and it was summer so we wanted to play out of doors."
Five friends and I had a watermelon slicing (1)	"It was fun and there weren't many people there. Everyone had a good time playing games."
We had a picnic with all my cousins, aunts and uncles (1)	"I got to see all of them."
Working:	
I stayed home and helped in tobacco crop (1)	"I enjoyed working in tobacco because it is a job you can feel like is worth while after a hard day's work."
Working in father's cafe	"I was helping my father and mother."
Family working and showing cooperation	"It was a lot of fun for all of us."

\* Direct quotations

### Recreation Planned Which Ended In A Flop

The girls mentioned parties more frequently than anything else (Table 7). Outdoor activities, cooking, and friendly visits were also mentioned.

The reasons stated for parties being a "flop" included: "no one came because the boy who had the car couldn't get it on account of his brothers, therefore, there was no way for them to get there. Out of fifteen invited only seven came. It was raining," "planned to have lots of friends and five could not come on account of sickness," "one or two people wanted to do all of the entertaining."

The reason visiting friends were not successful was, "had company to arrive unexpectedly."

The reason cooking was a "flop" was, "let cookies burn to a crisp because when Mrs. Hall screamed it was only a garden snake in her garbage can."

The reason outdoor activities were a "flop" was "rain."

### The Girls' Recreation Last Week

The girls were asked to state (1) what they did for recreation at home or at a friend's home last week, with whom they did it and where, (2) what they wanted to do last week for fun but did not do and why.

### Recreation The Girls Wanted But Did Not Have Last Week

Very few of the girls wanted to do something for fun last week which they did not do. One wanted to read and one wanted to play basketball, but had to study for exams (Table 8). Other things they wanted to do but they didn't were: have a party for brother's girl friend,

TABLE 7

RECREATION PLANNED WHICH ENDED IN A "FLOP" WITH  
REASONS FOR FAILURE

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Things planned for fun at home last  
year which ended in a "flop"

Reasons\* it was a failure

Parties:

I planned to have a party (2)

"No one came hardly because the boy who had the car  
couldn't get it on account of his brothers, therefore,  
there was no way for them to get there. Out of 15  
invited only 7 came. It was raining."

"Some of the girls didn't show up. Planned to have  
lots of friends and five could not come on account  
of sickness."

I was helping plan a party or  
rather planned on going to one (1)

"The boy I was with acted as though he was afraid to  
show any attention to me because he wanted to impress  
another girl at the party. That may not have been the  
cause but that was the impression that he gave me."

Birthday party for girl friend's  
boy friend (1)

"We invited ten people and only six came. Three boys  
and three girls. There were not enough people to  
have much fun."

I planned a Hallow'een party (1)

No reason

Planned a Valentine party

"One or two people wanted to do all of the entertaining."

TABLE 7 (continued)

RECREATION PLANNED WHICH ENDED IN A "FLOP" WITH  
REASONS FOR FAILURE

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Things planned for fun at home last  
year which ended in a "flop"

Reasons\*it was a failure

Outdoor Activities:

Weiner roast (5)

"When we were all set and some of the people were  
there we started to build a fire, the boys were  
bending the racks to roast them on when it started  
to rain. We all went into the house and did not  
have much fun."

"It rained." (3)

"People did not mix well and it was boring."

Class meeting planned to  
have a weiner roast

"People fussed too much, didn't have it."

Planned to go to park with  
some young people in Sunday  
School Class

"Best girl friend planned to go with me. I went by  
for her and she couldn't go. I didn't have any fun  
without her."

My twin sister and I planned to  
have a swimming party in our lake

"It rained."

We planned a picnic in the yard

"It grew cloudy and had to have it in the house."

Planned to go swimming at a  
friend's house

"I was sick."

TABLE 7 (continued)

RECREATION PLANNED WHICH ENDED IN A "FLOP" WITH  
REASONS FOR FAILURE

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Things planned for fun at home last  
year which ended in a "flop"

Reasons<sup>\*</sup> it was a failure

Cooking:

Jimmy came to my house and we  
made cookies (1)

"We let them burn to a crisp because when Mrs. Hall  
screamed it was only a garden snake in her  
garbage can."

Planned to make candy (1)

"It was a busy night and no one came."

Invited my friend to lunch  
and to play monopoly (1)

"The friend's cousin died and she had to stay with her  
smaller sister while her mother and father went to  
see the cousin."

Visit friends (1)

"Had company to arrive unexpectedly."

