

SOME DYNAMICS OF POST-DIVORCE ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS OF RECENTLY DIVORCED MOTHERS: A FILOT STUDY

BY

Marietta Allen Mason

\*\*\*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of the Consolidated University of North Carolina in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree Master of Science in Home Economics

> Greensboro 1962

3

Approved by

in V. Herry

m

## APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis has been approved by the following committee of the Faculty of the Graduate School at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina.

Thesis Difector

Oral Examination Committee Members

Francing B. Sheet Helin Canaday

13 1962 Examination

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to acknowledge her sincere gratitude to Dr. Irwin V. Sperry, director of the thesis, for his patient and inspirational guidance during this study; and to Miss Helen Canaday, Mrs. Madeleine B. Street, and Dr. Robert Greenfield, members of the graduate committee, for their valuable constructive criticisms.

Grateful appreciation is also extended to the following people who so generously gave their time and professional advice: William L. Osteen, Attorney and State Legislator; Dr. Kenneth H. Epple, Psychiatrist; Dr. William L. Zoore, Pediatrician; and Dr. Charles P. Bowles, Methodist Minister.

Sincere appreciation is also expressed to the following people who assisted greatly in securing names and addresses of the respondents: Mrs. Ruth S. Fox, Deputy Clerk of the Guilford County Superior Court; B. Gordon Gentry, Judge of the Guilford County Domestic Relations Court; William T. Mason, Sr., Tax Collector for the City of Greensboro; and Miss Evelyn Clark, Personnel Director at Southern Bell Telephone Company.

Sincere gratitude is expressed to George Arnold for his art contribution; also to Mrs. Lois D. Massengale and Mrs. May L. Adams for their clerical assistance; and to the Mothers in the sample who gave so generously of their time in the interviews.

Finally, a special acknowledgement is made to my mother, Mrs. Marietta S. Allen and to Mrs. Gloria G. Walden for their constructive criticisms as editors, and also their continued support and encouragement throughout this study.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPT	PAG	E
I.	THE PROBLEM	1
	Importance of the Study	4
	The Problem and Definitions of Terms Used 1	1
	Statement of the problem	2
	Definitions of terms used	S
II.	REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE	3
	Emotional Adjustment	5
	Marriage Counseling 16	5
	Desertion and the Economic Problem	7
	Housing 20	)
	Legal Problems	L
	Day Care	ł
	The Double Role of the Single Parent	5
	Children of Divorce 30	)
	Remarriage	•
	Community Resources	
III.	METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION AND PRESENTATION 44	
	Selection of the Sample	
	Interview Instrument	
	Collection of Data	
	Description of the Group	
	The Mothers' Reaction to the Interview 47	
	Presentation of the Data	
	The case summary approach 47	

CH		

	Ge	eneral in	nformat	ion	de	ata		• •	• •			• •													48
	A	ctual re	sponses	to	ni	ine		se]	lec	te	d	qu	le s	ti	.on	s									48
	S	ituation	descri	pti	on																				49
	Ir	nterview	er's im	pre	ssi	on	s																. ,		49
		nization																							49
		ends of																							49
IV.		GATIVE 1																							51
		Summary																							52
		Summary																							61
		Summary																							65
		Summary																							68
		Summary																							73
		Summary																							
																									77
		Summary																							80
		Summary																							83
		Summary																						8	36
		Summary																						8	39
		Summary																						9	91
		Summary												•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	9	94
v.	THE POS	SITIVE TH	REND OF	AD	JUS	TM	EI	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	9	7
	Case	Summary	Number	10	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	9	8
	Case	Summary	Number	23	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	11	3
	Case	Summary	Number	12	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	11	7
	Case	Summary	Number	9	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•				•	•	•	12	0
	Case	Summary	Number	22																				12	4

PAGE

CHAPTER																	PAGE
Case Summary	Number	15															126
Case Summary	Number	2															129
Case Summary	Number	3															132
Case Summary																0	135
Case Summary																	139
Case Summary																	143
VI. SUMMARY AND CON	CLUSION	IS .															146
Summary																	146
Conclusions																	148
General Patt	terns o	f Pr	ob.	len	ns												148
Graphic Desc	criptio	n of	A S	dju	ıst	me	nt										151
The Dynamics	s of Po	st-I	Dive	ore		Ad;	jus	tme	ent	;							152
Explanation	of the	Cha	rt	(F	ig	ure	• 1	)									153
The negati	ive tre	nd.						•									154
The positi	ve tre	nd.															155
Adjustment	dynam:	ics															156
General Conc	lusion	s Ab	out	; 0	th	er	Pr	ob]	em	A	re	as	0	f			
Adjustment																	156
Suggestions	for Fu	rthe:	r R	es	eat	rch											162
BIBLIOGRAPHY																	168
APPENDIX A. Character	istics	of	the	S	amj	ple											174
APPENDIX B. Interview																	181

vi

# LIST OF TABLES

TABLE		PAGE
I.	Age Characteristics of the Sample	174
II.	Years Married, Separated, and Divorced	174
III.	Number of Marriages and Child Custody	175
IV.	Employment, Religious Preference, and Education	175
٧.	Place of Residence	176
VI.	Support Payments by the Fathers	176
VII.	Mobility and Housing of the Mothers	177
VIII.	Family Life Education	178
IX.	Marriage Counseling	179
х.	Sources of Help	180

break and to happiness.

The statistical size and fail of the sizes were to the borners by may factors besides family monitores and down not assessmently work a rise in the number of broken families. Some of these families and by preserve studies includes

I. A simultanious inormas in the marriage rate along with the increase in the divorce rate.

2. Lask of adequate statistical data to show the total sides

W. M. Kephart, "Duration of Marriage," American Muchalegians, Saview, 19:87-98, Juno, 1954. CHAPTER I

### THE PROBLEM

The literature shows that divorce is a continuing phenomenon which is affecting the lives of a sizable number of people, and has a potent influence on family life in contemporary America. Due to the change in function and structure of American family life, and due to the economic emancipation and changing roles of women, and because of the rise in the statistical divorce rate, the change in the attitudes of the general public has lessened the stigma attached to divorce. However, it is a sociological phenomenon which is not clearly understood due to inadequate statistical data, lack of properly focused research, and the lingering social attitude that divorce represents failure in marriage and therefore, an end to happiness.

The statistical rise and fall of the divorce rate is influenced by many factors besides family breakdown and does not necessarily mean a rise in the number of broken families. Some of these factors shown by research studies include:

1. A simultaneous increase in the marriage rate along with the increase in the divorce rate.<sup>1</sup>

2. Lack of adequate statistical data to show the total picture

1W. M. Kephart, "Duration of Marriage," American Sociological Review, 19:87-95, June, 1954. by divorce.2

3. A rise in the general economic level of the country enabling more couples to afford divorce.<sup>3</sup>

4. The economic emancipation of women enabling them to support themselves and their children after divorce.<sup>4</sup>

5. An increase in the number of divorces obtained by permanently separated couples.<sup>5</sup>

6. More of the already emotionally broken marriages being ter-

7. Increased longevity enabling unhappily married couples to obtain a divorce before an early death.<sup>7</sup>

8. An increase in the remarriage rate which reabsorbs the number of broken homes, and changes the concept that divorce is a social recognition of an end to happiness.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Hugh Carter, "Plans for Improved Statistics on Family Formation and Dissolution in the United States," <u>Social Forces</u>, 39:163-9, December, 1960.

<sup>3</sup>Calvin Beale, "Increased Divorce Rate Among Separated Persons as a Factor in Divorce Since 1940," Social Forces, 29:72-74, October, 1959.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid. <sup>5</sup>Ibid. <sup>6</sup>Ibid.

<sup>7</sup>Paul H. Landis, "Sequential Marriage," <u>Journal of Home Economics</u>, 42:625-628, October, 1950.

8 Ibid.

9. The relaxing of divorce laws in some states, making legal divorce more easily obtained.

10. The social trend toward secularism.

11. Current American value orientation expressing a belief in human dignity and individual worth which conflicts with traditional family values.

Women now have the choice of remaining in an unhappy marriage or seeking another degree of personal happiness. It becomes the simultaneous process of solving and of creating problems, and now they are able to choose the set of problems with which they prefer to live.

However, the economic emancipation of women, parallelled with the rising cost of living, does not automatically insure that they will receive monetary remuneration in the same proportion to their need for supporting a family. The financial problems may well be increased, since for any given occupational level, the woman usually receives a smaller salary than the man. The age at which a mother enters the labor force, as well as her training, may affect the kind of job and salary level which she is able to achieve.

Although sociologists are in agreement that a legal divorce is far superior to an emotionally broken marriage, the economic problems of

<sup>9</sup>Mabel A. Elliott, "Divorce Legislation and Family Instability," The Annals, 272:135-144, November, 1950.

10William J. Goode, "Social Engineering and the Divorce Problem," The Annals, 272:86-94, November, 1950.

11 Ibid.

divorced mothers coupled with the emotional problems of adjustment for both them and their children create new problems of decision-making under the stress situation of post-divorce adjustment.

#### I. IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

There has been little depth research on this significant aspect of divorce with its traumas and problems. A fairly diligent literature search by Goode<sup>12</sup> and Hill<sup>13</sup> amplifies the paucity of and the need for research in this area of the divorce phenomenon. In general, research has centered around the causes of divorce and a statistical analysis of inadequate divorce data.

Since "happiness" has been the focus, and divorce represents an "end point," this explains why what happens after divorce has received little research attention. There have been studies which touch on problem areas consequent to the divorce, but there have been only two major studies which have dealt with this problem area in particular: Waller's book, <u>The Old Love and the New</u>, in 1930, <sup>14</sup> and Goode's study in 1950, <u>After Divorce</u>.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>12</sup>William J. Goode, "Problems in Post-Divorce Adjustment," American Sociological Review, 14:394, June, 1949.

<sup>13</sup>Reuben Hill, "Review of Current Research on Marriage and the Family," American Sociological Review, 16:700, October, 1951.

<sup>14</sup>Willard Waller, "The Old Love and the New (New York: Horace Liverright, 1930), 344 pp.

<sup>15</sup>William J. Goode, <u>After Divorce</u> (Glencoe, Illinois: The Free Press, 1930), 366 pp. According to the most recent statistics available on marital status in the United States by the U. S. Bureau of the Census, divorce is by definition an extensive problem. During the year 1958, the marriage rate was 8.4 per 1000 population and the divorce rate was 2.1. This means that there were about one-fourth as many divorces as there were marriages during that year. This ratio of 1.4 has remained fairly constant during the past decade.<sup>16</sup>

In North Carolina for the same year, 1958, the marriage rate was 6.1 and the divorce rate 1.2 (per 1000 population) giving a slightly lower ratio of one divorce to every five marriages.<sup>17</sup> A survey of the marital status of the population in 1950 by states shows that, of the female population fourteen years and over in North Carolina, 12.07% of the women are widowed or divorced. This percentage ranges from 10% to 17% in other states.<sup>18</sup>

Another survey by the Bureau of the Census shows that in 1958, out of twelve states reporting, 55% of all divorces granted involved minor children.<sup>19</sup> Again in 1958, a survey was made by the Children's Bureau concerning full-time employment of mothers. It was found that out of the nearly three million mothers in the labor force with children under

<sup>16</sup>U. S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States: <u>1960</u>, (Eighty-first edition, Washington, D. C., 1960), p. 52.

<sup>18</sup>Dan Golenpaul, Editor, Information Please Almanac: 1961 (New York: McGraw Hill, 1960), p. 328.

19U. S. Bureau of the Census, op. cit., p. 72.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., p. 69.

twelve, 308,000 are widowed or divorced. In addition, there are 608,000 children under eighteen years of age whose mothers are widowed or divorced.<sup>20</sup>

Kingsly Davis<sup>21</sup> estimated in 1940, that 150,000 to 200,000 children are affected by divorce each year in this country, and that even twenty years ago, the total number of children under eighteen years of age whose parents had ever been divorced was over one and a half million. Another estimate shows that there are four million women in the United States bringing up children alone compared to six-hundred thousand fathers in the same category.<sup>22</sup>

Available evidence points to the fact that divorce is an increasing phenomenon. Since the lives of such a sizable number of the married population, not to mention the thousands of children involved, are influenced by divorce, it is a problem numerically worthy of study.

It is the tradition of American law that custody of the children be given to the wife. Since an increasingly large number of marriages in which there are children are being terminated by divorce, and since the usual pattern in legal procedure is to place the children with the mother, this means that she alone must be ultimately responsible for the care and well being of her children. Thus, another "stress"

<sup>20</sup>Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Social Security Administration, Children's Bureau, "Child Care Arrangements for Full-Time Working Mothers," Publication No. 378, pp. 308.

<sup>21</sup>Kingsly Davis, "Children of Divorced Parents: A Sociological and Statistical Analysis," <u>Law and Contemporary Problems</u>, 10:713, Summer, 1944.

<sup>22</sup>Marjorie P. Ilgenfritz, "Mothers on Their Own - Widows and Divorcees," Marriage and Family Living, 23:38, February, 1961.

situation is created in society - that of complex role playing by the mother who, by whatever set of circumstances, finds herself assuming the roles of Mother-Father-Homemaker-Breadwinner. Since divorce is an emotionally charged phenomenon, the complex role playing of these mothers is intensified by the emotional traumas of adjustment in their own lives, coupled with the problems of adjustment which their children must make.

According to Goode, the post-divorce adjustment process is one in which:

• • • a disruption of role sets and patterns, and of existing social relations is incorporated into the individual's life pattern such that the roles accepted and assigned do not take the prior divorce into account as the primary point of reference: The woman is no longer "ex-wife" or "divorcee" primarily, but first of all, "co-worker," "date" or "bride."<sup>23</sup>

Post-divorce adjustment with its complex role playing contains many difficulties and ambiguities. The emotional trauma of separation and divorce may be reinforced by the fact that contemporary society has designated no mores or role for the divorcee to play. There are no ethics by which friends and relatives furnish economic support (as in a family broken by death). There are no rules for helping in the formation of new families. There is no clearly defined role which divorced spouses should play toward each other.

Adjustment to divorce does not mean conformity to customs, for there are no prescribed customs to which one may conform (as in bereavement). A divorced mother can not revert to her premarital status, but then, neither can she follow the same pattern of marriage. She must

23 Goode, After Divorce, op. cit., p. 19.

build a new pattern of life around which there are no socially prescribed patterns.<sup>24</sup> Thus the divorced mother faces a married world in which a single parent has an undefined place.

The emotional ties with the ex-husband may be stronger due to the constant reminder of the children and the longer average duration of the marriage. Her problems may have involved desertion of the former spouse which brings on new legal and financial burdens. She may have had to fight for the custody of the children, then fight for money to support them, and then fight to see that the support money is regularly paid. She may have had the problem of mal-used visitation privileges, but she has been left with the responsibility of explaining the divorce to the children, wondering where and how to place their loyalties and prevent their accusations. The physical demands on the mother are not without their problems. Holding a full-time job, running a home, playing the roles of two parents, and participating in any kind of social activities require physical stamina and time management. Due to the high rate of remarriage among divorcees, the divorcing mother may have the double problem of adjusting her life to the dissolution of one marriage, and to the formation of a new marriage.

The lives of the children of divorce are not left untouched by family breakdown. According to Landis,<sup>25</sup> there are seven potentially traumatic situations with which children of divorce must cope:

24 Tbid., pp. 12-14.

<sup>25</sup>Judson T. Landis, "The Trauma of Children When Parents Divorce," Marriage and Family Living, 22:7, February, 1960.

- 1. Adjustment to the knowledge that the divorce will probably take place.
- 2. Adjustment to the fact of divorce.
- 3. Perplexity over being "used" as a weapon against the other parent.
- 4. The necessity of redefining their relationships with both parents.
- 5. The new status of being a child of divorced parents which may necessitate new adjustments with peer groups.
- 6. The possibility of trauma from recognizing the implications of their parents' failure in marriage.
- 7. Problems of adjustment of the child if the parents remarry.

Divorce may produce in the child feelings of hostility and guilt over abandonment and divided loyalties. The father and mother have different sets of skills and attitudes to give the child. When one parent is missing, the child lacks an observational model which he needs in learning the roles of future adulthood or the complementary sex roles against which to play the adult role; thus, confusion in identity may ensue. Robert Harper<sup>26</sup> suggests that children are severely conservative and hence oppose change. However, once father is gone, they quickly adjust to life without him unless the mother or father indicate that something horrible has happened. Children are excellent emotional mirrors of parents' attitudes.

There is evidence to show the relationship between delinquency and the broken home - both occur to a greater degree in the lower class strata.

<sup>26</sup>Robert A. Harper, "Marriage Counseling and the Mores: A Critique," Marriage and Family Living, 21:15, February, 1959. There is no evidence to show that they cause each other. Faul Tappan<sup>27</sup> says that the association between the two can be accounted for largely on the basis of defective family relationships. When relationships are poor, the child may seek reference groups among peers who are delinquent, or the neighborhood may increase opportunity for damaging associations. However, the relationship between divorce and other behavioral problems is not yet clear.

In addition to helping her children adjust, the mother's emotional adjustment may be intensified by many of the following problems. It would seem that the problems might fall into categories in which friends, relatives, public agencies, professional workers, or community facilities might be of service. In summary they are:

- 1. Adjustment to the social stigma attached to divorce.
- 2. The ex-spouse custody, visitation, support, desertion.
- 3. New legal problems.
- 4. The attitudes of both families.
- 5. The attitudes of friends and acquaintances.
- 6. The formation of a new circle of friends.
- 7. Lowered economic status.
- 8. Entrance or re-entrance into the labor force.
- 9. Lack of occupational training.
- 10. The establishing of a new household.
- 11. Day care arrangements for the child, and problems at school.

27 Paul W. Tappan, Crime, Justice, and Correction (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1960), pp. 190-202.

- 12. Physical and mental health of the mother and child.
- 13. The establishing of new patterns of family life and fighting the battle of loneliness.
- 14. Physical and emotional demands on the mother necessitated by playing the four roles.
- 15. The establishing of a new social life and dating when the "rules of the game" have changed.
- 16. Sexual adjustment.
- 17. Redefinition of a spiritual life.
- 18. Remarriage.

With this many difficulties in role playing, it would seem that the divorced mother (who has custody of her children) would experience the divorce crisis to a much greater degree than the childless divorcee male or female. Whatever one's marital status, financial problems coupled with family responsibility cannot be easily discounted. It would seem, then, that these women need help in solving their problems or alleviating the burden of the total responsibility of their children, and the physical and emotional demands on themselves.

II. THE PROBLEM AND DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

There has been little depth research around the problem area of post-divorce adjustment. Due to the number of people involved in divorce, and due to the fact that mothers are usually given custody of the children, this depth pilot study was designed to define some of the post-divorce adjustment problems experienced by recently divorced mothers who are playing the four roles of Mother-Father-Homemaker-Breadwinner. <u>Statement of the problem</u>. It was the purpose of this study to determine from twenty-three white, not remarried, mothers of minor children, divorced during the calendar year 1960, and residing in the city limits of Greensboro. North Carolina:

1. The nature of their problems.

2. The resources they use to solve their problems.

3. The resources they desire which are unavailable to them.

<u>Definitions of terms used</u>. The following terms are defined as they relate to this particular study:

Divorcee. A divorcee is a female divorced person who is no longer legally married or separated, but who has been granted the final absolute divorce decree.

Divorce. A divorce is a male person who has been granted the final absolute divorce decree.

Minor Child. According to North Carolina law, a minor child is one who is under twenty-one years of age.

Widow. A widow is a female person whose marriage has been broken by death.

Subject. In the case summaries (Chapters IV and V) Subject refers to the Respondent, Mother, Divorces, or Interviewee in the sample.

Ex. Ex refers to the ex-husband of the divorced mother in the above mentioned case summaries.

Separation by Mutual Agreement. According to North Carolina law, divorce may be granted to parties who have lived separate and apart for a period of at least two years, and who have resided in the state for at least six months prior to filing for the final absolute divorce decree.

## CHAPTER II

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The literature suggests that there are certain types of problems which face divorced mothers. These problem areas include: (a) emotional adjustment, (b) marriage counseling, (c) desertion, (d) economics and employment, (e) housing, (f) legal problems, (g) day care, (h) the double parental role, (i) children of divorce, (j) remarriage, and (k) availability of community resources.

## I. EMOTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Since divorce has been viewed as an index of social disorganization, the general assumption has been that post-divorce processes are mostly destructive and trauma is to be expected since failure "ought" to be punished. Willard Waller, <sup>1</sup> who pioneered in the area of divorce adjustment research with the first published study in 1930, compared this process to bereavement after the death of a spouse. The similar structured components are;

- 1. Absence of the former spouse.
- 2. Cessation of sexual relations.
- 3. Usually lowered income.
- 4. Ambivalence of sorrow.
- 5. Preservation of old habit patterns.

Willard Waller, The Old Love and the New (New York; Horace Liverright, 1930), 344 pp. Waller also stated that the post-divorce adjustment process is essentially a traumatic one with breakdown of values and standards, and with little hope for happiness. He contended that the divorcee is of a different breed than the ordinary person - a neurotic who carries his seeds of destruction from marriage to marriage, and thus, can never find happiness. Waller's conclusions were not tested because they fitted so well with society's attitudes toward divorce.

Until the middle of the century, there had been no systematic field study of divorce adjustment process in a representative and adequate sampling of any population sample. After Waller's study was done, the journals from 1935 to 1949 show four published investigations which deal with adjustment to divorce. In 1938, Paul Popence<sup>2</sup> used a collection of case studies from newspaper clippings and student reports. In 1947, Harvey J. Locke<sup>3</sup> used the Burgess-Cottrell adjustment rating on a group of divorcees. In 1948, Locke and Klausner<sup>4</sup> did a study of marital adjustment of divorcees in subsequent marriages. Paul Glick's<sup>5</sup> study of remarriage trends in 1948 completes this list.

Since 1920, there have been two changes in public attitudes

<sup>2</sup>Paul Popence, "Remarriages of Divorcees to Each Other," <u>American</u> Sociological Review, 3:695-699, October, 1938.

<sup>3</sup>Harvey J. Locke, "Fredicting Marital Adjustment by Comparing a Divorced and A Happily Married Group," <u>American Sociological Review</u>, 12:187-191, April, 1947.

<sup>4</sup>Harvey J. Locke and William Klausner, "Marital Adjustment of Divorced Persons In Subsequent Marriages," <u>Sociology and Social Research</u>, 33:97-101, November-December, 1948.

<sup>5</sup>Paul C. Glick, "First Marriages and Remarriages," American Sociological Review, 14:726-34, December, 1949.

toward divorce:

22

1. The divorcee is much less stigmatized and thus has more opportunity to contract new friendships and enter new marriages.

2. The spread of divorce may mean that the break is between couples who are mutually incompatible and not emotionally unstable in any clinical sense, even though they cannot adjust to their particular marriage.<sup>6</sup>

Nearly two decades after Waller's study, William Goode,<sup>7</sup> carried out an extensive study in Detroit in 1949, in which he interviewed 425 recently divorced mothers to investigate the emotionally upsetting experience of divorce adjustment. This was the first major field study of divorced mothers and is recorded in the book, <u>After Divorce</u>. His findings have helped to change some previous conceptions about divorce among sociologists. Several significant conclusions from his study follow:

1. An overwhelming majority of the women who had remarried believed that their second marriages were better than the first.

2. Over four-fifths of all his subjects believed that if they had remained in the first marriage, their present situation would have been bad, and that they prefer divorce and its problems to an unhappy marriage and its problems.

3. Most divorcees do not lose community standing and established friendships.

<sup>6</sup>William J. Goode, "Problems in Post-Divorce Adjustment," <u>American</u> Sociological Review, 14:395, June, 1949.

William J. Goode, After Divorce (Glencoe, Illinois; The Free Press, 1950), 366 pp.

4. The number of children is not a significant hindrance to early remarriage, since those with several children remarry as quickly as those without.

5. There is no proof that children of divorcees are typically unhappy. Many appear to be better off than in the conflict situation.

6. Since the divorcee lacks the institutionalized patterns which shape and ease the reactions of the widow, the result is that the divorcee is placed in several sets of either undefined or incompatible roles. The divorcee may be very unhappy about the marital failure, and may even be attached to the former spouse but must show little sorrow. The incompatibility of the roles was quite clear as well as was an attempt to facilitate an internal resolution of emotional problems through external conformity with social expectations. These incompatibilities are in themselves a source of emotional difficulty.

7. There is no consistently traumatic pattern consequent to the divorce itself.

#### II. MARRIAGE COUNSELING

Research does indicate that emotional trauma is quite likely to precede and follow the actual fact of separation and the granting of the final divorce decree. In recent years, marriage counseling, family life counseling, and psychotherapy are increasingly being used to solve emotional problems in family conflict. The counseling profession bemoans the paucity of trained personnel and resources in contrast to the needs for preventive and therapeutic services. Duvall<sup>8</sup> states that in most communities people who find themselves in the role of family life counselors include physicians (both general practitioners and specialists), teachers of sociology, psychology, home economics, and health; and among professional people, ministers, lawyers, psychologists, and social workers. It is probable that the lawyer, minister, and family physician are the most frequently consulted by these mothers for counseling, if indeed anyone is sought.

In a study by Berreman and Andrew<sup>9</sup> concerning the qualifications of ministers for marriage counseling, the findings indicate that there is an increasingly urgent need for more trained counselors in the area of human relations, to the degree that both ministers and institutions need to prepare themselves better for their role of marriage counseling.

W. E. Oates<sup>10</sup> suggests that the pastor in the role of marriage counselor finds the role complicated by his lack of training and by the fact that he must be a friend and remain a friend to the whole family, not just to one spouse.

III. DESERTION AND THE ECONOMIC PROBLEM

Joseph Steigman<sup>11</sup> says that it is estimated that five and a half

<sup>88</sup>Evelyn Millis Duvall, "Organized Social Forces to Promote Family Stability," The Annals, 272:79-82, November, 1950.

J. V. Berreman and Wade Andrew, "Are Ministers Qualified For Marriage Counseling?", Sociology and Social Research, 35:106-12, November-December, 1950.

10W. E. Oates, "The Pastor As A Marriage Counselor," Marriage and Family Living, 17:62-7, February, 1955.

11 Joseph E. Steigman, "The Deserted Family," Social Casework, 38:167-71, April, 1957.

million women and children lack adequate support because of estrangement, desertion, and non-support after divorce. More than a million men are involved in this, and an additional 10,000 men desert every year. A man who employs desertion as a means of solving problems is emotionally unstable, he says. Nevertheless, desertion affects the wife's need to seek employment, new housing, day care of the children, and her whole standard of living. She experiences the emotions of shame, guilt, humiliation, failure, and anger; she fears public opinion. Steigman suggests that criminal proceedings should never be undertaken purely for punitive measures, for this only reinforces a man's already negative feelings.

Before the new Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Legislation was enacted in 1950, the only means of forcing the return of an unwilling spouse was to take criminal action and have him extradited from another state to stand trial. Non-support and desertion were grounds for having a spouse imprisoned. With the newer legislation, ammended in 1958, civil proceedings can be instituted anywhere in the United States. Now the wife is able to initiate a court action in her home state and the courts in another state can force support money from the spouse. His support money is paid through the out-of-state court to the court in the community where the wife resides. This new law, popularly called "The Runaway Pappy Act," is fully described in a new book by Brocklebank.<sup>12</sup> He ascertained that it is a tremendous improvement in law whose effort is to

12 William J. Brockelbank, Interstate Enforcement of Family Support, "The Runaway Pappy Act" (Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1960), 195 pp.

relieve the tax burden and place the obligation of family support on the runaway father. However, some states still remain reluctant to use the Act.

Monohan<sup>13</sup> says that in 1955, the federal government spent \$639 million in Aid to Dependent Children grants to deserted families. The irony is that the absconding fathers have been relatively immune from prosecution and punishment. Monohan reviews a 1952 California study. It was found from the records of welfare cases for non-support, that in 56% of the cases, no move had been made to locate the fathers; that only 25% of the fathers had been ordered by the court to support their families; only one-third of these were paying the order, and even then were paying only 22% of the total money the courts had ordered them to pay. Even though the new law has saved public funds in extradition procedures and A.D.C. grants, the taxpayers are assuming the large bulk of support for illegitimate and deserted families.

Kaplan<sup>14</sup> from the Social Security Administration says that social agencies are now trying to reduce the absent father problem and the growing A.D.C. grants by affecting reconciliations, obtaining support from estranged fathers, and locating those whose whereabouts are unknown.

Goode<sup>15</sup> says that there is a positive correlation between family

13 Thomas P. Monohan, "Family Fugitives," Marriage and Family Living, 20:146-151, May, 1958.

120

<sup>14</sup>Saul Kaplan, (Social Security Administration, Washington, D. C.) "Support From Absent Fathers in Aid to Dependent Children," <u>Social Security</u> Bulletin, 21:3-13, 1958.

<sup>15</sup>William J. Goode, "Economic Factors and Marital Stability," American Sociological Review, 16:802-812, December, 1951.

stability and economic position. There is a rough negative correlation between economic position and tendency to divorce. Numerically, divorce is more prevalent in the lower socio-economic strata; but so is lower life expectancy, a higher psychosis rate, and a higher juvenile delinquency rate. This pattern may be direct, indirect, or casual. He pointed out that in his Detroit study, the wife's most often charge, coded into "The Complex," was that her husband spent his time and money elsewhere. After the divorce, only 34% of these husbands "always" made payments and an additional 14% "usually" did. Withdrawal of economic support became a major expression of waning loyalty. Most of the divorcess in the Detroit study indicated that, in spite of the lowered income, the economic factor was better after the divorce, and that the worst time financially came during the marriage.

