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METHODS OF HANDLING FAMILY
FINANCE IN HOMES OF MEN
COLLEGE STUDENTS

Thesis for the Degree of M. A.
MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE
Ann McIntyre Aikin
1938

THESIS

METHODS OF HANDLING FAMILY FINANCE
IN HOMES OF MEN COLLEGE STUDENTS

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by
Ann McIntyre Aikin

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THESIS

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Chapter I

Introduction

The current opinion that "...no one thing has caused more unhappiness in modern family groups than the mismanagement of finances"¹ indicates the importance of the study of methods of handling family income in our American culture complex. There is such a variety of wants which only money can satisfy that successful family relationships have come to hinge in large part on the adequacy of its financial arrangements.

As is true of any problem, it is necessary to know what conditions actually exist in order to be able to propose appropriate solutions. This study of methods employed in the homes of 163 men students at Michigan State College for apportioning and spending family income and for training in the use of money has been made to provide further data to serve as a basis for judging the appropriateness of contemporary teaching in regard to money management. Through comparison with a similar study made among women students on Michigan State College

1. H. A. Burnham, E. G. Jones, H. D. Redford, The Boy and His Daily Living. Philadelphia: Lippincott; 1935. p. 265

campus in 1934, it is the aim to find if sex differences exist in relation to training received in the handling of money. Comparison will also be made between the findings of this study and that of earlier studies in order to present a clearer picture of existing conditions, and to indicate the limited amount of investigation which has been attempted in regard to methods of handling family finance. Finally, the replies of this random sample to questions concerning their attitudes toward planned expenditures will be presented to show the probable trend of thinking among men students in a Middle West land-grant college. The remainder of this chapter will deal with methods by which the data were obtained, difficulties encountered, and with pertinent literature.

Method of
Obtaining
Data

The data were obtained from answers to a questionnaire. This method was elected rather than the interview or schedule because it was possible to reach a larger group of people in the limited time available and to obtain comparable information.

The original sample of 267 men was selected at random from lists of students enrolled for the winter term of 1938 in the engineering and agriculture divisions and in certain curricula of the liberal arts division, after the names had been classified according to

the year in college and fraternity affiliation. The agriculture and engineering divisions were selected because they represented two of the technical groups on campus with reputed differences; those taking strictly liberal arts courses, such as history, language and sociology, were chosen in order to balance the sample with students who displayed non-technical interests. The group was dis-

Table I

Distribution of Original Sample						
	NonTechnical Liberal Arts	Engin- eering	Technical Agri- culture	Total	Grand Total Number	Per- cent
Seniors	32	18	19	69	69	26
Juniors	32	18	18	68	68	25
Sophomores	32	16	18	66	66	25
Freshmen	32	16	16	64	64	24
Total	128	68	71	139	267	100
Fraternity	40	28	31	99	99	37
Independent	88	40	40	168	168	63

tributed among the four classes so that if there were differences in attitude due to age or due to the amount of collegiate experience it could be determined. Because it was thought that fraternity affiliation might be a factor indicative of attitudes toward money management, the group was divided likewise into fraternity and non-fraternity sections. See Table I.

Due to inequalities in the number enrolled in the divisions chosen for study, the percentage of students whose names appeared in the sample compared with the total enrollment for that division varied from 9 percent of the agricultural students and of the engineering students to 74 percent of the liberal arts students. The sample was thus distributed as evenly as possible between technical and non-technical groups, between fraternity and non-fraternity men, and among the four classes in college, rather than as a definite proportion of any total number of people in the groups from which the selection was made.

The goal of 200 answers was set because of the limited time and money available. However, from previous difficulties in obtaining answers to questionnaires it was advised that the original sample should be larger than the number of returns desired. Therefore the sample was increased to 267, more than one-third beyond the intended goal.

The questionnaires were sent out by mail. Even though there was a persistent follow-up over a period of two months, only 163 or 61 percent of the reports were returned. See Tables II and III. Psychological resistance to the questionnaire method worked against obtaining as large a number of answers as desired even with the allowance for a third more in the original sample. A larger

Table II

Distribution of Returns

	NonTechnical Liberal Arts	Technical Engin- eering	Agri- culture	Total	Grand Total Number	Per- cent
Seniors	16	14	10	24	40	25
Juniors	20	16	12	28	48	29
Sophomores	21	7	16	23	44	27
Freshmen	13	8	10	18	31	19
Total	70	45	48	93	163	100
Fraternity	29	23	23	46	75	46
Independent	41	22	25	47	88	54

number of liberal arts students failed to respond than of the other two groups (55 percent compared with 67 percent). Particularly marked was the small percentage of liberal arts students who turned their answers in within the first two weeks (32 percent compared with 62 percent of the technical students). Another difficulty arose from the incompleteness of the answers to certain parts of the questionnaire. Evidently a number of college men are not aware of

Table III

Percentage of Returns

	NonTechnical Liberal Arts	Technical Engin- eering	Agri- culture	Average	Grand Average
Seniors	50	78	53	65	58
Juniors	63	89	67	78	71
Sophomores	66	44	89	68	65
Freshmen	41	50	63	56	48
Average	55	64	68	67	61
Fraternity	73	82	74	78	76
Independent	47	55	63	59	52

how their families handle the money income.

Review of
Literature

Much advice is broadcast in newspapers, magazines and textbooks concerning the way family finances should be handled. The following examples are given to illustrate the methods which are propagandized as best:

Need for
Planning

Bigelow states, "It is absolutely essential that the family work out all of its specific spending problems as part of a carefully integrated spending plan."² Mary Mathews upholds systematized spending based on plans made a year in advance. "The homemaker who is a good business manager makes plans for her household expenditures before the year begins. Such a pre-arranged scheme... is called a budget."³ A group of home economists from Denver, Colorado, agree that "... no one thing can do more for the health, happiness and security of the family group than the careful planning for the spending of family money."⁴

Family
Councils

When all the family meets together to plan its expenditures, the gathering is termed a family council. The Denver home economists mentioned above approve of such co-operation according to the following quotation: "Spending family money is an undertaking which

2. Howard F. Bigelow, Family Finances. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1936. p. 329

3. Mary L. Mathews, Clothing. Selection and Care. Boston: Little, Brown, 1936. p. 201

4. Burnham, Jones, Redford, op.cit. p. 265

involves all the members of the group. Each member should understand not only how much money there is to spend, but also what the combined needs and desires are. If each person in the group helps to make the plan for spending, each member will more readily assume his responsibility for carrying out that plan."⁴ Also Justin and Rust suggest a group plan. "A budget's chances for success are much greater if the entire family has a part in making it and agrees to follow it."⁵

Allowances Parents' Magazine has long been an advocate of giving children experience in handling money. Last year one mother was quoted as follows: "My daughter was given an allowance on her thirteenth birthday to cover clothes, school banking, Sunday School contributions, carfare, movies and candy and all the extras with the purpose of helping her develop ability to handle money while I am near enough to give suggestions. My daughter feels free to get what she wants when she wants it. She is happier; I have more confidence in her; and it is all a most valuable part of her education."⁶

Two months later Fisher described the general allowance, which is "As a rule a small sum of money, paid each week, which the child may spend as he likes

4. op.cit, p. 265

5. M.M. Justin and L.O. Rust, Home Living. Philadelphia: Lipincott, 1935. p. 108

6. Lillian M. White, "Developing Money Sense," Parents' Magazine, Vol. XII Feb. '37, p. 84

without any questions asked. The amount does not usually cover necessary expenses such as clothes or school supplies, because the mother of the family with her experience in shopping can usually get better values. However, as the children grow older their spending responsibility is increased gradually so that by the time they have finished high school they are capable of buying wisely."⁷

Access of Burnham, Jones and Redford give the opinion
Both Parents to
Family Income that the household allowance, which is "a form of budgeting for the housewife... is not desirable if it fosters a feeling of not being permitted a voice in the spending of the rest of the family money." They highly approve of the joint account because "it is an ideal method to give husband and wife equality in the use of their money. The checking account in itself is a business-like method [since] the cancelled checks are legal receipts and the stubs and monthly statements are valuable for household accounts."⁸ Justin and Rust⁹ advise having a joint management plan for using the family income because the joint plan is most business-like and just; but they suggest that either separate or joint bank accounts are satisfactory.

There have been few investigations made of practices actually used in apportioning and spending the

7. M.H. Fisher, "Are Allowances Practical?"
Parents' Magazine, Vol.XII Ap.'37, p.24

8. op.cit. p. 280

9. op.cit. p. 110

family income. See Table IV.

In a study conducted by Chase Going Woodhouse in 1928, sixty-eight college trained couples in the business and professional classes living in different parts of the United States were interviewed. She summarized her findings in the following fashion:¹⁰

"The general picture is one of ...mutual control of family funds ...The joint account was ...found in nearly half the families, but in almost as many husband and wife each had an account... In the actual handling of money and payment of bills, payments on the house, interest, insurance and coal had a masculine trend; the wife usually cared for purchases of food, service, operating expenses except coal, her clothes and personal expenditures and those of the children... Joint decisions as to expenditures regardless of who did the actual purchasing was the typical picture. Where either husband or wife made the decision alone, insurance, investments and savings were likely to be the province of the husband, household expenses and clothes of the wife.

"The general practice was to give the children allowances from the time they were six years of age, starting to school. These allowances were spent at first

10. "Managing the Money in Successful Families", Journal of Home Economics Vol.23 Jan.'31, pp.1-8

Table IV

Previous Investigations of Methods of Handling Family Income

Investigator	Year	Method	Persons	Source of Data	Place of residence
Chase Going Woodhouse at U of No Carolina	1928	Interview	68 couples with college training and in business and professional occupations		Eastern States
Ruth Lindquist	1929	Questionnaire	355 college-trained wives from trade, agriculture and professional homes		Throughout United States
Reva Cree Tweedy at U of Idaho	1936	Questionnaire	175 women college students		Largely in Idaho
Josephine Fuller at M S C	1934	Questionnaire	176 women college students largely from business and professional homes		Largely in Michigan
Eunice Pardee at M S C	1935	Questionnaire	360 women in Extension classes largely from farm homes		Michigan

for school supplies, ice-cream, candy, penny bank, and Sunday School. With increasing age and responsibility came larger allowances and more items to be cared for, until usually at adolescence, and in nearly every case upon entering college, the allowance was covering clothes and personal expenditures and in many cases all expenditures.