\* Direct quotations



TABLE 8

## THINGS WANTED TO DO FOR FUN LAST WEEK BUT DID NOT DO

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College,  
and 15 at Sumner)

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Things wanted to do for fun last week but did not do	Reason did not do it
Read	Had to study for exams
Play basketball	Had to study for exams
Have a party for brother's girl friend	He would not consent to it
Date	Mother objected
Visit a friend	Mother had to work
Invite a friend home	Brother had chicken pox
Go to a party	Had company
Go to movies	I was sick

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he would not consent to it; date, mother objected; visit a friend, mother had to work; invite a friend home, brother had chicken pox; go to a party, had company; go to the movies, was sick.

#### Recreation At Home Or At A Friend's Home Last Week

Living rooms and other social rooms were by far the most common place for recreation (Table 9). The most popular forms of recreation in these areas were: listening to the radio, reading, television, playing the piano, and playing cards and other table games; other forms were: singing, dancing, and club meetings.

The yard was the next most common place used for recreation. It was used chiefly for outdoor sports, but also for weiner roasts, badminton, and taking pictures. The kitchen was used for washing dishes and making candy. There was no explanation as to why the girl considered washing dishes as recreation. The bedroom was used by the girls for reading and listening to the radio.

The girls enjoyed recreation alone, with family members or with friends their own age more often than with mixed groups of all ages and sexes.

Reading alone and listening to the radio with the family or alone were by far the most common forms of recreation.

Outdoor sports with friends and with mixed groups were very common. Singing and card and other table games were also common forms of recreation enjoyed by the girls and their friends.

TABLE 9

RECREATION AT HOME OR AT A FRIEND'S HOME LAST WEEK,  
PERSONS WITH WHOM IT WAS DONE AND WHERE

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Recreation at home or at a friend's home last week	Reasons					Location									
	Alone	Family member	Friends own	Mixed age group*	All per- sons	Living room	Bed room	Den	Kit- chen	Dining room	Other rooms	Whole house	Yard	All locat- ions	
Listening to radio	13	27	5	4	49	18	6	2	3	1	Sitting room	-	-	31	
Reading	40	2	5	1	48	18	13	1	-	-	Study	-	-	33	
Television	3	9	4	4	20	14	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	18	
Playing piano	12	8	8	-	28	13	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	16	
Playing cards and other table games	-	10	15	10	35	12	-	1	1	2	Hall Base- ment	-	1	19	
Singing	7	9	12	6	34	7	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	12	
Dancing	2	6	6	3	17	5	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	8	
Club meetings	-	-	7	3	10	5	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	7	
Washing dishes	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	
Making candy	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	
Outdoor sports	2	3	15	11	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	21	
Weiner roasts	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	
Badminton	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Taking pictures	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Total	80	74	78	47	279	92	20	12	8	5	4	4	27	172**	

\* All ages and both sexes

\*\* One entire school did not indicate the particular room

## CHAPTER V

### THE FAMILY AND THE GIRLS' RECREATION

The investigator was interested in knowing (1) if the family liked to do things for fun together, (2) if the girls and their friends found the time to do things for fun together, (3) if the family liked for the girls to bring their friends home, (4) if the girls' friends and their family enjoyed doing things together, and (5) if there are any kinds of recreation to which the family objected.

More than ninety per cent of the girls and their families liked to do things for fun together and found the time to do so, liked for the girls to bring friends home, and liked to do things with the girls' friends (Table 10). Only about one fourth of the families objected to some of the kinds of recreation in which the girls might like to participate.

The families of the girls at Bessemer School had a greater variety of things that the family liked to do together, and more girls participated in the various activities (Table 11). Bessemer School families also had a greater variety of things to which the family objected and more girls whose families objected (Table 12). The girls at Bessemer School listed more types of recreation which the family and the girls' friends enjoyed doing together (Table 13).

The reasons given by the few families who failed to find time to do things for fun together all had to do with work (Table 14). "Mother works on second shift at textile plant," "Mother and father work during day and is nothing much to do for fun at night," "Have school work or

TABLE 10

## THE FAMILY AND THE GIRLS' RECREATION

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

The family and the girls' recreation	Number of girls				Per cent of girls			
	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
Family likes to do things for fun together	17	14	14	45	100	100	93	98
Family and girl find time to do things for fun together	15	13	14	42	88	93	93	91
Family likes for girl to bring friends into home	16	14	13	43	94	100	87	93
Girls' family and friends enjoy doing things together	17	13	14	44	100	93	93	96
Family objects to some kinds of recreation	8	2	2	12	47	14	13	26

TABLE 11

## ACTIVITIES THE FAMILY LIKES TO DO TOGETHER

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College,  
and 15 at Sumner)