#### IV. HOUSING

In Goode's Detroit study,<sup>16</sup> he found that more than 75% of these divorcees went home to mother, at least for a while, but did not like being a guest in their mothers' homes. They were unhappy with the way their mothers viewed them as young single girls again, and tried to discipline them in that manner.

A study done in Philadelphia in 1930 by Bossard and Dillon<sup>17</sup> indicated that the divorced woman presented essentially a study in social

16 Goode, After Divorce, op. cit., p. 321.

17 H. S. Bossard and Thelma Dillon, "Spatial Distribution of Divorced Women," American Journal of Sociology, 40:503-507, January, 1935.

isolation. The highest concentration of divorcees were found in apartment and rooming house areas - areas which are characterized by mobility, dense population, and a relatively high degree of anonymity. (It is possible that this will still be true to the same degree or for the same reasons in 1960 - some thirty years later.) More recent divorce statistics show a tendency for divorced rural women to move to town.<sup>18</sup>

#### V. LEGAL PROBLEMS

Mabel Elliott<sup>19</sup> explains that divorce legislation has arisen out of an attempt to meet a human need; that is, the compromise which serious men have worked out as an acceptable means for releasing dissatisfied and unhappy mates from the bonds of matrimony. The present divorce laws are unrealistic because they adhere to the theory that divorce may be granted only because an innocent party has been injured.

A study by Harmsworth and Minnis<sup>20</sup> in 1955, sought to determine to what degree lawyers are aware of the inadequacies of the statutory grounds compared to the real causes of divorce. Most of the lawyers revealed a deep concern and a keen awareness of the lag in the divorce code. They point out that the "statutory" grounds for divorce are the immediate cause, but that this has nothing to do with the "real" cause.

18 Glick, op. cit., p. 734.

23

2.6.4

100

63

61

60

<sup>19</sup>Mabel A. Elliott, "Divorce Legislation and Family Instability," The Annals, 272:144, November, 1950.

<sup>20</sup>Harry C. Harmsworth and Mhyra S. Minnis, "Non-Statutory Causes of Divorce: The Lawyer's Point of View," <u>Marriage and Family Living</u>, 17:321, November, 1955.

The lawyers believe that the solution is a public redefinition of the statutory grounds which should result in a more realistic code.

Reginald H. Smith, representing the American Bar Association, gave a significant report at the White House Conference on Family Life, in 1947, on the existing state of the divorce laws. He said:

(1) . . . that our present divorce laws are producing widespread evils and

(2) that our laws in the field of domestic relations, instead of constituting a bulwark, are themselves a continuing threat to the stability of marriage in contemporary America.<sup>21</sup>

The recommended premise should not be punishment, but prevention. He says that no enlightenment in the psychological and social sciences has been provided in the law schools, and that the cost of our present divorce system in terms of human tragedy has become too high to be tolerated any longer.

Justice J. Allen Crockett<sup>22</sup> says that the courts aid and abet the problem simply because they reflect the customs and attitudes of society. It is ridiculous to go to court to see which partner is "at fault" and which spouse "wins" custody of the children.

Domestic Courts in some states separate divorce from other litigation and are now beginning to call them "Reconciliation Courts" instead of "Divorce" courts. The court docket is too full to give sufficient consideration to the needs of both parties in terms of separation,

<sup>21</sup>J. Louise Despert, M.D., Children of Divorce (New York: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1953), pp. 224-6.

<sup>22</sup>J. Allen Crockett, "From Behind Judicial Robes," Journal of Social Hygiene, 38:116-24, March, 1952. custody, and visiting privileges - hence the nomer "divorce mill" has arisen. Recommendations by authorities are urging the establishment of a new integrated court to handle all family disorganization cases. They feel that it should be manned by a specialized judiciary with appropriate training for family disorganization cases, together with a trained staff of professionals to provide social casework, counseling, probation, medical, psychological, and psychiatric services coordinated with the services of qualified religious and philanthropic agencies.

Sheridan and Brewer<sup>23</sup> emphasize that there are pressing legal and social reasons for the establishment of the family court system. Legally speaking, there is a need for more effective administration of justice in interpersonal family life; socially speaking, society is concerned with the protection of children and family life. These authors believe that all the social agencies involved must seriously consider these needs, formulate long and short term goals, and plan to alleviate the serious problem which divorce presents to our society.

The newly published <u>Divorce Handbook<sup>24</sup></u> is a compilation of the various state laws governing the granting of divorces. It includes advice for the layman by presenting necessary information concerning the differences in state divorce litigation.

23 William H. Sheridan and Edgar W. Brewer, "The Family Court," Children, 4:67-73, March, 1957.

<sup>24</sup>Florence Haussamen and Mary Anne Guiter, <u>Divorce Handbook</u> (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1960), 256 pp.

## VI. DAY CARE

Day care is a problem which looms large for single working mothers with minor children. It may be costly and relatively unavailable. She may be able to leave her children with friends or relatives, or she may need a full-time maid or a day-care center for pre-schoolers. In Greensboro, day care for children costs about \$10.00 weekly per child, while full-time maid services range from \$20.00 to \$25.00 weekly. This means that the mother's already lowered income may be cut still farther by \$40.00 to \$100.00 monthly. Nighttime baby-sitting costs becomes an additional expense.

In Goode's study,<sup>25</sup> he found that most mothers put their children in the care of relatives. One in nine put their children in nursery school or worked during school hours. Some used friends, baby-sitters, housekeepers, or no care at all for the older children. Five per cent of these women got help in baby-sitting from the ex-husband's relatives. Sixty-five per cent of the mothers who used help other than relatives rated their child care as "excellent," while only eight and four per cent believed that it was "average" or "poor" respectively. The mothers were satisfied with their day care arrangements to a much greater degree when the children were less than two years old, and became increasingly dissatisfied as the children became older and the problems changed from health and safety to those of moral and character development, bad

25 Goode, After Divorce, op. cit., pp. 319-320.

companions, study habits, and sharing responsibility for home and outside tasks.

Herbert<sup>26</sup> suggests that while many women find in a job the outside interests that they crave, every effort should be made to provide the same "substitute mother" - that is, housekeeper, maid, baby-sitter, etc. - if the desirable sense of security is to prevail with the children.

#### VII. THE DOUBLE ROLE OF THE SINGLE PARENT

6.12

63

64

b.e

12

be:

6.8

20

10

The parental responsibility for giving the child love, understanding, and sound guidance does not end with divorce. Realizing this responsibility, a group of 150 single parents in New York City chartered a Parents without Partners group in 1958.<sup>27</sup> Its members included both divorced and widowed mothers and fathers. Through general meetings addressed by specialists in child care and family life, professionally led discussion groups, occasional social events for adults, and outings for adults and children, the group is attempting to meet some of the meeds of its members - and founders - in their roles as single parents. Its purpose is to aid single parents by exchange of ideas, mutual understanding, help, and companionship. Understandably, it is women who have shown the greatest interest in the organization.

<sup>26</sup>Elizabeth S. Herbert, "When the Homemaker Goes To Work," <u>Journal</u> of Home Economics, 44:257-259, April, 1952.

<sup>27</sup>Jim and Janet Frank Egleson, Parents Without Partners, (New York: Dutton and Co., 1961), pp. 187-202.

Barclay<sup>28</sup> reports that psychiatrist, Dr. Freudenthal, believes that the basic problems of one parent families are very similar. The most distinguishing feature is that the single parent, usually the mother, feels that she must assume both parental roles. She shows marked anxiety around the basic question, "Am I doing the right thing in the way I am raising my child?" This question concerns both her general attitudes and specific techniques. The anxiety of the single parent seems to develop and grow beyond reasonable proportions, largely because of the inability - or impossibility - of the parent-in-charge to share the responsibility for raising the child with another and thereby derive a sense of reassurance from doing so. No parent can succeed at being two parents. This is an unrealistic standard.

Another big problem, Dr. Freudenthal<sup>29</sup> continues, is that of maintaining a social life. These parents felt that in a social situation among the married couples, they were "extras," and among the unmarried, their family responsibility and concerns were out of place. It is not strange then, that single parents tend to form their own "sub-culture" characterized by the emotional climate of semi-isolation and loneliness.

Dr. Freudenthal<sup>30</sup> has observed that guilt over failure in the marriage complicates the lives and lots of single parents; therefore,

28Dorothy Barclay, "One Parent Family: Further Notes," <u>New York</u> <u>Times Magazine</u>, January 26, 1958, pp. 46-48. <sup>29</sup><u>Ibid</u>. <sup>30</sup>Ibid.

they try to vindicate themselves by being outstandingly successful as parents. The desire to "make it up" to the child and the desire to be two parents in one was reflected in repeated references to "duty," "responsibility," and "sacrifice." This points out the conflict between being "good parents" and the sometimes overwhelming desire "to live their own lives." Thoughts of remarriage were sometimes confused by such powerful mixed feelings.

There is relatively little lay literature about problems of single parenthood. A few recent books which are pertinent to this problem and may be a source of help for single parents have been written by Despert, <sup>31</sup> Langer, <sup>32</sup> Rochford, <sup>33</sup> Egleson, <sup>34</sup> Owen, <sup>35</sup> and Haussemen. <sup>36</sup>

In 1958, a series of parent education classes for single parents was held at the Guidance Center of New Rochelle.<sup>37</sup> These discussions emphasized the following important areas by the Mothers: (a) fear of

Sl Despert, op. cit., 282 pp.

<sup>32</sup>Marion Langer, Learning to Live as a Widow (New York; Gilbert Press, 1957), 255 pp.

33 Elbrun Rochford, Mothers On Their Own (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1953), 210 pp.

<sup>34</sup>Jim and Janet Frank Egleson, Parents Without Partners (New York: Dutton and Co., 1961), 249 pp.

<sup>35</sup>Jean Owen, <u>Widows Can Be Happy</u> (New York: Greenburg Publishers, 1950), 207 pp.

36 Florence Haussemen and Mary Anne Guiter, Divorce Handbook (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1960), 256 pp.

<sup>37</sup>Marjorie P. Ilgenfritz, "Mothers On Their Own - Widows and Divorcees," Marriage and Family Living, 23:38-41, February, 1961. aloneness and going places alone; (b) loss of self-esteem as a woman and the need of finding oneself as a whole person again; (c) feeling of hostility toward men since divorcees are considered "fair game;" (d) practical problems of living - time, tiredness, worry over child care and sickness, and lastly, finding employment.

1.00

E DO

100

62

21

22

The mothers reported that they had not been able to discuss the problems of their children until they had released pent-up feelings about their individual situations. In general there were two kinds of problems presented: (a) routine-living - those of limited income, employment and trying to be a good mother; (b) personal problems - those of guilt, fear, frustration, and loneliness which were ever present and always threatening.

These classes had several positive effects. The mothers found comfort in sharing their problems and expressed greater self-confidence. They also reported less guilt feelings in relation to their children and were more aware that not all their children's problems were related to the absence of a father.

Stroup<sup>38</sup> says that the most important factor in the personality of the child is the happiness and stability of his home in the early years. The child rearing practices are not so important as the total personal-social situation in which the child finds his expression - this includes the attitudes and behavior of the mother. Subtle behavior clues to maternal emotion are detected by the child after infancy, and these

<sup>38</sup>A. L. Stroup, "Marital Adjustment of the Mother and the Personality of the Child," <u>Marriage and Family Living</u>, 18:109-13, May, 1956.

are more important in character development than gross discipline patterns. Parental attitudes, he contends, are much more important than events in personality formation.

Ivan Nye<sup>39</sup> in a study of adolescent-parent adjustment in which broken homes and employed mothers were variables, found that there is somewhat poorer adjustment between parents and adolescents in broken homes, but not as much as sometimes believed. The loss of the mother seems to have more effect than the loss of the father. There is a higher average adjustment in broken homes with "mother only." Not all broken homes have the same impact on adolescents, and some of the adolescents who were the best adjusted to their parents came from broken homes, although the number was small. The adjustment average was higher where the mother works part time outside the home (ten to thirty hours) than when she works full time or not at all, in the medium socioeconomic level. Nye suggests that mothers of adolescents need something to keep them from interfering in their children's affairs too much. Mothers, it seems, gain status, both in their own eyes and in those of the family, when they are earning money.

Dr. S. H. Lerner, <sup>40</sup> psychiatrist, said that women in general, show less tendency to avoid responsibility, especially where children are concerned, than do men. Without a father to share a child's time,

<sup>39</sup>F.Ivan Nye, "Adolescent-Parent Adjustment: Age, Sex, Sibling Number, Broken Homes, and Employed Mothers as Variables," <u>Marriage</u> and Family Living, 14:327-332, November, 1952.

40S. H. Lerner, M.D., "Effects of Desertion on Family Life," Social Casework, 35:308, January, 1954.

the mother is likely to indulge the child's wish to possess her completely. The child does not have a chance to learn that the mother-father relationship is primary. The mother may take out her anxiety, guilt, and frustration on her children. Dr. Lerner believes that a child can sense the loss of a father, even in the first year of life.

In another study by F. Ivan Nye<sup>41</sup> of child adjustment in broken and unhappy unbroken homes, he finds that good disposition ratings for parents were far higher in divorced homes than in internally broken homes. Divorced parents tend to be more concerned with their appearance and to dress better. Of the remarried divorcees in his sample, 29% of the remarriages fell into the happiest "parent interaction" tercile, while none of the parents from the unhappy unbroken home group did. In his study, Nye found that children from divorced homes do not have poorer adjustment than from homes broken internally. The children from broken homes show better adjustment in psychosomatic illnesses, delinquent behavior, and parent-child adjustment than the children from internally broken homes. The children living with solo parents show superior adjustment to their mothers. Nye's data suggest that disunited unhappy homes are related to poor adjustment in parents as well as in children.

### VIII. CHILDREN OF DIVORCE

Current divorce statistics are showing that the presence of children is not necessarily a deterrent to divorce. Out of all the divorces

<sup>41</sup>F. Ivan Nye, "Child Adjustment in Broken and In Unhappy Unbroken Homes," Marriage and Family Living, 19:356-61, November, 1957.

granted in 1948, roughly three children under age twenty-one to every four marriage dissolutions were involved. The upswing in the birth rate indicates that there may be a sharper rise in the number of children of divorce than of the divorcees themselves.

Landis<sup>43</sup> said that the effects of divorce are determined by the age of the child when divorce takes place, and how he previously viewed his home situation. If the home had been in conflict, the divorce could bring a relief of tension to the child. Landis concludes from his study that all children of divorce cannot be grouped homogeneously. The child who is old enough to remember divorce has traumas in relation to this view of the happiness or unhappiness of the pre-divorce home. The greater trauma came from children who viewed their homes as happy before the divorce. Some children may feel different, ashamed, embarrassed, or inferior to others and thus resort to "face saving devices" in post-divorce years. The worst pre-divorce situation as viewed by the child was one in which the parent was less likely to remarry. The sibling order had no effect on adjustment. Finally, the younger children who remembered the events were less torn by trauma than older children.

Dr. Louise Despert discussing the problems of divorce, stressed

43 Judson T. Landis, "The Trauma of Children When Parents Divorce," Marriage and Family Living, 22:7-13, February, 1960.

<sup>44</sup>Despert, op. cit., 282 pp.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Paul H. Jacobson, "Differentials in Divorce by Duration of Marriage and Size of Family," <u>American Sociological Review</u>, 15:235-44, April, 1950.

the importance of sound family relationships; emotional divorce is far more draining and threatening than legal divorce. She said that anxiety in children is the result of divided loyalties and the uncertain future in both emotional and legal divorce. Guilt is one of a number of emotional complexities which is intensified if the war between the partners is continued in divorce by using the child as a pawn. It is only in the courts which are equipped with psychiatric and social services that the interests of the children are truly served. Dr. Despert states that the most serious danger is depriving the children of the emotional support which they must have to grow on. A mother cannot make up for a father's failure. A child needs his mother to remain a mother; if she tries to be both, she may end up being neither. If the wife returns home, the children may still be the center of conflict between mother and grandmother.

In a Michigan study,<sup>45</sup> a group of male students whose fathers were absent during the ages of three to five, were matched with a group of men whose fathers had not been away. More subjects in the experimental group maintained a strong attachment to their mother, and fewer identified strongly with their father or chose him as their ego ideal. The experimental group showed more disturbance in Oedipal intensity, less father identification, more ambivalence in identifications, and some disturbance of personality development.

<sup>45</sup>Mary M. Leichty, "The Effect of Father Absence During Early Childhood Upon the Oedepal Situation as Reflected in Young Adults," Merrill-Palmer Quarterly, 6:212-17, July, 1960.

Kingsly Davis<sup>46</sup> states that the child of divorce is really better off than the child whose parent is dead; but he is more of a problem because his condition is felt to be somebody's fault with all that this implies. The child may invent lies or resort to some other type of deceptive behavior to cover up for the belief that his father no longer loves him. Divorce complicated the problem (as against death) by causing hostilities and guilts for hostilities, by creating feelings of abandonment and guilts from divided loyalties.

Monohan found "no support to the belief in the overriding importance of the socially broken home as over against the orphaned home - in the persisting pattern of youthful delinquency."<sup>47</sup> It might well be that the anticipated ill effects on children of socially broken homes are not as complete or wholly severe as has been imagined. The <u>fact</u> of the break may be the thing of crucial importance to the child insofar as official delinquency is concerned.

The relationship between divorce and other behavioral problems is not clear. It may be the result of the parent-child relationship rather than of the divorce. Experts agree that the effect of continued conflict is more often worse than the divorce itself. Nys<sup>48</sup> found less delinquent

<sup>46</sup>Kingsly Davis, "Children of Divorced Parents: A Sociological and Statistical Analysis," <u>Law and Contemporary Problems</u>, 10:713-20, Summer, 1944.

47 Thomas P. Monchan, "The Trend in Broken Homes Among Delinquent Children," Marriage and Family Living, 19:364-65, November, 1957.

<sup>48</sup>F. Ivan Nye, Family <u>Relationships</u> and <u>Delinquent</u> <u>Behavior</u> (New York: Wiley, 1958), p. 168.

behavior in broken than in unhappy unbroken homes. The happiness factor was much more closely related to delinquency than was formal family status. Psychiatrist, James S. Plant,<sup>49</sup> found that there was surprisingly less disturbance in the children of divorced parents than in those of separated parents.

Monohan<sup>50</sup> found twice the average rate of socially broken homes associated with twice the average rate of delinquency, while other groups with strong family cohesiveness showed below the average rates of delinquency. He concludes that stability and continuity of family life stand as the most important factor in the development of the child. While not all broken homes are bad, neither are all conventional-type homes good; however, the place of the home in the genesis of normal or delinquent patterns of behavior has an exceedingly strong relationship.

The Gluecks,<sup>51</sup> in a study relating juvenile delinquency to three types of broken homes - separated, widowed and divorced - found that there is no doubt that broken homes are related to juvenile delinquency, even in the same economic stratum. They matched a group of delinquent children with a group of non-delinquent children, all coming from broken homes. The findings indicate that the difference in delinquent behavior was associated to a higher degree with children from separated homes first,

<sup>49</sup>James S. Plant, "The Psychiatrist Views Children of Divorced Farents," Law and Contemporary Problems, 10:807-818, Summer, 1944.

<sup>50</sup>Thomas P. Monohan, "Family Status and the Delinquent Child: A Reappraisal of Some New Finding," Social Forces, 35:258, March, 1957.

<sup>51</sup>Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1950, Table VIII-19, p. 91.

widowed homes second, and divorced homes least. They say that there is a very close relationship between delinquency and lack of affection in discipline, finding that physical punishment was more often used on juvenile delinquents.

In a study of twenty clinical cases of agressive and delinquent boys involving the absence of the father, it was found that the mother treated the son in the same derogatory ways that she had treated the father.<sup>52</sup> The mothers complained that they were unable to control their sons. They often slept in the same room or bed and continued to bathe the son. There were conflicts about their roles as women and mothers, and they continued to have conflicts with their own parents. In their attitudes toward men, they were punishing and competitive, and they wished themselves to be men. The boys were withdrawing, rejected attempts to be helped, showed incidence of enuresis and soiling, and did not respond to clinical treatment. The mothers were attempting to solve their conflicts through their sons.

Harmon<sup>53</sup> says that most problems appear in children from broken homes if the divorce occurs while they are adolescents. The children have fears of being unloved; that they could have prevented the divorce; that they do not "belong;" and that they may repeat their parents! heartache in their own marriage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup>H. L. Wilie and R. A. Delgado, "The Pattern of Mother-Son Relationships Involving the Absence of the Father," <u>American Journal of</u> Orthopsychiatry, 29:644-69, July, 1959.

<sup>53</sup> Louise Harmon, "When Homes Are Broken," Journal of Home Economics, 51:332-5, May, 1959.

Landis<sup>54</sup> found that the divorce rate increased among the aunts and uncles of the single subjects in his sample in proportion to the degree of marital failure of the grandparents. These children had a <u>slight</u> tendency to become engaged to children from divorced parents, but the difference is not enough to support the theory that children from divorced parents fail in marriage more often. He suggests that the higher divorce rate among children of divorce must be explained in other ways.

In the discussion of counseling with divorced families as a function of the Parent-Child Guidance Service of the Jewish Big Brothers Association, there appeared to be minimal use of professional help with divorced cases.<sup>55</sup> Because of the ambivalence in seeking help, families presented their problems in one of two ways: (a) Complaints about the child's behavior which the parent did not see as relating to the divorces (b) Marital conflicts were presented as the reason for the child's difficulties. Since many perents rationalized that the divorce was best for the children, in counseling, it became an effective defense against seeing the child's problems. Farents may not seek help because they have expended considerable emotional energy in divorcing each other and find it difficult to think about the child's emotional conflicts; or the parents may feel that they are responsible for the problems. They also might feel that the new solutions on which they are working might be

<sup>54</sup>Judson T. Landis, "The Pattern of Divorce in Three Generations," Social Forces, 34:213-16, March, 1956.

<sup>55</sup>Harry Pannor and Sylvia Schold, "Impact of Divorce on Children," Child Welfare, 39:6-10, February, 1960.

### threatened.

56 Ibid.

Since divorce reflects a failure in interpersonal relationships, then marital discord affects the child's attitudes and outlook on life. Later, this appears as unconscious patterns which impair his own choice of a sexual and marital partner. The focus in divorce counseling must be to minimize to the child the failure implicit in the divorce. The child must learn to deal with reality factors so that he has less opportunity to fantasy and distortion of the situation. Although many of the child's problems have their roots in the situation that existed prior to the divorce, in most situations, the divorce aggravates them. Traumatic experiences of the child in divorce require professional help to reinforce whatever constructive factors exist in the parent-child relationship.<sup>56</sup>

### IX. REMARRIAGE

It is interesting to note that neither society, authoritative opinion, nor remarriage statistics agree with each other in drawing any conclusions about divorce, remarriage, and "happiness." It has been generally assumed that chances for stability in the second marriage are not as good as in the first. However, since divorce is more common, it is incorrect to assume that all divorcees can be labeled "deviants" or that both partners are marriage destroyers. It might be just as correct to assume that many divorcees have learned a great deal about themselves and about marriage, and are then able to build a new maturer marriage based on more realistic goals and thus achieve real and lasting life satisfactions. Even if basic personality structures do not change, their expression in behavior may change; for example, severely criticising the first mate might take the form of self-criticism with the second mate.

Justice J. Allen Crockett<sup>57</sup> observes that:

Divorcees just keep on remarrying, seeking that illusive entity, happiness. But unfortunately they carry with them from marriage to marriage the same basic personality defects and instability of character, so that they are rarely any happier in the next marriage than they were before.

In 1948, Paul Glick, <sup>58</sup> in a statistical analysis of remarriage, found that 13% of both married men and women had been married more than once; that 75% of all divorcees of all ages had remarried within five years (compared to 25% of the female widows and 50% of the male widowers); that there is a tendency for divorcees to marry divorces; and that tendency toward remarriage is highly correlated with age.

An analysis of the data from Iowa on the incidence of remarriage with regard to widowhood or divorce shows that the widow who remarried fared as well as do persons in primary marriages. For the divorced, this was not the case; a divorce for one party weakened the strength of the marriage bond and a second divorce greatly lessened the chances of survival.<sup>59</sup>

57 Crockett, op. cit., p. 119.

58Glick, op. cit., p. 730.

<sup>59</sup>Thomas P. Monohan, "The Changing Nature and Instability of Remarriages," Eugenics Quarterly, 5:73-85, 1958, (Abstract in Sociological Abstracts, 8:235, July, 1960). Jacobson<sup>60</sup> compared a group of married and divorced couples, and found that divorced couples exhibited greater disparity in their attitudes toward the roles of the husband and wife in marriage than do married couples. The divorced males had the most male-dominant attitudes, while the divorced females had the most feminine equalitarian attitudes.

Nye<sup>61</sup> found that the employment of mothers typically increases conflict in marital relations. There was significantly more conflict and less permanance in marital relations where wives worked but no significant difference in happiness and satisfactions. The findings suggest that conflict in marital relations may be counter-balanced by increasing life satisfactions for the mother.

With these two preceding studies in mind, it is interesting to note that in Glick's study,<sup>62</sup> he shows that women are less likely to work during their first marriage than their second. One-half of the women worked during the first year of their first marriage while only one-fifth of them worked during the fifth through ninth year of their first marriage. Of the remarried group, one-third of the women worked during the first ten years of their second marriage. At the same time, he found that men have a greater improvement in occupational level

<sup>60</sup>Oliver H. Jacobson, "Conflict of Attitudes Toward the Roles of Husband and Wife in Marriage," <u>American Sociological Review</u>, 17:146-50, April, 1952.

<sup>61</sup>F. Ivan Nye, "Employment Status of Mothers and Marital Conflict, Permanence, and Happiness," <u>Social Problems</u>, 6:260-67, Winter, 1958-59. (Abstract in Marriage and Family Living, 22:86, February, 1960).

62 Glick, op. cit., p. 730.

during the first ten years of their first marriage than during the same period of their second marriage.

A study by Monohan<sup>63</sup> on stability of remarriage confirms the viewpoint that remarriages are not as enduring as first marriages. The probability of divorce rises with each successive marriage, so that there exists divorce proneness among divorced persons who remarry.

A study by Locke and Klausner<sup>64</sup> does not support the preceding views entirely. They made a comparison of the adjustment in first marriages and remarriages. The combined scores of men and women showed no difference in adjustment between the first marriage and remarriage, but in the breakdown by sexes, he found that remarried women were as well adjusted to their present marriages as to their first marriages, while remarried men were less well adjusted than men in their first marriage. He concludes that divorced-remarried women are as good risks as women who marry only once, while divorced remarried men are not as good risks.

On the other hand, Paul Landis<sup>65</sup> in a similar study says that the census data show divorced women to be about a 10% poorer risk for remarriage than men. Landis's data confirm the view that throughout life, the divorced person has a better chance of remarriage than the widowed or the single. A fifty-fifty chance for marriage occurs for the spinster at

63 Thomas P. Monohan, "How Stable Are Remarriages?", American Journal of Sociology, 58:280-288, November, 1952.

<sup>64</sup>Locke and Klausner, loc. cit.

<sup>65</sup>Paul H. Landis, "Sequential Marriages," Journal of Home Economics, 42:625-28, October, 1950.

age thirty, for the widow at age thirty-three, and for the divorcee at age forty-five. The high rate of quick remarriages may be due to the fact that many persons divorce in order to marry someone else, and the shift in public attitudes aids in encouraging the divorcee to remarry. Landis believes that remarriage is often the solution to emotional trauma, but then it might also be the beginning of trauma since he also states that remarriages tend <u>not</u> to be as successful and are about 50% more risky. His data also show that once-married couples are better off economically than are remarried ones.

In a study by Locke,<sup>66</sup> he compared the adjustment of a divorced group with a happily married group using the Burgess-Cottrell Adjustment Scale. In this sample, divorced persons constitute good marriage risks. Of the divorced-remarried sample, about 77% considered their marriage happy or very happy. Only 10% rated their marriage unhappy or very unhappy. There is a fair probability that persons in adjusted marriages come from happy homes more frequently than do persons in unadjusted marriages, he surmises.

Locke found the most significant predictive items on the scale to be conventionality and sociability, both of which are associated with church attendance. Affiliation with church is probably a mark of a social personality and is highly associated with marital adjustment. Not belonging to church is unquestionably associated with maladjustment, but frequent attendance at church is more important for husbands than wives. These factors probably indicate the basic tendencies toward

66 Locke, loc. cit.

conventionality, sociability, and stability of personality. Locke's conclusions were that divorce and happiness in marriage as judged by outsiders and the Burgess-Cottrell Adjustment Scale both have validity in determining different degrees in marriage adjustment. In this sample, subsequent remarriages were fairly successful.

In Goode's study,<sup>67</sup> he found that 90% of all his divorcees reported some type of improvement by the divorce status, but there was greater improvement cited by the remarried group. The remarried group believed that they were much better off financially in the second marriage. Eighty-five percent of the remarried divorcees said they were "satisfied now" or "happily married." None of those remarried expressed fear about love and remarriage; only 16% of the not-remarried had such fear. In general, they had positive feelings concerning remarriage. Eighty-two percent thought without qualification that staying in the first marriage would have been worse. These women did worry about the effect that the divorce had on the children. They were more likely to feel better about the children if they were remarried.