"The families who did not worry despite their difficulties in making the income cover their needs were those who planned, those where husband and wife co-operated most fully in carrying out the plan, those who could see where they were going."¹¹

¹²
Ruth Lindquist reported a few facts concerning the spending patterns of 355 families, selected on the basis of the mothers' education, 80 percent of them having college degrees. Sixty-eight percent of the husbands also had been graduated from college. In regard to planning: 33 percent used a budget, 25 percent more had only a partial plan, 33 percent stated that they had no plan, and 9 percent did not answer.. Of the rural families included in the study, 60 percent had no plan for their family expenditures. From the total number of families studied three-fifths or 60 percent of them considered their spending in family councils. One-third of the families gave allowances to their children, the majority beginning

11. Chase Going Woodhouse, op.cit, p.8

12. Ruth Lindquist, "A Study of Home Management in its relation to Child Development", The Candle
Dec. '29

at 6 years of age. Twenty percent made a careful record of all expenditures; a few others found a periodic examination and classification of bank stubs satisfactory.

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A study was made by Josephine Fuller in 1934 at Michigan State College. One hundred seventy-six women students answered a questionnaire concerning the methods used in administering family incomes, and the training received in the use of money. The sample was divided between home economics and non-home economics students in the four classes. Over three-fifths of their homes were in cities, and less than one-tenth lived on farms. About one-fourth of their parents were high-school graduates, another fourth had attended college, while nearly a sixth of them had only finished the first eight grades. The majority of the fathers were business or professional men. Miss Fuller found that joint control was the most popular method for administering the incomes; that a joint account between husband and wife was used in almost half the cases; that budgets were used in only one-fourth of the families, and were usually planned by the father and mother. In the majority of homes, both parents participated in doing the buying, but rarely did all members share in this activity. Two-thirds of the girls stated that they had partial knowledge of the amount of the family income, but only two-

fifths of them helped decide on the way it should be spent. Half of the students received allowances while in college, three-fifths of this group also being given money on request. These facts were correlated with education and occupation of parents, the place of residence and the size of family. It was found that more money was given by request rather than as an allowance to children of less educated parents. More of the older children participated in making plans for family expenditures in business men's and farmers' families, and in small cities or on farms. The number of girls receiving allowances decreased directly with the density of the population in their place of residence. It was discovered that in the majority of cases, both parents were the important buying agents in the large city, while the mother took the major role in medium-sized city and village, and that all members of farm families¹⁴ were participating in making the family purchases.

The following year at Michigan State College Eunice Pardee studied methods of handling money used among¹⁵ 300 Michigan families contacted through women who were members of home economics extension classes. Nearly 70 percent of these families lived on farms and only 10 percent lived in cities. Over four-fifths of the parents had attended high school. A majority of the husbands were

14. Josephine Fuller, op.cit, pp. 82-84

15. Methods of Handling Money in 300 Michigan Farm Homes unpublished M.A. thesis, Michigan State College, 1936 67 numbered leaves

farmers and only one-tenth were business or professional people. Data taken from the women's answers to a questionnaire showed that the most common method used in considering financial matters was that of husband and wife talking together. Sixty-four percent of the entire number used an unwritten or mental plan, and less than one-fifth made any sort of written budget. Approximately 40 percent kept some records of expenditures, but less than one-fourth recorded all expenditures. About one-half the families had a joint bank account. Twenty-six percent of the women had household allowances, and 25 percent of the children had personal allowances. As to responsibilities for certain expenditures, 41 percent said that it was not definitely assumed by certain members of the family. High correlation was shown between increasing amounts of formal education of the parents and the keeping of records as well as the giving of allowances to children. There was also a direct relationship discovered between size of family and (1) plans for spending; (2) joint bank accounts; and (3) family discussion; and an inverse relationship was found between size of family and the receiving of allowances by the children.¹⁶

The most recent study available was made in the fall of 1936 by Reva Cree Tweedy¹⁷ at the University of

16. Eunice Pardee, op.cit., pp. 44, 49

17. Evidences of Need for Consumer-Buyer Education in the Idaho Public Schools unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Idaho, 1937 102 numbered leaves

Idaho. Mrs. Tweedy collected data from 175 women, 102 of them home economics students and 73 of them from the School of Business. As a part of her study she sought to discover facts concerning their families' habits of handling money, the sources of the students' income, and the experience and training received by the girls in the use of money. In regard to habits of handling family income, 17.3 percent of the families for which this question was answered used a budget system, while 82.7 percent said they had no recognized budget; there were 53.7 percent of the families who had joint bank accounts between husband and wife, 17.7 percent in which the wife received money on request, 12 percent where the wife had an allowance, and another 12 percent of the families in which the wife earned her own money, while 4.5 percent of the wives received a separate income from inheritance or savings. Forty-four percent of the students received their college income as an allowance, 42 percent asked for money from home, others earning their own money. Of the 78 who received allowances, 23 percent had never been given an allowance until they came to college, 46 percent had started using allowances in grade school, and 31 percent had begun in high school.

Concerning these methods of handling family funds, Mrs. Tweedy said, "Many girls state that their present day practice, such as lack of bank accounts, lack of money allowances for the children, and lack of budgets are

emergency measures and not the usual standard in their
18
homes."

One hundred fifty-two girls (97 percent) gave their parents credit for training them in the use of money through letting them help buy for the family or manage their own bank accounts or do their own personal purchasing. As to school courses which had helped in their training, 28 spoke of home economics, 11 of commercial work, and 5 of economics courses. Sixty-nine percent of those who mentioned home economics were freshmen.

A summary of the findings of these investigations is given in Table V.

Table V

Summary of Findings of Previous Investigations of Methods of Handling
Family Finance

Findings	A way from Michigan State College		At Michigan State College	
	Investigator: Cases:	Woodhouse 78	Lindquist 355	Fuller 176
		Percent	Percent	Percent
Means of access to family funds:				
Joint account	Majority.	54		47
Common Purse	(Minority			79 Parents
On Request	separate accounts)			55
Allowance--		12		26
Household				
Personal--				
Mother				11
Father				8
Children				26
Age starting	Majority	33	21% under 14	52 12 yrs
			14% 18 18	
Decision Making				
By parents	Majority	Majority		94
By parents and older children				68 40
Discussion by all members		60		37
Record keeping--				
For all spending		20		23
Partial				39
Planning expenditures				
Complete		33	17	14
written				9
unwritten				64
Partial		25		11
No Plan		33	83	75
				16

Chapter II

Findings

In regard to Methods of Handling Family Finance

In the present study, the replies of 163 men students at Michigan State College in 1938 to a questionnaire concerning methods of handling family finance were analyzed. first, for general information concerning the men and their families; second, for facts about family financial methods of apportionment, spending, supervision and training; and third, for co-variation of these facts with place of residence, occupation and education of parents, size of family, and the co-operators' college interests. Findings from these analyses are presented. The final section of the chapter deals with student attitudes toward planning and record-keeping.

The Men and Their Families

The men who answered these questionnaires were, largely, persons who were earning at least a part of their own college expenses. In the majority of cases, their homes were in cities. The parents of these students were chiefly of British or German stock, with at least one parent having had college education. There were usually two, three, or four other children in the family. Seventy-six percent of the fathers were occupied in industry (which includes wage-earning and clerical work), in

business or in the professions, with a median annual salary of \$ 2500.00.

Table VI shows that the majority of the students who answered the questionnaires were earning some portion of their own way through college, 61 percent earning part of their expenses and 18 percent more earning all of their expenses. The most marked difference among the classifications was between fraternity members and independents, the former group having only 9 percent of its members earning all their own way contrasted with 25 percent of the independents.

Table VI .

Amount of College Expenses Earned by Co-operators

	Total cases		Non-Technical		Technical		Fraternity		Non-Fraternity		Senior		Junior		Sophomore		Fresh-	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
All expenses	29	18	13	19	16	16	7	9	22	25	3	13	7	6				
Part	99	61	39	56	70	68	50	67	49	56	32	20	30	17				
None	34	21	17	25	17	16	18	24	16	19	5	15	6	8				
Total	162	100	69	100	103	100	75	100	87	100	40	48	43	31				

Table VII gives the places of residence of these students, classified according to the place in which the greater portion of the student's life had been spent. Those students who had lived in more than three places of different size were listed under "varied." Sixty-two percent of the co-operators lived in cities, seven percent in villages, twenty-eight percent on farms, and three percent had lived in places of varied size.

Table VII
Place of Residence of Co-operators

City	Total cases		Sen-ior	Jun-ior	Sopho-more	Fresh-man
	Number	Percent				
Large	29	18	10	8	5	6
Medium	31	19	5	12	8	6
Small	40	25	8	10	12	10
Village	11	7	4	4	2	1
Farm	46	28	12	13	13	8
Varied	6	3	1	1	4	0
Total	163	100	40	42	44	31

As to size of families, the central tendency is toward small families with two, three, or four children. See Table VIII. Sixty percent of the families fall in this class, and 23 percent more have only the one son. Twenty-eight families, or 17 percent, have five or more children. More of the non-technical students came from large families than did the technical co-operators, and more of the independents than of the

fraternity men.

Table VIII

Families Classified According to Size

	Total		Senior	Junior	Sophomore	Freshman
	Number	Percent				
One child	37	23	7	16	7	7
Small (2-4 children)	98	60	25	20	35	18
Large (5 or more)	28	17	8	12	2	6
Total	163	100	40	48	44	31

Table IX shows that 87 percent of the cases came from homes where both parents were living, and that of the remaining number 9 percent came from homes in which the mothers were still living.

Table IX

Parents in the Home

	Total		Senior	Junior	Sophomore	Freshman
	Number	Percent				
Both parents living	141	87	33	43	36	29
One parent only						
Mother	15	9	3	5	5	2
Father	7	4	4	0	3	0
Total	163	100	40	48	44	31

The number of native-born parents is far greater (89 percent) than the number born in other countries (11 percent); and whether foreign-born or native, 41 percent

were of British or German stock, 22 percent were descendants of other North Europeans, and only 5 percent of these students had ancestors who had come from Central or South Europe. (Refer to Tables X and XI.)

