

A FAMILY LEISURE PROFILE

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A THESIS

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BY

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## DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my wife, Rosalinda, for all of her help. Her love and encouragement have made it possible for me to continue my research and complete this study.

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

In the early 1980s, energy and fuel shortages and an inflationary economy dictated less travel and a more spontaneous reaction to leisure (Trade Deficit Limited, June 29, 1981). The inflationary economy resulted in less work availability, more forced leisure time and less money available for recreational activities (Bienvenu, 1970; "Ford to Close Plant," June 12, 1981; "Harvester Deer Extend Closing," June 11, 1981; "End of CETA Program," June 17, 1981).

During this time, television viewing had become one of the most popular forms of recreation and as a result of the use of satellites which provide information from around the world, television's sphere of influence had been increased dramatically (ABC Arledge, June 22, 1981). The use of television and similar audio-visual instruments created a new wave of technologically informed viewers. The mass media blitz to entertain viewers within the confines of their homes added support to the contention that business and industry were planning more recreation for in-home consumption ("Beyond the Dream," 1981).

Another area having an impact upon the family and its leisure was an increasing emphasis on skill improvement through higher levels of education. For those individuals with the available funds, the priorities were toward a better education as opposed to travel or expensive recreational pursuits outside the home. However, educational costs were continually rising and this resulted in increased personal expenditures. One example of this was Texas Christian University where tuition rose from \$50.00 per hour in 1970 to \$100.00 per hour in 1980 ("Beyond the Dream," 1981). As a result of the increased emphasis on improvement of skills and the spiralling costs of education, the enrollment of older students appeared to be the evolving standard, whereas in previous years this was the exception. A survey conducted by the KXAS News Department ("Beyond the Dream," 1981) of several Dallas area universities obtained results which indicated that the average age was approaching 26. Students were married with families, and many were working full time. Consequently, this emphasis toward increased levels of education at higher costs was one example of creating a situation whereby less time and money were available for travel; thus, recreation interests were being fostered in the immediate home environment.

In addition to the decreased financial resources, the age of the parents and children are likely to have an impact upon family recreational habits. The family with young children and a young head of household is more likely to remain close to home; whereas, the family with older children and parents are not prone toward home recreation. The older children are more apt to seek recreation outside the home with their peer groups and their parents engage in leisure activities with business or professional associates (Harvey Brocks Report, 1971; Orthner, 1975).

A significant factor contributing to the increasing home leisure lifestyle is the rising crime rate. In the City of Dallas, crimes against the person--assaults, muggings, and robberies--are the fastest rising crimes (Beyond the Dream, 1981; Dallas Police Records, August, 1981). When people fear others, the necessity to change lifestyle patterns is introduced. This results in more individuals remaining at home for their leisure and occupying themselves with interests that are suitable for that environment.

Public recreation departments have always been required to compete against private commercial recreation enterprises for the citizens' involvement. However, the number of

individuals who were staying at home in the early 1980s created a new area of competition. It was necessary for leisure professionals to find more creative methods of reaching this population. This study was designed to identify the recreational areas most widely participated in by families with the hope that this information would assist leisure professionals in their attempt to address new avenues for meeting the leisure needs of the family in the home.

#### Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to identify a leisure profile of families in Denton, Texas.

#### Statement of the Problem

The problem of this study was to investigate family leisure participation within the home in 1982. The data were gathered by a questionnaire administered by research assistants to 98 families in Denton, Texas. Data were requested from those persons who had children living at home under 18 years of age.

#### Research Questions

The investigator examined the following research questions with regard to family recreation in Denton, Texas:

1. To what extent do parents participate in recreation experiences with their children in the home environment?

2. To what extent do families utilize recreational facilities and equipment in the home?

Definitions and/or Explanations of Terms

To promote a clear understanding of the problem, the following definitions and/or explanations of terms were established for use throughout the study:

Family--A family is defined as a married couple or a single adult with one or more children living at home who are under 18 years of age.

Leisure--Leisure is the free time after all duties, obligations, and other practical necessities have been attended to and completed (Neumeyer & Neumeyer, 1958).

Recreation--Recreation consists of an activity or experience, usually chosen voluntarily by the participant, either because of the immediate satisfaction to be derived from it, or because he/she perceives some personal or social values to be achieved by the experience (Kraus, 1966).

Housewife--A woman who occupies herself, full time, with the domestic affairs of her household and who is not otherwise employed for pay or profit.

Skilled worker--A person who has a specialized ability or training (Webster, 1976).

Professional--A person engaged in a profession that normally requires a college education as a requirement for employment.

Unskilled worker--A person who lacks a specialized ability or training (Webster, 1976).

Student--A person enrolled in a class or course in a school, college, or university.

#### Delimitations of the Study

This study was subject to the following delimitations:

1. Residents of Denton, Texas.
2. Families who had children under 18 years of age living at home.
3. The degree to which the subjects were representative of the population from which they were drawn.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The morale, spirit and happiness of all people is a matter of great moment to our nation. . . . We believe that adequate programs of play and recreation can do much in themselves to strengthen and to advance the American Nation. (McNutt, 1941, p. 49)

The following chapter is limited to a review of the literature that aided the investigation in the development of this research. The review of literature is organized under the following headings: (a) Leisure Patterns of Adults, (b) Leisure and the Family, and (c) Outdoor Recreation and Families.