Unquestionably, even these somewhat conflicting data supports the idea that remarriage constitutes a problem area for the mother. With the high rate of quick remarriages, both she and her children may well be faced with the double problem of adjustment to the dissolution of one marriage and the formation of a new one.

67 Goode, After Divorce, op. cit., pp. 338-342.

### X. COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Evelyn Duvall<sup>68</sup> gives a partial listing of available organized social resources to promote family stability. The list includes: public welfare, social security, health aids, mental health facilities, marriage and family counseling, organized religion, home economics classes, low cost housing projects, family life education, and youth education for marriage and family living. Duvall says that community workers have sensed that families "muddle through" their orises <u>without</u> assistance in spite of the myriad of resources available.

43

68 Durall, loc. cit.

### CHAPTER III

METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION AND PRESENTATION

I. SELECTION OF SAMPLE

A personal interview was conducted and an empirical interview guide submitted to a selected group of twenty-three white, divorced (not remarried) mothers of minor children. The names were taken from a list of all divorces granted in Guilford County during the period January to December, 1960. All but one of these divorces were granted on the grounds of at least a two year separation by mutual agreement.

Since divorce is a matter of public record, securing the names of the divorcees was a simple matter. No address source, other than Guilford County, was given in the records. Due to the mobility of this group, their addresses were very difficult to find. This fact narrowed the list of available interviewees considerably. The field of available subjects was further narrowed by the criteria for selection of the sample which were: marital status (not remarried), residence (within the city limits), race (all white), age of children (custody of at least one under twenty-one), and year decree was granted in the Guilford County Superior Court (1960).

The subjects were chosen from the list of women who had the final decree granted within the preceding year (1960). This was done in order to avoid as many remarriages and address changes as possible. The Domestic Relations Court, Telephone Information Service, and City Directory (which also listed places of employment for one or both spouses) were used to obtain addresses. When place of employment for either spouse was given, the personnel office was contacted in order to ascertain addresses. Often, if the address was unknown, names of friends or neighbors were used as a check reference. Every available means was used by the researcher to ascertain the addresses of the 1960 divorcees.

All women whose addresses could be found, and who qualified according to the limits of the study, were actually contacted and interviewed. Three women refused to be interviewed. The twenty-three completed interviews represent 21.7% of the total original sample. The three refusals represent 11.5% of the Qualifying Respondents.

## II. INTERVIEW INSTRUMENT

Based on background reading in the area of post-divorce adjustment, a fifteen page Interview Guide with open-end questions was constructed to cover anticipated problem areas. The Interview Guide was pretested with three divorced mothers not in the sample, and was submitted for criticism to a psychiatrist, a minister and a pediatrician. Revisions were made accordingly. The interview instrument is presented in the appendix.

### III. COLLECTION OF DATA

Because divorce is an intensely personal subject, no contact was made with the respondents before the first interview was sought, in order to avoid refusals. In spite of the fact that all but two of the respondents worked, half of the interviews were conducted during the day and

half of them at night due to days off and late shifts at place of employment.

Fifteen of the interviews were conducted at the original time of contact; eight were made by appointments for more convenient times. The interviews ranged in length from one and one-half to four hours. The interviewing began July 5, 1961 and was completed August 1, 1961 - a total of four weeks.

### IV. DESCRIPTION OF THE GROUP

Data on several characteristics of the group are presented in the appendix. These data are summarized here.

The mean age of the mothers was thirty-three years. They averaged 2.7 children each, with a mean age of 10.8 years for the children still living at home.

The mean age of the mothers at marriage was nineteen and for the fathers, twenty-one years. The mothers had been married an average of ten and a half years, and had been living apart from Ex an average of four years. Eleven of the fathers were known to be remarried.

The average number of school years completed was slightly over eleven for the mothers, and over nine for the fathers. Twenty-one of the mothers were employed while only nineteen of the fathers were working. Out of the twenty-three fathers, only ten of them made regular support payments; six others made occasional payments.

Twelve of the mothers had had some small degree of counseling during or after the marriage. This was usually done by the minister. The sources most often mentioned by these mothers as having been the most helpful in problem solving were: family and relatives; best friend; minister; and lawyer.

V. THE MOTHERS' REACTION TO THE INTERVIEW

In general, the mothers in the sample were highly co-operative and were eager to talk about their problems. It was believed that a high degree of rapport was established due to the candid and revealing nature of the responses. Several comments in reaction to the interview seem worthy of reporting:

- "I have told you more about myself than I have anyone else in ten years."
- 2. "You have helped me think through all my problems and they seem clearer now."
- 3. "Everyone loves to talk about themselves and I'm no exception."
- 4. "I enjoyed being interviewed."
- 5. "It's hard to find the words sometimes to say how I really feel."
- 6. "Some things you can express only on your knees."

There was a high degree of interest shown in plans for starting a local Parents Without Partners Group. One mother remarked, "I can't believe that someone is actually going to do something about our problems."

## VI. PRESENTATION OF THE DATA

The case summary approach. As originally stated, the purposes of the study were to describe not only the nature of the problems experienced by this sample of mothers, but also to indicate the sources of help they

used, and to ascertain the additional sources of help which they desired for solving their problems. There were not enough meaningful data supplied by the sample to deal effectively with these last two categories of questions. Each of the respondents had a uniquely different set of external problems with which to cope in her respective situation. Problems varied widely among the twenty-three respondents according to such criteria as socio-economic level; age, sex, and number of children; educational level and age of the mother; housing; day-care arrangements. Categories for the twenty-three cases became so numerous that it appeared desirable to treat each interviewee's responses individually as they were related to her particular set of external problems. There were, however, certain trends of attitudes toward their pattern of life as single parents which were common to all. The data are presented as Descriptive Case Summaries, with an attempt to classify the person as affected by her problems, on the basis of attitudes revealed in the responses she made. Each case is presented in four phases:

1. <u>General information data</u>. Each case summary includes selected items of background information. "Years Since Separation" represents the total length of time from date of separation from husband until date of interview, but all final divorce decrees had been granted within the past eighteen month period.

- 2. Actual responses to nine selected questions as follows:
  - (a) Did you have any feelings of bitterness toward your ex-husband in the past?
- (b) Did this affect your feelings toward men in general?
  - (c) What are your present feelings toward your ex-husband?

- (d) What are your present feelings toward men in general?
- (e) How do you feel about love and remarriage?
- (f) Have the above feelings changed since the separation?
- (g) How do you feel that remarriage will affect the children?
- (h) Do you consider remarriage to the "right man" the solution to your biggest problem?
- (i) What do you think the future holds for you?

3. <u>Situation description</u>. A brief summary of additional pertinent information describing each individual's particular situation as indicated by the subject's actual responses to the interview guide.

4. Interviewer's impressions. These impressions are based on personal observations and on responses made in the entire interview.

### VII. ORGANIZATION OF THE CASE SUMMARIES

<u>Trends of adjustment</u>. Since the data are presented as descriptive case summaries, they have been organized to show variations in the patterns of adjustment made by the mothers. The respondents have been divided into two adjustment groups.

There appeared to be two general trends of attitudes revealed by these mothers in defining a new self-concept as related to their heterosexual attitudes; and they have thus been categorized according to positive and negative trends of adjustment. These positive and negative trends are directly related to their past and present attitudes towards men, remarriage, and the future. Chapter IV includes an extensive treatment of one case (number thirteen) and summaries of the other cases belonging to the negative trend. Chapter V includes an extensive treatment of one case (number ten) and summaries of the other cases belonging to the positive trend.

## CHAPTER IV

THE NEGATIVE TREND OF ADJUSTMENT

The case summaries presented in this chapter demonstrate the adjustment trends of the subjects who have negative attitudes toward men, remarriage, and the future. They are presented in sequence from negative to positive poles of adjustment. The representative case summary demonstrating the negative pole of adjustment is presented first. CASE SUMMARY #13

(Negative Pole)

AGE OF MOTHER: 27	NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 1
YEARS MARRIED: 7	AGE AND SEX: Boy, 9
YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: 32	DAY CARE: Subject's Mother
SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: 11 (Father: 11)	HOUSING: Lives with mother in lower class section
OCCUPATION: Spare Hand Textile Worker (Father: In Service)	AGE AT MARRIAGE: Mother, 16 Father, 20

EX REMARRIED: Yes

#### RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

I felt bitter toward Ex at first and I thought all men were no good. Now Ex and I are friends, but I could never trust anyone again. I am planning to remarry - but not definitely, because I wonder if you can ever have confidence in any man again. I have never rejected the idea of remarriage. I feel that my son would be happy about it. Remarriage would be the solution to my biggest problems. As for the future, sometimes I feel that it holds nothing - not anything! I think about this a great deal. Remarriage would give me security.

SITUATION DESCRIPTION: (Responses to total Interview Guide)

### I. Single Parenthood - The Four Roles

Subject responded that her biggest problem as a single parent was trying to be a Mother during the periods when she had an ulcer flare-up. The ulcer had developed since the separation, and according to her statement, her doctor had given medical care but no advice about the cause of the ulcer. In playing the father role, her biggest problem was spending weekends in recreation with her son. Sometimes her brother-in-law or her dates helped her by doing things with the child. She reported no homemaking problems since she lived with her mother. Her problem as a breadwinner was that, as a woman, she could never earn as much as a man; there were also problems in budgeting. This mother indicated that she often felt that she had to be two parents because of having the total responsibility of the child and of having to take her son places when she would prefer her own social activities. She stated that adjustment to changing the habit patterns of marriage had not been difficult, asserting that it was a relief more than an adjustment. She reported no problems in time management nor any new physical demands.

## II. Attitude Toward the Divorce

Subject indicated that she found it difficult at first to live with the idea of being a divorcee because she felt that she did not "fit in" with anyone. Subject added that she had now adjusted to this.

The interviewee's family had nothing to say about the divorce. They left the decision up to her and were glad that she came home to live rather than going somewhere else. She did not know how her in-laws felt about the divorce, but her friends had shown no reaction nor made any comment, she reported. Her circle of friends had changed because she said that she no longer "fit in" with her old friends; she had made new friends, most of whom were also divorced. Subject reported that she felt out of place at church, and at first, felt like she should not even attend.

Subject said that she did not want to get the divorce but felt it just had to be that way. Her Ex was greatly in favor of the divorce. Her son had been quite upset at first, she said, to such an extent that it had

affected his first year in school. She reported that the fact of divorce no longer seemed to bother him.

# III. Legal Problems

The mother and Ex had divided the furniture, but Ex did not want to pay child support. She contemplated criminal court action but first asked the Domestic Relations Court to write him a letter. Ex then began to pay ten dollars weekly. These payments, which she considered both adequate and fair, come regularly. Subject herself, paid thirty-eight dollars for the separation papers, but she and Ex split the cost of the divorce which was \$115.00. (The standard legal fees are \$50.00 and \$150.00). There were no problems in settling custody or visitation rights.

## IV. The Ex-Spouse and the Child

Subject stated that her son had always worshipped his father and that she did not think his feelings had changed since the separation. She added that her son always looked forward to his visits. At the time of the interview Ex was in service and stationed in the state, but this caused no problems. Although Ex had never baby-sat or offered any other help with the child, Subject said that she would feel free to ask him for help in an emergency, and she thought that he would help.

## V. Economics and Employment

Subject indicated that her standard of living was better after divorce than during the marriage. Employment was necessary and her income was adequate for routine living expenses. She had experienced no problems in securing a job because she had previously worked at the same mill. She remarked that her training was adequate, and that her employer was glad to have her because he knew her personally. She added that her employer had taken her single parenthood into account in giving her sick leave, time off, and raises. Subject indicated that her insurance was adequate and that she had begun a savings account. Getting credit had been no problem.

## VI. Housing

Subject returned home to live with her mother immediately after the separation. They were living in a typical mill village house located on an unpaved street in the outskirts of town. She did indicate that there were problems in this living situation. She said that her mother treated her like a daughter rather than an adult and tried to tell her what to do. This, she said, bothered her at times. However, their child rearing ideas were the same, she added.

## VII. Emotional - Mother

Subject stated that her biggest emotional problem was loneliness. To combat this, she stayed busy. She had developed an ulcer since the separation without realizing that she had been under such great tension, although she admitted being easily upset. Her doctor had simply given routine medical care. She had confided somewhat in her sister, and said that it was a big help to have someone to listen. Subject speculated that counseling during the marriage would not have prevented the divorce, but pre-marital counseling might possibly have prevented the marriage.

She expressed no feelings in particular when the separation papers

were drawn up; but, when the decree papers were being processed, she remembered that she was glad it was going to be over. On the day in court, she described herself as being nervous because this was her first time in a courtroom.

She indicated that sexual adjustment had not been particularly difficult; she just stayed busy and spent her time with her son. As advice to other divorcees, she suggested that they stay busy and keep their minds on something else. She added that, "What you do depends on the problems that you had during the marriage."

## VIII. Medical

Subject indicated that medical care for both her and her son had been adequate and that her doctors had given her some consideration in setting fees and giving free drugs.

## IX. Social Life - Mother

Subject reported that she had been spending her leisure time in the summer swimming and picnicing. She also dated or went to the movies with girl friends. Maintaining a social life had not been difficult, but due to the fact that she worked on a late shift, she did not participate in any civic organizations.

She began dating about a year after the separation and was dating on the average of once or twice weekly. Starting to date created problems because her mother opposed it, and her son was jealous. She decided to go ahead, however, after waiting for a year to prevent the possibility of gossip. Her dates were largely people she had previously known, but she

had also met some new dates at work. Most of her dates have also been divorced. She preferred to date divorcees because she thought they were much more understanding. She reported that none of her dates had tried to take advantage of the fact that she was divorced - she explained that they knew by her cue to treat her like a lady. Her dates spent time with her son and she took the child with her on many of her dates. Sometimes her son was happy about the date if he liked the person; otherwise, he either did not have anything to say or simply stayed away. Subject reported that she had a steady date and was contemplating marriage. This, she added, had not created any problems.

## X. The Child

Subject responded that she and Ex together had explained the divorce to the child. She chose the example of fighting boys and explained, "When you can't get along together, you have to be apart." She said that her son accepted the explanation well, and there had been no apparent change in him, but she reflected that he had seemed more relaxed after the separation.

Subject's mother kept the child after school. She and her mother shared the total household expenses. She was well satisfied with this arrangement and said that it presented no problems. Her son had stayed there before, and he liked the idea of living with Grandmother again.

The interviewee made a special effort to take her son out every weekend for swimming and picnicing, which she said constituted a problem because she often had to go with him when she preferred to stay at home. Her brother-in-law, who lived next door, spent a lot of time with her son, and served as a "father substitute." The boy had often participated in

YMCA activities, and reportedly enjoyed them immensely. She explained that her son was slow in the first grade because the separation had just occurred, but that he had had no problems since then.

## XI. In-Laws

The Subject reported no problems with her in-laws. She did wonder how she should feel toward them, but she said that they were still friends. The in-laws have offered no financial help and she would not feel free to ask them for it. Subject reported that they at least had done nothing to hinder her adjustment.

### XII. Spiritual Life

Subject answered that she did not feel that the church had been a source of help in her adjustment. She did not feel free to talk to her minister about the divorce nor did she feel the need to.

She remarked again that she felt out of place at church because she thought people wanted to ask, "Why?" She felt that she just should not be there; there was no place for her. She added that the divorce did not change her religious convictions and that she continued to attend about the same as before separation.

## XIII. Review Section

Subject responded that she felt that both she and her son were better off then than during the marriage. She was finally able to say while all of her problems had been big ones, the most important ones had been worry over the future and the fact that she kept things bottled up inside her. She concluded by saying that sometimes she felt the need to talk to someone, but then she decided that she would rather keep her problems to herself.

## INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

Although Subject (a very attractive woman) was quite willing to be interviewed, she had great difficulty in defining her problems. At first she could only say that all her problems had been big, but considerable probing was necessary to get her to verbalize about the fear of the future and the ambivalence of wanting and not wanting to talk out her problems. It would seem apparent that the ulcer had developed because of this ambivalence. Parental conflict, loneliness, and the duty of socializing with her son when she preferred or needed to do something else, were the only problems she could admit to the interviewer. Rapport was difficult to maintain because her mother, sister, and neighbor kept coming into the room out of obvious curiosity. Her responses were very short and matter-of-fact. She made many obviously nervous gestures during the interview. After hearing and recording her story, the interviewer was frankly surprised that she had agreed to be interviewed. Compared to many other situations observed by the interviewer, Subject had had to cope with few external problems; but apparently, the internal conflicts had assumed proportions of great magnitude. The interviewer believed that the things which she was unable to say were far more significant than the things which she did say. It would appear that she had set up many defenses, repressed reality, and was obviously emotionally keyed up. At one point, her eyes brimmed with tears. This interview lasted only one and one-half hours.

This is significant in that the interviews with the mothers, who could better define their problems, lasted as long as four hours. (The other representative case - #10 - is such an example.)

### CASE SUMMARY #14

AGE OF MOTHER: 53 YEARS MARRIED: 29 YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: 6 SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: 10 OCCUPATION: Homemaker - Keeps children part time. HOUSIN class

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 5 (2 at home)

AGE AND SEX: 1 married stepson, 36 2 married daughters, 29 and 31 1 daughter engaged, 20 1 daughter mentally retarded, 13

DAY CARE: Herself

HOUSING: Owns home in old, middle class section

EX REMARRIED: Yes

### RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

I was very bitter toward Ex in the past, and did not trust any man. Now, I have no feelings for Ex, but I am still distrustful of men. I don't feel like I'd ever like to remarry and my attitude has not changed since the separation. Remarriage would not cause any reaction in the children, but it would be the solution to my biggest problems. I don't think the future holds much for me. As long as the children are happy, I'm happy. I pray for their happiness all the time.

#### SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Subject's situation had been characterized by severe economic hardships. For four years, Ex had not paid support for the two youngest daughters who were still living with her. Ex deserted, and therefore she had no choice about a divorce - the reasons she reported were alcohol and women. Ex had to be extradited to North Carolina; and, with the help of the Domestic Relations Court, he had been made to pay one hundred dollars monthly. Her attorney and stepson helped her to get Ex to sign over the home to her; Ex had contested it. Her economic situation had been much worse since separation than it was during the marriage. She had barely been able to make ends meet. Getting the older daughter through high school with no support money was exceedingly difficult. Her older children helped a little financially.

Subject was unable to leave the mentally retarded child (MA = 5 years) for public work. This child, she explained, was much happier at home and was unable to "take up" for herself. Subject kept other children part of the time = one, another mentally retarded child.

Subject had been tied down with the MR child and, therefore, unable to go many places. She had especially missed going to P.T.A., Sunday School, and to meetings of the Association for the Mentally Retarded. Another daughter was willing to baby-sit if Subject could take MR child five miles across town to her home, but transportion was a problem, too. Getting the child to the MR School has also been a real handicap. When Subject did go out, it was necessary to take the MR child with her. This, too, constituted a problem since the child was so much happier at home.

Subject reported that the older daughter, who was fourteen at the time of the separation, had the most difficult time with adjustment. This daughter (then twenty, and planning to be married soon,) had been nervous and upset at first and declared that she would never get married; her grades dropped at school. Subject commented that all the children seemed happier after the adjustment although all of them were still very bitter toward the father.

Subject responded that all her friends and family had stood behind her (especially her stepson, who is Ex's son by a former marriage). She indicated that she had more friends after Ex had left; even so, she felt out of place with her married friends. She commented that the divorce had strengthened her religious convictions, but she still felt out of place at church because all her friends discussed their husbands and she could not.

Subject remembered that at first she could not sleep or concentrate, was upset, lost weight, and was very bitter. She tried very hard to keep the children from knowing what happened. She talked to the older children somewhat but, "Mother tried to soften the blow for even the oldest ones." She reported that she was still nervous and that it was still hard for her to concentrate.

#### INTERVIEWER'S COMMENTS:

Subject lived in her own home, furnished with an accumulation of twenty-nine years of marriage. Her face was characterized by hopelessness and resignation. As she spoke, however, she revealed a very gentle nature.

Since she had reached the age where the possibility of remarriage was slim, since she was very inhibited financially, and since she had the total responsibility for the care of a mentally retarded child, the problems in her situation will probably remain hers alone. Although she talked very little about her internal feelings, she indicated that it was difficult to accept the idea of having spent twenty-nine years of her life with a man, only to be deserted and left to fend for herself in a very difficult situation. Even harder to accept was the idea of his remarriage at age fifty-eight. The interviewer believed that Subject has faced her situation with a great deal of courage, but with not much insight, perhaps because soul searching would have been very painful.

It seemed that her married children had not helped their mother as much as they could have, possibly because of her continued desire to protect her brood. Apparently, the problems in her marriage were so great

that she was relieved to be rid of them. With no economic help for four years, she was left to struggle against great odds with little sense of direction accompanied by strong feelings of futility.

AGE OF MOTHER: 33 YEARS MARRIED: 11 YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: 6 SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: 10 OCCUPATION: Homemaker EX REMARRIED: Yes NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 5

AGE AND SEX: 3 Girls, 7, 10, 15 2 Boys, 9, 13

HOUSING: Low Income Community Housing Project (\$24 monthly)

#### SUBJECT'S RESPONSE TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

At first I felt I didn't deserve what Ex had done. I still loved him. On one occasion we slapped each other and we still argue on the phone about overdue payments. Even now I don't understand why he does what he does. I thought then, and I still think that all men are untrustworthy. I don't want another marriage if I couldn't make the first one work. I don't think a person ought to marry several times. My attitude hasn't changed since the separation. I don't think the children would be happy if I remarried - I think they would hate me, and would resent discipline from another man. If Ex was not married, I'd probably remarry him, but we would have to talk it over. I'm still in love with him. I've never thought about remarriage to anyone else as the solution to my biggest problems. As for the future, I live for my children. I want to raise them to grow up to be fine young men and women, and hope they won't make the same mistakes. I do worry about my daughter marrying too young.

#### SITUATION DESCRIPTION

Subject, who was reduced to tears throughout the interview, was clearly an example of the lower socio-economic strata, receiving aid from many social institutions. She was not working and explained that it was cheaper for her to stay at home. Her husband had paid, irregularly, twenty-five dollars weekly, but had stopped support each time she went to work. Subject had used seventeen public agencies for economic and medical help as well as personal counseling. Besides the obvious dire economic problems, Subject stated that her other big problems included worry about the children not having a father, and "upset nerves" because she did not know what was right or wrong in discipline, and the knowledge that she did not discipline as strictly as she felt a man would. Her whole story centered around the lack of a man and the terrific responsibilities of raising five children alone. She commented that she worried about what would happen to them if something happened to her, and how she could possibly afford to keep them all in school until they reached sixteen.

Subject reported that the Family Service Counselor had been her greatest source of help in combatting the emotional problems of bitterness toward Ex, and guilt over the wrong choice of a husband. She had had real difficulty in getting Ex to pay support, especially since he had remarried. She was, at that time, making plans to start criminal court action. She asserted that threatening Ex with imprisonment for non-support would not bother the children because they knew that if money did not come in, they would not eat. Subject had asked Ex for help in a recent emergency. He refused and answered, "That's your little red wagon - now you pull it!"

Subject said that she desired companionship, but did not know how to talk to men, and could not afford the kind of clothes needed to dress nicely. She added that she was looking for the "perfect" man - one who did not drink. She added that when she visited her married friends, she felt like a "third wheel." If their husbands came in, she left immediately. Her almost non-existent social life consisted of association with other divorced neighbors.

Subject indicated that her initial feelings of the social stigma

were strong because she was afraid that people would disrespect her. She added that she felt people at church looked down on her and pitied her - she did not want this and felt out of place at church. She said, "I do not go to church now because I can't feel free in my heart that I haven't been done wrong. It would be committing a sin for me to go to church now because I hate my husband and his wife."

Subject said that since the divorce she had grown a lot and learned to make decisions for herself.

### INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

Subject, prematurely old at age thirty-two, was unkempt in appearance, but very friendly in attitude. It seemed apparent that her hard and shrewish exterior covered many vulnerable internal feelings as evidenced by her tears. A neighbor had indicated to the interviewer that Subject's children were troublemakers. Whatever the case, it was obvious to the interviewer that Subject cared a great deal about whether or not they were good children. Subject seemed to be struggling with feelings of bitterness and hopelessness after a six-year separation, and was still attempting to create new pattern of life for herself. Subject's responses seemed to reveal that her feelings of bitterness were a defense against strong feelings of unworthiness and, also, that she had little insight into her own problems.

AGE OF MOTHER: 30

YEARS MARRIED: 8

YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: 3

SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: 7

OCCUPATION: Beautician, on Weekends NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 4

AGE AND SEX: 2 Girls, 3, 6 2 Boys, 8, 9

DAY CARE: Another family keeps them Thursday through Saturday

HOUSING: Low Income Community Housing Project (\$24 monthly)

EX REMARRIED: No

RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

No, I didn't feel bitter toward Ex in the past, but I still get mad at him. I didn't feel any bitterness toward other men either, but I'm just an unordinary person. I don't know what my present feelings toward Ex are or toward men either. Men don't bother me. My whole feelings have changed since I got saved. Now everything works for the best. I would not marry anyone as long as my husband is alive because this is against my belief. If I did. I would really have to love him. A widower would be best for anyone. My feelings have not changed since the separation. I really don't know how remarriage would affect the children. I have thought about remarriage to Ex, but then I put it out of my mind. I wouldn't unless I really loved him because it would be a sin. I'm better off by myself, but I really don't know if I would remarry Ex. Right now I don't know if remarriage would be the solution to my biggest problems. I let God lead me now, when I used to depend on my own self. The future holds a lot of happiness for me and my children. It's a brighter future than I did have.

SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Subject lived in housing project whose tenants were restricted to a fifty-eight dollar weekly income. This perhaps explains why Subject worked only on weekends, although she indicated that she preferred not to work at all. She had moved five times in the past eighteen months.

She was dating another separated man at the time of her own separation, and saw him daily. She reported that she loved him so much that she did not care about anything else in the world, and they had planned to marry. He became quite ill and died just three months prior to the interview. At his request before his death, she went to church at the Salvation Army. She reported that she confessed, got saved, got faith and all her problems were solved.

Subject had seen a psychiatrist twice in the past. He had suggested that she go to a nearby mental hospital. She asserted that this had cured her nervousness because it scared her and made her mad. She added, "The divorce status makes everyone think you are ready for the nut house."

Subject said that her two biggest problems were economics and the responsibility of four children. She stated that she used to be depressed but she no longer worried, although she lacked the time and money to do things around the house she would really like to do. She asserted that her income was inadequate for essential living expenses but that faith in God makes dollars go farther. She put half of her money in church and said that it now went farther. She explained that she had shed many a tear for nothing worrying about how she would make ends meet. Now she lived on faith which provided a way.

Subject was taking her children to the home of friends to keep overnight Thursday through Saturday while she worked. She paid them fifteen dollars weekly. This served as a second home for the children, which she concluded would be a solution to everyone's problems. She said that the children had seemed more settled and satisfied without the constant fussing in the marriage, but had shown no particular reaction to the divorce, and felt the same as they always did toward Ex. She did, however, reveal that the youngest son had to repeat second grade. She explained that he

was a capable child but refused to work, and was very spiteful, but she was not sure of the cause. Subject said that she had always wanted an education, and that she would like to see her children through college, although she had made no plans for doing so. She added that she prayed and asked God for strength. "There is no manmade solution to anything. It is so easy if you just pray."

Subject stated that she separated because she had to have rights. She was satisfied just to be separated, but got the decree for legal protection from her husband. He had paid support regularly, but was at that time unemployed. Ex had been at her apartment on the day of the interview. She said that he helped her with the baby-sitting and mopped her floors (she was physically unable to do this).

Subject reported that it was not difficult to accept the idea of divorce because she enjoyed not listening to a fuss; but she added, "My family was ready to shoot me. They didn't like it, but they didn't have to live with it. My people have always tried to run my business - so I moved across town."

Subject had been in the hospital five times since the separation. She was admitted through the clinic at the health department. She reflected that she used to cry often, and that worry over money and responsibilities had kept her nerves upset. She said that she kept running to doctors and spent a lot of unnecessary money on doctor bills and medicine. She had gained weight and looked much better, she contended. The interviewee said that she had come to realize that her past problems were due to the fact that she wasted too much of life looking for someone to help her and she now realized that she had to help herself by looking Above. On one occasion when subject was very upset, she called a nurse .

friend who suggested that she needed a drink or a nerve shot to guard against a repeat visit to the hospital. Subject answered, "What I need is God." This need was revealed to her for the first time and she fell to her knees and asked God for help. She realized that this was her only answer. At that time, Subject and her children were participating in all of the activities sponsored by the Salvation Army.

#### INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

Subject was a very pleasant and attractive woman with quite unforgettable liquid blue eyes that were somewhat glassy and detached, and appeared to be focused on some visionary object. At one point, they brimmed with tears when she was ruminating about her dead lover.

Her story was characterized both by many contradictory attitudes and also by the inability to state any attitudes. The fact that a psychiatrist had recommended a mental hospital on two occasions might seem to indicate that she had not been able to face reality - guilt over the affair, grief over her fiance's death, economic hardship, resentment of family interference, ambivalance toward Ex - and that she had thus escaped into the mysticism of religion via the Salvation Army. Add to this the expression in her eyes and her admission of being an "unordinary person," and it may be possible that the ingredients of psychotic tendencies existed.

She hade no attempt to define any pattern to her life except by constant church activities and by explaining her problems away by sheer faith. To the interviewer it is inconceivable that she should have felt obligated to put half of an already inadequate income into the church.