Table X
Place of Birth of Parents

	Father		Mother		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Foreign born	21	12.9	15	9.2	36	11
Native born	142	87.1	142	90.8	280	89
Total	163	100.	163	100.	326	100.

Table XI
National Background of
Co-operators

	Father	Mother	Total	
			Number	Percent
British	40	55	95	29
German	20	19	39	12
Other North Europeans	41	36	77	23
Central & South Europe	9	8	17	5
No answer	53	45	98	31
Total	163	163	326	100

The parents' education is classified in Table XII according to the highest grade finished. Of the 156 men who made any statement in regard to parents' education, 53 percent said that either one or both of their parents had attended business or normal school or college,

28 percent stated that one or both of their parents had attended high school, and 19 percent that their parents had gone no further than the eighth grade.

Table XII
Extent of Parents' Education Classified
according to Highest School Attended

	Father	Mother	Total	Parents		Total	
				Both	One	Number	Percent
8 grades or less	51	39	90	30	-	30	19
8-10 grades	19	11	30				
10-12 grades	29	44	73	18	20	44	28
Business school	7	7	14				
Normal or college	25	34	59				
Graduate of college	24	18	42	32	50	82	53
Total	155	153	308	81	75	156	100

In 82 percent of the 163 families, the fathers contributed all or more than half of the money income, but only in 20 percent did the mothers contribute anything to the money income. See Table XIII. The fathers in these families were, almost without exception, the chief breadwinners.

Table XIII

Portion of Money Income Contributed by Family Members

	Father		Mother		Children	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All	112	69	1		2	1
More than half	21	13	1		1	
Half	19	12	13	8	6	4
More than one-fourth	2	1	11	7	8	5
One fourth or less	-	-	9	5	23	15
None, no answer, irrelevant	9	5	128	78	123	75
Total	163	100	163	100	163	100

According to Table XIV, over one-third (35 percent) were employed in industry, nearly a fourth in private business, another fourth in farming, with the remainder (18 percent) in professional service.

Table XIV

Occupation of Breadwinner

	Total		Senior	Junior	Sophomore	Freshman
	Number	Percent				
Business	35	23	11	13	8	4
Professional	28	18	8	8	9	4
Industrial	59	35	10	17	14	17
Farming	41	24	11	10	13	6
Total	163	100	40	48	44	31

The incomes, stated in 154 cases, range in the medium level. Of these families, 56 percent had annual incomes between \$1000 and \$3000. See Table XV. The median income is \$2500 annually. Eleven families (7 percent) had incomes of less than \$1000, thirteen families (8 percent) between \$4000 and \$5000, and 25 of the families (17 percent) were reported with incomes above \$5000.

Table XV
Size of Family Income

Annually	Total Number	Percent	Senior	Junior	Sopho- more	Fresh- man
Under \$1000	11	7	3	3	4	1
\$1000-1999	45	29	12	14	11	8
\$2000-2999	42	27	10	8	13	11
\$3000-3999	18	12	5	4	5	4
\$4000-4999	13	8	5	5	1	2
\$5000-over	25	17	5	10	5	5
Total	154	100	40	44	39	31

In line with the large proportion of the fathers whose earnings are sole sources of family income is the 100 percent knowledge of the fathers in regard to the amount of income. Although only 20 percent of the mothers contributed directly to family income, 88 percent of them had complete knowledge of its amount. The older children knew much more about income than younger children, and the

older boys appeared to have complete knowledge in more cases than did the girls (52 percent compared with 41 percent as shown in Table XVI).

Table XVI

Extent of Family Members' Knowledge of Income

	Father		Mother		Over 14 Girls		Boys		Under 14 Girls		Boys	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Complete	151	100	138	88	26	41	59	52	4		2	
Partial	0	-	16	10	29	46	49	43	8		3	
None	0	-	3	2	8	13	6	5	4		6	
Total	151	100	157	100	63	100	114	100	16		11	

Financial Methods In 11 of the families, the whole group always entered into financial discussions; in 27 all usually took part; in 49 the family only occasionally shared. Of the 93 parents reported upon, 45 always entered into financial discussions, 40 usually did, and 8 only occasionally took part, while 2 were reported as never having family discussions of finances. See Table XVII.

Apportionment

Table XVII

Extent of Discussion of Expenditures

	Whole Family		Parents and older children		Parents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Always	11	7	4	3	45	28
Usually	27	17	14	8	40	25
Occasionally	49	30	30	18	8	5
Never	20	12	9	5	2	1
No answer	56	34	106	66	68	41
Total	163	100	163	100	163	100

When each family was studied to find to
¹
 what extent children participated in discussion, it was
 found (see Table XVIII) that the children always partici-
 pated in 9 percent

of the families,
 that they never
 took part in dis-
 cussions in 25
 percent of the
 families, but that
 in two-thirds, or
 66 percent of the
 families studied,
 the children sometimes shared in discussions of family
 finances.

Table XVIII

Participation of Children in the
 Discussion of Expenditures

	Families	
	Number	Percent
Always	14	9
Sometimes	101	66
Never	38	25
Total	153*	100

* 10 did not respond to this
 part of the questionnaire.

1. Overlapping answers under "parents",
 "parents and older children", and "whole family" were
 eliminated. Usually and occasionally were counted under
 sometimes. It was inferred that children never partici-
 pated if no answers were checked for them and their par-
 ents were reported as always taking part.

Table XIX is in agreement with Table XVII, for of the 112 parents reported upon, 36 percent always shared in making financial decisions, 49 percent usually did, and 15 percent only occasionally took part. Again, the children shared in decision-making only occasionally, 47 out of the 75 reported instances, (63 percent) just as they shared in discussions occasionally in most of the homes.

Table XIX

	Participation in Decision- Making						Children with	
	Father		Mother		Parents		Parents	
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent
Always	4	13	5	23	40	36	9	12
Usually	16	51	9	43	55	49	16	21
Occasion- ally	7	23	3	15	17	15	47	63
Never	4	13	4	19	0	-	3	4
Total	31	100	21	100	112	100	75	100

Three-fourths of the 87 students who responded to the question concerning planning expenditures over a year ahead said that their families did not plan for that length of time, and less than a fourth (22 percent) reported that their families did plan for a yearly period; the two other students who reported said that they did not know. Yet three-fourths of the co-operators answered that their families had some plan, and only 22 percent reported

no plan. See Table XX.

Table XX

Extent of Planning Future Expenditures

	A Year's Plan		Any Plan	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	90	22	119	75
No	65	75	35	22
Doubtful	2	3	5	3
Total	87	100	159	100

When asked whether plans were written, 26 percent of those reporting (31 of the 117) said that plans were written wholly or in part, 66 percent that plans were unwritten, and the remaining 7 percent that their plans were partly written and partly unwritten; see Table XXI.

Table XXI

Extent and Type of Budgeting

	Number	Percent
Written plan	31	26.4
All	8	
Part	23	
Unwritten plan	77	65.8
All	43	
Part	34	
Partly written & partly unwritten	8	7.8
Total	117 *	100

* No answer 46

Of the 79 persons who told which family members consulted in making plans for future expenditures, 40 reported that all were consulted, and 39 that all were not included. (Table XXII)

Table XXII

Family Assistance in Planning		
All members consulted		40
All members not consulted		39
All children	20	
Small children	11	
Children not at home	3	
Father	2	
No answer	3	

Spending the Family Fund The most prevalent method of providing for parents' access to family funds was use of a common purse. The checking account ranked next highest in frequency of use for the fathers, and the checking account combined with personal allowance for the mothers. The most popular method for providing money for the children, older or younger, was to give money on request. Seven of 48 young children received personal allowances, and 6 of them were said to have access to the common purse. (Table XXIII)

Twenty of the 135 men responding to this question (14.8 percent) stated that older boys received allowances in their homes, 14 others that they had access to a common purse. Of the 49 girls reported upon, 15 (30.6 percent) had access to a common purse and only 4 (8.2 percent)

Table XXIII

Methods of Providing Access to Common Fund *

Only method used	Father	Mother	Older Girls	Older Boys	Young Children	Entire Family
Separate checking acct	12	1	0	2	0	2
Joint checking acct	32	22	0	0	0	5
Household allowance	0	24	0	0	0	6
Common Purse	50	49	15	14	6	17
Personal allowance	6	3	4	20	7	2
On request	1	5	27	70	31	11
Combination methods used						
Joint checking acct and common purse	6	4	0	0	0	0
Joint checking acct and household allowance	0	8	0	0	0	4
Checking acct and on request	0	1	0	0	0	17
Household allowance and common purse	0	4	0	0	0	1
Checking acct and personal allowance	0	1	0	0	0	8
Common purse and on request	0	1	2	11	1	27
Personal allowance and on request	0	0	1	12	1	2
Other combinations	1	12**	0	6**	2	55***
Total	100	133	49	135	48	157

* Each case listed under method or methods exclusively used. ** No combination used by more than 3 people.
 *** No combinations used by more than 6 families.

had allowances. The last column in Table XXIII is indicative of the wide combinations of methods used. For example, only 17 families used the common purse as the sole means of access, and only 11 had the custom of giving money on request of a family member, but 27 used the combination of common purse and receiving on request.

Over half (55 percent) of the men who had received allowances before coming to college said that they had planned the spending of their money by themselves. Thirty-eight percent had planned with the aid of some one else how to spend their allowances. See Table XXIV.

Table XXIV
Planning the Allowance

	Number	Percent
Planned without aid	23	55
Planned with aid	16	38
Spent without plan	3	7
Total	42	100

Entertainment headed the list of items for which allowances were spent; clothes, school expenses, savings, charity, extras and cars were the other items mentioned. Two-thirds of the men said that they were sometimes required to tell how their allowances were used; 11 percent stated that they always reported their expenditures;

the remaining 23 percent said they never were required to tell for what their allowances had been spent. The median age at which the group had begun receiving allowances was 10.5 years. Fifty-eight men answered the question about the increasing of their allowances; fifty of them responded affirmatively. The ages at which the allowances had been increased ranged from 9 to 18. Half these men said their allowances had been increased when they entered high school. Five reported that increases had corresponded to needs; three had received an increase each year, two every other year, and three gradually. Because the responses were scattered, this information is not given in table form.