Things family likes to do together	Number of girls			
	Bessemer	Guilford	Sumner	All
Things family likes to do for fun together				
Watch television	8	-	6	14
Play games	6	5	2	13
Play cards	6	-	2	8
Visit friends	2	2	2	6
Take out of town trips	2	2	2	6
Eat together	2	1	2	5
Play ball	2	1	-	3
Read	2	-	1	3
Weiner roast	2	-	-	2
Play fiddle sticks	1	1	-	2
Have friends over	2	-	-	2
Build things	1	-	-	1
Work puzzles	1	-	-	1
Go to schools	1	-	-	1

TABLE 12

## KINDS OF RECREATION TO WHICH FAMILIES OBJECT

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College,  
and 15 at Sumner)

Kinds of recreation to which families object	Number of girls			
	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
No Sunday movies	2	-	1	3
Dating, anyone	2	-	1	3
Going with friends out of town	3	-	-	3
No cards except author or rook	2	-	1	3
Drinking	1	-	-	1
Reading trashy books	1	-	-	1
Smoking	1	-	-	1
Dating persons parents do not know	-	1	-	1
Football	-	1	-	1
Parties	-	-	1	1
Dancing	-	-	1	1

TABLE 13

ACTIVITIES WHICH GIRLS' FRIENDS AND FAMILY  
ENJOY DOING TOGETHER

(High school freshmen girls; 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College,  
and 15 at Sumner)

Activities which girls' friends and family enjoy doing together	Number of girls			
	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
Play games	4	2	5	11
Watch television	5	1	4	10
Have parties	3	1	4	8
Have friends in to eat	4	2	1	7
Talk	2	1	4	7
Have ball games	1	4	2	7
Play cards	3	1	2	6
Picnics	2	2	2	6
Make candy	4	-	-	4
Weiner roasts	1	1	2	4
Swimming	-	1	3	4
Listen to radio	2	-	1	3
Play records	1	1	1	3
Supper for relatives	2	-	-	2
Have friends in for refreshments	1	-	1	2
Visiting with friends	-	1	1	2
Singing	-	1	1	2
Pop popcorn	1	-	-	1
Play self player piano	1	-	-	1
Dancing	-	1	-	1
Making ice cream	-	1	-	1
Hiking	-	1	-	1
Canasta	-	1	-	1
Fish fries	-	-	1	1
Play piano	-	-	1	1

TABLE 14

REASONS FAMILY DOES NOT FIND TIME TO DO THINGS  
FOR FUN TOGETHER

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College,  
and 15 at Sumner)

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---

Reasons family does not find time  
to do things for fun together

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Girl reported from

"Mother works on second shift at  
textile plant"

Bessemer

"Mother and father work during the  
day and is nothing much to do  
for fun at night"

Bessemer

"Have school work or other things  
to do"

Guilford College

"Stepfather works late and is  
often too tired to stay up.  
Mother has lots to do, a baby  
to look after and is not in  
good health"

Sumner

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other things to do," "Stepfather works late and is often too tired to stay up. Mother has lots to do, a baby to look after, and is not in good health."

The reasons given by the few families who did not encourage the girls to bring friends home were: "Mother, who is pregnant, is very sick and cannot talk or get excited." "Father works at night and sleeps in day; Mother works during day and sleeps at night." "Live with brother-in-law; he does not like us in his way and its no fun when he is fussy." (Table 15).

TABLE 15

REASONS WHY FAMILY DOES NOT ENCOURAGE  
GIRLS TO BRING FRIENDS HOME

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College,  
and 15 at Sumner)

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Reasons why family does not  
encourage girls to bring  
friends home

---

Girl reported from

"Mother, who is pregnant, is very  
sick and cannot talk or get  
excited"

Bessemer

"Father works at night and sleeps  
in day; mother works during day  
and sleeps at night"

Sumner

"Live with brother-in-law; he does  
not like us in his way and its  
no fun when he is fussy"

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Sumner

## CHAPTER VI

### THE GIRLS' HOUSES AND THEIR RECREATION

The investigator was interested in knowing (1) how well the houses and play equipment provided for fun for the family, for the family and the girls' friends together, and for the family and the girls' friends separately, as well as for seasonal entertaining; and (2) whether the houses had certain desirable facilities which might make it usable for recreation.

#### General Features About the Girls' Houses Which Affect Their Recreation

Eighty-three per cent or more of the girls had a room which invited the whole family to have fun together, a room for friends and family to have fun together, a room where the girl can get away from the family with friends her own age, and had indoor and outdoor play equipment that the family and/or friends were to enjoy (Table 16).

Eighty-seven per cent of the girls found it easier to entertain during the summer months while two per cent found it easier to entertain during the winter months. Eleven per cent stated it was equally easy to entertain during either season.

Among the communities, no consistent difference was noted.