Yet, the interviewer was very sure that Subject was sincere and devout in her religious convictions, but very unrealistic in her conception of her problems.

home on unperset eligenti-

[11] Charley & G. 101702.000 (Galley LOD)

For, I and very billion boward for at first and in general data allowed my side on a partnet stranger to me. I also the reach and yours. He is now a partnet stranger to me. I also the bank, has abare is as maling for him. I am now he i little sore. Thereast to other men, but I get bittler when they cross me. If would be very difficult to adjust to months survinge. I fear that it would be the same thing all over again. I'm not really more and I feel about 15. At first I said Its cares reactly more thanks if would if I found a unit I sould love, get along which and the tapper, but I mentic here to be here. The children press and the tapper, but I mentic here to be here. The children press is not and the tap again to both this and to not I guest press ring and the tap and I mentic here to be here. The children press find and to be the sales goes to be here. The children press for and the tap adout is goes to be here. I not not a press of the state of the tag solution of the best would be not not a press the form and the the sale of the best of solutions. I ment to get the state of the tag solution of the best of solutions. I ment to get the state of the tag solution of the best of solutions of the solution of the state of the sale of the best of solutions. I ment to get the

TATION DESCRIPTION

Subject with four additions of her new, has taken as minds, three contrologican who made deserting by black antiker. The hol had then for two onton at the time of the interview, how had ted the problem of dealing its their emped minds from proviews subtransformed. She did not indicate but the extre shildren were a major burder to har. She explained, "I

AGE OF MOTHER: 42

YEARS MARRIED: 17

YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: 53

SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: 7

OCCUPATION: Weaver at Cotton Mill (Third Shift)

EX REMARRIED: Yes

NUMBER CHILDREN: 4 of Own 3 Wards

AGE AND SEX: Her Own: 2 Boys, 10, 22 2 Girls, 15, 16 Foster Children: 2 Girls, 5, 6 1 Boy, 2

DAY CARE: She and daughters alternate

HOUSING: Owns typical mill village home on unpaved street.

RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

Yes, I was very bitter toward Ex at first and in general this affected my attitude toward all men. You have this bitterness for years and years. Ex is now a perfect stranger to me. I wish him luck, but there is no feeling for him. I can now be a little more pleasant to other men, but I get bitter when they cross me. It would be very difficult to adjust to another marriage. I fear that it would be the same thing all over again. I'm not really sure how I feel about it. At first I said I'd never remarry. Now I think I would if I found a man I could love, get along with, and be happy; but I would have to be sure. The children would not object if he were good to both them and to me. I guess remarriage would be the solution to my biggest problems. As for the future, I am looking forward to being a grandmother. I want to see the children grow up, get on their own, and be happy.

# SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Subject with four children of her own, has taken as wards, three preschoolers who were deserted by their mother. She had had them for two months at the time of the interview, and had had the problem of dealing with their warped minds from previous maltreatment. She did not indicate that the extra children were a major burden to her. She explained, "I get my reward when they put their arms around my neck and say, 'I love you mother'." She added that she thought a deserting mother was the lowest form of humanity.

In her job at the mill, she indicated that she earned a good salary for a woman. She worked on third shift while the children slept, kept the wards during the day, and slept when the other children came home from school. She dated the father of the deserted children steadily, but not seriously. They usually stayed at home for the dates.

The father of the wards was paying for their support and also paying Subject a small amount for keeping them.

Subject's health had been extremely poor since the separation, having been in the hospital seven times. Because she needed the money, she had taken Ex to court twice for non-support. He was then paying one hundred dollars monthly. She felt that the Judge of the Domestic Relations Court was too lenient with men because he had cut the support payments thirty-three dollars monthly without calling her into court.

At first Ex claimed that he wanted custody of one child. Each of the children had to tell the Judge that they preferred to live with their mother. The oldest son was in service, and she talked at length about what a wonderful son he was and how much she missed him.

Subject's other big problem was Ex's new wife. She reported that the stepmother did not want the children around her, and explained that this was difficult because Subject wanted the children to love their daddy. She had had to fight strong feelings of bitterness and was trying not to let the children feel this. She reported that the children loved their father because she had taught them to; but, she added, they were

resentful of his neglect and treatment of them. They all resented the fact that he was doing things for the new wife that he had not done for them. She said that there had been many times when she wished that he lived out of town. She commented that she tried to make up the loss of the father to the children by spending all of her free time with them. She said that she had become softer with her children because she felt that they had been robbed, but she knew that she was too lenient at times.

Her big health problem had been the flare-up of a female condition each time that she and Ex had argued. She fought depression, could not sleep, or concentrate, felt the need to be alone and even forgot to eat. Her doctor had explained to her the cause of all these psychosomatic manifestations. There had been no trouble since an hysterectomy.

She revealed that her own family felt that the divorce was terrible; consequently, she had not felt free to turn to them for help. She found it very difficult to talk to anyone about the divorce, and refused to talk to the minister because she believed that the wedding vows were sacred. She added that the divorce had weakened her religious convictions and had made her bitter and hard, causing her to think things that she should not think. However, she and the children were attending church regularly.

#### INTER VIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

Subject was very attractive, but a very brittle looking person. In spite of the added responsibility of the three foster children, her whole story revolved around Ex and his new wife, and was characterized by bitterness. She appeared to have very strong maternal instincts, and to have

insight into her role as a mother, but bitter in her role as Ex-wife and rejected lover. While she talked freely, she was very defensive about Ex. At one point her eyes brimmed with tears.

It would seem that her older son had become her male love object, since she talked at length about his activities and her ministrations to him on his weekend visits. Her attitude appeared to be that of stoic acceptance; her problems still seemed to focus on the divorce; her future appeared to revolve only around her children. There were no expressed plans for creating a role for herself as a person - only for herself as a grandmother.

where allies, J have an Spailings at all for Hz news. My present feelings toring new are primably the same as before, but I'm not sure I really that the map. I have not inegine specify survively. By attitude in the separation. I have no idea haw remargings sould affect the smilldren, Reservices is not the solution to by biggest problems. As for the future, I'm loaking forward to room things - it involves the children.

THE OWNERS OF STREET, STREET,

An plot had limit in her our very situation in furnished sportant of a new separation. The hed had financial hely from her father's and had regularly remained dray allotment from in (astabilished by ; and the separation). Alternaly this allotment estant is sharped, pho and the four coles and presented "ar real problems," the did admit at the four coles and presented "ar real problems," the did admit at the four coles and presented "ar real problems," the did admit at the four coles and presented "ar real problems," the did admit at the four coles and presented "ar real problems," the did admit at the four coles and presented that also hed heat to deal with some at the server block and the law had been very belligarent sizes in the server block and the law had been real strict and that the

AGE OF MOTHER: 30		NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 2
YEARS MARRIED: 6		AGE AND SEX: 1 Boy, 6 1 Girl, 8
YEARS SINCE SEPARATION:	3	DAY CARE: Maid HOUSING: Apartment in Upper
SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED:	131	
OCCUPATION: Secretary,		Middle Class Section
EX REMARRIED: Unknown		

#### RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

In the past I didn't feel anything toward Ex but I thought all men were alike. I have no feelings at all for Ex now. My present feelings toward men are probably the same as before, but I'm not sure I really feel this way. I can not imagine myself remarried. My attitude is about the same as it was at the separation. I have no idea how remarriage would affect the children. Remarriage is not the solution to my biggest problems. As for the future, I'm looking forward to some things - it involves the children.

#### SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Subject had lived in her own very attractively furnished apartment since the separation. She had had financial help from her father's estate and had regularly received Army allotment from Ex (established by Army regulations). Although this allotment cannot be changed, she asserted that it was "horribly unfair." Subject reported that the adjustment to the four roles had presented "no real problems." She did admit that economics was a problem and that she had had to deal with some emotional problems of her daughter who had become very belligerent since the divorce. She explained that Ex had been very strict and that the child might just be learning to express herself. She stated that she needed no help with this problem. The daughter was very conscious of the divorce and Subject indicated that this child resented her cousins' having a daddy, and thus became belligerent.

Subject agreed that the decision to divorce was a difficult one, but that she had had no regrets. The stigma at first made her feel "branded." Her friends had made no comment and she had told them it was none of their business. She had never talked out her problems to anyone, and had even hated telling her lawyer anything about the marriage.

She reported that she had managed to have a satisfactory social life and dated occasionally. She had kept the children in nursery school; but since the children had reached school age, she preferred to have a maid who would do her housework. She said that the children preferred a maid because it made them feel more important.

# INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

In attempting to locate respondent's address, the researcher called her place of employment on the pretense of seeking information about Ex's whereabouts. Subject was so curious that she went through an intricate process to discover the researcher's home phone. When the real purpose of the call was explained to her, she agreed enthusiastically to be interviewed. (This seems interesting in light of the fact that the respondent admitted no problems.) Although she was very cooperative during the interview, Subject was highly defensive in her answers. She was attractive, slim, very tailored, obviously intelligent and refined. It appeared, however, that she had little insight into her problems and was unwilling to view her situation realistically. She had wasted emotional energy lamenting over the government-established allotment which she was powerless to change. Based on external criteria, she had <u>no</u> real economic problem, but did need help with her child's emotional problems.

A second se

I never did have any feelings of bitbetter's way. Is to the part, to just decided to dieg out of anth dimer's way. Is the their decide the time, At first, I had no use for some I have no feelings on all for a nove the is just the better. As long as they orned as then, I trust them nices, As for removerings, the collision are due bigged problem. Have there is a decir. removerings, the collision are due bigged problem. Have the decire removerings, the collision are due bigged problem. Have the due to some first. It is not have been bigged problem. Have the some first. It is not not show the bigged problem they will have to some first. It is not have and the bigged problem in the to remover, but then not first the sole have and the bigged to be the state, I weather's put then not first the sole of some is the part sight with approx. I still so is include the sole of some shifters, I have the sole of the base of removerings we lis affect on shifters, I have with approx. I still any I service the sole of sole of the sole of the state, I den't have he can removerings we lis affect on shifters, I have the sole of the first and the sole of the the formation to approximate to with approx. I still any I service the the formation to approximate to with approx. I show he to some removering work the sole of the sole base of the state, I den't have the removerings would be the formation to approximate to problems. The future if removerings while the bids size of the sole. I

STARTON BREEKIPTIONS

Andgeon, who had not separat during the marriage, lised with her bereate until der durable archier sich. Then der restate an ele benay At the time of the interview her aged fatter and residing with her and and shoring expenses. The mer reveiving regater angelet payments. The plated that her pust-problems her contered account the lease of her here and a dis-

AGE OF MOTHER:35NUMBER OF CHILDREN:5YEARS MARRIED:10AGE AND SEX:2 Girls,12 and16YEARS SINCE SEPARATION:8SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED:9OCCUPATION:Saleswoman at Dime StoreHOUSING:Rented house in lower<br/>class section.EX REMARRIED:Yes

RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

I never did have any feelings of bitterness toward Ex in the past. We just decided to stay out of each other's way. He can visit any time. At first, I had no use for men. I have no feelings at all for Ex now; he is just the Daddy to my children. My feelings toward men have changed for the better. As long as they treat me nice, I treat them nice. As for remarriage, the children are the biggest problem. They will have to come first. It is not their fault that the divorce happened. I wouldn't put them out for nobody! I can't decide if I would like to remarry. My attitude has not changed in the past eight years. I felt that if I couldn't live with him, I didn't want to live with anyone. I still say I married the only one I ever wanted to marry. I don't know how remarriage would affect my children. They like my steady date now, but I don't know how it would be later. I really don't know if remarriage would be the solution to my biggest problems. The future? Just to get the kids through school. I haven't thought beyond that.

#### SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Subject, who had not worked during the marriage, lived with her parents until her invalid mother died. Then she rented an old home. At the time of the interview her aged father was residing with her and was sharing expenses. She was receiving regular support payments. She stated that her past problems had centered around the loss of her home and readjustment to being single again.

Subject's problems were centered around the mechanics of routine living and making ends meet. Admitting a real economic problem, she said that her decisions were based on the needlest first.

The respondent explained that her immediate concerns were getting the children to co-operate and be honest when she had to leave them, and keeping the children well so she would not have to miss work. She contended that a single parent can maintain discipline if children accept the fact that they have to mind.

Although she acknowledged that the children had found the separation hard to accept, she expressed no real problems except for peer comments at school. She said that the children thought their father had neglected them.

For three years, Subject had had a steady date who came about three times weekly. They would usually do things with the children at home. She added that she had been to one movie in the past year. Her "steady" was the only man she had dated, and it was her contention that "passes come when you date every Tom, Dick and Harry." The children had resented her "steady" at first, but had come to like him better than their real father, she confided. Subject and Steady had discussed marriage, but she was undecided about it. She feared that the good relationship with the children might end if they should marry.

Subject reported, with pride, that everyone had told her how lucky she was to have such good children. She explained that she had stayed home with them so that they would not run wild. All the children attended church regularly. Her attendance was not regular, she said, but she did not feel out of place because many other divorcees attended. She had talked

with her minister about the divorce and this, she asserted, had helped her accept the fact that she had done the right thing.

# INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

Subject was matronly and average looking in appearance, but very friendly. She appeared to have strong maternal feelings, but seemed to be lacking in insight. She complained of being bothered by fatigue and disgust. She seemed to have ambivalent feelings about Ex. Although he could visit at any time, his new wife was not allowed in the house. It appeared that the fact of divorce was still hard to accept. She waited several months to tell the children that she had obtained the final decree - the youngest child still had not been told. She reflected that they all had fared better during the first nine years of marriage. Her indecisiveness over remarriage, in light of steady dating for three years, would seem to indicate that she was passive about recognizing her problems or seeking any answers to them.

Subject seemed to be a conscientious mother, but it appeared that life outside of work and motherhood held little for her.

AGE OF MOTHER: 22 YEARS MARRIED: 3 YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: 8 OCCUPATION: Packer at Bakery EX REMARRIED: Yes

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 2

AGE AND SEX: 2 Girls, 5 and 6

DAY CARE: Her Mother

HOUSING: With parents in rented duplex in old, lower class section.

### RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

At first I had no feelings toward Ex at all. He tried to make me jealous, but I just wanted him away. I thought men were all like him. Now, it does not seem like I was ever married to him. Sometimes I still think men are all alike, but I don't guess they really are. At first I didn't feel like I wanted to marry again, but now I do. It took about two years to change. Remarriage will probably bother the children at first. They will hate to leave grandma. I expect to have some problems, but I don't want any help with this yet - I make my own decisions. Remarriage would be the solution to my biggest problems. As for the future, I hope it has more than the past.

#### SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Subject had been living with her family (which included an eight year old brother) for the whole separation period, which had been of longer duration than the marriage. She and her mother worked on opposite shifts and kept each other's children. She expressed no particular housekeeping problems since she and her mother shared the housework. There were no problems expressed in three-generation living. Subject ascertained that her family had given sufficient help, and she professed no particular economic concern.

Subject did not indicate any strong feeling of divorce stigma, nor any particular emotional problems. She did disclose past feelings of resentment toward Ex for wife-beating and running around. She had to take out several warrants against him during the marriage for wife-beating, and one peace warrant since separation: he had created childish disturbances trying to make her jealous. She was not then taking support money so that he would leave her alone. She contended that her children were definitely better off without their father because they were afraid of him.

Subject reported that her one biggest problem had been getting her older daughter started in school. This meant buying clothes, visiting the doctor and dentist, and arranging transportation to and from school. She also had problems in discipline which she settled by spanking, putting to bed, or making child stay in the house all day.

Subject explained that she took her children with her everywhere she went, including social activities and dating. She had a steady date and reported that he loved the children. They had talked about marriage. The mother was attending Sunday School regularly and said that she did not feel out of place.

### INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

Subject, who was married at fourteen, was an average looking woman who appeared older than her twenty-two years. Her problems focused on routine living rather than the divorce. Subject was very reluctant to be interviewed, having broken two appointments before the interviewer finally arrived unannounced. At first, the interviewee seemed highly suspicious, but was much warmer by the end of the interview. Having married at such an early age, she was possibly glad to be back home and a little reluctant to leave again. Her answers were short and matter-of-fact. It would appear

that she lacked insight and was therefore unaware of any existing problems. She seemed to have a passive attitude toward life in general.

CUP WING TO SELECTED OURSTICHS;

I may a likele bibber toward He at first because of the blightims I had to must. For a while 1 was bibter toward all as. I other's must to see his - 1 was's teleants the chings he bid. I's still bibter about having the teleants the chings he bid. I's still bibter about having the teleants the chings he bids one independent, and I feel more like a suman, and an is becaus independent, and I feel more like a suman, and an is one must. I like his and truct bim, and he's a ran all the asy. The idee of remarriage is very acceptable. I want to remark here if is first I didn't know if I'd do it again or ant, here new I think I an ready. Semarriage would be wonderful for the independent, I not ready. Semarriage would be wonderful for the independent, I not the right was. Discipling in the right manney motes memberd. Remarriage would be the solution to be bigget publicate. The future I i'm going to may I hope it's good anyon it will be mode. Every dog has his day.

#### 01.0727 0% 302.2021.27.207s

imbject stated that her big problems were scenarios, schooling the buildren, and living with her parents. It first she was in an apartment done with the problem of arising at five in the sorning to get the chiltrap off to surrery school. Reencedes forced her to move in with her parents and she reported the following problems in this situations

1. Her father comptines brought up the part and caused the

AGE OF MOTHER: 35

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 3

AGE AND SEX: 1 Girl, 7

DAY CARE: Her Mother

YEARS MARRIED: 9

YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: 6

SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: 10

HOUSING: With parents in an attractive mill village home.

OCCUPATION: Assembler at Cigarette Factory.

EX REMARRIED: Unknown

## RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

I was a little bitter toward Ex at first because of the obligations I had to meet. For a while I was bitter toward all men. I didn't care to date except to get out of a rut. As for Ex now, I don't want to see him - I can't tolerate the things he did. I'm still bitter about having the total responsibility, but I've become independent, and I feel more like a woman, and an independent being since I am away from my husband. As for men - I like one man. I like him and trust him, and he's a man all the way. The idea of remarriage is very acceptable. I want to remarry now. At first I didn't know if I'd do it again or not, but now I think I am ready. Remarriage would be wonderful for the children if I got the right man. Discipline in the right manner makes manhood. Remarriage would be the solution to my biggest problems. The future? I'm going to say I hope it's good - maybe it will be good. Every dog has his day.

#### SOLUTION DESCRIPTION:

Subject stated that her big problems were economics, schooling the children, and living with her parents. At first she was in an apartment alone with the problem of arising at five in the morning to get the children off to nursery school. Economics forced her to move in with her parents and she reported the following problems in this situation;

1. Her father sometimes brought up the past and caused the children to ask questions.

2. She and her parents had opposite views about child rearing - her parents were set in their ways.

3. The children were confused by everyone telling them what to do. (The interviewer observed that the seven year old girl sucked her thumb and wet the bed, although Subject said that the child's emotional problems had been solved by the divorce. The above manifestations may have been the result of this family conflict over discipline.)

4. Subject could not invite her friends in. She said that a wall existed between her and her parents; therefore, she wanted to be in an apartment alone, away from her parents but could not afford it.

Subject said she worried about how she would put her boys through college. She was very dissatisfied with her job and felt the need of a college education in order to do something more creative. She had tried going to night school, but found the strain too great.

The interviewee was unsure about the children being better off out of the marriage. The mother tried to compensate for the lack of a father by taking the children with her on dates and on her vacations. She confided that the children would like to look up to their daddy and often asked what he was like, what he did, and where he lived. Ex neither paid support nor visited.

Subject reported that she had always kept things bottled up, but had felt the need to talk many times. She indicated that she suffered from anxiety over coping with the future alone, in particular, the education of her children. For example, she said that school lunch money for her children strained the budget forty-three dollars a month. Subject desired professional help with budgeting but said that she was

able to have things then because she worked for them and could afford some extras. She added that the greater physical demands kept her from feeling as well as she had in the past.

For three years, she had had a steady date who was a bachelor, two years younger than she, and a college graduate. She was uncertain about whether she should pressure him into stating his intentions. Marriage had never been overtly mentioned. She said that she was in love with him and wanted to marry him, but feared that he did not have serious intentions. She added that she thought dating was a habit with her. She summarized her position as a single parent by saying that it took "patience of Job and the wisdom of Solomon."

# INTERVIEWER'S COMMENTS:

Subject was extremely attractive and vivacious, with a friendly outgoing personality and seemed very intelligent. Her expressed problems were characterized by routine living and were no longer focused on the divorce. She appeared to be quite maternal and was admittedly very independent. The interviewer had the feeling that the problems described were not her real problems; that she had stoically accepted her rut in life; but, that she was showing signs of dissatisfaction. It would be interesting to know if Subject was a habitual "griper" or if she planned to do something about her dissatisfaction. The fact that she had steadily dated this man for three years might indicate that both of them had been afraid of forming a permanent emotional attachment in marriage.

AGE OF MOTHER: 38

YEARS MARRIED: 15

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 3

DAY CARE: Maid

AGE AND SEX: 1 Girl, 12 2 Boys, 5 and 15

YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: 3

SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: 14

HOUSING: Owns home in middle class section.

OCCUPATION: Secretary of Fathers Specialty Department Store

EX REMARRIED: Yes

SUBJECT'S RESPONSE TO THE SELECTED QUESTIONS:

My past feelings toward Ex were more of pity than of bitterness for him as a person, but I did feel bitterness because of the children. I didn't trust men then and I had no use for them. I still mistrust Ex as well as all men. Time has strengthened my mistrust - they are all out for sex. I think my attitude is safe and I like it this way. I may want to remarry later for companionship, but my first duty is to my children. At first I didn't feel that I could remarry as long as I had a living husband. Now, I would if the "right" man came along, but I am not interested in going out and looking for him. I don't think remarriage would be good for the children at this age, especially for the older boy. The big question is to find a man who would be both father and husband. Remarriage would not solve my biggest problems - it would only create new ones. I'm looking for the "perfect" man - I feel like I have a lot to offer. I am very optimistic toward the future for the first time in my life. I have found a new maturity.

## SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Subject stated that her whole situation improved greatly when her husband left, after 15 years of marriage, and she no longer had to look at him with revulsion. She was working at her father's store (which she will inherit). This was the first time that Subject had been publicly employed. She stated that, while it took her away from her children, the job gave her a new perspective on life. She was the only mother in the group whose employment was not really necessary. Although her Ex made no support payments, her father was then, and had been during the marriage, her source of financial security. Subject had no housekeeping responsibilities because of a maid of long standing who "mothered" the family. Subject said that for the first time in her life, she had achieved a self-identity and a new maturity. She said, too, that she had made tremendous strides in learning to make her own decisions because during the marriage, she was overly dependent on her parents. The subject reported with pride, that following the divorce she had become a regular church-goer, and that her spiritual life had been strengthened.

## INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSION:

Subject, an extremely attractive and petite woman, talked about her situation with an air of self-confidence, which the researcher thinks may represent a "chip on shoulder" defense. From her many responses, she seemed to be completely "wrapped up" in her children, talking at length about improved family relationships, togetherness, communication, and companionship with them. She had given up all social life - even dating to direct her energies toward her children. Subject said that her son was playing the role of "man around the house," and that she depended on him for everything. It would appear that he was her male love object. With emotional support from a male friend (married) and financial support from her father, it would seem that her male circle was complete. Based on all external criteria, Subject had apparently adjusted well to a situation which lacked any potent problems but her attitude toward men was very questionable.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 1

AGE AND SEX: Girl, 4

DAY CARE: Nursery School

kept rented house in old

HOUSING: With Mother, in well

middle class section of town.

AGE OF MOTHER: 28

YEARS MARRIED: 1 3/4

YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: 42

SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: 12

OCCUPATION: Dept. Supervisor at large Department Store

SECOND DIVORCE: Subject

EX REMARRIED: No

RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

I was very bitter toward Ex in the past, but I tried not to judge all men by one man. I'm not bitter now. It was just an unfortunate mistake that we both made. I bear no grudges. I think that there are some good ones and some bad ones. As for remarriage, I think it's Wonderful - I'm engaged. My attitude has definitely changed. At first I said a million times that I would never remarry. It took me over three years to be sure I wanted to remarry. I didn't get the decree until I was sure I was completely over Ex. I will have a problem of adjustment with Daughter when I marry Fiance, but she is young enough that she can make the adjustment without much difficulty. At first Daughter did not want me to marry Fiance, but now she talks about what they will do when we marry. Marriage to Fiance will be the solution to my biggest problems. The future holds much happiness for me, I hope.

### SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Subject lived with her Mother, sister, and brother-in-law. Subject's grandmother lived across the street. She stated that her biggest problem had been in the discipline of the child. Subject explained that the child had so many people she could run to and get her way, and that Subject's mother interfered when she should not have. However, Subject always said to her daughter, "Do what your 'Nanny' said." For a while Subject's grandmother kept the child. In order to combat the discipline problem, she put the child in nursery school. This arrangement was much harder on Subject because of having to drive across town twice daily to the nursery school. When the child was sick, Subject had to miss work; (she had not had to do this before). In spite of the complications, Subject felt that the child would definitely benefit from the new arrangement, although the child was having a very difficult time adjusting to the nursery group.

Subject's home situation was complicated by an alcoholic father who was not living there at the time. Although Subject was wearing an engagement ring, her mother objected to her dating every night. She stated that it had been a big help to talk over her problems with her fiance (who was also divorced).

Subject said that she felt so guilty about the child not having a father, that even she is lenient in her discipline. Subject said that she did not try to be a "father" because she left Ex when the child was just six weeks old and she had never had a father model to try to copy.

Subject reported that Ex caused a lot of trouble after the separation. He called and threatened to kill her. He tried to run down both her and her mother with the car. Subject asked for no support so that Ex could never see the child. In the event of her death, the child would go to a legal guardian appointed by Subject.

Subject remembered that her biggest emotional problem after the separation was that, "I just loved my husband to death and thought I couldn't live without him." As a result, she cried for months, bit her nails, and lost weight. It was only after she was completely over him

that Subject decided to get the final decree (three and a half years). Then she said that it hurt her that he could willingly give up all rights to the child.

Subject said that the divorce had weakened her religious convictions, and that her biggest need had been a friend to whom she could talk.

### INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

Subject was very attractive, vivacious, outgoing, and personable. Appointments for the interview were made and broken several times because she was always busy and always in a hurry. She was cooperative on the interview, but offered no information which was not requested. Her mother and sister were in and out of the room which probably prevented her giving fuller answers.

Since her attitudes toward men must have been strongly influenced by an alcoholic father and what appeared to be an unstable husband, and since she had such difficulty in controlling her feelings toward Ex, it would seem that she had made real progress in defining a pattern of life for herself by making definite plans to remarry. However, it is apparent that the marriage would take her out of an unpalatable home situation. Since the marriage was being planned for some six months hence, (making the period since the separation five years), Subject has had adequate time to face her situation realistically. Subject's expressed need for a friend with whom to talk may indicate that her real problems remained undefined even to herself. It was interesting that Subject offered no comment or information about the events connected with her first marriage.

28 NUMBER OF CHILDREN: AGE OF MOTHER: AGE AND SEX: 2 Boys, 7, 9 YEARS MARRIED: YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: DAY CARE: None 12 SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: OCCUPATION: Secretary for Lumber Company

HOUSING: Apartment in Upper middle-class section.

EX REMARRIED: NO

RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

I felt no bitterness toward the marriage but during the period that Ex had the children, I was bitter about his attitude toward custody and all the legal problems. To a degree I was hostile toward all men. I have no feelings for Ex now; it is just as if I had never known him. My feelings toward men are back to normal. I'm not hostile, but cautious. I am a lot better judge of character. I haven't given marriage much thought. It could be a wonderful situation but there would be new problems with the children. I would like to remarry, but not anytime soon. I am more opposed to remarriage now than shortly after the separation. I have adjusted to living alone and I like my freedom. I get old-maidish. I don't believe that this is due to bitterness. Remarriage would work out fine with the boys. They accept people well, and would get along beautifully with a man who would give them the attention that they require. I suppose remarriage would be the solution to my biggest problems, but I'm not real sure. I haven't thought too much about the future except for the children growing up. I'm optimistic - I feel that things will work out fine.

## SITUATION DESCRIPTION

Subject moved to Greensboro immediately after separation to get away from Ex. He had custody of the children for six months. She lived in a furnished apartment alone, and she visited the children on weekends. Her biggest problems have been legal, first getting custody, then support money. Subject reported the following events. Ex had no grounds for custody, but was trying to make things difficult so that she would come back. He tried to trick her on abandonment. The lawyer's advice was to "give Ex enough rope to hang himself." In court, Ex got dirty and tried to prove that she was a "bad girl." The judge told him to shut up or he would go to jail. Subject was granted complete custody with no visitation rights by Ex. She later had to go to Superior Court to get support money. She let Ex have all the furniture to prevent a legal battle. She thought this was unfair, but said that a fight was not worth it. She had gradually acquired her own furniture and remarked that it had not been easy. (Her apartment was very attractively furnished.)

Subject responded that her biggest emotional problem was being away from the children for the six-month period in which the father had custody of them. The legal battle kept her upset and she remembered that it was the most hopeless, helpless feeling in all the world. Ex finally called her to come get the children and she stated that he had gotten tired of the responsibility.

The mother believed that he took out his bitterness toward her on the children during his period of custody, and this had done some real emotional damage to them. Subject's biggest problem then, she said, was the emotional withdrawal of her youngest son, who lived in a dream world and was unable to concentrate. She did not know what to do about him, but desired some professional help.