Since only a small proportion of the men had received allowances, it was possible for the median age at which the entire group began handling money to be greater than the age at which allowances were given. The median age at which 153 men reported that they began to handle money was 10.7 years, compared with 10.5 years at which allowances were begun. The first control of money was not given until three years later, at the median age of 13.7 years.

Table XXV indicates the ways in which the co-operators reported that they received money from the family fund while in college. Asking, combined with their own earnings from work, loans, allowances, and checking accounts, was given as the most common method

(64 percent). Allowances were checked as the only means in 22 cases (10 percent). The checking account as sole method was used in only 6 cases.

Table XXV

Ways by which College Men Received from Family Fund

	Number	Percent
Allowance	22	16
Common Purse	3	2
Checking account	6	4
Wages for work	8	6
Loan	9	6
Asking	36	27
Combinations		
Asking and work	22	16
Asking and allowance	12	9
Asking and other	16	12
Loan and work and other	3	2
Total	134	100

Table XXVI shows that these college men spent largely without supervision, 40 percent of them (64 cases) always making all expenditures without help. Of the individual expenses for which there is the most unsupervised spending, haircuts and shows, candies and sodas, and entertainment rank highest. When the inapplicable² cases are

2. Inapplicable responses were from those who did not spend money for these items.

Table XXVI

Extent of Unsupervised Spending

	Always	Usually	Occasionally	Never	Inapplicable*	Total
All expenditures	64	78	13	6	0	161
Hair cuts, shaves	68	9	3	1	2	83
Candy, sodas	64	16	2	0	4	86
Entertainment	60	22	4	0	1	87
Pressing, cleaning, laundry	52	17	7	3	4	83
Athletic equipment	48	19	3	0	10	80
Gifts	46	28	7	1	1	83
Club, fraternity dues	43	14	5	1	14	77
Books and magazines	40	23	3	0	4	70
Board and room	39	13	3	13	5	73
Church and charity	39	20	10	4	6	79
Tobacco	32	3	1	1	19	56
Accessories	30	37	12	1	1	81
Transportation, gas	30	26	10	5	9	80
Vacations	20	25	14	13	9	81
Liquor	13	2	0	0	58	73
Clothes	12	43	23	6	1	85

* See footnote on page 36.

taken into consideration, the expenditure most frequently supervised is for vacations.

The persons who made different kinds of purchases for the home are listed in Table XXVII. The mother alone or the parents together did 87 percent of the family purchasing. In only 5 percent of the cases (22 out of 436) were purchases made without her aid. The largest percentage of purchasing by mothers alone was for food (69 percent), the least for furnishings (34 percent). The mothers alone purchased household equipment in as great a percentage (41 percent) as did the parents together. The highest percentage of purchases by parents was for furnishings (55 percent) and the least for food (20 percent).

Table XXVII
Members Buying for the Family

	Food		Furnishings		Household Equipment		Total	Average
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Number	Percent
Mother	92	69	50	34	63	41	205	47
Father	7	5	4	3	9	6	20	5
Parents	27	20	82	55	63	41	172	40
Mother & daughter	4	3	0	-	0	-	4	.
Daughter	1	.	0	-	0	-	1	.
Son	1	.	0	-	0	-	1	.
Whole	1	.	13	8	19	12	33	8

The masculine respon-

Table XXVIII

sibility for auto pur-

Family Members Purchasing Autos and Supplies

chases holds in the

majority of these cas-

es, the father alone

buying the auto and its

supplies in 68 percent

of the families, fath-

er and son in 20 per-

cent more, and the son alone in 5 percent of the families.

The parents or the whole family shared in making auto purchases in the remaining cases.

	Number	Percent
Father	93	68
Mother	1	-
Parents	6	4
Father and son	27	20
Son	7	5
Whole family	4	3
Total	138	100

Note the similarity between percentages of purchases by mother alone for food (69 percent) and by the father alone for auto and supplies (68 percent).

Supervision Table XXIX refers to the amount of help fam-

ily members received in making purchases of personal clothing. Fathers were helped in a greater number of cases (30 percent) than were mothers (12 percent), and 10 percent of the fathers did not even participate in purchasing their clothes. Older daughters received slightly more help (33 percent) in selection of their clothing than did older sons (27 percent), and both received help in a considerably greater number of families than the mothers. Of the younger children reported upon, 60 out of 69 did not participate at all in purchasing their clothing.

Table XXIX

Participation of Family Members in Purchases of their own Clothing

	Father		Mother		Older daughter		Older Son		Young Children	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Total
Helped	45	30	18	12	18	33	36	27	9	126
Not helped	89	59	135	87	28	52	88	66	0	340
Not partici- pating	16	10	1	.	8	15	10	7	60	95
Totals	150	100	154	100	54	100	134	100	69	561

Table XXX shows the extent to which expenditures were recorded in the families studied. Eighty-two percent made some record, although only 16 percent made a complete record.

Table XXX			
Extent of Expenditure Records			
	Number		Percent
Complete	25		16
Partial	103		66
None	29		18
Total	157		100

Eighteen percent reported that they kept no record of expenditures at all.

Training in Handling Money

The co-operators were asked to tell in what ways they had received training in handling money, at home, at school, as well as elsewhere. Table XXXI shows their answers. Of the 147 who told of home training, 57 (39 percent) gave credit to their parents' advice and teaching. Fifteen percent said they had learned most from being given opportunity to do their own purchasing, and 8 percent more learned through supervised experiences. Ten percent referred to expense accounts, budgets and allowances. Others learned through self-discipline because of need, through observation and example. Eight reported that they had received no training. Only 109 reported on training received in other places than their homes. Thirty-four percent (37 persons) dwelt on the value of their own experience. Twenty-one percent gave some credit to school courses, extra-curricular activities, or school savings banks. Ten percent said they had

received advice from teachers and other adults. Two gave credit to scouting. Others stated various combinations of these methods of training. Seventeen percent (18 persons) said they had received no training outside the home.

Table XXXI

Training Received by College Men in the Handling of Money

	Number	Percent
<hr/>		
At home		
Parents' advice and teaching	57	39
Making own purchases	22	15
Supervision of spending	12	8
Expense accts, budgets, allowances	15	10
Observation and example	28	19
Self-discipline because of need	5	3
No training	8	6
Total	147	100
<hr/>		
At school and elsewhere		
Own experience	37	34
School courses, extra-curricular activities, school savings banks	23	21
Advice from teachers and other adults	11	10
Scouting	2	1
Combination of methods	18	17
No training	18	17
Total	109	100
<hr/>		

Relationship
of Findings
to Known
Variants

On the basis of the general information about the families and their methods of handling finances, the cases were reclassified according to the four factors-- place of residence, size of family, education of parents, and occupation of parents-- to determine whether these factors were related to financial practices in the families investigated. The small number of those who had lived in places of various size was omitted from the study of significant differences among data classified by residence. For a summary of significant differences found among the groups studied, see Table XLIV, p. 82.

The findings considered were extent of family discussion, persons making decisions, extent of expenditure planning, kind of planning, persons making purchases, amount of help received in purchasing, and extent of record keeping. Each of these phases of the financial pattern will be treated in relation to the four factors.

When the participation of children in any family discussion was considered, it was found (See Table XXXII) to be related both to occupation and education, but not to place of residence or size of family.

A significantly greater number of industrial workers' families had family discussions than had families

3. "Significant" is applied to any difference greater than 2.0, obtained by application of formula for standard error of difference between proportions. See Arkin & Colton, An Outline of Statistical Methods New York; Barnes & Noble, 1954 p.201

whose fathers were in private business. Professional and farming families were similar in the percentage of cases in which children participated, but were not significantly different from the other occupational groups.

Table XXXII

Participation of Children in Financial Discussions

	Always	Sometimes	Never	Total
<u>Residence</u>				
City				
large	1	20	5	26
medium	3	17	10	30
small	5	25	8	38
Village	1	6	4	11
Farm	3	30	11	44
<u>Education of parents</u>				
Both more than HS	4	19	6	29
One more than HS	5	30	12	47
Both with HS	0	13	3	16
Only one with HS	1	19	6	26
Neither HS	4	17	9	30
<u>Occupation</u>				
Business	1	21	11	33
Professional	4	14	7	25
Industrial	6	40	9	55
Farming	3	26	11	40
<u>Size of family</u>				
One child	6	22	6	34
2-4 children	5	64	23	92
5 or more	3	15	9	27

When the cases were classified on the basis of the highest school attended by the parents, the group in which both parents had gone to high school had a signifi-

cantly greater number of families in which children took part in financial discussions than had the group in which neither parent had gone further than eighth grade. All of the other educational divisions had a higher percentage of families entering into discussion than the group where neither parent had gone to high school, but there was not a significantly greater number.

In the residence classification, the large-city families had the highest percentage of family discussions, the small-city families the next highest, then came those from cities of medium size; village and farm families had the least discussion. However, there were no statistically significant differences between groups.

The participation of children in discussion varied inversely with the size of family, but there were not significant differences.

Financial decisions are made by the parents in a larger percentage of village families than in those with other residence. More parents engaged in private business, and fewer of the parents whose occupation was farming, made money decisions for the family than those in other occupations. When classified educationally, the highest percentage of parents making decisions were those with the least schooling. More parents in families with one child made decisions than parents in larger families. However, there were no significant differences among any

of the other classifications in regard to persons making financial decisions. Since the proportion of parents making the financial decisions ranged from .5 to .6 in every group, it is evident that none of the factors studied was influential. See Table XXXIII.