#### Rooms Used for Recreation

Questions were asked to determine which rooms in the house invited the whole family to have fun together, provided a place for family and the girls' friends to have fun together, and which rooms were used

TABLE 16

## FEATURES ABOUT THE GIRLS' HOUSES WHICH AFFECT THEIR RECREATION

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Features about the girls' houses	Number of girls				Per cent of girls			
	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
Have room in house:								
Which invites whole family to have fun together	15	13	15	43	88	93	100	94
For family and girls' friends to use for fun together	13	11	14	38	76	79	93	83
Have a place where girls can get away from family with friends own age								
	15	14	12	41	88	100	80	89
Have play equipment, indoor or outdoor, that family and/or friends enjoy most								
	15	12	11	38	88	86	73	83
Find it easy to have company:								
In summer	12	14	14	40	71	100	93	87
In winter	1	-	1	1	-	-	7	2
Either season	5	-	-	5	29	-	-	11

when the girls wanted to be away from the family with friends their own age.

Rooms which invited the whole family to have fun together.

Only six per cent of the girls had no room which invited the family to have fun together (Table 16). About eighty per cent of the families used the living room for family fun. About ten per cent used the den; and two per cent each used the den and living room, and the porch and the dining room. Almost all of the houses provided adequately for family fun.

In stating the reason why the rooms were satisfactory for recreation the girls mentioned provision for activity oftener than physical characteristics of the room (Table 17).

Provision for activities made up three-fourths of the reasons. Some provision for activities which were mentioned in this section but not under play equipment have been transferred to the section on play equipment in order to give a better picture of the major recreational facilities.

Of the physical characteristics of rooms mentioned size was listed by fourteen girls, while comfort was mentioned by two. Each of the following characteristics was mentioned by one girl: homey, nothing to break, gay colors, good light, and easy chairs.

Rooms used by family and girls' friends for having fun together.

The houses provided less adequately for larger groups than for the family alone. About sixty per cent of the families used the living room for fun with the girls' friends (Table 18). Other rooms used for this purpose were: den, kitchen, bedroom, dining room, sun parlor and den, den

TABLE 17

## REASONS ROOMS WERE SATISFACTORY FOR GIRLS' RECREATION

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer,  
14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Reasons rooms were satisfactory	Living room	Dining room	Den	Porch	All
(Number of families)					
Provision for activities	56	13	3	-	72
Physical characteristics	18	2	-	1	21
Total	74	15	3	1	93*
(Per cent of families)					
Provision for activities	60	14	3	-	77
Physical characteristics	20	2	-	1	23
Total	80	16	3	1	100

\* Several of the girls mentioned more than one reason

TABLE 18

## ROOMS USED BY GIRLS FOR RECREATION

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Rooms used for recreation	Number of girls				Per cent of girls			
	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
Rooms which invite the whole family to have fun together								
Living room	12	11	13	36	70	86	87	80
Den	2	-	2	4	12	-	13	9
Den and living room	1	-	-	1	6	-	-	2
Porch	-	1	-	1	-	7	-	2
Dining room	-	1	-	1	-	7	-	2
None	2	-	-	2	12	-	-	5
Total	17	13	15	45*	100	100	100	100
Rooms for friends and family								
Living room	8	9	8	25	52	69	61	62
Den	1	-	2	3	7	-	15	7
Bedroom	1	-	-	1	7	-	-	2
Dining room	1	-	-	1	7	-	-	2
Kitchen	1	-	-	1	7	-	-	2
Sun parlor and den	-	1	-	1	-	8	-	2
Den and living room	1	-	1	2	7	-	8	5
Living room and kitchen	-	-	1	1	-	-	8	2
None	2	3	1	6	13	23	8	16
Total	15	13	13	41**	100	100	100	100

\* 1 girl gave no answer

\*\* 2 girls had such a room but did not name the room, 3 girls gave no answer



and living room, and living room and kitchen. Seventeen per cent had no room in which the girls' friends and family could have fun together.

Rooms used when girls wanted to be away from family with friends their own age. In forty-one of the forty-six families, the house provided separate spaces for the family and for the girls' friends, when the girls wanted to be away from the family with friends of their own age (Table 19).

In fifteen of the houses the separate spaces used by the family and by the girls' friends were social rooms: living room, den, sitting room, dining room, back room or hall. In other words the house had at least two rooms which could be classified as social rooms. In twenty-six of the houses, when there was apparently only one social room, either the family withdrew to the kitchen or a bedroom, or the girls and their friends withdrew to a bedroom.

In eighteen of the forty-six families, the girls and their friends used the bedroom when they wanted to be away from the family. In twelve of these cases the family was in the living room; in six cases, the family was in the dining room, another bedroom, kitchen, kitchen and another bedroom, or kitchen and living room. In fifteen of the families when the girls and their friends were using the living room, the family was in the den, dining room, bedroom, backroom, sitting room, or kitchen.