As a single parent, the respondent ascertained that it was difficult to make all the decisions herself. She wanted her boys to appreciate the finer things in life, but she did not always know the

best decision. She had no maid, but was doing all her own housework, thus trying to give her sons the things that other children had.

Subject used to take the children to nursery school. Since they had reached school age, the boys came home from school and called her at work. Then they remained in the house for two hours until she got home. She reported that they liked the responsibility of being on their own. She said that they liked for her to date because they "had a ball" with her dates.

Subject responded that the divorce stigma no longer bothered her; she knew it could not change, so she had accepted it. She reported that it was very difficult to confide in anyone, and added that she had told the interviewer more than she had told anyone else in the past ten years. She had wanted to talk with her minister but felt that she could not. She stated that she did attend church and felt that the divorce had strengthened her religious convictions.

# INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

Subject, an exceedingly attractive woman, seemed to have a very healty acceptance of the situation. It was apparent that more knowledge of the marital situation and the court proceedings would throw more light on the problems which she has apparently faced realistically and accepted well. Although she was dating and enjoying it, it seemed that the respondent felt that men were unnecessary for her life fulfillment, and that her main joys in life revolved around her sons. In comparison to the potent legal problems in the past, she appeared to be a happy, contented mother.

### CHAPTER V

## THE POSITIVE TREND OF ADJUSTMENT

The case summaries presented in this chapter demonstrate the adjustment trends of the subjects who have positive attitudes toward men, remarriage, and the future. They are presented in sequence from negative to positive poles of adjustment. However, the representative case summary demonstrating the positive pole of adjustment is presented first.

The state of the second second

TATION INTONIPTIONS

Mohjert and difficulty reporting has story due to the handseap opench impediant. The following total interview is told with as an of her own words as possible. Although the interview instrument

(Positive Pole)

AGE OF MOTHER: 34	NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 4
YEARS MARRIED: 13	AGE AND SEX: 1 Girl, 16 3 Boys, 12, 14, 16
YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: 5	DAY CARE: Older Girl
SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: 92 (Ex: Fourth grade)	HOUSING: Apartment in lower middle-class section.
OCCUPATION: Assembly line at Cigarette Factory. (Ex: Tank builder)	AGE AT MARRIAGE: Mother, 16 Ex, 18

EX REMARRIED: NO

### RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

Yes, at first I was very bitter. I felt so sorry for myself. I took a good long look in the mirror and took stock of myself. I was very naive. I had a chip on my shoulder and I hated all men because I loved my husband very much. At the present, my husband still cares, and I will treat him nice as long as he pays. I feel like a dear friend toward him and I still ask his advice on things. I still don't trust men enough to ever marry again, but if you could find somebody, it would be different. When you have four kids, it's very difficult to find a good father. When the kids are grown, I will think about it. Until then, they come first. At first, I said I'd never marry again. Now I would if I could find someone that I care deeply for and who would be a good father. The children are mature enough to trust my judgment. If I did remarry, they would do their best to adjust. Remarriage is not the solution to my biggest problems. At present, I am just as enthused over the future as a person could possibly be. The children give me so much to look forward to. I can't wait for the children's high school graduation.

## SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Subject had difficulty reporting her story due to the handicap of speech impediment. The following total interview is told with as many of her own words as possible. Although the interview instrument

was not designed to elicit the cause of divorce, Subject volunteered her perception of the events in the marriage.

Ex was a truck driver during the marriage but Subject did not work. His job mobility made it necessary for his family to move in and out of many trailer courts and furnished apartments in succession. She reported that Ex had spent his time and money on cars and women. Although he did not drink and had a good income and good credit, he wanted the pleasures of both wife and mistress. Subject explained that Ex was physically and mentally cruel to her. In spite of this situation, the decision to divorce was exceedingly difficult for her. Counseling during the marriage by the minister had not helped. Here were the major problems which she had facing her at the time of separation:

- 1. The care of four children, ages six through eleven.
- 2. The necessity for employment with little education and no job experience.
- 3. A speech impediment which handicapped her greatly in job seeking, preventing her from securing employment where she would have to meet the public.
- 4. Intense emotional trauma of the children who found it very difficult to accept the fact of divorce.
- 5. Intense emotional upheaval within herself over feelings of failure in the marriage.

Here were her resources at the time of separation:

- Better than average support payments from husband, (\$40.00 to \$60.00 weekly).
- 2. Her mother to help look after the children.
- 3. A lawyer who gave exceptional legal counsel and advice as well as legal aid.

At the beginning of the interview, Subject stated that the biggest problems which had faced her since the separation had been first, the current and painful development of a kidney ailment resulting from the physical demands of playing the two parental roles. "It has been a real physical drain." She was under the care of a doctor and was wearing a brace. Her second biggest problem was helping the children adjust to the fact of the separation. Time, she emphasized, had been the biggest factor in helping all of them to adjust.

# I. The Four Roles of Single Parenthood

In playing the four roles of Mother-Father-Homemaker-Breadwinner, Subject stated that there were presently no real problems in her role as a Mother. "The children have learned to take care of themselves - I have trained them to be self-reliant."

Her biggest problem in trying to play the role of a Father had been explaining such things as sex to the three boys. (Her boys have brought her such questions as explaining the meaning of homosexuality). She has asked her male friends and her brother for help in explaining these things to her sons.

In her role as Homemaker, Subject said that she had to learn to let a lot of things go. She said at first she was an immaculate housekeeper and it was so hard to keep things clean, buy groceries, pay bills, and look after the children. For example, the kitchen floor did not get mopped as often, and she had learned to put important things first. Her children kept the house going - especially the older daughter and one son who was a "Mr Fixit," but this, she added, did not take the place of a man. Subject stated that she had had a course in home economics in high school; and this, she stated emphatically, had been a big help in

her adjustment. She did feel the need of a dependable colored girl to help with the heavy housework.

As a Breadwinner, Subject said that she was fortunate as far as money was concerned because of the regular support checks from her husband. She had put herself on a budget, and this, she emphasized, had been very helpful in stretching her check to cover expenses.

In feeling that she had to be two parents, her biggest problems were disciplining the boys and helping all the children through puberty. The daughter had not been too difficult to discipline. Subject had not allowed her daughter to date during the week so that she would be at home to keep an eye on the youngest boy. The boys were not allowed to go off while Subject was at work on second shift. Her doctor and attorney had given helpful advice about discipline.

Subject reported that changing the habit patterns of marriage had been very difficult. For a whole year after the separation, she remarked that she could hear her husband's footsteps at five o'clock, and she always set his plate at the supper table. Subject reflected that she missed the fact that there was no longer anyone to rush her to get dressed. The long years of marriage made it hard for her to accept the separation. She felt that her best years were past and gone.

# II. Attitudes Toward the Divorce

At first, Subject said that she found it very difficult to live with the idea of being a divorce. She had felt like men "picked" on her. Her own father was dead, but the rest of her family was very sympathetic. They stood behind her, and did all they could to help her. Her in-laws were very upset about the divorce, but they also stood behind her somewhat since they understood that her husband "attracted women like magnets."

Subject and Ex shared the same set of friends during the marriage. She responded that all their friends were upset about the divorce. Some of them took her side and some of them took his side. Her circle of friends had since changed. She had dropped most of their mutual friends and had cultivated a new set of her own friends. Being the single one in the old crowd was difficult, and she did not enjoy hearing the comments that were made.

Subject acknowledged the fact that the children experienced great emotional trauma in accepting the idea of being children of divorce. On the day that the father left, the boys set fire to the garage, and the youngest son cried for his father for several weeks. It was the oldest daughter who helped not only the boys, but also the mother get over the shock of separation.

## III. Legal Problems

Although Ex initiated the divorce, Subject said he pretended to be hurt in front of the children. He asked for custody of the boys, but they refused to go with him. At first her lawyer tried to advise them to go back together. Even four years later, it was very hard for her to make the decision to get the final divorce decree. Subject did it then only to protect the boys from being taken by the father.

There were relatively few legal problems in this divorce settlement. In property division, Subject got the furniture and Ex took the

car. (This is the usual arrangement). She and Ex arranged for child support by mutual agreement - it had been regular, and Subject believed that it was fair and adequate. "He has been exceptionally good, especially since he is out of state and travels a lot." (Refusal to pay on his part could present difficult legal problems for her in trying to force support payments across state lines.) Although he requested custody of the boys, he did not contest the decision, because, she said, he knew that he could not get them. He visits two or three times a year, but she stated that the children no longer care to see him. Subject was glad he resided out of town although she would have felt free to call him for help in an emergency. As a matter of fact, when she had needed extra money, he had sent ten to fifteen dollars in addition to the regular support payments.

## IV. The Ex-Spouse and the Children

Subject responded that her children all loved their father at first - then they just "liked" him; he was just a father in name - nothing special. It was interesting to note that when Subject stated that she had paid for the divorce herself, (\$150.00), the older son exclaimed, "He isn't worth a hundred and fifty dollars!" The daughter rejoined, "As long as he sends money, he is!"

Subject reported that Ex's visits to the children used to tear them all to pieces and they were hard to handle after the visits. She explained that there was no apparent reaction to his visits at that time. She paused and reflected, "Everyone says they are real good kids. They try hard to be good because of the divorce."

# V. Economics and Employment

Subject said that she considered her standard of living to be better then than during the marriage, when they habitually shifted from trailer courts to furnished apartments. She had had trouble with other children who resided in the courts. "Now I am better able to bring up and teach my children who to associate with - I don't worry about them hanging out with the wrong people." Subject seemed proud of the fact that her daughter was dating the son of the president of the P.T.A.

Subject revealed that her income was adequate to cover routine living expenses, but that employment was necessary. In addition, her older son had a part-time job. Subject had an exceedingly difficult time securing a job. Being handicapped by the speech impediment, she was turned down by several employers. She answered an ad in the paper for a job at a laundry for fifty cents an hour and was hired. "I was so proud of my first check, I wanted to frame it!"

Since she had had no job-training at all, Subject took a typing course and answered an ad for a secretarial position at the eigarette factory. The factory was not accepting applications for production workers at that time, so she used the "secretary wanted" ad as an excuse to get into the Employment Office for an interview. Luckily, the interviewer's wife had taught one of her sons. Realizing that she had to work, he placed her on the production line on third shift. She was then drawing seventy-five dollars weekly. Subject answered that her singleparenthood was not taken into account by the plant. "I am treated like all the others, I don't get by with a thing, and I want no special favors." Having no car, she rode in a car pool to work - otherwise she walked or took a cab.

Although they carried no insurance during the marriage, she got insurance on the children immediately after the separation. Both subject and Ex were carrying medical insurance for the children through their employment. She indicated that she had been unable to save anything, but was trying hard to keep her bills paid - with the help of a budget.

## VI. Housing

Immediately after the separation, Subject's mother (a late shift nurse) came to live with her and kept the children on alternate shifts. Subject asserted that this arrangement had created more problems with the children and they were hard to manage because "they had too many bosses." Two years later, Subject and the children moved into this apartment and the older daughter cared for the others after school. She confirmed the fact that they had settled right down because she trusted them.

Subject never left the boys alone without the older daughter and was better satisfied with that arrangement. She felt that it was better with older children not to live with anyone, and said the children did not want to be left with a baby-sitter. Subject called them every night from the plant at 11:00 p.m. and chatted with each of the four to make sure that they were all at home. They were not allowed to go out Monday through Friday nights when she was at work. The neighbors knew that in an emergency, they could call her at the plant.

## VII. Emotional Problems

For about a year after the separation, Subject said that she constantly worried about everything. She had a great deal of nervous energy; she could not sleep, eat, or concentrate. She was very depressed and blamed her husband for everything. She worried more about herself than the children. Although neither she nor her husband had ever imbibed in alcohol, she decided that the solution to her problems was to go out and get drunk. Subject described her actions:

In broad daylight, Subject marched into a beer joint in "Hamburger Square," (an older section in downtown Greensboro, known for its hamburger and beer joints). After ordering a glass of beer, she noticed two men patrons watching her. As she began to sip the beer, a strange thing happened. "I know you won't believe this," Subject remarked, "but one by one, the face of each of my children appeared in the glass of beer. All at once I decided that I had to be the kind of mother that they could be proud of. I paid for my unfinished beer, walked out, and suddenly I quit feeling self-pity. I decided that anyone could adjust if they made up their mind to. From then on, my problems began solving themselves. I had no help, I did it myself!"

Subject's mother had served as friend and confident. "She listened to me and gave me emotional support; she trusted me and my judgment." Subject had talked with her minister during the marriage, but "he was not much comfort because he couldn't grasp the problem." Her lawyer had given her good advice during the legal proceedings. She responded, "He was a great help mentally. He tried to show me the other side too. He is a good marriage counselor." The counseling by her minister during the marriage did not prevent the divorce, but she speculated that pre-marital counseling would have prevented the marriage. "If I had just confided in my parents, the marriage never would have happened - we were just kids."

When the separation papers were being drawn up and signed, Subject remarked, "I cried myself to death;" but she remembered no feelings four years later when the divorce decree was being drawn up because things had gone so far then. However, concerning her day in court she said, "I was scared to death - I knew it was final then." Her family went with her and wanted to celebrate over coffee afterwards. "I was so sarcastic to them - I only wanted to come back home."

Subject said that sexual adjustment was very difficult after the separation. "It took about two years, and I didn't date until I trusted myself not to get caught on the rebound. Ex had brought enough scandal to the family." She felt that a woman is in no condition to date anyone after a separation. She offered as suggestions to other divorcees as a solution to this problem:

Get yourself sexually adjusted before you date. Don't think of yourself, think of your children first, and see that they grow up to be good citizens. Children ought to be trained in the facts of life before they grow up and finish school - don't let your kids grow up too fast.

#### VIII. Medical

At the time of the interview, two children needed dental work and one child needed a tonsilectomy. Although Subject could have paid for this herself (with insurance coverage) she had not felt up to the ordeal because of her kidney condition. Her doctor had not given special consideration to her single parenthood in setting fees or giving free drugs.

# IX. Social Life - Mother

Subject's only leisure time was on Saturday nights. She stayed at home on weekends until the boys were old enough to take care of themselves. She spent her leisure time dating - usually at the movies - or fishing with the boys. Subject and her daughter took turns dating out on Saturday nights, so the other one could stay with the boys. She wished that she was able to attend P.T.A., but second-shift hours prevented it. Subject found it difficult to maintain her own social life because of so many ties, but felt that she had to put the children first or she would "bring up a bunch of juvenile delinquents." Lack of social life had not particularly bothered her because Subject did not like to go out much. She went to church occasionally, but said she had not had the time to go as often as she would like to. She reported that the children all attended church and loved it. A neighbor had been taking the boys twice on Sunday.

Subject began dating about fourteen months after the separation. She dated in spurts, but it averaged about once weekly. At first, Subject's mother kept encouraging her to have her own social life and to quit spending all her time with the children. Her friends had long since tried to push her into "dating and having a ball," but Subject stated that she decided to wait until she felt that she was sexually adjusted before she began to date.

Three months after her dating began, Subject reported that her three boys tried to punish her by running away. The state police found them on foot, twenty miles down the highway. They explained that they were on their way to South Carolina to see their Daddy. Subject was so glad to see them that she did not spank or punish them. She added, "It's O.K. now with the children that I date - they have accepted it. They trust their mother so I have to conduct myself in such a manner as to set an example. I trust them. I can't take too many advantages or they will too."

Subject met most of her new dates where she worked. Although only one of her dates had been divorced, she believed that she preferred to date divorced men. "Bachelors are a peculiar lot, and are hard to catch. They don't understand sex, children, or marriage."

Subject said that immediately after the separation, she felt that men tried to take advantage of the fact that she was divorced. "They think that you can't live without it." She had quite a few passes made by married men at first. "Now they (all men) are as nice as they can be - they take their cue from you."

Subject ascertained that it usually did not make any difference to her dates that she had children, but some bachelors did not care about the children. Subject had a steady date for a long time and was engaged to him. Realizing that he was not the type of father she wanted for her children, she stopped seeing him.

# X. The Children

Subject said that she had many problems in explaining the divorce

to the children. It was very difficult to make them understand. She tried so hard to keep them from turning against their father. "He's human too." Subject explained, "I'm from a broken home so I understand their feelings."

The children hated school and did not want to attend. Subject reported that they quit studying, could not concentrate, set fire to the garage, ran away from home and did many things to attract attention. The oldest boy got into a lot of fights at school; the girl became boy crazy; and they all craved attention. She summed it up like this: "The kids adjusted as soon as the mother did." In spite of the very difficult time of adjustment, she contended that they were much better off and much more content than during the marriage, and she had fewer discipline problems. Subject commented that she used very firm discipline but she did not spank to punish. She did not give the boys as much freedom as they would have with a father.

Subject did not enlist advice from anyone else concerning the children's adjustment, and did not feel the need of help. She explained, "Advice from others is meaningless because they don't know what they'd do in your case. Children need only a mother's care and advice."

Subject has made no real attempt to provide a male or father image for the boys to look up to. She said that the youngest boy aggravated his teachers and his mother as he went through puberty. He tried to attract attention because "boys crave a father's attention." Subject did not make any special plans for arranging child reoreation because she said they were old enough to plan it for themselves. The whole family went swimming, fishing, and to ball games together, and the boys went to the Y.M.C.A. occasionally.

#### XI. In-Laws

Subject said that she had tried to break free of her in-laws because they reminded her of her husband. She believed that they were "crazy about both her and the kids." She wanted to be friends with them because she thought it was better for the children. Her in-laws had offered her no financial help, but the children occasionally visited them on the farm which provided a vacation place for them. Subject said that she would feel free to ask them for help in an emergency, and she felt that they would give help.

# XII. Spiritual Life

Subject, a member of the Missionary Baptist Church, felt that the Church would be a source of help in her adjustment. "I went and it helped - I still trust and pray." She did not attend too often because she was too tired. She did not feel that it was necessary to talk with her minister about the divorce because it had gone too far. Subject answered that her divorce status did not make her feel out of place at church and the divorce itself did not affect her religious convictions.

# XIII. Review Section

Subject responded that she was much better off then than during the marriage - both she and her children were much more content.

In retrospect, Subject said that her greatest problem since the separation and divorce had been "trying to adjust myself and settle my own emotional problems so that I could be capable of advising, teaching, and caring for the kids."

The source of help that Subject most desired was for her name to come up next on the waiting list for first shift at the plant.

# INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

Subject greeted the interviewer still attired in pajamas, explaining that she was a late riser due to working second shift at the plant. She and her four teenagers resided in an apartment in an old house which was located in a respectable but very old neighborhood. The apartment was sparsely furnished with well-worn furniture, linoleum, dime store figurines, and was liberally decorated with an assortment of family portraits. Although basically drab in character, it gave the impression of comfort and good care. The interviewer chatted with **Subject**, a warm and vivacious woman, for four hours over several cups of coffee, while she ministered to the needs of her four children. She was extremely co-operative, chatty, pleasant, cheerful, and eager to talk about her problems as a single parent. There was a high degree of rapport in this very informal setting.

It would seem that this was a classic example of a woman who was left to cope with more than her share of responsibilities, and who had worked through her problems with little outside help, but with unusual inner resources, in a mature and realistic manner. The interviewer was impressed with Subject's insight into her problems, in the light of her background, and her subsequent happy adjustment to a host of external situations complicated by a myriad of emotional problems with all their subtleties and inuendos.

AGE OF MOTHER: 29 YEARS MARRIED 7 YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: 14 OCCUPATION: Bookkeeper EX REMARRIED: Yes (Common Law) NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 2

AGE AND SEX: 1 Girl, 7 1 Boy, 3

DAY CARE: Takes children to home of another woman daily.

HOUSING: Owns home in average middle class section.

#### RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

I was very bitter toward Ex at first, and I still am, but not as much. For a long time I didn't care if I saw a man or not, it just didn't matter. Now I can take them or leave them. They don't phase me at all. Ex was a good person until he became tangled up with another woman. I will never remarry - I don't go for it at all. My attitude hasn't changed. I just don't believe second marriages work out. If I remarried, there would always be jealous friction with the children. I am very close to my children. I don't think that I could put a man before them. Remarriage would not be the solution to my biggest problems - there is no right man as far as I am concerned. There is nothing left ahead for me but raising my children. The future holds nothing else. It will be harder as the children get older and I need more money.

# SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Subject stated that her biggest problems had been economics and day care arrangements. Ex paid adequate support for two years, then disappeared and could not be found. She had secured a non-support warrant and complained that the Domestic Relations Court had not helped her. Ex said that he was remarried, but her lawyer could find no record of it. She was receiving an Aid to Dependent Children grant from the Welfare Department, and had had a real problem of establishing her own credit apart from that of Ex. Subject confirmed the fact that it was hard to be patient with the children when she came home from work tired, and that she could now understand why there were so many juvenile delinquents from broken homes. Subject said that her daughter badly missed her father, and had been nervous after each of Ex's few earlier visits. The daughter daydreamed and it was possible that she would have to repeat the first grade. She was also jealous of Subject's dates. The son, who was an infant at separation, had shown no reaction to the divorce, but demanded excessive attention.

Day care arrangements had been a real problem. Subject took them to the home of another woman to whom the girl had become very attached. The woman died, creating new emotional problems for the daughter. The children were put in nursery school, but were very unhappy and experienced increased illness from contact with new children. Subject then had the children in another home but was looking for an older woman to live in with her to care for the children.

Changing the habit patterns of marriage had been very difficult for Subject. She had to learn the responsibility of running the home by herself for the first time, and to cook smaller meals. This adjustment, she reported, took two years.

Subject said that she still felt very much out of place at church, and added that the church did not seem to recognize the need for a place for divorcees. She stated that she had reconciled herself to the fact that she would have to lead this kind of life. She was very hurt by the divorce (another woman) and was still very bitter inside.

Her biggest emotional battle was learning to live with herself

and adjusting to the fact that she had made a bad mistake. Subject said that she experienced deep feelings of failure - she continued to wonder if she had anything to do with the marriage failure, and always would wonder. Subject added that she may have been too much of a helpless clinging wife. She remembered that at first she could not eat, lost weight, and had severe nervous choking spells. Talking to a doctor helped up to a point. He explained that the symptoms were caused by her nerves and imagination.

Subject said that talking to her office manager had been a big help; she helped to make Subject stand on her own two feet, to learn to judge people for herself, and this had made a better woman out of her. Subject strongly felt the need of a psychiatrist but could not afford it. When the separation papers were drawn up, Subject was in the hospital for her nerves. She said, "I felt dead all over. It's something I can't explain - something you think will never happen to you." She added that the children and her work had been her salvation.

Subject reported that socializing was not difficult because she had friends at the "top of the social ladder." (She meant the night club crowd.) She dated about twice weekly, but at first, she had to be pushed into going out (about a year after the separation). Subject dated salesmen and friends of a night club owner and said she had the problem of never knowing whether or not they were married. She made it a policy not to tell her dates she was divorced until she had known them for quite a while, or else they would think she was an "easy make." Subject explained that some of her dates were unhappy when they found out later that she was divorced, but others respected her for not telling "every

Tom, Dick and Harry." She added that most of her divorcee friends held to the same policy of not revealing to casual dates the fact that they were divorced.

# INTERVIEWER'S COMMENTS:

Subject, an attractive woman, was very cooperative about the interview, answering questions fully and apparently honestly. Her face was marked by unhappiness and anxiety; it seemed that her problems overwhelmed her. All her attitudes focused on the divorce and were characterized by real bitterness and deep feelings of social stigma. She had made little progress in defining a new pattern of life for herself other than that of "divorcee." The interviewer believes that her continual ruminating over the events in the marriage point to deep feelings of unworthiness, and that she had been unable to believe that she was a worthy independent person who could ever find real happiness. Her desire for counseling was a step toward admitting that she needed help to cope with her problems.

And and a sublimate of the state of the stat

AGE OF MOTHER: 36 NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 3 YEARS MARRIED: 15 AGE AND SEX: 2 Boys, 12, 14 1 Girl, 18 (married and YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: 8 DAY CARE: None (sister lives in next apartment) OCCUPATION: Night Waitress HOUSING: Lower class apartment house near business section. EX REMARRIED: No

### RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

No I have never felt bitterness toward Ex. My feelings were more of pity. I sent him clothing and cigarettes while he was at county farm for non-support. I would help him if I could. (Alcoholic). Men don't feel the same as women toward children. I was bitter toward all men and I doubted them. My lawyer told me that all men are alike. As for my present feelings toward Ex, I wonder why he doesn't worry about whether the children are warm. I don't care anything about men now but I've changed my mind about them. They are people and they are all different. I haven't thought about love and remarriage. Marriage is a happy life if you can find some one you can live with and get along. I've changed my mind about remarriage. At first I said I'd never marry again, but now I would to the right man. Remarriage would not bother the children because of their ages. As for remarriage to Ex, I don't know. He would have to show me he could keep promises; I have my doubts about trusting him again. Remarriage would be the solution to my biggest problems if I could find a man who would be good to the children and help me. The future? I don't know. Sometimes I don't think I have a future.

#### SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Subject, a waitress, worked at night. She was not getting support, and with no other economic help, her big problem was dire economics. She owed a sixty dollar oil bill from the previous winter, and was not sure how it would get paid. Keeping the children warm seemed to be a bigger problem than keeping them fed. Subject forced Ex into

pregnant)

oriminal trial, only because she needed money so badly. She reported that she kept her doctor paid enough to feel free to call him. Her employer, in order to help, had given her first choice of overtime hours. Subject confided that her income was not adequate to meet routine living expenses but she "got by." She had tried to find a daytime job, but needed help in securing one.

Subject explained that her sister, who lived next door, kept an eye on the boys when she was at work. Her long work hours kept her away from the children; when they were in school, she seldom saw them. She used to arise after three hours sleep to get them off to school. They had learned to fix their own breakfast and get themselves off to school.

Subject reported no problems with her children and added that they had been very good. She has tried to prepare them for life by teaching them that "they will be known by the company they keep." The leaders at the Red Shield Boys Club, the minister, and Sunday School teacher have all taken an interest in the boys, and her brother had been giving them spending money. The church was nearby and the preacher talked to the boys often.

Subject had talked with her minister several times, and this had helped her make the difficult decision to divorce an alcoholic. It was very difficult to get used to not having a man around the house. She got the final decree only for self-protection (credit, etc.) and stated that she felt that they were all better off then. The boys, Subject added, did not talk about the divorce very much. The oldest boy made the following comment, "Well maybe he will do something for somebody. He didn't do anything for us!"

Her social life was practically non-existent. Subject attended church (if she had not worked the previous night). She dated about once a month. She claimed that her youngest son was jealous, while her oldest son thought she ought to get out occasionally.

# INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

Subject, a warm, friendly, soft-spoken woman, talked humbly and earnestly. Her whole story was characterized by hopelessness. She seemed to be a very conscientious and hard working mother. It appeared that she still had a great many confused feelings about Ex, and because of dire economics, was unable to see that life held much for her except hard work and responsibility. Her problems still focused somewhat on the divorce. The interviewer believed that she would be unable to progress very far toward working out a satisfying pattern of life for herself until she has some economic relief and a daytime job.

Subject had no financial help from in and as job preliming the max lising under a severe someouls handling while she was completing being achoal in order to have financial security. So played "Chinese Checkers" with the bill collectors. In addition to security, her big problem had been coping with the meritional inpact of the diverse on her even. The choice of which payant they preferred to live with mes up to and her. The obside of which payant they preferred to live with and up to

AGE OF MOTHER: 41NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 2YEARS MARRIED: 18AGE AND SEX: 2 Boys, 18, 21YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: 3DAY CARE: None NeededSCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: 12HOUSING: Apartment in average<br/>middle-class sectionOCCUPATION: Student CosmetologistEX REMARRIED: Yes

## RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

Yes, I was very bitter toward Ex in the past and also toward all men. They aren't all like Ex, but they are all men. I know a woman can't trust a man too far. Now I feel sorry for Ex because he has a wrong sense of values, and he is so unhappy. I'm very bitter toward his new wife and the material things he gives her. I still have contempt for men. I'm afraid of remarriage and my attitude has not changed since the separation. If my sons had no prejudices against the person, remarriage would be fine. I think they want the "perfect man," but I might be wrong about this. Remarriage would be the solution to my biggest problems of security, sex, etc. but my sons are a stumbling block. Anyway, there are no men available, age wise. As for the future, I don't know. I have a fear of everything. I try not to think of the future. I live one day at the time. I'm hoping for a miracle, but I know life is not like that.

#### SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Subject had no financial help from Ex and no job training. She was living under a severe economic handicap while she was completing beauty school in order to have financial security. She played "Chinese Checkers" with the bill collectors. In addition to economics, her big problem had been coping with the emotional impact of the divorce on her sons. The choice of which parent they preferred to live with was up to each boy. The oldest son (who is now in Service) went with his mother while the younger chose to divide his time equally with both parents.

There had been several separations during the marriage, but the final decision to divorce was exceedingly difficult. Her doctor and minister both advised her to divorce in order to protect her health. Subject reflected that she had to fight feelings of failure as a reaction to being in love with Ex and felt that it was the saddest thing in the world to break up a home with children. She added that she still had feelings toward Ex other than love.

Ex bothered her a great deal during separation until he remarried. Subject reported that he was ugly and vulgar and jealous of her boy friend. She reflected that she had done a great deal of thinking about what went wrong in the marriage. Subject revealed that the divorce created new religious doubts about why it happened to her when she had tried so hard to do the right thing; her faith strengthens and weakens intermittently.