Table XXXIII
Persons Making Financial Decisions in
the Family

	Father	Mother	Parents	Family	Total
<u>Residence</u>					
City-Large	3	1	11	14	29
Medium	2	1	12	15	30
Small	1	3	18	15	37
Village	0	0	8	3	11
Farm	4	1	16	21	42
<u>Education of Parents</u>					
Both more than HS	1	2	14	14	31
One more than HS	3	4	18	22	48
Both with HS	1	1	7	10	19
Only one HS	2	1	10	11	24
Neither HS	1	1	16	12	30
<u>Occupation</u>					
Business	4	3	14	13	34
Professional	2	2	11	11	26
Industrial	3	4	25	27	59
Farming	1	0	15	20	36
<u>Size of family</u>					
One child	1	2	17	14	34
2-4 children	6	6	37	45	94
5 or more children	3	1	11	12	27

The extent to which families planned expenditures proved to be related to size of family in that the small families had a significantly greater number planning

than had one-child families. The large families had a larger percentage than one-child families, but the difference was not significant. The extent of expenditure planning was not related to educational differences, occupational variations, nor to place of residence. See Table XXXIV.

Table XXXIV

Extent of Expenditure Planning in the Family

	Any Planning	No Planning	Doubtful	Total
<u>Residence</u>				
City				
Large	24	3	1	28
Medium	26	4	1	31
Small	25	12	3	40
Village	9	2	0	11
Farm	34	10	2	46
<u>Education of Parents</u>				
Both with more than HS	27	5	0	32
One more than HS	37	12	1	50
Both with HS	15	3	0	18
Only one HS	20	6	0	26
Neither HS	21	5	4	30
<u>Occupation</u>				
Business	25	2	8	35
Professional	20	1	7	28
Industrial	47	3	9	59
Farming	31	1	8	40
<u>Size of Family</u>				
One child	23	13	1	37
2-4 children	79	15	3	97
5 or more children	21	4	3	28

No significant differences appeared between the number making written plans and the number making unwritten plans in any of the classifications. Among those

investigated, however, the largest percentage writing their plans were among farm families, among the industrial group, among those having large families, and among the two lowest educational groups, contrasted with the other groups in each classification. See Table XXXV.

Table XXXV

Kind of Expenditure Planning

	Written	Unwritten	Part Written Part Unwritten	Total
<u>Residence</u>				
<u>City</u>				
Large	4	18	2	24
Medium	5	16	1	22
Small	4	16	4	24
Village	2	5	0	7
Farm	11	21	0	32
<u>Education of Parents</u>				
Both more than HS	5	17	3	25
One more than HS	6	24	3	33
Both with HS	4	10	0	14
Only one HS	8	10	0	18
Neither HS	7	12	1	20
<u>Occupation</u>				
Business	4	16	2	24
Professional	2	11	3	16
Industrial	16	28	2	46
Farming	9	22	0	31
<u>Size of family</u>				
One child	7	15	0	22
2-4 children	15	52	7	74
5 or more children	9	10	0	19

Although there were few significant differences among groups in relation to the persons doing the purchasing of food, there were some interesting similarities

and variations among the groups in each classification. The mother purchased more of the food for the family as the size of the place of residence increased, except in the village residence group where the proportion of mothers doing the

Table XXVI
Persons Buying Food, Furnishings and
Household Equipment for the Family

	Mother			Parents			Family		
	F	Fg	He	F	Fg	He	F	Fg	He
<u>Residence</u>									
City									
Large	23	7	10	2	18	15	4	2	1
Medium	18	14	15	5	14	13	4	4	1
Small	22	17	21	8	15	11	6	4	5
Village	5	1	2	1	9	9	1	0	0
Farm	20	10	19	8	23	13	14	10	11
<u>Education of Parents</u>									
Both more than HS	16	12	15	9	15	11	5	4	5
One more than HS	30	13	22	7	28	23	12	7	3
Both with HS	9	9	10	2	5	6	5	3	2
Only one HS	15	9	12	6	11	8	5	6	6
Neither HS	14	10	13	9	15	11	5	4	5
<u>Occupation</u>									
Business	23	13	19	4	15	12	6	5	2
Professional	15	12	13	6	13	10	4	2	3
Industrial	35	18	21	12	32	28	10	6	4
Farming	17	8	16	8	19	14	15	11	3
<u>Size of family</u>									
One child	22	13	19	6	18	15	9	5	3
2-4 children	54	29	38	18	50	41	19	13	13
5 or more children	14	9	12	6	11	8	7	6	6

F-- Food purchases
Fg-- Furnishings
He-- Household equipment

purchasing alone was too high to conform to the population trend. Refer to Table XXXVI. There was almost no variation in percentage relationships among the educational classifications, and none among families of different size. The farmers had the lowest percentage of families where the mother only purchased the food, while the business group had the highest percentage. This difference was significant.

A larger percentage of mothers in village homes purchased furnishings alone than in any other place, and there was a significant difference between the village and the small city. The farmers' wives made fewer purchases of furniture without family aid than the women of any other occupational group. The percentage of mothers who were sole purchasers of furnishings fluctuated among the educational groups, with no observable trend. The small families in this study did not help their mothers in furniture purchasing as much as either the one-child or the large families.

The families deriving income from work in industry shared in purchasing household equipment in a significantly greater number of cases than the families who had private business as source of income. A high percentage of farm families participated in buying household equipment, but there was not a significant difference between

the number in this group and the others.

The persons purchasing autos and supplies varied with three of the classifications-- size of family, place of residence, and occupation. The small families participated less (See Table XXXVII) than the large families in this type of purchase. There was a significant difference. Also a lower percentage of the one-child

Table XXXVII

Participation of Family Members in Purchases of
Auto and Supplies

<u>Residence</u>	<u>Father</u>	<u>Father- Son</u>	<u>Parents</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>City</u>					
Large	19	2	1	1	23
Medium	21	5	0	3	29
Small	24	5	1	4	34
Village	9	1	1	0	11
Farm	21	10	5	5	41
<u>Education of Parents</u>					
<u>Both more than</u>					
HS	17	4	2	0	23
One more than HS	34	0	3	2	45
<u>Both with HS</u>	11	2	2	2	17
Only one HS	10	5	1	1	23
Neither HS	15	4	2	0	27
<u>Occupation</u>					
Business	24	2	1	3	30
Professional	17	4	1	3	25
Industrial	39	8	1	4	52
Farming	19	9	0	3	37
<u>Size of family</u>					
One child	23	8	1	2	34
2-4 children	00	11	5	5	27
5 or more	10	4	3	5	22

families participated than of large families, but the difference did not prove significant. In regard to place of residence, the large and medium sized cities' families had less participation in auto purchases than the farm group; small city families helped less than those who lived in villages. All of these differences were significant. As to occupational variation, fewer business and industrial families participated in auto purchases than farm families. There was also less participation in professional men's families than in farmers' families, but this last difference was not significant. The proportion of participating and non-participating families fluctuates among the educational groups; however, there was a significantly greater number of participating families among those who had the least education over those where one parent had more than high school training.

In regard to clothing purchases, the size of the family did not affect the amount of help received by family members enough to make any significant differences; yet, in every case except the older sons', the percentage of those helped increased with the size of the family; in the case of the older sons, the percentage receiving help in selection of clothing was greater in the large families than in the one-child families, but not greater than in the small families. See Table XXXVIII.

Table XXXVIII

Amount of Help Received by Family Members in Purchasing their own Clothing

Residence	Father		Mother		Daughter		Son		Young Children					
	H	NP	H	NP	H	NP	H	NP	H	NP				
City														
Large	7	14	5	3	25	1	1	4	1	4	19	2	0	14
Medium	6	20	3	2	26	0	1	10	0	4	21	3	2	6
Small	8	26	4	2	34	1	6	5	1	8	24	0	2	11
Village	2	9	0	3	7	0	0	5	0	1	7	0	0	3
Farm	17	21	4	8	37	0	13	9	7	16	18	5	7	22
Education of parents														
Both more than HS	10	16	5	5	25	1	4	6	2	8	18	2	4	9
One more than HS	10	31	5	4	45	0	5	12	3	9	31	4	2	16
Both with HS	3	12	1	1	16	0	4	4	0	1	13	1	0	8
Only one HS	7	15	2	3	21	0	4	4	2	7	10	2	1	11
Neither HS	7	15	4	4	23	1	2	6	3	7	15	2	3	12
Occupation														
Business	6	23	2	3	30	0	4	11	0	6	24	1	1	13
Professional	9	13	3	0	27	0	1	7	1	4	17	2	2	3
Industrial	11	37	7	7	46	2	6	8	5	11	30	6	3	28
Farming	15	19	4	9	30	0	10	7	5	13	19	3	6	13
Size of family														
One-child	9	24	3	2	32	1	0	1	1	4	20	2	0	4
2-4 children	24	54	11	12	80	1	14	24	7	24	54	9	7	39
5 or more	8	14	2	5	21	0	7	8	3	6	16	1	5	14

H--- Individual was helped in purchases

NH--- Was not helped

NP---Did not participate in buying

There was no definite trend of increasing or decreasing help in making clothing purchases among the educational groupings. The lowest percentages of help given to family members were consistently in the group in which both parents had attended high school. There was a significantly greater number of older sons receiving help in the families where only one parent had attended college than in those in which both parents had gone to high school.

The place of residence made no significant differences in amount of help given on clothing purchases, although the farm had the highest percentage of family members who received aid.

The farmers themselves received help in clothing purchases in a significantly greater number of cases than the industrial workers. The farmer's wife and older daughter received help in a significantly greater number of cases than the professional man's wife and daughter. In every case, the farmer and his wife and older children received help in a larger percentage than the families of any other occupational group. The professional man's young children participated in making their clothing purchases in a slightly larger percentage of cases than did the farmer's children.

Where both the parents had attended high school and where only one parent had attended high school, the number of families giving help to older daughters in

their clothing purchases was significantly greater than the number giving help in families where neither parent had attended high school. Yet the number of families in which either or both parents had gone to college did not differ significantly from the high school graduates' group, nor from the elementary school group.

As to methods of access to family funds, the educational groups fluctuate in percentage relationship without any significant difference. The older boys, older girls and young children in the highest educational group, however, all received personal allowances in a larger percentage of families than in any group of families where the parents had less education. Also the largest percentage of older sons who asked for money as need arose were in⁴ the homes where the parents had had least education.