#### Play Equipment

The most popular play equipment was that used for active games and sports. Such equipment made up approximately fifty per cent of the play equipment used by the girls (Table 20). The most popular active games or sports were baseball, softball, and basketball.



TABLE 19

## PLACE WHERE GIRL AND FRIENDS CAN BE AWAY FROM FAMILY

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Rooms used by girls and friends*	Rooms used by family at this time										Total
	Living room	Den	Dining room	Back room	Sitting room	Living and hall	Living and kitchen	Kitchen	Kitchen and bed room	Bed room	
Bedroom	12	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	18
Living room	-	5	3	1	1	-	1	1	-	3	15
Den	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Den and living room	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Parlor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Upstairs or bedroom	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dining room or bedroom	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Living room or bedroom	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Total	15	6	5	1	1	1	2	2	3	5	41

\* 5 girls had no place where the girls and their friends could be away from the family

TABLE 20

## PLAY EQUIPMENT, INDOOR OR OUTDOOR FAMILY AND/OR FRIENDS ENJOY

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Play equipment, indoor or outdoor family and/or friends enjoy	Number of girls			
	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
Active games or outdoor sports				
Basketball	10	9	8	27
Baseball, gloves and bats	15	3	4	22
Softball	5	3	4	12
Balls not specified	2	3	1	6
Swing	1	3	1	5
Croquet	4	1	-	5
Football	2	-	1	3
Tennis	1	-	2	3
Ping Pong	3	-	-	3
Skates	-	1	1	2
Badminton	1	-	1	2
Swimming	-	-	1	1
Volleyball	-	-	1	1
Bicycle	-	1	-	1
Total	44	24	25	93
Audio-visual and rhythmic				
Radio	6	4	6	16
Piano	5	5	3	13
Television	6	2	4	12
Record player	2	3	-	5
Singing	1	1	-	2
Dancing	1	-	1	2
Square dancing	-	1	-	1
Movies	1	-	-	1
Total	22	16	14	52
Table and floor games				
Games, not specified	11	4	2	11
Cards	6	4	4	14
Monopoly	3	1	-	4
Checkers	1	-	2	3
Puzzles	1	2	-	3
Caroms	1	-	-	1
Card table	-	-	1	1
Dominoes	-	-	1	1
Jacks	-	-	1	1

TABLE 20 (continued)

## PLAY EQUIPMENT, INDOOR OR OUTDOOR, FAMILY AND/OR FRIENDS ENJOY

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College  
and 15 at Sumner)

Play equipment, indoor or outdoor, family and/or friends enjoy	Number of girls			
	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
<b>Table and floor games</b>				
Bingo	-	1	-	1
Fiddle sticks	-	1	-	1
Canasta	1	-	-	1
Total	24	13	11	48
<b>Miscellaneous</b>				
Talking	3	-	-	3
Books and book cases	1	1	-	2
Dolls	-	1	-	1
Telephone	1	-	-	1
Coloring books	-	1	-	1
Between meal snacks	1	-	-	1
Total	6	3	-	9

The next most common equipment mentioned was audio-visual and rhythmic which made up about twenty-five per cent of the equipment mentioned. Radio, television, and piano were most often mentioned.

Table and floor games made up almost twenty-five per cent of the play equipment which the girls enjoyed.

Other things mentioned were talking, dolls, telephone, books, coloring books, and between meal snacks.

The variety of equipment mentioned indicates the varying stages of maturity and interest of high school freshmen.

#### Seasonal Differences

For almost all of the girls summer was the season in which it was easier to have company. About twenty-one per cent mentioned the ability to do more things in summer; about seventeen per cent outdoor games; one girl making ice cream; and one swimming (Table 21).

Twenty per cent mentioned the warm and pleasant weather; twelve per cent not having to stay inside; and one girl no mud to track on the floor.

About one sixth of the girls mentioned the heating problem: inability to heat all rooms in winter, not needing to build fires, or have the stove up in winter.

Six per cent mentioned the influence of other persons: not worrying mother in summer and small children having colds in winter.

One girl mentioned the storage of play equipment in winter.