Subject confessed that she was afraid to make decisions. Her minister, doctor, and lawyer made her feel confident in her decision to divorce. She responded that fear and anxiety which had been present in the marriage had been worse during the separation. Subject admitted a strong desire to seek help from a psychiatrist but needed economic help to do so.

Subject divulged that trying to fulfill the emotional needs of her sons had been a big problem. She maintained that she could be two parents emotionally, but not materially. Subject explained that she and the older son were emotionally very close and that she had tried to make up to him his father's partiality to the other son. The younger son was

closer to his father, and she confirmed her belief that he was torn by divided loyalties. Subject was more concerned about younger son's reaction and reports that he was embarrassed to bring his friends to her apartment which was not nearly as nice as his father's new home. Younger son had mixed feelings about his father and his remarriage. Subject believed that he would always be unhappy about it. The older son hated his father and she thought this was because down deep, he really loved his father.

Subject reported that she was confused by thoughts of remarriage. Her steady boy friend was a reformed alcoholic. Since her younger son hated him, and being torn by divided loyalties, she slipped out to date him because she did not want to cause her son any more heartache. Subject remarked that older sons make remarriage harder and she thought that she would always be alone. She was assured that her older son would help her after his discharge, and added, "The girl who marries him will marry his momi"

Subject reported that her nervous condition prevented any interest in social activities and made her listless. She used to love to be with people and she had resorted to painting to relieve tension. The subjects of her paintings were mostly religious.

#### INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

Subject was very attractive, very thin, but looked younger than her forty-one years. She seemed to have a great deal of insight into the problems of her children, but somewhat less into her relationship with her older son, and her own motives. However, she admitted that she

badly needed professional help. Her nervousness, conflicts, and guilt feelings were not only expressed, but also easily apparent, and it seemed to indicate deep feelings of unworthiness. It would appear that her interest in a man with an alcohol problem, and her part in helping him reform, had tended to make her feel that she had been a worthy influence; but, there was an expressed conflict in realizing that both of her sons obviously disapproved of him. It was interesting that since both grown sons were working and had their lives before them, that she was still so concerned about how making a life of her own would influence theirs. Since decision-making was admittedly hard for her, this may have been a defense against facing the situation realistically. Subject was obviously a warm creative, intelligent, insightful, person who felt deeply, but revealed that she was emotionally starved for genuine love and emotional support.

Subject lived in a room in a private home, and her shildren lived with her parents in a muchi darming community to miles army. Due to man at job opportunities there, and has to the borwledge that the to man at job opportunities there, and has to the borwledge that the

AGE OF MOTHER: 27

YEARS MARRIED: 35

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 2

AGE AND SEX: Girl, 4 Boy, 2

YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: 20 months (Divorce granted in nine months on Adultery Charge)

DAY CARE: Children with her parents out of town (65 miles)

SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: 12

HOUSING: Room in private home in upper middle class section.

OCCUPATION: Accounting Department of Large Industry

EX REMARRIED: No

SUBJECT'S RESPONSE TO THE SELECTED QUESTIONS:

Yes I felt bitter toward Ex in the past. I thought all men were alike and I despised them all, but I soon changed. I still feel some bitterness toward Ex, but not as much. I would rather he didn't bother me. My present feelings toward men are normal. There are some good ones; they aren't all bad. Right now I'm against remarriage, but I could change tomorrow. If I met the right person who would be good to all three of us and who would support me, I would probably jump at the chance. My attitude toward remarriage has changed. It has softened a little. At first I thought I'd never look at another man again, much less marry him. Now I would if I "thought" it was the right one. I've thought about the effect of remarriage on the children. I don't know - I'm scared of it. It would work out if I don't wait 'till they are too much older. Remarriage would be the solution to my biggest problems. As for the future, I wish I knew. I hope something real good. I've thought about it a lot and I wonder what will happen.

#### SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Subject lived in a room in a private home, and her children lived with her parents in a small farming community 65 miles away. Due to lack of job opportunities there, and due to the knowledge that she might have to work permanently, Subject kept her job in Greensboro, which she had held too long to justify giving up benefits of tenure. Because she was getting no support payments, Subject said that economically there was no possible way to have the children with her. The strain of returning to her home to spend every weekend with her children kept her physically and emotionally drained. She indicated that living in a room created problems of loneliness. Subject has often visualized the children living with her and can often picture them playing in the yard. The children called their grandparents "Mother and Daddy." The son, four months old at separation, did not know that Subject was his mother at first: and this, she said, broke her heart. She added that she hated to discipline them on weekends, fearing that they would "wish that Mommie would not come home." Subject apparently still had strong feelings of divorce stigma, stating that she felt out of place with her friends and that she feared that her single friends were "looked down on" because they had a divorced woman with them. Subject was then processing criminal action for non-support.

# INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

Subject, an attractive and soft spoken woman, responded with real feeling. Her current situation, which had insurmountable problems, seemingly had not made a bitter woman out of her. While there were no immediate answers to her problems, her responses were characterized by a realistic hopefulness along with a great deal of ambivalence. It would seem that in spite of the relatively short period of time since her separation and divorce, she had made definite progress in defining her feelings about a situation full of real problems.

AGE OF MOTHER: 43 YEARS MARRIED: 19

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 3

AGE AND SEX: 2 Girls, 14, 19 1 Boy, 17

YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: 3

SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: 15

OCCUPATION: Nurse at Hospital

and Cotton Mill (3rd shift)

DAY CARE: None

HOUSING: Owns new home in new middle-class development.

EX REMARRIED: No

(2nd shift)

RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

I did not feel too much bitterness toward Ex in the past except over the fact that I work double shifts and he does not work. I have never felt any bitterness toward all men. Now I feel sorry for Ex. I have everything and he has nothing. I think there are still a lot of good men, but they are all married. I think I should remarry if I can find the right man. No one should live alone, particularly with families. I have felt this way ever since the separation. I think that a good remarriage would help the children. Remarriage would be the solution to my biggest problems. The future holds nothing but work, work, work for me until I can draw Social Security. It's real disgusting to work to live - it's just a round circle. There is no time to enjoy life and I can't afford a vacation. An eight-hour - five-day job would give me time to get out and meet people. I am just cut off from society and everything else.

#### SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Subject and Ex (alcoholic) had counseling by a minister, group therapy at the outpatients clinic at the state university with a psychiatrist, and Ex at a nearby mental hospital during the marriage. Subject ascertained that her biggest help had come from the minister, her lawyer, and family doctor. Ex was sent to the county farm for non-support, and was not them working. Subject believed that she should have been paid the money Ex earned at the Farm, and that the county should not release a man from jail for non-support until they have found a job for him.

Her biggest problem, she asserted, was working double shifts. Subject explained that nursing is a poorly paid profession and it would be a sorry living without a double check. Subject said she worried about how long she would have to work doubles and how long she would be able to stand the physical strain. (Three or four nights weekly). Sometimes she felt like it was a little more than she could possibly do. She had no financial security for herself, having spent all her savings paying off her husband's bad debts.

Subject said that she was unusually fortunate in having good teenagers, but admitted she was a little too lenient, allowing them to do a lot of things they could not do with two parents. She indicated that the children help a little with keeping house in the summer (but not much) and the son had taken the place of his daddy. Subject could not afford a maid and a messy house made her nervous. She had an ulcer and a nervous condition.

Subject confirmed that she was still having difficulty changing the habit patterns of marriage. This and fighting the battle of loneliness have been her biggest emotional problems. She remarked that she got the divorce only for the sake of the children because of the terrible home atmosphere due to drinking. She added, "It's a shame to have to separate people who were once in love."

Subject dates occasionally but said she wished there were more opportunities to meet men. She contended that having a social life was

hard when you did not fit in anywhere. Subject said that the children wanted her to marry again. She took the children to church regularly and felt that the divorce had strengthened her religious convictions.

## INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

Subject was extremely co-operative about the interview and seemed to have a great deal of insight into her situation. This was partly due to her nursing training and counseling experiences. Subject was well kempt and very neat in appearance. Her reported nervous condition was apparent throughout the interview. The interviewer believed that she was facing her situation realistically and had defined her real problems. Her attitudes toward men and remarriage seemed to be healthy. However, it was possible that she was trying to live above her means and was sacrificing her life to provide an easier life for her children. Since all three were teenagers, and the oldest daughter was working and engaged, it would appear that she should require them to assume total housekeeping responsibilities and contribute more to family survival. She was at a crucial point in her life where constant working on the treadmill could cause her to revert to despondency and bitterness. The unavailability of men in her age group could be despairing and create feelings of hopelessness. In spite of her problems, and the long work hours, she still seemed to live in hope that things would someday be better.

which it ballers to her and despared the forling of each be retrieged by

AGE OF MOTHER: 28	NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 1
YEARS MARRIED: 5 Months	AGE AND SEX: Girl, 3
YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: 32	DAY CARE: Maid
SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: 13	HOUSING: Owns older home middle class section.
OCCUPATION: Middle management position	

at book bindery.

EX REMARRIED: Yes

SUBJECT'S RESPONSES TO THE SELECTED QUESTIONS:

I was pregnant when we separated and I resented Ex's freedom. I thought all men were unfaithful then and I still do. I recently saw Ex with his new wife. I just want to know where he is and if he is happy, and I want his second marriage to be very happy. Now I don't feel guilty about the divorce. I am undecided about remarriage. I don't want to get married now. I worry about the moral implications. I find fault with men when they begin to get serious. I would change if I were in love. At first I said I never wanted to remarry, but I've changed somewhat. I feel the need of marriage counseling. Remarriage would make my daughter happy, but it would not solve my biggest problems except for love. Remarriage to my Ex would solve all my problems. As for the future, I will be just as happy if I don't remarry; and right now, I don't feel that I will. I get happier every year and I expect to continue to be.

#### SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Subject's daughter was born after separation from a marriage of five month's duration. The couple talked with their minister just prior to the separation. Subject stated that the minister created a deep sense of failure in her and deepened the feelings of social stigma, by convincing the couple that they could never forget that the marriage failed and that their unborn child would be deformed. Incredibly enough,

in

the child was born an epileptic. Subject worried a great deal over the fact that her child did not have a father - this attitude was conveyed throughout the interview.

Subject was earning a good salary for a woman. She owned her home and had acquired another divorced mother to share her home. Aside from the economic advantage of sharing expenses and a maid, this gave her companionship and provided a substitute "sibling" for her daughter. Ex was making small support payments, but Subject expressed a desire to drop this when she makes more money.

Her lawyer discouraged reconciliation after the baby came. Subject expressed the need for marriage counseling but was afraid to seek it. After the divorce decree was granted, she and Ex decided to remarry, but due to the pregnancy of his girl friend, the remarriage was prevented. Subject stated that the divorce had been a great injustice to the child and to Ex by taking them away from each other. She wondered how Ex would have been as a parent. Subject had contemplated marriage twice in the past, but her child's epileptic condition made her reluctant. Moral implications also worried her.

Subject expressed strong feelings about the stigma of divorce. She said that her spiritual and social life had suffered the most. It was months before she could admit the separation to anyone. She was unable to face her group at church, so Subject changed her church membership. There she kept the nursery as a way of hiding. Later she felt that the minister was wrong in his counseling and wanted to tell him so. Subject expressed a real desire to talk to a minister and to find a place in a church group such as a class for divorcees.

Subject related that one of her big emotional problems had been the feelings of great loneliness - there was no one to whom she could talk, and her family gave her no emotional support. It seemed that all her married friends came to her for advice; she felt all <u>alone</u>. Now all her friends were divorcees who visited regularly. She added that they all had problems but pretended that they did not.

# INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

Subject was a very attractive and personable young woman who was very eager to talk. It seemed apparent that her whole story was colored by intense guilt feelings, probably as a direct result of counseling by the minister before the separation. Her strong feelings of social stigma, her indications of moral conflicts, her confusion over remarriage, her feelings about her child's condition, and the realization of her problems, together with her reluctance to seek professional help, would seem to indicate that this expressed guilt had created feelings of unworthiness. In general, Subject gave the impression of being a mature, capable, responsible woman, who was eager for help, but not quite sure how to go about getting it.

in the size he are with the set with the set interval at a set of a set of the set of th

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 3 AGE OF MOTHER: 36 YEARS MARRIED: 15 AGE AND SEX: 2 Girls, 5 and 17 1 Boy, 15 YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: 3 DAY CARE: Nursery School SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: 13 and Maid OCCUPATION: Secretary of Father's HOUSING: Beautifully furnished home in upper middle-class Industrial Business section (owned by her Father) EX REMARRIED: Yes

## SUBJECT'S RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

I had no past feelings of bitterness toward Ex. I felt sorry for him. I did feel that he should have gotten a job with a steady income. I like men - they are NOT all alike. My present feelings are the same as then. The idea of remarriage is very acceptable but it would have to be for love. My attitude toward remarriage has changed in that the longer I'm separated and divorced, the more discouraged I become about a second divorce. I have tried to know all PEOFLE better. As for the children, the right person would be good for them. Remarriage to the right man would be the solution to my biggest problems. I'm looking forward to a bright future and remarriage.

# SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Although Subject's employment is necessary, she works by the hour so that she can be off with the children when necessary. In spite of living in a rent-free home and receiving two hundred sixteen dollars monthly in support payments, she still complained about economics, but added that her big problems are time-management and having the total responsibility of decision making for her children. Subject acknowledged that she is torn between having a social life of her own and being at home with her children. Staying home became the forced choice solution. While she dated occasionally, she complained about the limited opportunities for meeting men in her age group.

Subject contended that she believed a two-year separation was necessary for self-identification. For the first year, she reflected that she just sat and relaxed while the loneliness of fifteen years overwhelmed her. Subject indicated that loneliness was still her big emotional problem since there was no one to love her as a <u>person</u> (not as "mother" or "friend"). She described many physical manifestations of her past emotional turmoil. Her family doctor explained that most of them were self-imposed and that she was just **trying** to relax over a situation which she had wanted for so long. Subject was unable to cry for a whole year - then the floodgate came down when she discovered that she could care again. She was still troubled by fatigue and poor circulation.

Subject reported that it was difficult to face her church group when the divorce was listed in the paper, and she was afraid to continue as the church youth director. Subject revealed that talking with her minister on several occasions helped her feel that what she had done was not criminal. She explained that she kept the nursery for a while as a way of hiding. Subject added that she felt left out at church because there was no place for her, although she asserted that her religious convictions were strengthened by the divorce. Subject admitted that the feelings of stigma were more in herself than in her friends.

Subject disclosed that she experienced real problems in helping her children accept the divorce. She still feared that her five year old would ask why she took her daddy away. Subject acknowledged the fact that she could not replace a father, but she believed that her children

would have been worse off in an unhappy unbroken home. Subject maintained that she was a better parent alone than she was in an unhappy marriage. Subject explained that she was trying to make up the lack of a father to the children by buying them material things, but she feared that they were not learning the proper respect for money.

# INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

Subject is an extremely feminine, petite, attractive, vivacious woman. She appeared to have a great deal of insight into the emotional problems which had faced her at separation. Many of her feelings were characterized by guilt, but the investigator believed that she had made tremendous strides in recognizing and working through her feelings (particularly those of the social stigma attached to divorce) by stating her subjectivity. The problems involved in the crucial pre-school and adolescent age groups of her children seemed to overwhelm her, and she expressed a need for a parent education class on this subject. It would seem that Subject had a much harder time accepting the role of divorce than the fact of divorce. She was very eager to remarry, but was bothered by the lack of available men. The respondent appeared very optimistic. It was believed that she needed some additional insight into the problems of her children. With more available male companionship in her age group, her few remaining conflicts would probably settle themselves in short order.

burgers and they have been allowed and the three generations and the protocol in the second they been allowed and a lower and the barry have been allowed by the second the barry have been allowed by the second the term

AGE OF MOTHER: 32

YEARS MARRIED: 8

YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: 5 DAY CARE: Day, Mother Night, Grandmother

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 2

AGE AND SEX: 2 Boys, 9, 14

SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: 11

OCCUPATION: Machine Operator at Chemical Firm

HOUSING: Resides with parents in middle-class home on outskirts of town

EX REMARRIED: NO

#### RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

I was very bitter toward Ex at first, but even then I felt that there were still good men. Sometimes now I still feel bitter when I have a hard time making ends meet and Ex is making good and throwing it away on whiskey and women. I have never felt that all men are alike. If I remarry, I'd want someone who would be real dependable. The biggest problem is being able to trust; this will take a long time. If you love someone, you have to trust. I would remarry if I could find someone who would be good to the children first - adults can always work out their differences. Then someone who would be worthy. At first I said I didn't want to remarry. Now I would if I could find the right man. I'm not real sure but it would take a long time to trust. My oldest son could adjust to a new father easier than the youngest. I would consider remarriage the solution to my biggest problems. I try not to worry about the future. I live from day to day and let tomorrow take care of itself. I've found that living from day to day works best for me.

#### SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Subject described her biggest problems as making a living for herself and the children as well as disciplining the children so they would not bother her parents. She asserted that she and her parents agree on discipline, and that the three generations work together. Subject added that it was a happy home to be two homes. Her parents wanted her back home after the separation, and she preferred to live

there rather than alone, because she believed that the children had a more normal home life there. In the division of household responsibilities, Subject did the housework and her mother cooked. Subject said she felt as free to do things here as she would in her own home. Her mother worked at the same place as Subject but on another shift, so they alternated keeping the children. Neither a maid nor nursery school had proven satisfactory. Her mother bought clothing for the children; her father, who was retired, bought her a car. Her father was both the male image for the boys and the handy man around the house.

She reported that Ex was still trying to come back. Subject said that she was pushed into getting a decree by her boy friend who wanted to marry her, or otherwise she would never have gotten the decree. Subject explained that when it was granted, she was still wondering if she did the right thing. She added that the divorce had not made her feel free.

Ex stopped support payments after the decree was final. Subject said she would like to force payments through court, but the Domestic Relations Court made her feel like "dirt under their feet." She insisted that she had not taught the children any bitterness, but they had "no use" for their father. The oldest was nervous, stuttered, and had headaches. This seemed to be worse right after phone calls from Ex, and the child was always very nervous after Ex's visits. This son's stuttering problem, Subject described as having been made worse by a speech therapist. She added that professional counseling would not help, the son would have to work it out for himself. The youngest son was born after the separation and showed no reaction to Ex.

Subject had dated only one man (for ten months) and was seriously considering marriage. She explained she stopped dating him because he

could not get along with the youngest son. She added, "When you've been hurt badly, it's hard to have confidence in men."

The biggest emotional reaction Subject reported was living with feelings of failure - that is, not knowing where, how, or what went wrong and wondering why it happened. She added that she still thought about these things. She decided, however, that everything happened for the best and she had learned to take things as they come. At first, Subject experienced nervousness, anxiety, headaches, and increased eating which resulted in obesity. Subject added that she had to learn to live with herself.

She was very active in school affairs (P.T.A., grade mother, fall festival, annual brunswick stew, etc.) and went to church regularly, although she said that it took a year for her to feel right about going. Subject concluded by saying, "Time heals all things. I feel fortunate in more ways than one. You have to face reality."

#### INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

Subject had a pretty and soft face, but was very obese. She seemed to be a very warm and sincere woman. Her whole story was characterized by her emotional battles. There seem to be relatively few external problems, and she had apparently adjusted well to the daughter role - perhaps she was just glad to be back home. Subject seemed to have insight into her own emotions, but was not fully aware of her older son's emotional difficulties. It would seem apparent that since she was so active in community affairs, she had created a niche for herself in society. It would appear that Subject had some ambivalent feelings toward Ex and about what happened in the marriage. Although her attitude toward men in general seemed more realistic, she seemed to have difficulty relating it to a specific man. Perhaps the fact that she had dated only one man had made growth in this area more difficult. The investigator believed that since Subject was still ruminating about what happened in the marriage, she was still living with feelings of unworthiness; obesity surely must not have helped this. Whatever the state of her internal feelings, it appeared that she had developed a realistic and workable philosophy, but was still searching for some answers.

that I and doing the right hitler. I threat this holpes as rationities that I are doing the right hitler. I through that all non-water instigants human beings and that wares were stronger. Now my foolings toward fix are medical. My shalt de homed and has she shared for the better - I know that all non-area's like this. I get thread of mashes warening. At first 1 fait the need of a payohiething because my parenthe did not embershand. New, that has taken each of mashes warening. At first 1 fait the need of a payohiething because my parenthe did not embershand. New, that has taken each of a historices, but I still have soon goilt fusibles if I den find a good faither for my son. I us not a remontable if I den find a good faither for my son. I us not a remontable if I den theking for the perfect and because I, too, us not perfect. There not sure that I mant if, I means it, too, us not perfect. The hole and the person, had I hope it would be good for him. How are string the the stilling of a problem. In the strate hope of a bis perfect is still hope it would be good for him. How are string to the person, had I hope it would be good for him.

#### A DATI ON DOUDCH PTING

hadjest, her son and her father, were reating temporarily is as everyment mitting for the exception of a large new how in one of the niour services of town. Inmediately after the coparation, we and har eighteen month and son perced in with her percents in Virginia for a year.

#### CASE SUMMARY #5

AGE OF MOTHER: 25

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 1

YEARS MARRIED: 3

YEARS SINCE SEPARATION: 3

SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: College Graduate, Psychology and Sociology

OCCUPATION; Assistant Personnel Director Large Department Store

EX REMARRIED: No

RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

Yes, I felt bitter toward Ex at first. This helped me rationalize that I was doing the right thing. I thought that all men were inadequate human beings and that women were stronger. Now my feelings toward Ex are neutral. My attitude toward men has changed for the better - I know that all men aren't like this. I get tired of basket weaving. At first I felt the need of a psychiatrist because my parents did not understand. Now, time has taken care of my bitterness, but I still have some guilt feelings about my part in the marriage. Love and remarriage are possible if I can find a good father for my son. I am not a romanticist. I am not looking for the perfect man because I, too, am not perfect. There was a time when I said, I never wanted to marry again, but I am not sure that I meant it. The effect of remarriage on my son would depend on the person, but I hope it would be good for him. Remarriage would be the solution to my biggest problems. As for the future, it is hard to say - I have no idea. I have had too many surprises.

#### SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Subject, her son and her father, were residing temporarily in an apartment waiting for the completion of a large new home in one of the nicer sections of town. Immediately after the separation, she and her eighteen month old son moved in with her parents in Virginia for a year, and she taught school.

AGE AND SEX: Boy, 42

DAY CARE: Maid

HOUSING: Temporary apartment with father in middle class section Subject came to Greensboro to begin her present job due to former job dissatisfaction, and left her son with her parents until they could arrange to sell their home and follow her. Six months later, before her parents had made the move, Subject's mother died. Subject's father, now retired, and her son then moved here (the original family home); her father resided part time with them and part time on his farm in Virginia. During these three major phases of the child's life, several moves from apartments to relatives' homes were made; there had been constant change in the child's living and day care arrangements during the past two years.

Subject reported that her problems revolved around the care of her child and helping him adjust to so many living situations; in addition, disagreement over the child rearing practices and discipline techniques of five domineering aunts who had cared for her son. She asserted that the child was so emotionally insecure and immature since the **death** of her mother, that she was granted a three month leave-of-absence, and took her son and father on a trip to Florida. This, Subject explained, was to help ease the pain of the double adjustment of the death of a parent, and divorce of a spouse, the unsettling moving experiences, external pressures, and interfering relatives.

Subject maintained that her greatest need was emotional support from someone who would tell her she was right in her child rearing philosophy. She added that she enjoyed her work, but was trying hard to make it up to the child for being away from him.

Subject reflected that she had experienced deep feelings of failure in the marriage, but no strong feelings of social stigma. The immediate move to another community may have influenced this. Subject

admitted however, that she tended to repress all unpleasant feelings. Many religious doubts were experienced during her "bitter period," but she described her religious convictions at that time as being "gray." She desired more religious activities and felt the need to give service through the church. Subject stated that she missed social life, but also felt guilty about leaving her child to date. Socializing, she reported, was a real effort. She dated occasionally, and had once seriously considered marriage.

Subject indicated that the adjustment of going back home as an only child of older parents who "didn't understand" was very difficult. She was very lonely for peer companionship. There was dissension over child care, and it was very difficult to play the role of a daughter again. Her parents tried to police her social life at a time when she had deep feelings of obligation because she was living with them. Subject explained that she did what her parents wanted her to, but sometimes not too graciously. She added that the father-daughter team in building a new home seemed strange. Ex did not pay support or visit; she wanted neither. Subject expressed a desire to create healthy attitudes in her son toward the divorce, her Ex, and the in-laws.

# INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

Subject - an attractive, soft-spoken, feminine woman - was quite eager to participate in the study. She had considerable insight into her problems, feelings, and her child's emotional needs. Subject still appeared to have some guilt feelings over the shortcomings of her role as a mother, and was constantly aware that she and the child needed a husband and father. Subject seemed to be fighting the "smothering"

attitude of her relatives, but at the same time, she needed their economic help. Subject had been in a situation filled with emotional conflicts other than divorce adjustment. She seemed to be well on her way to finding some answers to her problems with a very mature outlook on life.

THIS TO SELECTED QUESTIONS.

There I have his gets (Eq.) as this affected by sthickle to and all man - I know that you don't trust than. I now only nothing taxand in and as Somere, there are now good and one bud. How of my new friends have unliked with as and belond as the their viscopilat. If I would that summary, but there's the donals problem of finding a rather and a familie. The girls have asked as if i'd ever savey taxant. The girls have asked as if i'd ever savey taxant. The girls have asked as if i'd ever savey taxant. The girls have asked as if a start savey and in paraming. My attribute wound remarking is nore negative new that strikes are parson. The shiften must be to get married. They would be very happy if it would take would take by one another a strikes attribute to would attribute would take by biggest problems if a main strike to would take the save ask of save as any set in the strikes attribute to would be taken and the fatter, I am every parties in the dating game, at this must salve by biggest problems if a main strike the willing to more. As for the fature, I am every spins is in the willing to more. As for the fature, I am every spins is in the willing to how a first save issues to its the induce the more than been inter days. I have issues to its the induce the trans that is to be intered any of your needs if you put for the interest. I like to be intered any of your needs if you put for the interest. I like to be intered any of your needs if you put for the interest. I like to be intered any of your needs if you put for the interest and any save.

#### LINEIGN INDURFERINE.

Subject, who little is a very lovely have, responded that her biggest problem had been in accounting a job with no training. Because it took her so long to find employment, the full that the accounting the is need of a loss association to belp divorcess militain the neuranoid

#### CASE SUMMARY #11

AGE OF MOTHER:34NUMBER OF CHILDREN:2YEARS MARRIED:12AGE AND SEX:2 Girls, 9, 11YEARS SINCE SEPARATION:3DAY CARE:MaidSCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: $12\frac{1}{2}$ HOUSING:Home owner in upper<br/>middle-class section.OCCUPATION:Secretary-RealtorEX REMARRIED:Yes

RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:

At first I hated his guts (Ex) and this affected my attitude toward all men - I knew that you don't trust them. I now feel nothing toward Ex and as for men, there are some good and some bad. Some of my men friends have talked with me and helped me with their viewpoint. If I could find someone who feels the need to love and be loved, I guess I'd like to remarry, but there's the double problem of finding a father and a husband. The girls have asked me if I'd ever marry someone they didn't like. I'm interested in being pursued, not in pursuing. My attitude toward remarriage is more negative now than earlier. I'm getting more independent. I will marry only if it's the right person. The children want me to get married. They would be very happy if it were the right man. They would have a slight adjustment. Remarriage would solve my biggest problems if he made enough money, and this would solve my own emotional problems. The dating game gets old. I wouldn't mind working, but I wouldn't support him. I wouldn't expect him to support the children and I'd be willing to move. As for the future, I am very optimistic. There shall be better days. I have learned a lot. I have faith in God which takes care of your needs if you put forth effort. I like to be independent and I don't need any more help. Everyone has been very nice to me. It would be selfish of me to want any more.

#### SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

Subject, who lived in a very lovely home, responded that her biggest problem had been in securing a job with no training. Because it took her so long to find employment, she felt that the community was in need of a loan association to help divorcees maintain the household

through the adjustment period until they could find a job. Subject reflected that she was a nervous wreck the first year, remembering that she could not concentrate, cried constantly, lost weight, and that her hands shook for six months. She commented that getting in the car to come home from work had been the worst time of day.

Subject ascertained that trying to stretch money was a problem, even though she owned the home and her family (successful financially) was there to back her up.

She tried to give her children enough time so that they would not resent her outside activities and dating. Subject reported that she had more social life than most married women. Most of her dates were at home, and she included her children on many of them.

Subject reported that she had an excellent maid who kept the household running smoothly, and added that this was the secret of "good adjustment." She always came home to eat lunch with her girls. In explaining the divorce to the children, Subject asserted that she told them the truth, because she wanted them to face reality; the children seemed much more relaxed than during the marriage.

Subject disclosed the fact that she had spent a great deal of time trying to figure out her part in the marriage, and to see what she should have done differently, adding that the divorce had made her much wiser and more tolerant. She would like to meet a widower with two children - someone who needed love and knew that he needed her.

Subject reported that going to church was very difficult at first because she felt that people "looked at me funny." "This might have been subjective," she added. Subject changed churches so that she would not

have to "explain." She contended that the divorce strengthened her religious convictions, but she still did not fit too well in church activities which were designed more for couples.