#### Leisure Patterns of Adults

Bishop (1970) investigated the correlations of leisure behaviors and leisure activities of adults residing in the Midwest. The sample was selected from Minnesota and Illinois and consisted of one adult member per household. Stratification was based on census tracts or ad hoc neighborhood subdivisions to insure variability of community characteristics of age, marital status, race, and socioeconomic status.

A questionnaire was used to gather the information from 1,981 participants. A nine point category scale was

used to determine the frequency of activity and each activity time period. The questionnaire produced three factors that seemed stable. These factors were active-diversionary, potency and status. Bishop proposed the viewpoint that leisure involvement can be traced to the individual's desire to seek prestige, body movement and activity, or to seek a rugged but temporary lifestyle. An individual's leisure behavior seemed to be related to the activity selected, and the lifestyle chosen reflected the subject's recreational involvement.

Gerstl (1961) researched the link between occupational milieu and leisure. Data were gathered by interviews conducted by the investigator in a large midwestern city. Dentists, advertising men and college professors were the subjects of the study, which included a total of 75 respondents. The questionnaire was divided into five areas of interest: home life, recreation and vacation, visiting and viewing, voluntary associations and taste. The investigator concluded that the nature of the individuals' work dictated their leisure pattern. The professors' long hours decreased their leisure and family time while the advertising men were able to pursue a recreational interest during the "normal" work hours. The third group, the dentists, was not able to take the work home. This necessitated

long hours of office work, but vacation time was more available to the entire family. Barriers existed in each of the professions but the members of each group were able to choose the type of recreational activity according to their time and work.

Burdge (1969) researched occupational prestige and the use of leisure time. Questionnaires were mailed to a random sample of 1,635 persons selected by the use of the 1970 census and a table of random numbers. The study was conducted in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

The data were subjected to the North-Hatt Occupational Prestige test. This test separated the workers into four categories: Class I - professional and high level management; Class II - other white collar workers; Class III - skilled workers; and Class IV - unskilled workers. The chi-square test was utilized to analyze the data to determine if participation in a specific activity was related to occupational prestige. Burdge examined six levels of leisure activity: outdoor recreation, urban recreation, playing sports, attending sport events, hobbies, and a collection of other recreation orientations of interest to planners, developers, and administrators of recreation areas.

It was determined that class I and class II were the most active in all major types of structured leisure. Burdge also concluded that class II workers were more involved with individual leisure pursuits than other workers. Other conclusions were that participation in leisure activity was based upon sufficient income and time from work to permit leisure experiences. The author suggested that the other classes of workers might increase their leisure participation if society as a whole became better educated in the future and the economic system escalated.

Bultena and Wood (1975) researched four planned retirement communities to study the individual's retirement role, leisure orientation and recreational activities. The study was conducted in Sun City, Youngstown, Dreamland Villa, and Green Valley communities in Arizona. Only individuals who migrated from the Midwest to retirement communities were included in the study. The data were gathered from interviews of 322 randomly selected men who ranged from 51 to 92 years of age. The random sample was obtained from a list of residents provided by the management of each community.

The questions were divided into three distinct categories: (a) participation in formal groups, (b) recreation activities, and (c) participation and morale.

The results in all areas showed a distinct change in lifestyles since retirement. Individuals were involved in more activities and reported more enjoyment when involved, since retirement. Respondents noted an increase in feeling healthy as a result of involvement in activities. The authors accepted the hypothesis that leisure orientation and involvement in recreational activities assisted the elderly to maintain productive roles.

Crandall (1979) investigated social interaction, affect and leisure. The researcher used a 640 item questionnaire administered to 222 adults from the Toledo, Ohio area. The sample was selected by personal contact and each was paid \$25.00 to participate. A questionnaire was developed with five levels or categories: (a) social leisure, (b) outdoor and active recreational facilities, (c) entertainment and media, (d) amount of time, and (e) money available for leisure. Each respondent was asked to rate each item of social leisure from "delighted" to "terrible." The investigator correlated the ratings on the leisure items with feelings about friends and feelings about spare time for leisure. The author concluded that there was support for the importance of social leisure in the total leisure experiences.

The results of the study provided additional evidence about social interaction and leisure activity. The suggestion that social contact was the main focus of leisure was not the intention of the research but one ingredient among many that surfaced.

Tinsley and Kass (1979) conducted a research project to ascertain if leisure activities and leisure needs were related. A questionnaire was given to 217 undergraduates at Southern Illinois University to determine their leisure needs.

The researcher's used the Kaiser Criterion, the Cattell screen test, and the chi-square test for determining relationships and significance. To determine the most common need factors the Rao Canonical Factor analysis chart was used.

Ten factors most common among the individuals tested emerged. These ten need factors were then compared to the activity factors to determine if a relationship existed.