There were no significant differences between methods of access of family members to funds, when the cases are classified according to size of family. The largest families had the lowest percentage of children with allowances, and of parents with checking accounts. In regard to place of residence, the farm was consistently high in the number of families using the common purse, or the method of giving upon request. The fathers in farm

4. This duplicates Fuller's finding among girls. See Fuller, op.cit., Table XXIV, p. 66

homes used the common purse in a significantly greater number of cases than fathers living in medium-sized cities. The mothers used money from a common purse rather than from a checking account or household allowance in a significantly greater number of farm homes than in medium-sized city or large city homes. Among the occupational groupings, the farmers again used the common purse more than did professional or industrial men, and so did the farmers' wives. The farmers' older daughters received money on request, also business men's daughters asked for money in a significantly greater number of cases than the daughters of professional men and men employed in industry. See Table XXXIX.

Table XXXIX
Method of Access to the Family Fund

Residence	Father			Mother			Daughter			Son			Young children		
	Ch	CP	A	OR	Ch	HA	CP	A	OR	CP	A	OR	CP	A	OR
City															
Large	7	9	2	-	5	10	7	-	2	-	4	16	-	1	3
Medium	16	4	2	-	10	4	3	-	6	-	6	13	-	2	4
Small	12	13	-	-	10	5	12	-	2	-	10	11	1	1	4
Village	5	5	-	-	4	1	5	-	-	-	1	3	4	2	3
Farm	7	24	-	-	5	3	25	-	3	5	1	23	1	2	10
Education of parents															
Both more than HS	4	8	1	-	2	4	7	-	-	2	4	11	2	2	1
One more than HS	20	18	1	-	12	6	18	2	-	1	1	23	1	1	8
Both with HS	4	6	1	-	4	4	6	-	1	-	2	11	-	3	3
Only one with HS	5	10	2	-	-	7	12	-	1	-	1	11	-	1	7
Neither HS	10	9	-	1	4	2	10	-	3	2	4	13	2	3	3
Occupation															
Business	8	13	-	-	3	6	12	-	3	-	4	15	1	2	8
Professional	14	3	-	1	13	1	3	-	1	-	1	8	-	1	1
Industrial	20	18	5	1	18	13	18	2	-	1	2	25	1	6	10
Farming	8	21	-	-	4	3	20	-	3	4	6	20	2	1	6
Size of family															
One child	12	14	-	1	7	3	12	-	3	1	1	14	1	1	1
2-4 children	33	32	5	-	24	18	30	2	3	2	7	41	2	4	13
5 or more children	5	9	-	1	7	2	11	-	1	2	4	13	1	5	11

Ch--- checking account
CP--- common purse
A --- allowance
HA--- household allowance
OR--- On request

The number who kept records did not vary significantly among any of the classifications. The highest percentage of record keeping was in the village and on the farm, in the business men's and farmers' families, in the small family, and in the group where only one parent had attended high school. See Table XL.

Table XL
Extent of Record Keeping on Finances of
the Family

	Complete	Partial	None	Total
<u>Residence</u>				
City				
Large	5	18	6	29
Medium	4	21	5	30
Small	9	23	7	39
Village	1	8	2	11
Farm	3	33	8	42
<u>Education of Parents</u>				
Both more than HS	7	20	5	32
One more than HS	6	30	12	51
Both with HS	2	13	3	18
Only one HS	5	17	4	26
Neither HS	4	18	8	30
<u>Occupation</u>				
Business	5	25	5	35
Professional	5	13	8	26
Industrial	10	37	12	59
Farming	4	29	6	41
<u>Size of Family</u>				
One child	8	18	10	36
2-4 children	13	68	15	96
5 or more children	3	18	6	27

The number of college men who spent without supervision did not vary significantly with any of the

four factors studied. The highest percentage of those whose spending was always unsupervised came from village and farm homes, from the families of business men and farmers, from the group in which the parents had least education, and from the largest families. (Refer to Table XLI).

Table XLI
Unsupervised Spending by College Men

	Always	Sometimes	Never	Total
<u>Residence</u>				
City				
Large	7	20	2	29
Medium	10	20	1	31
Small	10	24	0	40
Village	6	5	0	11
Farm	22	23	1	46
<u>Education of Parents</u>				
Both more than HS	9	22	1	32
One more than HS	10	35	0	51
Both with HS	10	8	1	19
Only one with HS	13	12	1	26
Neither HS	14	10	0	30
<u>Occupation</u>				
business	17	18	0	35
Professional	8	19	1	28
Industrial	21	36	2	59
Farming	18	22	1	41
<u>Size of family</u>				
One child	10	21	0	37
2-4 children	30	65	3	98
5 or more	18	9	1	28

Only two facts specifically related to the college students and their families' methods of handling finance were directly asked for on the questionnaire, the participation of college men in family discussions, and

their methods of receiving from the family fund while in school. These facts were classified according to the four college classes, the technical and non-technical courses, and membership in social clubs. From Table XLII, it is found that a larger percentage of technical and non-fraternity men took part in family financial discussions than of the non-technical and fraternity men, but the differences were not significant, nor were the differences between class divisions.

Table XLII

Extent of Participation of College Men in Discussion
of Family Expenditures

	Total Number	Percent	Seniors		Juniors		Sophomores		Freshmen		Technical		Non- Technical		Fraternity		Non- Fraternity	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Participation	113	69	26		30		35		22		66	72	47	66	50	67	63	72
No participa- tion	50	31	14		18		9		9		26	28	24	34	25	33	25	28
Total	163	100	40		48		44		31		92	100	71	100	75	100	88	100

The study of methods of receiving from family funds (Table XLIII) shows that a significantly larger percentage of fraternity men than of non-fraternity men received allowances while in college and had checking accounts. There was also a larger percentage of non-technical than technical students receiving allowances and having checking accounts, but the difference was not significant. A smaller percentage of seniors than of any other class received allowances and had checking accounts, but there were no significant differences between classes.

Table XLIII

Methods by which College Men receive Money from Family Fund
classified according to college interests

	Total		Seniors	Juniors	Sophomores	Freshmen	Technical		Fraternity	Non-Fraternity
	Number	Percent					Technical	Non-Technical		
Allowance	22	13	0	12	5	5	11	11	14	8
Asking	36	22	11	11	8	6	18	18	16	20
Checking acct	6	4	1	2	2	1	4	2	3	3
As pay for work	8	5	4	2	0	2	7	1	5	3
Loan	9	6	3	2	3	1	4	5	1	8
Common purse	3	2	1	0	2	0	3	0	1	2
Loan, work, other	3	2	1	1	1	0	1	2	2	1
Asking, work	22	13	7	4	5	6	17	5	13	9
Asking, allowance	12	7	0	6	3	3	5	7	8	4
Other combinations with asking	16	10	4	3	5	4	10	6	3	13
Other methods	6	4	1	1	4	0	3	3	3	3
None	3	2	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	2
No answer	17	10	6	4	5	2	8	9	5	12
Total	163	100	40	48	44	31	92	71	75	88

Attitudes toward
planning and
Record keeping

The last section of the questionnaire attempted to discover whether these men approved of planning expenditures and of wives keeping the family records. The co-operators checked their agreement or disagreement with quotations from articles in current periodicals. Sometimes they added comments clarifying their attitudes. From the statements they checked it was possible to determine that 94 percent of the total group approved of planning expenditures and only 6 percent did not approve. (See Table XLIV). Three grades of approval were recognized; by their comments they indicated hearty approval, doubtful approval, or strong disapproval. Over two-fifths of those who approved of planning stated that they did not consider strict budgets wise. A typical comment was one from a Junior Liberal Arts student, "Budgets are a good thing, it seems, to give a person an idea of where his money goes and what proportion goes where. But to draw up a budget and to attempt to stick to it is ridiculous, for the situation facing a person is never the same. Thus any budget should be a flexible thing, but should be kept balanced." Another 15.5 percent stated that they were heartily in favor of budgeting. The remaining 42.5 percent of those approving made no comment. Of those who disagreed with the making of plans, two-thirds strongly disapproved. One said, "I don't like the budget system. It deprives you of many of the better things in life."

Table XLIV

Extent of College Men's Belief in Planning Family Expenditures

	Total Number	Percent	Senior	Junior	Sopho- more	Fresh- man	Tech- nical	Non-Tech- nical	Frater- nity	Indepen- dent
Any planning	154	94	57	46	43	28	88	66	72	82
Heartily in favor	24		5	4	10	5	13	11	7	17
Doubtful of strict planning	65		14	15	23	13	33	32	28	37
No planning	9	6	3	2	1	3	5	4	3	6
Strongly disapproving	6		3	0	1	2	4	2	2	4
Total	163	100	40	48	44	31	93	70	75	88

In regard to the wife keeping the records, only 17 percent approved, 34 percent were doubtful, and 44 percent did not think it wise. (Refer to Table XLV). None of those who approved made comments. Of those who checked that they were doubtful, the following statement is typical: "Depends on conditions in family and who is most capable of it." Those who checked "No" gave the reason that both husband and wife should keep the records or that "The man of the house should keep records," as a Junior Forestry student put it.

When these attitudes were classified according to class, course, and club membership, no significant differences were found. Nevertheless, the percentage of freshmen approving of the wife keeping the records for the household was smaller than that of any of the other classes and a smaller percentage of the technical students than of the non-technical students approved the idea.

Table XLV
Attitudes of College Men toward Wives Keeping Records of Family Expenditures

	Total Num- ber	Per- cent	Sen- ior	Jun- ior	Sopho- more	Fresh- man	Technical Num- ber	Per- cent	Non-Technical Num- ber	Per- cent	Fraternity Num- ber	Per- cent	Independent Num- ber	Per- cent
Wife should keep records	28	17	9	9	8	2	14	15	14	20	13	18	15	17
Wife should not keep records	72	44	12	22	21	17	39	42	33	48	35	47	37	42
Doubtful	55	34	15	16	15	9	35	37	20	28	22	29	33	37
No answer	8	5	4	1	0	3	5	6	3	4	5	6	3	4
Total	163	100	40	48	44	31	93	100	70	100	75	100	88	100

Chapter III

Comparisons with Findings of Previous Investigations

Two previous investigations of methods of handling family finance have been made at Michigan State College; these were carried on by Josephine Fuller in 1934, and by Eunice Pardee in 1935, as mentioned in the review of literature in Chapter I.¹ Some of the comparable data will be presented in this chapter.