#### Characteristics of Houses

Many recent home improvements were reported. Eighty-five per cent of the houses had recently been painted (Table 22). Improvements

TABLE 21

## SEASON IN WHICH IT IS EASIER TO HAVE COMPANY

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Reasons* why it is easier to have company in summer:	Number of girls				Per cent of girls			
	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
Can do more things in summer	3	8	-	11	6	16	-	21
Have more outdoor games	2	-	7	9	4	-	14	17
Can make ice cream	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	2
Can go swimming	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	2
Warm and pleasant weather	2	4	4	10	4	8	8	20
Do not have to stay in house	2	-	4	6	4	-	8	12
No mud to track on floor	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	2
All rooms can not be heated	-	1	4	5	-	2	8	10
Do not have to build fires	1	1	-	2	2	2	-	4
Do not have to have stove up	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	2
Do not have to worry Mother	2	-	-	2	4	-	-	4
Small children have colds in winter	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	2
Things stored away in winter	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	2

\* Direct quotations

TABLE 22

## CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSE

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Characteristics of House	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
	Number of girls			
Home Improvements				
House recently painted	17	10	12	39
Living room fixed up recently with new:				
Pieces of furniture	14	11	13	38
Lamps	12	9	9	30
Rug	10	9	9	28
Paint and wallpaper	13	8	7	25
Curtains	8	8	7	23
Draperies	8	4	8	20
Slip covers	8	5	6	19
Blinds	4	-	-	4
Furniture in living room comfortable	17	14	14	45
Furniture arranged so can:				
Sit in a group and talk	17	12	15	44
Play games without much moving of furniture	14	9	14	37
Change radio programs easily	16	10	13	39
Gather around piano for group singing	6	5	5	16
Have a good light				
Whole room light enough	16	14	15	45
Special light:				
Where games are played	8	3	6	17
Where reading is done	16	10	15	41
Near radio and piano	11	5	10	26
Light bulbs not covered	7	6	9	22
Have storage space for:				

TABLE 22 (continued)

## CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSE

(High school freshmen girls; 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College,  
and 15 at Sumner)

Characteristics of House	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
	Number of girls			
Hanging company coats	14	11	11	36
Games	17	12	14	43
Records	12	5	11	28
Girl can get into her room without going through another bedroom	14	9	14	37
Have a bathroom	17	8	12	37
Members of family can get to it without being seen by company	11	5	9	25
Have a telephone	16	4	10	30
Located for privacy	11	1	5	17
Have a large porch that can be used for company	14	8	12	34
Porch screened	2	3	5	10
Have an outdoor grill or place to cook	4	6	4	14
	Per cent of girls			
Home Improvements				
House recently painted	100	71	80	85
Living room fixed up with new:				
Pieces of furniture	82	79	87	83
Lamps	71	64	60	65
Rug	59	64	60	61
Paint or wallpaper	77	58	47	60
Curtains	47	57	47	50
Draperies	47	36	53	43
Slip covers	47	36	40	41
Blinds	24	-	-	9



TABLE 22 (continued)

## CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSE

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College,  
and 15 at Sumner)

Characteristics of House	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
Per cent of girls				
Furniture in living room comfortable	100	100	93	98
Furniture arranged so can:				
Sit in a group and talk	100	86	100	96
Play games without much moving of furniture	82	64	93	80
Change radio programs easily	94	71	87	85
Gather around piano for group singing	35	36	33	35
Have good light				
Whole room light enough	94	100	100	98
Special light:				
Where games are played	47	21	40	37
Where reading is done	94	71	100	89
Near radio and piano	65	36	67	57
Light bulbs not covered	41	44	60	48
Have storage space for:				
Hanging company coats	82	79	73	78
Games	100	86	93	93
Records	71	36	73	61
Girls can get into their room without going through another bedroom	82	64	93	80
Have a bathroom	100	57	80	80
Members of family can get to it without being seen by company	65	36	60	53



TABLE 22 (continued)

## CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSE

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College,  
and 15 at Sumner)

Characteristics of House	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
	Per cent of girls			
Have a telephone	94	28	67	65
Located for privacy	65	7	33	37
Have a large porch that can be used for company	82	57	80	74
Porch screened	12	21	33	22
Have an outdoor grill or place to cook	24	44	27	30

made in the living room: eighty-three per cent purchased new furniture, fifty to seventy per cent had purchased new rugs, curtains, lamps, and painted or wallpapered; less than fifty per cent had purchased slip covers, blinds, and draperies.

Living room furniture was reported to be comfortable in ninety eight per cent of the homes.

Furniture arrangement was good for conversation, games, and radio programs in from eighty to ninety-six per cent of the homes. Only thirty-five per cent of the girls reported facilities for a group to gather around the piano for group singing.

Good light for the whole room was reported by ninety-eight per cent of the girls. There was good light for reading in eighty-nine per cent of the houses. The light was less satisfactory for playing games and for playing the piano and listening to the radio. About fifty per cent reported that they had light bulbs that were not covered.

Storage was good in the homes: ninety-three per cent had space for games, about eighty per cent had space for hanging company coats, and about sixty per cent had space for records.