### INTERVIEWER'S IMPRESSIONS:

It would appear that Subject had done a very effective job of facing reality. Subject related that after some real soul searching, she grew in her ability to see the situation for what it was, and had created a new pattern of life for herself, full of happiness and anticipated fulfillment. Subject, who was attractively groomed, talked with great insight and contentment and appeared to have developed very healthy attitudes toward life.

problem multing processes of recamply discreased monoton with eller shills need, min are desired with the processes of playing the from roles of siles - Failer - Recomplet - Breadwinter.

Since discrete disrupts has habit patherns of and days, and shows the adjustment presses greating place delivering dother with the total responsibility of rearing place delivers. Second diverse is an emotionally charged stress attention, the metical adjustment process of blood noblers and their shildren is imperiant, as well as the our presses economic problem in the to the metical adjustment is an emotionally discreption that the to the metical adjustment is an environment economic problem in the to the metical adjustment is an environment economic problem in the to the metical adjustment is an ever presses economic problem in the to the metical adjustment is an ever presses economic problem in the solution of diverse, as well as the reaching shildren, there are added questions relating to the state of family discreptions in the solutions, of diverse, as well as

#### CHAPTER VI

#### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

#### I. SUMMARY

During the past half-century, there has been an increase in the number of divorces which is partially due to the economic emancipation of women. The increase has resulted in a lessening of the social stigma toward divorce. Most of the research on divorce has been normative, however, with little depth research on post-divorce adjustment.

Statistically, divorce is a problem numerically worthy of study. Since American law traditionally grants custody of the children to the mother, the subject of this thesis then revolves around the problems and problem solving processes of recently divorced mothers with minor children, who are faced with the prospect of playing the four roles of Mother - Father - Homemaker - Breadwinner.

Since divorce disrupts the habit patterns of marriage, and since there are no socially prescribed directions for behavior after divorce, the adjustment process presents problems to the divorcing mother with the total responsibility of rearing minor children. Because divorce is an emotionally charged stress situation, the emotional adjustment process of these mothers and their children is important, as well as the ever present economic problem. Due to the number of divorces obtained involving children, there are added questions relating to the effect of family disorganization on the children of divorce, as well as the resulting problems for the divorced mother.

In this study, a personal interview was conducted and an empirical interview guide was used with a selected group of twenty-three white, divorced, not remarried, mothers with minor children. The names were taken from a list of all divorces granted in Guilford County, North Carolina, during the period January to December, 1960. Except for three refusals, all the women from the 106 names whose addresses could be found were actually contacted and interviewed.

The interview instrument (presented in the appendix) was constructed to elicit from the sample of Mothers:

1. The nature of their problems.

2. The resources they used to solve their problems.

3. The resources they desired which were unavailable to them.

In addition to problems encountered in playing the four roles of Mother - Father- Homemaker - Breadwinner, twelve anticipated problem areas were probed. This was a pilot study employing depth interviewing.

Due to the samll sample, there were insufficient data supplied to deal effectively with questions two and three above. Due to the wide variation in external problems, the data are presented as descriptive case summaries. These data were used in an attempt to classify the person, as affected by her problems, on the basis of suggestive attitudes toward men, remarriage, and the future, as revealed in the responses given. Each case was presented in four phases:

1. General information data.

2. Actual responses to nine selected questions.

3. Individual situation description.

4. Interviewer's impressions.

The cases were divided into categories demonstrating two trends in post-divorce adjustment. The two trends were determined in light of positive and negative attitudes toward men, remarriage, and the future, as revealed by the mothers in the sample. These two trends seemed instrumental in their definition of a new self-concept.

#### II. CONCLUSIONS

#### General Pattern of Problems

The two preceding chapters of case summaries have presented a short sketch of each mother in the sample by describing her external situation and quoting her responses concerning attitudes toward men, remarriage, and the future. It was quite apparent that this group varied widely according to the mother's respective external situations, and solved their individual external problems in a great variety of ways.

These divorced mothers had, by definition, a certain set of problems with which to cope when the patterns of marriage were disrupted and their homes were divided into two households. They usually found it necessary to seek employment or remain in the labor force. Some of the mothers had to move into new housing, and if the children were young, they had to arrange for day care. Even if the mothers were receiving some economic help from their ex-husbands, they were left with the total responsibility of giving care, guidance, and love to the children; they were thus performing the physical and emotional functions of two parents. The mothers in the sample had solved their problems of employment, housing, and day-care in accordance with the resources available in each situation. This was contingent in the main upon their salary, the amount of support money from Ex, the ages and number of their children, and their own families' willingness and ability to help by offering them either goods or services.

Due to the lower salary level of untrained or non-professional women, and generally either non-existent or insufficient support payments, these mothers often were limited in their choice of housing and day-care arrangements. Economics, then, and also the age and number of their children were compelling and unchangeable factors presenting to them both problems and, often, forced-choice solutions. In addition, the added responsibility reduced their time and energy for dealing with their external problems.

While interviewing these twenty-three mothers, it seemed apparent that there were two sets of attitudes which characterized their responses. These attitudes concerned the degree of bitterness which they felt toward the ex-spouse, which was then projected toward men in general. Feelings of bitterness seemed to color their feelings toward the total situation, irrespective of the kinds of external problems they were facing. The subjects had been single parents an average of four years (with a range of twenty months to eight years). It was apparent that some of them had adjusted effectively to a new pattern of life, while others were still struggling with an undefined self-concept.

Reorganizing a new pattern of life for these mothers seemed to revolve around reconstruction of a new self-image as it related to the failure which occurred in a heterosexual relationship. There is nothing more complex than the human personality, unless it is two human personalities in the institution of marriage - a situation where ego

involvement reaches its height. In the breakdown of this relationship, when the marriage was dissolved by divorce, there appeared to be great personality reorganization involved. Whatever the unique situation which causes a marriage to fail, there is usually severe ego damage done to both partners. Then, redefining her self-concept in terms of the opposite sex seemed to be of crucial importance to the divorcee.

Although there has been a gradual lessening of the social stigma attached to divorce, there remains some adverse public opinion about divorce - a status which is still threatening to society. Learning to live with the social stigma and her own feelings of failure was another problem which faced each of these divorced mothers. In addition, she had to cope with the children's feelings, attitudes, and emotional problems brought about by being children of divorce.

Therefore, these divorcees had to build a new pattern of life for themselves and their children at a time when they were struggling with their own emotions and juggling several either undefined or incompatible roles in a society which fails to provide clear directions for the participants after divorce.

In summary, the emotional battles of the mothers interviewed seemed to revolve around their economic situation; their unique external situations; the added responsibilities of the new and complex roles of Mother - Father - Homemaker - Breadwinner; living with their feelings of failure and the social stigma; concern over the effect of the divorce on the children; and reconstructing the ego damage done in the marriage in relation to their attitudes toward men. The results of this study suggest that there appeared to be two trends of heterosexual attitudes prevalent

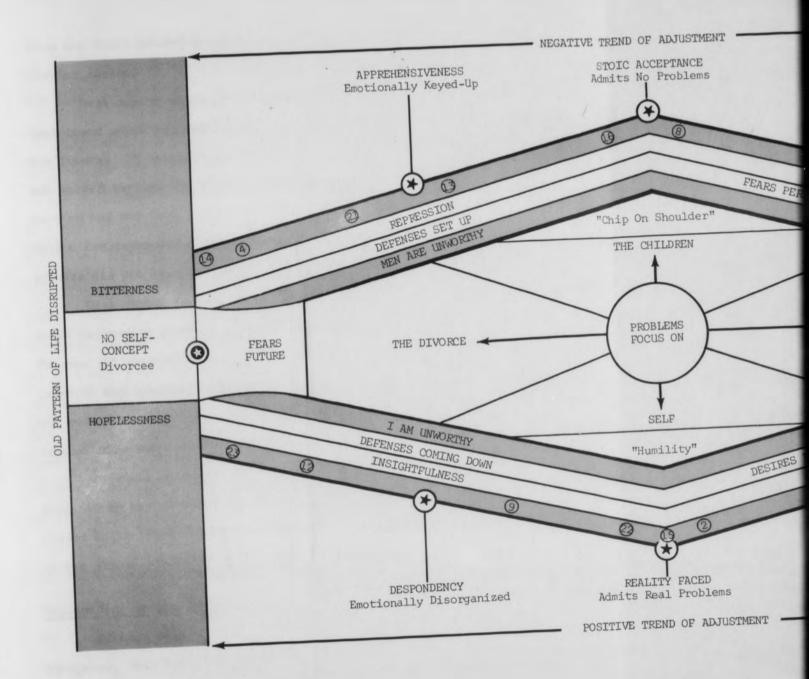
among the mothers in the sample in post-divorce adjustment. These trends were based on three criteria: the mothers' projected attitude toward men, their attitude toward remarriage, and their belief in what the future holds for them. (The latter criterion apparently was a projection of their feelings about their current situation.) On the basis of the data in the case summaries, it is concluded from this study that the emotional battle of heterosexual adjustment appeared to be the most significant factor in defining a new self-concept in the post-divorce adjustment process and the factor most common in this sample of mothers.

# Graphic Description of Adjustment

On the following page is a chart (Figure 1) which graphically presents the two suggested trends of adjustment. It is offered as a photograph of a point, in time, in the lives of the mothers in this sample which pictures their progress in post-divorce adjustment and their self-concept as related to their attitudes toward the opposite sex, in other words, their ability or inability to perceive that men are both people and human, and that marriage to the right man is a desirable institution.

On the chart (Figure 1) the case summary numbers have been placed at a point of adjustment at which the mothers had appeared to have arrived, in the opinion of the investigator at the time of the interview. The reader may refer to the number on the chart and relate it to the corresponding case summary number.

Two case summaries (numbers ten and thirteen) were presented in their entirety to suggest opposite extremes, or poles of adjustment. They include all the subject's responses to each category of questions



## FIGURE 1

THE DYNAMICS OF POST-DIVORCE ADJUSTMENT

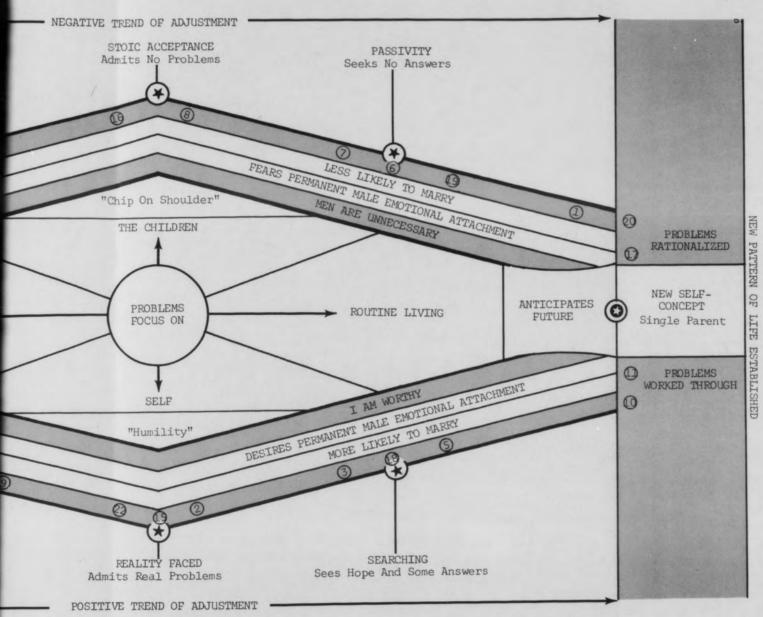


FIGURE 1

THE DYNAMICS OF POST-DIVORCE ADJUSTMENT

from the total interview guide. These two cases were chosen for a particular reason.

Case number thirteen was placed at the negative pole of adjustment that trend which represents negative attitudes toward men, remarriage, and the future. It demonstrates a situation in which the subject had apparently not worked through her problems because she had been unable to verbalize on them and was thus unable to view her situation realistically. With only a few expressed external or internal problems, the subject's responses did not seem to define clearly any self-concept.

Case number ten was placed at the positive pole of the other trend which represents positive attitudes toward men, remarriage, and the future. It demonstrates a situation at the opposite extreme, full of external and internal problems which the subject had apparently recognized and worked through. It appeared that she may have created a new selfconcept with happiness prevalent.

It would seem that it was not necessarily the <u>events</u> which happened to the mothers, but their <u>attitudes</u> toward these events which shaped their lives. This is a pictorial representation of the dynamics in the stress situation of post-divorce adjustment.

# Explanation of the Chart (Figure 1)

In this sample, it appeared that immediately after separation from ex-spouse, when the patterns of living established in marriage were disrupted and one household was divided into two, the divorcing mother had to establish herself into a new living situation, and her only selfconcept was that of divorcee. Her problems focused on the divorce and were characterized by hopelessness and fear of the future. There was apparently a great deal of bitterness prevalent toward the ex-spouse, and

she left the marriage with one of two attitudes toward her ex-husband, and all men - either that all men were unworthy, or that she was unworthy of a man.

The negative trend. If the divorcee believed that all men were unworthy, she was apt to follow the negative trend of adjustment by setting up defenses, by repression, and with apprehension, she refused to face realistically her fault in the marriage. While repressing reality. she became keyed-up, and her emotional problems were largely characterized by anxiety, but also colored by depression. She reached the point of stoic acceptance of her situation by refusing to admit that she had any problems. She had a "chip on shoulder" defense, and her anger was turned outward toward the world. She was still hostile toward men, and although she dated. she believed that men were unnecessary on a permanent basis. She reached a point of passivity at which she was unhappy with her situation, but sought no answers to her problems. She feared a permanent male emotional attachment, and was less receptive to the idea of remarriage. Eventually, she arrived at a new self-concept in which she had defensively rationalized her problems, and was thus able to work out a new and adequate pattern of life for herself. Her problems then focused on routine living. Because she was able to look at herself realistically, her problems on the negative trend centered around her children. She became involved in proving herself as a mother, and was apt to deny herself as a person. Her new self-concept as a single parent seemingly revolved around motherhood, and her future revolved around her children.

The positive trend. On the contrary, it appeared in this sample, that if the divorcee left the marriage feeling that she was unworthy, she was apt to follow the positive trend of adjustment by discarding her defenses and trying both realistically and insightfully to face her fault in the marriage. In the process of gaining insight into her problems, she became despondent and was emotionally disorganized. Her emotional problems were mainly characterized by depression, but were also colored with anxiety. She seemed to reach the point of introspection when all her defenses were down and she humbly faced reality and could admit her real problems. Her anger had been turned inward toward herself. She then began to search for some answers to her problems. She began to date and was no longer hostile toward men. She learned to believe in herself as a worthy individual; then she could see hope and some of the answers which she was seeking. She desired a permanent male emotional attachment and was more likely to remarry. Eventually, she arrived at a new selfconcept in which she had insightfully worked through her problems and had thus created a new and happier life for herself, and her problems could then focus on routine living.

Because she had spent so much time in introspection, her problems on the positive trend centered around herself. She was so involved in proving her worth as a person, that concern over her children's adjustment, and time demands for their care, threatened her concept of being a "good mother." Eventually, her new self-concept as a single parent was one in which there was a healthy balance between the roles of "worthy person" and "good mother"; she looked forward to a future rich with fulfillment for both herself and her children.

155

Adjustment dynamics. It should be remembered that any adjustment or personality process is dynamic, and that the preceding graphic description of post-divorce adjustment is also dynamic. Any given mother in this sample, at any point in time, may have found that her attitudes had shifted and that she was following another trend of adjustment, becoming momentarily defensive or insightful. At the same time, she might have gone backwards in her adjustment process, to find that she was periodically fighting feelings of bitterness. She may have also remained fixed at any given point, continuing to feel self-pity, or to become martyred in her outlook. She may never reach a point in which she can clearly define any self-concept.

This graphic illustration is a photograph of a point in time which shows the general trends of adjustment which these mothers were following whether their separation had been two years or eight years. It is well to remember that this group of mothers had had little or no formal counseling, and the adjustment process had progressed according to their own attempts to define a place for themselves in a society which has no defined place for a single parent.

# General Conclusions About Other Problem Areas of Adjustment

It has been demonstrated how attitudes toward the opposite sex affected a divorced mother's pattern of post-divorce adjustment in this sample. This was thought to be the most significant factor. There were, however, in this sample, other general trends in attitudes toward problem areas which also seemed important. The problem areas are very closely related and are full of subtleties and inuendoes of emotional

complexities. The following trends or attitudes were derived from analyzing the data contained in all of the interview guides.

The decision to divorce was exceedingly difficult for the mothers, perhaps due partly to the long years of marriage, and partly to the children involved. They all agreed that no one asks for this kind of human heartache flippantly. For some mothers, it appeared to be more difficult to accept the <u>role</u> of divorce than the <u>fact</u> of divorce - for others, it was the reverse.

The difficulty of changing the habit patterns of marriage appeared to be related to the length of the marriage and the patterns established there. The adjustment to changing patterns seemed to vary with the length of time since separation, lingering feelings toward Ex, and feelings of loneliness. Some of the mothers found it a relief, while others found it quite difficult to adjust to single life again.

The economic problem was overwhelmingly apparent. In some cases, the mother's feelings of hopelessness were colored by her dire economic struggle. Often, her inability to conquer her feelings of bitterness toward Ex were due to the fact that he did not contribute any support money. In other cases, when feelings of hostility had been conquered, feelings of bitterness continued to crop up when the mother was overwhelmed by her responsibilities, and was receiving no help from Ex. This represented to her the ultimate sign of his waning loyalty, even toward his children.

It was revealed that all the mothers experienced deep feelings of the social stigma attached to divorce immediately after the separation. At the time of the interview, many of the mothers had come to terms with

157

this, and had accepted both the fact and the role of divorce. Others still harbored some feelings of the stigma which affected their adjustment process. Perhaps the feelings of stigma were not only related to society's attitudes, but also to the mother's own concept of divorce with which she entered the divorce status. The mothers explained that feelings of stigma affected their social and civic activities, also their choice of a circle of friends; but, in many cases, they could admit that their feelings had been subjective.

The respondents stated that the stigma and feelings of failure affected their religious life. Several of the mothers found it very difficult to go to church and felt very much out of place. Some simply stopped going because the church no longer met their needs. Some of the mothers felt free to talk to their ministers from whom they derived help in accepting the idea of divorce. Others strongly felt the need to talk to the minister but were afraid to do so. Some changed their church membership while others "hid" by working in the nursery. Approximately onethird of the mothers said that their religious convictions had been strengthened by the divorce; one-third said that their convictions had been weakened; while the other one-third said that their religious convictions had remained unchanged.

In playing the four roles of single parenthood, the biggest problems expressed were being away from the children, discipline of the children alone, having the total responsibility of decision making, finding time for recreation with the children, doing handy-man chores around the house, and a lower earning capacity as a woman.

The group expressed few legal problems except for legal battles

158

over support money. Many of the mothers had been through either Domestic Relations Court or Superior Court in order to force support payments. The attitudes of bitterness toward ex-spouse resulting from the necessity for court action seemed obvious. In spite of such economic struggles, only three of the mothers expressed the belief that they were worse off financially than during the marriage. This is an interesting point which needs a great deal more probing.

In the group interviewed, there were no expressed problems with the in-laws. However, most of the mothers did wonder how they and the children should feel toward the in-laws after the divorce.

Housing seemingly presented two kinds of problems. If the mother was a homeowner, she often found it difficult to learn to manage such things as repairs, yardwork, the furnace, and gutters. If she went home to her parents, there was often conflict over child rearing practices, and some difficulty in playing again the role of a daughter.

All of the mothers expressed some physical manifestation resulting from the immediate emotional trauma consequent to the separation. They complained of nervousness; anxiety; fear; depression; inability to sleep, to eat, or to concentrate; weight loss; fatigue; tension; headaches; and erying. Their greatest emotional problems at first revolved around worry over the present and fear of the future, and over fighting feelings of failure, guilt, loneliness, and bitterness. Many of the mothers had talked out their problems with a good friend, and this was usually another divorcee. Few had had any personal counseling, although about half had talked with their ministers. The mothers with greatest insight expressed more problems but seemed to be able to deal with them more effectively.

Half of the mothers said that the physiological sexual adjustment had been difficult after the separation. The adjustment varied from six months to two years for some, while others said that they were still adjusting. They reported a solution to the problem by staying busy and thinking of other things to do. Group dating and visiting friends helped with this adjustment. Several of the mothers said that passes had been made by both married men and dates early in the separation period; but later, the men knew by their cues to treat them like a lady. It is possible that this was due to two factors; the literature shows that social attitudes seem to consider divorcess "fair game"; in addition, a perceptive man can often detect a sexually frustrated woman. The way these mothers were treated by men during the period of sexual adjustment seemed to have an influence on their attitudes toward men.

Many of the mothers found it difficult to maintain a social life of their own, particularly due to lack of time, baby-sitting problems, plus the conflict between being a person or being a mother. A common complaint of the mothers was that they no longer fitted in their old circle of friends. Among the marrieds, they felt like a "fifth wheel," and among their single friends, their family responsibility was totally out of place. Consequently, they explained that their new friends included many divorcees simply because they shared common problems, but not necessarily due to social isolation or social stigma as the literature suggests.

It is significant that all except two of the mothers were dating, even when they seemed to harbor feelings of hostility toward men. There was an overwhelming agreement that they preferred to date divorcees or

widowers because they felt that a previously married man was more understanding of their problems. It would seem that male companionship was both highly desirable and necessary, even though some of the mothers stated that they did not yet want to remarry. Several of the mothers usually included their children on their dates.

In defining the qualities which they desired in a second mate, the mothers seemed realistic in their point of view, and no longer defined these qualities in terms of the "romantic complex." They wanted a mate who would be "trustworthy" and "good" to both them and their children. They agreed overwhelmingly that the big problem was to find both a father for their children and a husband for themselves. Their new definition of a desirable mate may raise the theoretical question as to what had been learned about the choice of a mate by the marriage failure and the resulting stress situation; and, how this knowledge had been transferred to the process of defining a new self-concept by means of changing or static heterosexual attitudes.

A woman may once again marry beneath herself because she still harbors feelings of unworthiness. On the other hand, her hurt may have been so deep and her feelings of bitterness so strong, that her new definition of a marriage partner reaches perfection, and she protects herself against ever finding him. She thus never remarries, or cannot find happiness in remarriage. Or finally, the divorce may have been turned into a healthy learning experience, enabling her to find happiness on a more realistic and mature basis. The overall attitudes revealed by these mothers concerning the happiness of their children indicated that a divorced mother would be an exceedingly good marriage risk because she

161

would enter remarriage with a strong desire for permanence.

All of the mothers expressed great concern for their children. It seemed that the divorce had strengthened their maternal instincts. All of them indicated concern about what was happening or going to happen to their children, and were very concerned that they be good mothers and that they discipline the children with wisdom. About half of the mothers believed that they had to try to be two parents, while the other half expressed the belief that they could effectively be only one parent. More of the mothers on the positive trend were not trying to be a "father."

This maternal strengthening was probably due to several reasons which can be inferred from the respondents' expressed attitudes:

- 1. Guilt over her part in the child's loss of a father.
- 2. Guilt over the resentment of her increased responsibilities.
- 3. Fear that the children would be adversely affected by the divorce.
- 4. A personal sense of the responsibility alone, and a desire to rise to the challenge.
- 5. The feeling that she could be a better parent alone without divided and ambivalent loyalties.
- 6. The fact that the children remain her only love objects.
- 7. Lack of time for, or interest in, outside activities.

There seemed to be more emotional problems of the children recognized and expressed as the age of the child increased. Perhaps there were other problems which the mother did not see as relating to the divorce. They appeared to be giving their best effort to dealing with the problems of their children. They expressed a belief that both they and the children were better off out of the marriage, and that many of the emotional problems of their children had been solved by the

divorce. Whatever the case, the positive attitudes may have been expressed because the mothers had to believe that they were true.

In summary, it was found in this study that apparently the most important factor in defining a new self-concept in post-divorce adjustment was resolving feelings of bitterness and hostility toward the exspouse and toward men in general. Four other major problem areas which seem related to this factor were:

1. The economic situation.

2. The immediate emotional trauma of the mother.

- 3. Total responsibility for decision-making by the mother.
- 4. Discipline of the children without a father.

III. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Although this interview instrument was not designed to elicit the cause of the marriage breakup, it was definitely believed that the <u>perceived cause of divorce</u> and the resulting ego damage were strongly related to the adjustment process and were of primary importance in defining a new self-concept.

This study seemed to indicate that heterosexual attitudes were the most important factor in post-divorce adjustment. Since some of these mothers seemed to have negative attitudes toward men, and since statistics show that 75% of all divorcees of all ages remarry within five years, then new questions can be raised about the importance of this factor in finding happiness in a second marriage, and the ensuing effect of the mother's attitudes on her children.

There appeared to be a very subtle and complex relationship

between all twelve of the problem areas in single parenthood probed in this study. Inferences can be drawn as to the relative importance of each area, how they relate to each other and also how economics and the unique external problems are affected by heterosexual attitudes. It remains to be discovered whether the resulting attitudes toward men actually is the most important factor in the adjustment process.

It is believed that with further research, certain factors can be used to predict a given individual's pattern of adjustment. Such a formula would appear to include the following important variables in order to achieve new healthy heterosexual attitudes and a healthy selfconcept:

- 1. The length of time married.
- 2. The length of time separated.
- 3. The cause of divorce.
- 4. The degree of ego-damage.
- 5. The strength of stigma feelings.
- 6. The external situation.
- 7. The economic situation.
- 8. Some source of emotional support.
- 9. Professional counseling.

10. Some source of love.

Due to the limitations of the small sample size, there were many new questions raised concerning the dynamics of post-divorce adjustment, and the subsequent effect on the mother and child. Some of the factors which need to be explored through further research follow:

1. The relationship of the cause of the marriage failure to the degree of ego-damage, and the importance of this relationship to the sub-sequent adjustment process of the mother.

2. The degree to which the different problem areas relate to each other and especially to heterosexual attitudes and economics.

3. The most important factors which will enable individual patterns of adjustment to be pre-determined.

4. The effect of the mother's attitudes toward men on the child's adjustment to the divorce.

5. The influence of this factor on passivity or delinquency in children from broken homes.

6. The way in which the child resolves his Oedipal conflict when he no longer has a male image or a chance to learn that the mother-father relationship is primary.

7. The factors which influence the mother's choice of a second mate that did not influence her choice of a first mate, if her choice of a second husband revolves around seeking a mate who will be both father and husband.

8. The factors in post-divorce adjustment of the mother which affect the child's adjustment to a step-father.

9. The differences between the child-rearing practices of single parents and those of two-parent families.

10. To what degree the divorced mother tends to transfer to her sons the male love relationship which she no longer has with her husband, and the degree to which this relationship affects both the sons and any daughters in the family.

11. The relationship of heterosexual attitudes formed in the post-primary divorce period to the cause of second divorces.

12. The effect of the mother's attitudes toward men in influencing the child's choice of a marital partner.

The literature shows that a great number of men fail to pay support or offer any other help with their own children. New questions can be raised concerning: the degree of ego-damage and the resulting heterosexual attitudes of divorced men in motivating them to assume their moral and legal obligations in family support; the underlying reasons

which prevent some divorced fathers from paying child support or visiting their children; and, the effect of this vestige of waning loyalty in the father on the child's concept of men. It may be asked, also, whether society is demanding too much of the mother and not enough of the father, since many disturbed children come from broken homes.

Due to these new questions, and due to the fact that divorcing a wife does not divorce a man's responsibility toward his children, it seems important to investigate the dynamics of post-divorce adjustment problems of recently divorced fathers as well as those of recently divorced mothers.

and had . Best and Milling to, fore down before most of Just's your by the second set and by the second set and the second second set and the second se

bergent, de Bridlany Milley Children of Discovers the Yorks Doubloding

in the start which the start which the start the barriers . New Yorks

in a barren an Basen, more with frequency. Gardelages

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### A. BOOKS

- Brockelbank, Professor William J., Interstate Enforcement of Family Support, "The Runaway Pappy Act." Indianapolis, Indiana: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1960. 195 pp.
- Despert, J. Louise, M.D., Children of Divorce. New York: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1953. 282 pp.
- Egleson, Jim, and Janet Frank, Parents Without Partners. New York: Dutton and Company, 1961. 249 pp.
- Glueck, Sheldon and Eleanor, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1950. 399 pp.
- Golenpaul, Dan, editor, Information Please Almanac, 1961. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1960. 894 pp.
- Goode, William J., After Divorce. Glencoe, Illinois: The Free Press, 1956. 366 pp.
- Haussamen, Florence, and Mary Anne Guitar, Divorce Handbook. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1960. 256 pp.
- Langer, Marion, Learning To Live As A Widow. New York: Gilbert Press, 1957. 255 pp.
- Nye, F. Ivan, Family Relationships and Delinquent Behavior, New York: Wiley and Company, Inc., 1958. 168 pp.
- Owen, Jean Z., Widows Can Be Happy. New York: Greenburg Publishers, 1950. 207 pp.
- Rochford, Elbrun, Mothers On Their Own. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1953. 210 pp.
- Tappan, Paul W., Crime, Justice and Correction. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1960. 613 pp.
- United States Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1960, (Eighty-first edition). Washington, D. C., 1960. 898 pp.
- Waller, Willard, The Old Love and the New. New York: Horace Liverright, 1930. 344 pp.

#### B. PAMPHLETS

- Kaplan, Saul, (Social Security Administration, Washington, D. C.), "Support from Absent Fathers in Aid to Dependent Children," Social Security Bulletin, 21:3-13, 1958.
- Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Social Security Administration, Children's Bureau, "Child Care Arrangements For Full-Time Working Mothers," Publication Number 378, 26 pp.