Sex Differences

Women college students furnished the material for Miss Fuller's earlier study on this topic. The data which she found relating to the women and their families are to be compared with facts given by the men who co-operated in the present study.

According to Table XLVI, the men received allowances at a younger age than did the women (10 compared with 11.) However, the median age of men's first having charge of money (10.7) shows greater similarity to the age given for women. Perhaps this is due to the wide range of years (2- 20) given by the men. Miss Fuller did not state the range for the women. Again, the men had complete control of money at an earlier age than the women (13.5 com-

1. See p. 10-14

pared with 15). From these two studies the conclusion may be drawn that men begin to handle money earlier than women.

Table XLVI
Comparison of Ages at which Men and Women
Start Handling Money

	Women*	Men**	
	Mean Age	Mean Age	Median Age
First allowances	12	10	10.5
First money in own charge	11	12.8	10.7
First money in own complete control	15	13.5	13.7

* Fuller, op.cit., pp. 38, 43-44.

** See p. 75.

The methods by which the men and women students received money from the family fund are compared in Table XLVII. Only 174 men (82 percent) reported receiving money from the family fund. Of that number, 62 percent received their money through asking. Fifty-two percent of the women students received their money through asking. A greater variation occurs in the number of men and women reporting allowances-- only 16 percent of the men compared with 41 percent of the women. More men received money through other means, checking accounts, loans, and wages for work (22 percent) than women (7 percent).

Table XLVII

Comparison of Men and Women College Students' Methods of
Receipt from Family Fund

	Women*		Men**	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Asking	92	52	83	62
Allowance	72	41	22	16
Other	12	7	29	22
Total	176	100	134	100

* Fuller, op.cit., p. 38

** See Table XAV, p. 36

That the percentage of men who spend independently is larger than of women is indicated by comparison of the percentages in Table XLVIII, the women unsupervised in 57 percent of their clothing purchases compared to men unsupervised in 93 percent. The last column shows, however, that not nearly the total number of men always spent without supervision; for example, though 93 percent reported some unsupervised spending for clothes, only 14 percent of the men stated that their purchases of clothing were always unsupervised.

Expenditures for entertainment (men 100 percent, women 97 percent), candy and soda (men 100 percent, women 97 percent), were least supervised for either men or women. The low percentages in each column occurred under board and room (men 81 percent, women 31 percent), and under vacation (men 82 percent, women 31 percent) although

Table XLVIII

Comparison of Extent of Unsupervised Spending among Men and Women
College Students

	Women*		Men**			
	Number	Percent	Some unsupervised		All unsupervised	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Clothing	100	57	78	93	12	14
Clothing accessories	149	85	79	99	30	38
Entertainment	170	97	87	100	60	70
Club dues	131	74	62	98	43	68
Candy, sodas	170	97	82	100	64	78
Board and room	54	31	55	81	39	57
Transportation, gas	70	40	66	93	30	42
Vacations	37	31	59	82	20	28

* Fuller, op.cit., p.43

** See Table XXVI, p.37

fewer men than women were supervised in spending for these items.

The sex differences shown by comparison of the data from the studies of men and women are that men begin to handle money at an earlier age, that fewer men receive allowances in college than women, and that more of the men do some unsupervised spending.

Differences in
Financial Methods

Mrs. Pardee's investigation, as well as Miss Fuller's, provides data comparable to the findings of the present study in respect to some family financial procedures. In the comparison one should keep in mind that farm women furnished the material for Mrs. Pardee's study, and college students, largely from city homes, the data for the other two.

Table XLIX shows the variations in findings of the three studies concerning division of responsibility for decision-making among members of the family. All three studies found the largest percentage of families using a system of joint control. Miss Fuller found a larger percentage where either the mother or father had sole authority than Mrs. Pardee, 24.4 percent compared with 4.1 percent, and somewhat larger than the 11.7 percent found in the author's investigation.

Table XLIX

Division of Responsibility in Financial Decisions

	Fuller		Pardee		Aikin	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
One person having authority	43	24.4	15	4.1	19	11.7
mother	19		4		9	
father	24		11		10	
System of joint control	120	68.2	109	24.1	126	63.4
No system existing	7	4.				
System not recognized	6	3.4	6	1.8	8	5.9
Totals	176	100.	260	100.	163	100.

The percentage of families using any written plan is small, according to the findings of all three investigations. (See Table L.) Fuller's total was 27. percent, Pardee's 20.6 percent, and the author's 19.4 percent. Miss

Table L

Extent and Type of Budgeting

	Fuller		Pardee		Aikin	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Written						
All	14	7.8	31	7.8	8	4.9
Part	20	13.6	32	8.	23	14.1
Unwritten			231	58.	77	47.2
Part written & part unwritten	10	5.6	19	4.8	7	4.4
No plan			69	17.3		
No stated plan	132	75.	16	4.1	48	29.4
Total	176	100.	399	100.	163	100.

Fuller did not inquire concerning unwritten plans, but the other two investigators each found a large percentage who planned in this way, 58 and 47.2 percent respectively.

Those who used written plans were asked to tell what headings were used. The numbers responding both to Miss Fuller's and to the author's study are compared in Table LI. The headings which Mrs. Pardee found most frequently used are starred. The classifications-- food, clothing, and savings-- were found in all three studies to be used often in family budget making. In Miss Fuller's list and in the author's, shelter and education appear

Table LI
Budget Headings

	Fuller Number	Pardee Most frequent	Aikin Number
Food	21	*	19
Clothing	16	*	14
Shelter	21		21
Household operation	14	*	-
Household help			15
Education	13		15
Savings, insurance	16	*	23
Personal	8		-
Travel, luxury, pleasure	8		5
Charity, church	4		4
Medical	1		1
Interest and payment of debt	2		2
Car	4		0
Care of grandparents	1		
Furnishings		*	
Incidentals			3
Other general headings			31

frequently. That household operation was not listed as a budget heading by any of the men in the present study probably indicates lack of awareness on their part of this expense. There was a wide variety of other headings mentioned by different co-operators.

The comparisons of arrangements made for access to family funds (refer to Table LII) are only approximately comparable, since Miss Fuller classified each family under only one heading, while Mrs. Fardee and the author classified each family under as many different methods of access to family funds as were used. Miss Fuller found

Table LII
Arrangements for Access to Family Funds

	Fuller		Fardee		Aikin *	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Common purse	28	19.3	286	79.4	68	46.2
Allowances	34	22.2			54	36.7
Father			30	8.4		
Mother			41	11.4		
Children			74	25.7		
Checking accounts	91	59.4	168	46.7	46	31.3
Household allowance			95	26.4	47	31.9
On request					98	67.6

* 147 persons responded to this question.

checking accounts used in nearly three-fifths of the families investigated (59.4 percent); Mrs. Pardee found checking accounts used in not quite half of her group, and the author found them used in less than a third of her co-operating families. The most frequently used method, according to Mrs. Pardee's study, was the common purse, while the practice made use of in more families than any other, according to the findings of the present investigation among college men, was receiving on request. The common purse was the next most frequent method reported in this study. Allowances were used, however, in a somewhat larger number of these families (36.7 percent) than in the families studied by the other investigators. The highest percentage given by Mrs. Pardee is for the children who received allowances in 25.7 percent of the homes she studied. Miss Fuller found allowances used in 32.7 percent of the cases she reviewed.

The comparison of findings in regard to extent of discussion of money matters is presented in Table LIII. Miss Fuller found 75 percent of the families having the children participate, Mrs. Pardee found a larger percentage (58 percent), and the present study, in which even occasional discussion was included, found 75 percent. Because of probable variation in the extent of participation included in the investigators' figures, it would be unwise to draw

any conclusion.

Table LIII

Extent of Children's Discussion of Money Matters

	Fuller		Pardee		Aikin	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Participating	61	75	159	58	115	75
Not participating	115	65	116	42	38	25
Total	176	100.	275	100.	153	100.

From the comparison of the findings of the three studies, the outstanding similarities are in regard to use of a system of joint control, the slight use of written plans for expenditures, and the relative infrequency of the giving of allowances.

The author found fewer relationships than the other investigators between the data and the variable factors studied. Though there were differences between a higher educational group and a lower in the amount of help given in purchasing clothes and in the participation in family discussion, not every higher educational group was superior to a lower or even to the lowest. Therefore the present study would not corroborate the findings of Mrs. Pardee concerning a positive relationship between education and the keeping of records, use of joint bank accounts and a system of joint control. No tendencies were found to compare with Fuller's concerning more one-child families

in which the child participated in decision-making. However, similarity was discovered in that more farm families participated in purchasing, more often had access to a common purse, and gave money to children on their request more than other groups.

Summary and
Conclusions

One hundred sixty three men students at Michigan State College in the winter term of 1938 answered questionnaires concerning methods used in handling family funds, the training received in the use of money, and the attitudes of the men toward planning and record keeping. The purpose of the investigation was (1) to obtain further data on methods of money management, and their relationship to certain known variants; (2) to find attitudes of men toward some phases of money management, and (3) to compare the conclusions with those of previous studies made at Michigan State College among women students.

Method of
Obtaining Data

The sample was selected at random from the registration lists of the agricultural and engineering divisions, and from those students enrolled in certain non-technical curricula of the liberal arts division. This sample was divided as evenly as possible between technical and non-technical students, fraternity members and independents, and among the four classes.

The Men and
Their Families

Seventy-nine percent of the returns were from persons who were earning at least a part of their own college expenses. Of their families, 62 percent lived in cities. There were two, three, or four children in 60 percent of these homes. Seventy-

six percent of the breadwinners were in industry, business or the professions, and the median annual salary for the entire group was \$2500.

Methods of Apportionment of the family income was based
Handling
Finances on discussion in 75 percent of the cases;
the children always or sometimes participated. Thirty-six percent of the parents always decided together how money should be spent, and 49 percent usually did. Only 23 percent of the families planned their expenditures for a year in advance, yet 75 percent planned for some future time. Written plans were made in only 26 percent of the families who reported any planning. In half the families reported upon, all members assisted in making the plans.