The girls could get into their own rooms without going through another bedroom in eighty per cent of the homes.

Of the homes reported eighty per cent had a bathroom. About one half of the bathrooms were so located that members of the family could get to it without being seen by company.

A telephone was reported by sixty-five per cent of the girls but only about forty per cent were located for privacy.

A large porch that could be used for company was reported by three fourths of the girls but only about one fourth were screened.

An outdoor grill or place in the yard on which to cook was reported by only thirty per cent.

Girls' Use of the House for Recreation

All of the girls were allowed to use the kitchen to make candy and cookies and to use the yard for fun (Table 23). About ninety per cent of the girls were allowed to use the living room as they pleased.

TABLE 23

## GIRLS' USE OF HOUSE FOR RECREATION

(High school freshmen girls: 17 at Bessemer, 14 at Guilford College, and 15 at Sumner)

Girls' use of house for recreation	Number of girls				Per cent of girls			
	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All	Bessemer	Guilford College	Sumner	All
Girl allowed to use living room as please	16	11	14	41	94	78	93	89
Girl allowed to use kitchen								
To make candy	17	14	15	46	100	100	100	100
To make cookies	17	14	15	46	100	100	100	100
Girl can use yard for fun	17	14	15	46	100	100	100	100

## CHAPTER VII

### SUMMARY, FINDINGS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The girls who answered the questionnaire were from fourteen to fifteen years of age. A variety of occupations was reported for the fathers. Almost half of the mothers worked outside the home.

The majority of parents, that is, thirty-eight fathers and forty-five mothers, lived at home. Twenty-five girls had both brothers and sisters living at home. No girl was an only child. Only nine families had relatives who lived with them. The relatives included four grandmothers, two grandfathers, three aunts, four uncles, two nieces or nephews, two cousins, and one great uncle.

Activities which kept the girls away from home the week before the questionnaire was answered were: social, church and school activities, and working for pay.

#### The Girls' Home Recreation

In looking back over their last year's recreation the girls mentioned "parties" more often than anything else. They enjoyed being with friends who enjoyed the same activities.

The girls also mentioned "parties" as the kind of recreation which was most often a "flop," because friends could not attend for one reason or another.

In reporting last week's recreation the girls mentioned most often reading alone in the living room, listening to the radio with family or alone in the living room, and outdoor sports with friends and mixed groups.

Equipment seemed to be adequate for both indoor and outdoor recreation. The most popular kinds of recreational equipment were basketball and baseball, table and floor games, piano and radio and television.

Almost all of the girls found it much easier to have company in summer because of the possibility of more outdoor activities, the warm and pleasant weather, and the lack of necessity for heat. In fact heat was the major problem in recreation related to housing.

Houses seemed to be satisfactory for sixty per cent or more of the families in the following respects: recently painted, recent living room improvements, comfortable furniture well arranged for conversation and games and radio programs, light for the whole room and for reading, storage space for games and company coats and records, girls' bedroom located for privacy, having a bathroom and a telephone and a large porch.

Housing facilities were less adequate in the following respects: Diffused light or good light for games and radio and piano; privacy for telephone conversation and approach to the bathroom; screened porches and outdoor cooking facilities.

All of the girls were allowed freedom in the use of the kitchen and yard and about ninety per cent allowed freedom in the use of the living room.

Recommendations For Improving The Recreation  
of The Teen Age Girls Studied

The major housing problem connected with the recreation of these girls was the difficulty of entertaining in winter, due chiefly to the inadequacy of heating facilities. If central heating is impossible,

heat might be provided for each room separately by portable stoves. If two rooms could be heated - probably the kitchen and one other - the young people could use the kitchen for recreation while the family used the other room or vice versa. Dressing warmly for outdoor activities might also be a solution.

The girls of the families who objected to certain kinds of recreation might have to accept the family objections and plan recreation accordingly. However, if a group of parents and teen age youths could discuss recreation problems of youth possibly a mutual understanding could be reached.

The four families in which someone's work interfered with the families finding time to do things for fun together have not realized the importance of recreation in helping parents and children come to know each other and to have a mutual understanding. Perhaps a community program of an occasional "family night" would stimulate the families to find something they enjoy doing together.

The three girls who had no place big enough for the family and girls' friends to play together might be able to find indoor activities which require little movement and which could be done with the young folks sitting on the floor or they might be able to find outdoor activities which interest both the adults and the young people.

The three girls who were not encouraged to bring friends home because of illness, sleeping in shifts, and lack of interest on the part of relatives might be able to find quiet forms of recreation for themselves and their friends, certain places and times for entertaining their friends or might persuade the relatives to join in the fun.