#### B. PERIODICAL ARTICLES

- Barclay, Dorothy, "One Parent Family: Further Notes," New York Times Magazine, January 26, 1958, p. 46.
- Beale, Calvin, "Increased Divorce Rate Among Separated Persons As A Factor in Divorce Since 1940," Social Forces, 29:72-74, October, 1959.
- Berreman, J. V., and Wade Andrew, "Are Ministers Qualified for Marriage Counseling?", Sociology and Social Research, 35:106-112, November-December, 1950.
- Bossard, H. S., and Thelma Dillon, "Spatial Distribution of Divorced Women," American Journal of Sociology, 40:503-507, January, 1935.
- Carter, Hugh, "Plans for Improved Statistics on Family Formation and Dissolution in the United States," <u>Social Forces</u>, 39:163-169, December, 1960.
- Crockett, J. Allen, "From Behind Judicial Robes," Journal of Social Hygiene, 38:116-124, March, 1952.
- Davis, Kingsly, "Children of Divorced Farents: A Sociological and Statistical Analysis," Law and Contemporary Problems, 10:713-720, Summer, 1944.
- Duvall, Evelyn Millis, "Organized Social Forces to Promote Family Stability," The Annals, 272:79-82, November, 1950.
- Elliott, Mabel A., "Divorce Legislation and Family Instability," The Annals, 272:135-144, November, 1950.
- Glick, Paul C., "First Marriages and Remarriages," American Sociological Review, 14:726-734, December, 1949.
- Goode, William J., "Economic Factors and Marital Stability," American Sociological Review, 16:802-812, December 1951.

, "Parents Without Partners, Inc. Constitution," The Journal, 5:18, October, 1961.

, "Problems in Postdivorce Adjustment," American Sociological Review, 14:394-401, June, 1949.

, "Social Engineering and the Divorce Problem," The Annals, 272:86-94, November, 1950.

Harmon, Louise, "When Homes are Broken," Journal of Home Economics, 51:332-335, May, 1959.

Harmsworth, Harry C., and Mhyra S. Minnis, "Non-Statutory Causes of Divorce: The Lawyer's Point of View," Marriage and Family Living, 17:321, November, 1955.

Harper, Robert A., "Marriage Counseling and the Mores: A Critique," Marriage and Family Living, 21:15, February, 1959.

Herbert, Elizabeth Sweeney, "When the Homemaker Goes to Work," Journal of Home Economics, 44:257-259, April, 1952.

Hill, Rueben, "Review of Current Research on Marriage and the Family," American Sociological Review, 16:694-701, October, 1951.

Ilgenfritz, Marjorie P., "Mothers On Their Own - Widows and Divorcees," Marriage and Family Living, 23:38-41, February, 1961.

Jacobson, Oliver H., "Conflict of Attitudes Toward the Roles of the Husband and Wife in Marriage," <u>American Sociological Review</u>, 17:146-150, April, 1952.

Jacobson, Paul H., "Differentials in Divorce by Duration of Marriage and Size of Family," American Sociological Review, 15:235-244, April, 1950.

Kephart, William M., "Duration of Marriage," American Sociological Review, 19:287-295, June, 1954.

Landis, Judson T., "The Pattern of Divorce in Three Generations," Social Forces, 34:213-216, March, 1956.

"The Trauma of Children When Parents Divorce," Marriage and Family Living, 22:7-13, February, 1960.

Landis, Paul H., "Sequential Marriage," Journal of Home Economics, 42:625-628, October, 1950.

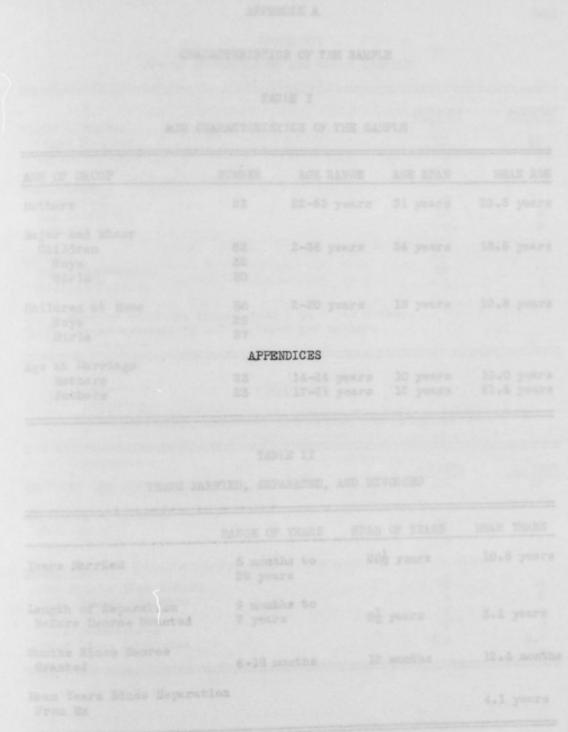
Leichty, Mary M., "The Effect of Father Absence During Early Childhood Upon the Oedipal Situation as Reflected in Young Adults," Merrill Palmer Quarterly, 6:212-217, July, 1960.

- Lerner, S. H., M.D., "Effects of Desertion on Family Life," Social Casework, 35:3-8, January, 1954.
- Locke, Harvey J., "Predicting Marital Adjustment by Comparing A Divorced and A Happily Married Group," <u>American Sociological Review</u>, 12:187-191, April, 1947.
  - , and William Klausner, "Marital Adjustment of Divorced Persons In Subsequent Marriages," <u>Sociology</u> and <u>Social Research</u>, 33:97-101, November-December, 1948.
- Monohan, Thomas P., "The Changing Nature and Instability of Remarriages," <u>Eugenics Quarterly</u>, 5:73-85, 1958. (Abstract in <u>Sociological</u> <u>Abstracts</u>, 8:235, July, 1960).
- , "Family Fugitives," Marriage and Family Living, 20:146-151, May, 1958.
  - , "Family Status and the Delinquent Child: A Reappraisal of Some New Findings," Social Forces, 35:250-258, March, 1957.
  - "How Stable Are Remarriages?", American Journal of Sociology, 58:280-288. November, 1952.
- "The Trend in Broken Homes Among Delinquent Children," Marriage and Family Living, 19:362-365, November, 1957.
- Nye, F. Ivan, "Adolescent-Farent Adjustment: Age, Sex, Sibling Number, Broken Homes, and Employed Mothers as Variables," Marriage and Family Living, 14:327-332, November, 1952.
  - "Child Adjustment in Broken and Unhappy Unbroken Homes," Marriage and Family Living, 191:356-361, November, 1957.
  - "Employment Status of Mothers and Marital Conflict, Permanence, and Happiness," Social Problems, 6:260-267, Winter, 1958-9, (Abstract in Marriage and Family Living, 22:86, February, 1960).
- Oates, W. E., "The Pastor As a Marriage Counselor," Marriage and Family Living, 17:62-67, February, 1955.
- Pannor, Harry, and Sylvia Schild, "Impact of Divorce on Children," Child Welfare, 39:6-10, February, 1960.
- Plant, James S., "The Psychiatrist Views Children of Divorced Parents," <u>Law and Contemporary Problems</u>, 10:807-818, Summer, 1944.
- Popence, Paul, "Remarriages of Divorcees to Each Other," American Sociological Review, 3:695-699, October, 1938.
- Sheridan, William H., and Edgar W. Brewer, "The Family Court," Children, 4:67-73, March, 1957.

Steigman, Joseph E., "The Deserted Family," Social Casework, 38:167-171, April, 1957.

Stroup, A. L., "Marital Adjustment of the Mother and the Personality of the Child," Marriage and Family Living, 18:109-113, May, 1956.

Wylie, H. L., and R. A. Delgado, "The Pattern of Mother-Son Relationship Involving the Absence of the Father," <u>American Journal of Orthopsy-</u> chiatry, 29:644-69, July, 1959.



# APPENDIX A

52

# CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE

### TABLE I

AGE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE AGE OF GROUP NUMBER AGE RANGE AGE SPAN MEAN AGE Mothers 23 22-53 years 31 years 33.3 years Major and Minor Children 62 2-36 years 34 years 18.5 years Boys 32 Girls 30 Children at Home 56 2-20 years 18 years 10.8 years Boys 29 Girls 27 Age at Marriage Mothers 23 14-24 years 10 years 19.0 years

### TABLE II

23 17-29 years

12 years

21.4 years

Fathers

### YEARS MARRIED, SEPARATED, AND DIVORCED

invientant.	RANGE OF YEARS	SPAN OF YEARS	MEAN YEARS
Years Married	5 months to 29 years	$28\frac{1}{2}$ years	10.5 years
Length of Separation Before Decree Granted	9 months to 7 years	$6\frac{1}{4}$ years	3.1 years
Months Since Decree Granted	6-18 months	12 months	12.4 months
Mean Years Since Separati From Ex	on		4.1 years

175	-			
11 11	H	1.16	TTT	
773	101		III	

NUMBER	OF	MARRIAGES	AND	CHILD	CUSTODY

TIDO DE HODODD	MOTHERS	FATHERS
TIMES DI VORCED		
First Divorce	22	22
Second Divorce	1	1
REMARRIAGE		
Remarried	0	11
Not Remarried	23	9
Un <b>kn</b> own	0	3
CUSTODY		
Complete Custody	22	
Divided Custody	1	1

There was an average of 2.7 children per mother.

# TABLE IV

EMPLOYMENT, RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE, AND EDUCATION

	MOTHERS	FATHERS
EMPLOYED (At time of interview)	21	19
RELIGIOUS FREFERENCE		
Protestant	23	20
Catholic	0	3
EDUCATION		
Incomplete High School	11	14
High School Graduate	4	5
Attended College	7	4
College Graduate	1	0
Mean Years Completed	11.3	9.7

175

### TABLE V

PLACE OF RESIDENCE

RESIDENCE OF FATHER

In Greensboro	11
In North Carolina	4
Out of State	7
Unknown	1

RESIDENCE OF MOTHER

Average Years in Greensboro 22.4 Average Years in North Carolina 30.6

# TABLE VI

SUPPORT PAYMENTS BY THE FATHERS

Occasionally Pay Do Not Pay Not Required to Pay	0 Fathers 6 Fathers 4 Fathers 3 Fathers
Range of Payments	25 to \$260 Monthly
Average Payments Ordered for 20 Fathe	rs \$100.00 Monthly
Regular Payments Made by 10 Fathers .	\$112.00 Monthly

an Mothers Hoved 1 be 5 tines.

# TABLE VII

MOBILITY AND HOUSING OF THE MOTHERS

Housing Arrangements During Marriage

Rented Apartment	5
Rented House	3
Owned Home	11
Lived with Parents	2
Army Housing	2

Average times moved during Marriage . . . 7.9 times

Present Housing Arrangements

Own ]	Home		9
Rent	Home	or Apartment	6
Live	with	Parents	7
Rent	Room		1

Establishment of Home After Separation

Went home to Parents 7 Stayed in Present Dwelling 13 (Still Reside there) Rented New Apartment 3

Reasons for Leaving First Separated Home

For Better Housing	4	
For Cheaper Housing	3	
To get away from Ex	3	
To get Job	2	
Closer to Relatives	1	
In with family	1	
a. Economics		
b. Day Care		
Average Moves Since Separation	2.2	

Ten Mothers Moved 1 to 5 times.

### TABLE VIII

### FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

19 Mothers Had School Classes In: Home Economics 17 Marriage and Family Relations 4 Child Development and Child Psychology 8 Psychology and Sociology 6 4 Mothers Had None of These Do you believe that the information learned in these classes is helping you adjust to your present situation? 6 Yes 11 No Somewhat 2

TABLE IX

MARRIAGE COUNSELING

Have you had professional counseling during or after the marriage?

Mothers 12 Fathers 5 Children 3

Who was your professional counselor?

Minister	10	
Doctor	2	
Lawyer	3	
Psychiatrist	8	(few visits)
Family Service	1	

Do you feel that counseling has been helpful?

Yes 10 No 2

Do you believe professional counseling would have prevented the divorce?

No		16
Yes		4
Do N	ot Know	r 3

Do you believe premarital counseling would have prevented the marriage?

No			10
Yes	5		10
Do	Not	Know	3

#### TABLE X

# SOURCES OF HELP

From a checklist of some fifty sources of help both people and agencies - the mothers were asked to check all sources of help they had used in their role as a single parent and then to state which three had been the biggest source of help. The following ten are listed in descending order of importance:

1. Family and Relatives.

- 2. Best friend.
- 3. Minister and Church.
- 4. Lawyer and Courts.
- 5. Friends and Neighbors.
- 6. Employer.
- 7. Pediatrician and Family Doctor.
- 8. Welfare Department and A.D.C. Grants.
- 9. Child Care Arrangements
- 10. (Health Department (Y.W.C.A. (Landlord

Name of Mother       Age         Address       Phone         Number       Sex       Age       Name         Number       Sex       Age       Name       Of Children         Number of Times Married			INTERVIEW GUIDE General Information	Sample No. Interview No. Date of Intervi
Address	Name of M	other	Accession in the	Age
Number of Times Married         M.       F         No. Years Married       Length of Separation Before Decree         Granted       Months Since Decree Granted         Date Decree Granted       Months Since Decree Granted         Previous Occupation       Father         Mother       Father         Present Occupation       Father         Mother       Father         Education of Mother       Father         Religious Preference of Mother       Father         Do you have custody of all the children from this marriage?				
Number of Times Married MF No. Years Married Length of Separation Before Decree Granted Date Decree Granted Months Since Decree Granted Previous Occupation Mother Father Present Occupation Mother Father Education of Mother Father Education of Mother Father Religious Preference of Mother Father Do you have custody of all the children from this marriage? If not, who has? Does father make <code></code>	Number	Sex Age	Name	Of Children
MF No. Years Married Length of Separation Before Decree Granted Granted Date Decree Granted Months Since Decree Granted Previous Occupation Mother Father Father Present Occupation Mother Father Father Education of Mother Father Father Education of Mother Father Father If not, who has? Does father make Occasional support payments?	-			
MF No. Years Married Length of Separation Before Decree Granted Granted Granted Date Decree Granted Months Since Decree Granted Previous Occupation Mother Father Father Present Occupation Mother Father Father Education of Mother Father Father Education of Mother Father Father If not, who has? Does father make Occasional support payments?	Number of	Times Married	es mas server by tes	California Caral
Granted				
Mother       Father         Present Occupation       Father         Mother       Father         Education of Mother       Father         Religious Preference of Mother       Father         Do you have custody of all the children from this marriage?	No. Years	Married	Length of Separation	Before Decree
Mother       Father         Education of Mother       Father         Religious Preference of Mother       Father         Do you have custody of all the children from this marriage?       If not, who has?         Does father make       occasional support payments?	Date Decr	ee Granted	Granted	
Mother       Father         Education of Mother       Father         Religious Preference of Mother       Father         Do you have custody of all the children from this marriage?	_	ee Granted	Granted	Granted
Religious Preference of Mother Father Do you have custody of all the children from this marriage? If not, who has? Does father make <sup>occasional</sup> support payments?	Previous Mother Present 0	ee Granted Occupation	Granted Months Since Decree Father	Granted
Religious Preference of Mother       Father         Do you have custody of all the children from this marriage?       If not, who has?         If not, who has?       Occasional support payments?	Previous Mother Present 0	ee Granted Occupation	Granted Months Since Decree Father	Granted
Do you have custody of all the children from this marriage? If not, who has? Does father make occasional support payments?	Previous Mother Present O Mother	ee Granted Occupation ccupation	Granted Months Since Decree Father Father	Granted
If not, who has? Does father make occasional support payments?	Previous Mother Present O Mother Education	ee Granted Occupation ccupation of Mother	Granted Months Since Decree Father Father Father Father	Granted
Does father make occasional support payments?	Previous Mother Present O Mother Education Religious	ee Granted Occupation ccupation of Mother Preference of Mo	Granted Months Since Decree Father FatherFatherFatherF	e Granted
Does father make regular support payments?	Previous Mother Present O Mother Education Religious Do you ha	ee Granted Occupation ccupation of Mother Preference of Mo ve custody of all	Granted Months Since Decree Father FatherFather FatherFatherF therF	ather
How much? Weekly? Monthly?	Previous Mother Present O Mother Education Religious Do you hav	ee Granted Occupation ccupation of Mother Preference of Mc ve custody of all ho has?	Granted Months Since Decree Father FatherFather FatherFatherFatherF	ather
	Previous Mother Present O Mother Education Religious Do you hav If not, w	ee Granted Occupation ccupation of Mother Preference of Mc ve custody of all ho has?	Granted Months Since Decree Father FatherFather FatherFatherFatherF	ather
	Previous Mother Present O Mother Education Religious Do you ha If not, w Does fath How much?	ee Granted Occupation ccupation of Mother Preference of Mo ve custody of all ho has? er make occasiona	Granted Months Since Decree Father FatherFather Father	e Granted Pather his marriage?

Did you move many times?	
Own	House Own Furniture Apartment Furnished
When and where did you est.	ablish your home after the separation
How long did you stay?	Why did you move?
Other residences since sepa	aration?
Home Economics _ Family Li	n High School or College in: fe Education Marriage Family ent Child Psychology Psychology
	formation learned in these classes is present situation?
Have you had professional	counseling for Yourself
Contraction of the second seco	Your husband
	Your children
before, during, after the	e marriage?
	r? Doctor
Who has been your counselor	
Who has been your counselor Lawyer	r? Doctor
Who has been your counselor Lawyer Professional Counselor	r? Doctor Minister
Who has been your counselor Lawyer Professional Counselor Do you feel that this has b	r? Doctor MinisterOther been helpful? joining a Parents Without Partners

		1		
_	2. PROBLEMS	WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ABOUT IT?	FROM WHOM WHERE WHAT KIND OF HELP DID YOU GET?	WHAT ADDITIONAL HELP WOULD YOU LIKE THAT YOU HAVEN'T HAD?
1.	What are the most important problems that you have had since the separation and divorce?	c.		
DIG	J MAY HAVE MET SOME PROBLEMS EADWINNER at problems have you had in yo		PLAYING THE FOUR ROLES OF MOTHE	R - FATHER - HOMEMAKER
2.	Mother	litit as a.		
3.	Father			
4.	Homemaker			
5.	Breadwinner			
Now	, Mrs, there	e are some SPECI	AL AREAS in which you might have	had some problems
6.	Have you found it difficult to live with the idea of being a divorcee?			
Did	the divorce create any new p	problems among t	he following?	
7.	Legal problems with the divorce settlement?			
8.	Problems with the ex- spouse?			
9.	New economic problems			

	3. PROBLEMS	WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ABOUT IT?	FROM WHOM WHERE WHAT KIND OF HELP DID YOU GET?	WHAT ADDITIONAL HELP WOULD YOU LIKE THAT YOU HAVEN'T HAD?
10.	Problems with housing arrangements			
11.	Emotional problems for you			
12.	New medical problems			
13.	Problems with your children			)
14.	Problems in your social life			and the second sec
15.	Problems in your spiritual or church life			
16.	Problems with your In-laws			
17.	Any other areas where you I had problems?	ave		
SPEC livo L am	, here are some DIFIC PROBLEMS that some preed mothers have had. a wondering <u>if</u> and <u>how</u> you e experienced any of them?			

	4. PROBLEMS	WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ABOUT IT?	FROM WHOM WHERE WHAT KIND OF HELP DID YOU GET?	WHAT ADDITIONAL HELP WOULD YOU LIKE THAT YOU HAVEN'T HAD?
I.		IR ROLES		
1.	Do you feel that you have to try to be two parents?			
2.	Any problems in changing the habit patterns of married life?			
3.	Problems in time management			
4.	New physical demands			
I.	ATTITUDE TOWARD THE DIVORCE	l		
1.	Your family			
2.	In-laws			
3.	Your Friends His Friends			
4.	Has your circle of friends changed? How?			
5.	Attitude of your group at church?			
6.	Your children's attitude about being a child of divorce or being from a bro	ken home?		

_				
-	• PROBLEMS	WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ABOUT IT?	FROM WHOM WHERE WHAT KIND OF HELP DID YOU GET?	WHAT ADDITIONAL HELD WOULD YOU LIKE THAT YOU HAVEN'T HAD?
7.	Ex-husband's attitude toward the divorce?			
8.	Your attitude toward the	divorce?		
II.	LEGAL - Any problems in th	ne divorce settle	ement in working out	
1.	Property settlement			
2.	Child support? (Regular, adequate, fair)			
3.	Custody?			
4.	Visitation arrangements?			
5.	Contemplate civil or criminal action for non- support or desertion?			
6.	Who paid for separation papers? Now Much? divorce?		Sources	
IV.	THE EX-SPOUSE			
1.	Any feelings of bitter- ness toward ex-husband			
	in the past? Men?			
2.	Present feelings toward ex-husband? Men?			

	6. PROBLEMS	WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ABOUT IT?	FROM WHOM WHERE WHAT KIND OF HELP DID YOU GET?	WHAT ADDITIONAL HELF WOULD YOU LIKE THAT YOU HAVEN'T HAD?
3.	How do your children feel toward him now? Has this changed?	7		
4.	Does father's place of residence cause any pro- blems - especially visitat:	.on?		
5.	Does father ever baby-sit or offer any other help?			
6.	Would you feel free to ask him for help in an emergency?			
7.	Effects of father's visits on children?			
V.	ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT			
1.	Standard of living now as compared to the marriage?			
2.	Present employment necessary?			
3.	Present income adequate for routine living expenses?		Family In-laws	
4.	Problems in securing a job?			
5.	Training adequate?			

	7. PROBLEMS	WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ABOUT IT?	FROM WHOM WHERE WHAT KIND OF HELP DID YOU GET?	WHAT ADDITIONAL HELF WOULD YOU LIKE THAT YOU HAVEN'T HAD?
6.	Reaction of employer to divorce status?	ng the mitries	Conti this privated the fiber	-1
7.	Does employer take single parenthood into account in giving you responsibility,	sick leave, time	e off, raises?	
8.	insurance, child education, savings?			
9.	Problems with credit, loans?		The sector of the problem	to place Clearged
10.	What budget stretchers do you use(specf. food & clothing, transportation)			
VI.	HOUSING			
1.	Problems in previous living situation?			
VII.	EMOTIONAL - MOTHER			
1.	What were your biggest emotional problems?	anana She hann of som	Jar and	
2.	Did your emotional problems create any physical problems or illne	sses?		4
3.	Did you have a good friend with whom you could talk out your problems?			
4.	If you had counseling, did it help? How?			

	PROBLEMS	WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ABOUT IT?	FROM WHOM WHERE WHAT KIND OF HELP DID YOU GET?	WHAT ADDITIONAL HELI WOULD YOU LIKE THAT YOU HAVEN'T HAD?
5.	Would pre-marital couns	ring the marriage	could have prevented the divore ted the marriage?	e?
6.				
7.	Feelings when the final decree granted? When papers were drawn up? In court?			
8.	Was sexual adjustment after separation from husband difficult?		What suggestions would you give in solving this problem?	to other divorcees
III.	MEDICAL			
1.	Medical care adequate			
5	for you and your children?			
2.	Does your doctor take your single parenthood into account in setting	fees and free dru	es?	
3.		lnesses		
IX.				
1.	How do you spend your leisure time (main recreation)?			
2.	Do you find it difficult to maintain a social lif of your own?	e		

	9. PROBLEMS	WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ABOUT IT?	FROM WHOM WHERE WHAT KIND OF HELP DID YOU GET?	WHAT ADDITIONAL HELP WOULD YOU LIKE THAT YOU HAVEN'T HAD?
3.	What is your participation in civic, social, and church organizations?			
4.	Have you started dating? When? About how often?			
5.	Has dating created any problems? Have you had many passes made by married	men?		
6.	Did you wonder how long you should wait before it would be proper to begin?			
7.				
8.	Are many of your dates also divorced? Do you prefer bachelors, widows, d	ivorcees?		
9.	How do these men treat you? Do they take advantage of the fact that	you are divorced	1?	
.0.	How do they react to your children?	a Mile		
1.	Children's reaction to dates?	(adda)		
2.	Do you have a steady date? Contemplate marriage? Any problems?			
х.	CHILDREN			

	. PROBLEMS	WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ABOUT IT?	FROM WHOM WHERE WHAT KIND OF HELP DID YOU GET?	WHAT ADDITIONAL HELF WOULD YOU LIKE THAT YOU HAVEN'T HAD?
1.	Problems in explaining divorce to them?	ia Internet		
2.	Their reaction?	Strains.		
3.	Emotional problems of the children created or solved by the divorce?			
4.	What are your day care arrangements? Cost?			
5.	Any problems in the care of your children while you work?			
6.	Are you satisfied with this arrangement?			
7.	How have the children adjusted to this arrangement?			
8.	Arrangements for night- time and emergency baby- sitting? (Do dates foot	the bill?)		
9.	Do you plan any "special times" for your children? (games, outings, meals, f			
10.	Any problems in arranging recreation for your child			

	PROBLEMS	WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ABOUT IT?	FROM WHOM WHERE WHAT KIND OF HELP DID YOU GET?	WHAT ADDITIONAL HELP WOULD YOU LIKE THAT YOU HAVEN'T HAD?
	Children's participation in community organization (Scouts, "Y", etc.) enco	ns araged?		
12.	Any attempt to provide "father substitute" (Gran neighbor, scout leader, o	ndfather,		
13.	Any problems at school?			
XI.	IN-LAWS			
1.	Did you have any problems with your In-laws?	5		
2.	Did you wonder how you and your children should feel toward them?			
3.	Have they offered any financial help or help with baby-sitting?	-		
4.				
5.	In what ways have they hindered your adjust- ment?			
KII.	SPIRITUAL LIFE			-
1.	Did you feel that the Church would be a source			
2	of help in your adjustmen			
2.	Did you feel free to talk with your minister about the divorce?			

12.		WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ABOUT IT?	FROM WHOM WHERE WHAT KIND OF HELP DID YOU GET?	WHAT ADDITIONAL HELP WOULD YOU LIKE THAT YOU HAVEN'T HAD?
3.	Did your new marital status make you feel out of place in your church a	roup?		
4.	Do you feel that the dive strengthened or weakened your religious conviction			
III.	REVIEW			
1.	Do you feel that you are better off now or during your marriage?			
2.	Your children?			
3.	How do you feel about			
	love and remarriage?			
4.	Has your attitude changed			
	since the separation?			
5.	How do you feel that			
	remarriage would effect the children?			
6.				
	remarriage to your ex-husband?			
7.	Do you consider remarrias	e		
	(to anyone) the solution to your biggest problems?			
	What do you think the fur holds for you?	ure		

13. PROBLEMS		WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ABOUT IT?	FROM WHOM WHERE WHAT KIND OF HELP DID YOU GET?	WHAT ADDITIONAL HEL WOULD YOU LIKE THAT YOU HAVEN'T HAD?	
9.	What has been your one biggest problem since the separation and divorce?			TOO MAYER I MAD:	
0.	What additional sources of help do you desire the most?				
-					
_				1111	
-					

Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, I have a checklist of some of the agencies and people which sometimes give help to divorced parents and their children. I am wondering which ones of these you might have used and what kind of help they might have given you?

SOU	RCES OF HELP	USED	KIND OF HELP
1.	Neighbors		
2.	Friends		
3.	Best Friend		
4.	Your family		
5.	Your In-Laws		
6.	Church - Who?		
7.	Minister	_	
8.	Family Doctor		
9.	Pediatrician		
LO.	School	_	
11.	Principal		
12.	Teachers		
13.	Home Economics Teacher		
.4.	Lawyer	_	
15.	Domestic Relations Court		
16.	Civil Court		
.7.	Criminal Court		
.8.	Police Department		
.9.	Probation Officers		
20.	Bank or Loan Company		
21.	Creditors		
22.	Insurance Agent		

SOL	JRCES OF HELP	USED	KIND OF HELP	
23.	Day-Care Center, Nursery, or Kindergarten			
24.	Maid or Baby-Sitters			
25.	Relatives or other child care			
26.	Red Cross			
27.	Welfare Department			
28.	Case Worker			
29.	ADC Grants			
30.	Unemployment Insurance			
31.	Internal Revenue Agent			
32.	Employer			
33.	Landlord			
34.	Employment Security Commission _			
35.	Health Department			
36.	Visiting Nurse	Ates Per	A set of the sector bound	
37.	Mental Health Clinic		in annalising the su	
38.	Family Service	and protects	and here here and	
39.	Traveler's Aid Society			
40.	Marriage Counselors	an attack	and a residence of the second	
41.	Psychiatrist			
42.	Psychologist			
43.	Family Life Counselor			
44.	School Guidance Counselor			
45.	Parent-Teacher Association			
46.	Parent Education Classes or Teacher			

SOL	JRCES OF HELP	USED	KIND OF HELP	
47.	Community Recreational Facilities Which ones?			
48.	Community Organizations (Scouts, Y.) Which ones?			
49.	Book <b>s</b> and Literature Which ones			
50.	Want Ads in the Newspaper			
51.	Junior League Clothing Store		1	
52.	Rummage Sale by you			
53.	Any others?			

Which of the above three were the most helpful to you?

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.

Well, Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, I must say that you have given very helpful answers, and I have surely enjoyed talking to you. You know, in answering all these questions I have sometimes wondered about something. Do you feel that this questionnaire gives a true picture of your problems and how you have met them?

Thank you so much for helping me with my study. Let me assure you again that this information will be kept in strictest confidence.