Sixty-six percent of the families, when classified as units, had access to the money income through the common purse or upon request or through a combination of these methods. College men received their money by asking in 64 percent of the cases, only 16 percent had an allowance. Eighty-five percent of the older daughters had access to the common purse or were given money on request. The students reported that 40 percent of all their purchasing was unsupervised. Purchasing was done almost entirely by the mother alone, or the parents together, except in the case of purchases of autos and supplies, for

which the father alone was the purchaser in 67 percent of the families. The whole family shared in purchasing in very few cases. Eighty-two percent of the families kept at least a partial record of expenditures.

The training which the college men credited to their homes was largely (58 percent) parental advice and example. Twenty-one percent stated that they had been definitely helped at school through courses, extra-curricular activities and savings banks.

Association of
Data with
Certain Variants

When the findings were classified on the basis of education of parents, size of families, place of residence and occupation, some differences were found between groups. The significant differences are summarized in Table LIV.

Where there were significant differences between educational groups, in the amount of family discussion, in the extent of help given to children in clothing purchases, and in the purchase of autos and supplies by the father alone, the difference was always in favor of those homes where the parents had had more of formal education. Size of family was related to amount of expenditure planning, the one-child family participating the least, and to auto purchases, the large families participating more than small families.

Some elements of a farm pattern of handling money appeared in the study of data relating to

Table

Summary of Significant Differences in
according to Certain

LIV

Family Financial Patterns
Classifications

	Residence	Education of parents	Occupation	Size of family
Family discussion	-	both HS over neither HS	industry over busine ss	-
Decision making	-	-	-	-
Expenditure planning	-	-	-	small over one-child
Written plans	-	-	-	-
Purchasing by mother and family members- food	-	-	farm over business	-
furnishings	small city over village	-	-	-
household equipment	-	-	industry over business	-
Purchasing by father and family members- auto and supplies	farm over large city farm over medium city village over small city	neither HS over one more than HS	farm over business farm over industry	large over small
Help in clothing purchases- older sons	-	one more than HS over both HS	-	-
father	-	-	farm over industry	-
mother	-	-	farm over profession	-
daughter	-	both HS over neither HS one HS over neither HS	farm over profession	-
Methods of access- common purse father	farm over medium city	-	farm over profession farm over industry	-
mother	farm over large city farm over medium city	-	farm over profession farm over industry business over profession	-
on request older daughter	-	-	farm over industry farm over profession business over profession	-

place of residence and occupation. There was more family participation in farm homes in purchasing food, autos and supplies, and in buying personal clothing for the father, mother, older daughters, older sons, and younger children. There was more use of the common purse than of the checking account or the household allowance by the father and mother, and more giving of money on request than through allowances to the older daughters, older sons and young children in farm families.

The homes where fathers were employed in industry had more family discussion of expenditures, and more family participation in buying household equipment, and more allowances for daughters than other occupational groups, especially more than those families where the fathers were engaged in business.

Only two facts-- participation of college men in family discussion of finances, and their methods of receiving from the family fund while in school-- were classified according to the four college classes, the technical and non-technical courses, and membership in social clubs. A larger percentage of technical and non-fraternity men and fewer seniors received allowances and had checking accounts than in the other classifications, the technical, non-fraternity, freshman, sophomore, and junior classes.

Attitudes

The attitudes of the college men were found to be in favor of planning in 94 percent of

the whole group investigated, but over two-fifths of these did not approve of a strict budgeting system. In regard to the wife's taking responsibility for keeping the records of expenditures, 44 percent did not think it wise and 34 percent were doubtful. Only 17 percent approved.

Sex
Differences

From the comparison of this study with the investigation of Josephine Fuller in 1934 among the women students of Michigan State College, certain sex differences were found. Men began to handle money at an earlier age than women. A larger percentage of the men spent money independently. Fewer men than women received allowances in college.

Comparison
with Previous
Investigations

When these two studies were compared with the investigation of Eunice Pardee (1935) among Michigan farm women, the author did not find a significantly greater number of one-child families and of better educated parents giving allowances, as the other two had found, nor of the larger families making spending plans as Pardee had. No tendencies were found to compare with Fuller's concerning only children participating in decision-making, or with Pardee's concerning association of more formal education with record-keeping, joint control, joint bank accounts, and spending plans. Fuller found allowances given to the daughters in more cases than did the author. However, similarity was

discovered in regard to the use of a system of joint control of family finances, the slight use of written plans for expenditures, and the relative infrequency with which allowances were given to children; farm families were found by all three to participate more in purchases, to have access in more cases to a common purse, and to give more of their children money on request than other groups.

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Appendix

-A-

Questionnaire

A STUDY IN METHODS OF HANDLING FAMILY FINANCE

Instructions: Leave paper unsigned. Please fill in all blanks. Draw a line through any question which does not apply to you and your family.

I. General Information

A. About yourself:

1. Course _____
2. Year in college _____
3. Age _____
4. Fraternity affiliation _____
5. Are you earning your way through college?
entirely _____ partially _____ not at all _____

B. About the place of your home:

- Date of residence
1. Large city (100,000 or over) _____
 2. Medium-sized city (25,000 to
100,000) _____
 3. Small city (2,500 to 25,000) _____
 4. Village _____
 5. Farm _____
- How far from a city _____ From a village _____
- How large is it _____

		Country	
C. About your family:		Nationality	Age
Father*			
Mother*			
	Sex		
Child 1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

		Highest Grade finished	Occupation
Father			
Mother			
	Sex		
Child 1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

*If not living, enclose name in parentheses, as (Father).

D. About money income:

1. Who contributes to the family income?

Way of earning	Proportion of total income			
	All	One-half	One-fourth	Less
Father	1	1	1	1
Mother	1	1	1	1
Child 1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	1	1
3	1	1	1	1
4	1	1	1	1
5	1	1	1	1

2. What is the size of the money income for the family?

Under \$1000	\$3000-\$3999
\$1000-\$1999	\$4000-\$4999
\$2000-\$2999	\$5000 and over

3. How much does each member of the family know about the amount of family income?

Check if not living at home	Complete Knowledge	Partial knowledge	No Knowledge
_____ Father	1	1	1
_____ Mother	1	1	1
_____ Child 1	1	1	1
_____ 2	1	1	1
_____ 3	1	1	1
_____ 4	1	1	1
_____ 5	1	1	1

II. Apportionment of family income:

A. Discussion of money matters:

	Always	Usually	Occasionally	Never
Whole family meets together	1	1	1	1
Father and mother and children over ____ years	1	1	1	1
Father and mother	1	1	1	1

B. Decisions concerning use of family funds:

	Always	Usually	Occasionally	Never
One person designates amount to be spent (name person)	1	1	1	1

	Always	Usually	Occasionally	Never
Parents decide together				
Children help decide upon amounts to be spent				

(At what age__; if there are differences in amount of responsibility assumed, please explain)_____

C. Planning in advance:

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Are money expenditures planned in advance?			
If planned:			
Is all the income spent according to a written plan made in advance?			
an unwritten plan?			
Is just part of the income spent according to a written plan?			
an unwritten plan?			

What headings are used in making the plan?

Is the plan made for a whole year in advance?

Is the whole family interested in making plan?

_____ What members are not interested? _____

What part do you have in making the plan when at home?

III. Spending the family fund:

A. Who does the buying for the family?

	Father	Mother	Older Boys	Older Girls	Young Children
Food					
Clothing					
for father					
" mother					
" younger children					
" older boys					

who does the buying for the family(cont'd)?

	Older		Young	
	Father	Mother	Boys	Girls
Furnishings				
household equipment				
Auto and supplies				
Other				

B. How do family members receive money from family fund?	Father	Mother	Above 14	Below 14
			Girls	Boys
Checking account				
between parents				
Household allowance				
Common purse				
Personal allowance				
On request				
Other				

C. If the children at home receive an allowance, how is its expenditure planned?

	Planned by self	Planned with aid of others	Spent without plan
Child 1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Items for which allowance is spent: _____

D. How do you receive money, and how have you, from the family fund?

1. Have you ever received money as an allowance?

Yes ___ No ___ If yes:

a. How old were you when first given it? _____

b. Did you receive it in return for work?

Yes ___ No ___

as a reward for good behavior? Yes ___ No ___

Both? Yes ___ No ___

other? _____

c. were you required to tell how you used your allowance? Always ___ Usually ___ Occasionally ___

Never _____

Have you ever received an allowance?(cont'd)

- d. Was the amount of the allowance increased as you grew older? Yes___No___ When?___
How much?_____

2. How do you receive money now?

- a. As an allowance?
b. By asking?
c. By taking what you need from the common purse when you make a trip home?
d. From a checking account?
e. As a loan?
f. By other means?

E. Amount of supervision of your expenditures:

1. Do you spend all your money without supervision?
Always___ Usually___ Occasionally___ Never___
2. If not, do you spend without supervision for any of the following? (Cross out those which you do not buy nor have bought for you.)

	Always	Usually	Occasionally	Never
Clothes				
Clothing accessories				
Movies, dances, entertainment				
Club dues				
Athletic equipment				
Candy, sodas, etc.				
Haircut, shave				
Dressing, cleaning, laundry				
Board & room				
Transportation, gas, etc.				
Vacations				
Church, charity				
Gifts				
Books, magazines				
Tobacco				
Liquor				
Other				

3. How old were you when first given charge of any money? _____
4. How old were you when you first had complete control in spending money? _____

F. How have you received training in wise spending?

At home _____

At school and other places _____

G. Does the family keep a record of its expenditures?

Complete _____ Partial _____ None _____

IV. Do you agree with the following quotations?

	Yes	No	Doubtful
a. "Down with budgets! They won't work!"			
b. "Even a plan that runs jerkily is better than none at all."			
c. "You have to have some kind of plan behind your spending if you don't want to land in jail or in debt."			
d. "A budget breeds friction in the home."			
e. "Spend your money, beg and borrow; Dad will send some more tomorrow- That's what we learned in college!"			
f. "All in all, it's wise to budget one way or another."			
g. "Your tastes and your own life should be the basis of your budget."			
h. "Let the wife keep the records."			
i. "A family which plans its expenditures gets the most for its income."			

Have you answered every section? filled in every blank?

Please answer: Yes _____ No _____ I don't know _____

* Quotations were taken from the following:

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Popular song, "That's what I learned in college" (e)

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