High school teachers, home demonstration agents and other



community leaders should make it a point to study recreational problems with teen age youth, their parents, and other adults in the community and try to improve the situation.

#### Recommendations For Further Study

To throw more light on recreational problems, the investigator suggests the following:

1. A parallel study of the housing facilities, family attitudes, and recreation of families of different income levels. •
2. A parallel study of the housing facilities, family attitudes, and recreation of girls of different ages.
3. A more detailed study of those housing facilities and home improvements that are related to recreation including size of rooms and placement of furniture.
4. A study of the home recreation to determine which family members take the initiative in conducting and maintaining good recreation for the family.



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APPENDIX

## Home Recreation of High School Girls

Personal Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Age at nearest birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Name of school \_\_\_\_\_

Father's occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Who lives in your house?

Father \_\_\_\_\_

Mother \_\_\_\_\_

Number of brothers:

Number of sisters:

Older \_\_\_\_\_

Older \_\_\_\_\_

Younger \_\_\_\_\_

Younger \_\_\_\_\_

Others \_\_\_\_\_

How much time did you spend away from home last week?

Hours

a. In church activities

\_\_\_\_\_

b. In school activities

\_\_\_\_\_

c. In social activities

\_\_\_\_\_

d. Working for pay

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Recreation

What was the most fun of anything that you did at home last year?

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Why did you enjoy it?

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Did you plan anything at home for fun last year which ended in a "flop"?

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Why was it a "flop"?

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Your Family and Your Recreation

- a. Does your family like to do things for fun together? Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_. If your answer is yes, tell what your family does  
together.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Do you and your family find time to do things for fun together?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_. If your answer is no, tell why your family  
does not have time to do things together.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Does your family like for you to bring friends into your home?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_. If your answer is no, tell why your family  
does not encourage you to bring friends home.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Do your friends and your family enjoy doing things together?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_. If your answer is yes, list some of the  
activities your family and your friends enjoy doing together.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Are there any kinds of recreation to which your family object?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_. If your answer is yes, list those to which  
your family object.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



What did you do for fun at home or at a friends home last week?	Check	With whom?				Where?	
		Alone	Family member	Friends own age	Mixed group	Room of house	Yard
Reading							
Listening to radio							
Dancing							
Playing cards							
Other table games							
Playing piano							
Singing							
Club meetings							
Outdoor sports							
Weiner roasts							
Other							

Was there anything that you wanted to do for fun at home last week but did not do? If so, why didn't you do it?

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Your House and Your Recreation

- a. Is there a room in your house which invites your whole family to have fun together? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ . If your answer is yes, name the room \_\_\_\_ . Tell why it invites your family to have fun together.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Is there a room for your friends and your family to use for having fun together? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ . If your answer is yes, name the room \_\_\_\_ . Tell why it is a good place.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Is there a place where you can get away from the family with friends of your own age? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ . If your answer is yes, name the room you and your friends use \_\_\_\_ . What room would your family use at this time? \_\_\_\_ .
- d. Do you have play equipment, indoor or outdoor, that your family and/or your friends enjoy? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ . If your answer is yes, list the kinds of play equipment that you enjoy most:
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Is it easier to have company in the summer? \_\_\_\_ in the winter? \_\_\_\_ Tell why it is easier to have company at this season.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Home Improvements

1. Has your house been painted recently? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
2. Has your living room had any fixing up recently, such as:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ New slipcovers
  - \_\_\_\_\_ New pieces of furniture
  - \_\_\_\_\_ New rug
  - \_\_\_\_\_ New curtains
  - \_\_\_\_\_ New draperies
  - \_\_\_\_\_ New lamps
  - \_\_\_\_\_ New wallpaper
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Paint
3. Are you allowed to use the living room as you wish?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
4. Is the furniture in the living room:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Stiff or uncomfortable
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Comfortable
5. Is the furniture arranged so that you:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Can sit in a group and talk
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Can play games without much moving of furniture
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Can change radio programs easily
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Can gather around the piano for group singing
6. Do you have good light?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Is the whole room light enough?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Is there special light where games are played?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Is there special light where reading is done?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Is there special light near the radio and piano?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Are there light bulbs which are not covered?
7. Do you have storage space for:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Hanging company coats
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Games
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Records
8. Can you get to your room without going through another bedroom?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
9. Are you allowed to use the kitchen?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ To make candy
  - \_\_\_\_\_ To make cookies
10. Do you have a bathroom? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 If so can members of the family get to it without being seen by company? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you have a telephone? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, is it located where you can use it without being heard  
by the family or others in the house? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
12. Do you have a large porch that can be used for company?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If so is it screened? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
13. Can you use your yard for fun? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
14. Do you have an outdoor grill or place to cook?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_