The findings of this study supported the concept that several needs may be met by participating in one activity. Meeting leisure needs may not be the main thrust of participation in an activity, but the results of this study definitely supported the hypothesis that participation in

leisure activities and the satisfaction of leisure needs were related.

Mercer (1973) reviewed the literature as it related to recreational need. The author attempted to ascertain if a cooperative definition of recreational need could be established. Mercer utilized Bradshaw's theory (1972) that categorized needs into four areas: (a) normative, (b) felt, (c) expressed, and (d) comparative. The author then identified contradictory opinions that placed play into very valuable levels of existence and also considered play to be a wasted effort and unimportant. The investigator presented the information in relationship to Bradshaw's framework and allowed the readers to make their own assessment.

Mercer concluded that (a) no one definition or one viewpoint of play was satisfactory, (b) expressed needs are short term and recreational needs are forever changing, (c) the public's aspirations are frequently unrealistic and need professional guidance, and (d) recreational research is relevant, and continuous updating is mandatory if recreation is to remain abreast of current changes.

Yoesting and Burkhead (1973) examined the impact level of activities in which children participate and the activity levels of adults. The subjects comprised a random sample

of 137 adults, age 20 and up, from six rural Iowa counties. The number of activities examined was fixed at 35 outdoor activities.

Each subject was interviewed individually to determine the percentage of participation in outdoor recreational activities when they were children as compared to the individual's participation in that activity at the time of the study. Yoesting and Burkhead concluded that (a) the activities in which individuals developed an interest as a child were the same activities in which the person participated as an adult, and (b) that the greater the number of activities in which children participate, the greater the number that will be carried over into adulthood.

Kelly (1974) surveyed 100 adults in Eugene, Oregon to determine the effects of socialization upon leisure patterns. The subjects were interviewed to establish the time in their lives at which their leisure attitudes had developed and how much the original family was involved in developing these attitudes. The author devised a checklist of 77 different kinds of leisure activities. The researcher then categorized the activities as "unconditional leisure, coordinated leisure, complimentary leisure, and preparation for recuperation from work" (p. 183). The

participants were asked to indicate the ten activities they considered to be the most important. The results of the research showed no difference between childhood and adulthood as a time for learning new leisure activities but did establish a definite family orientation. Shifts were noted from unconditional leisure in the preparental period to complimentary leisure related family roles in the parental years.

#### Leisure and the Family

Connolly (1942) researched the effect of recreation on 100 families with children. Data were gathered by personal interviews conducted by the investigator in the city of Denton, Texas. Only families with children completed the questionnaire. The questionnaire was divided into three sections: (a) size of family, (b) recreational facilities available in the home, (c) leisure activities and methods of guidance. The results were tabulated by hand and interpretations were sought from experts in the fields of Recreation, Sociology, Education and Guidance. The investigator concluded that recreation involvement results in better guidance at home and home activities seem to support that process. The overall conclusion was that recreation can assist in the guidance of children in

terms of democratic living but a monitoring of home activities is mandatory for growth.

Dynes (1977) studied the increased free time of fathers in relation to family centeredness. Dynes mailed 1,056 questionnaires and received a 26% response. The initial group of subjects were selected from those families who had registered at three seashore campsites on the east coast of the United States 2 years earlier.

The questionnaire was divided into four categories: (a) the father's five favorite activities, (b) the five activities most frequently participated in by the father at their residence, (c) the five activities most frequently participated in by the father away from their residence, and (d) the number of days the participants were involved in free play at their residence. The results were entered into a computer for analysis. One of the important findings was the amount of time fathers spent with their family instead of with peers or other non-family members. Dynes found that 79% of all fathers surveyed spent their leisure time with family members. This applied to all of the activity categories tested which were: (a) family-home, (b) non-family-home, (c) family excursion, and (d) non-family excursion.

Dynes concluded that activities tended to be more excursion oriented than home oriented, the participation of the entire family was more apt to be involved with excursion activities, and fathers may be classified as "family centered" in that the preferred tendency for interaction was with their families in non-work activities.

Kelly (1978) studied the use of family leisure in three communities--a Western university town, a Midwest mill town, and an Eastern new town. The sample was selected by applying a table of random numbers to all the households within each city. Only adults in households containing one person employed full time were interviewed.

Data were gathered in the three communities by three different methods: (a) structured interviews, (b) interviewed-assisted questionnaires, and (c) self administered questionnaires that were hand delivered and retrieved. A checklist of activities for assessment in addition to an activity summary was utilized in each method. Activities were classified according to four areas: recreational, cultural, work-like, or interpersonal.

Data related to four issues were obtained: (a) family role expectations and leisure choices, (b) importance of family associations in leisure, (c) parenthood and the life cycle, and (d) satisfaction in family leisure. Kelly

concluded that leisure was important to family orientation and interrelationships.

Orthner (1975) researched leisure activity patterns and marital satisfaction. The data were collected from 360 family units located in the southeastern United States. The sample was derived from the 1970 census utilizing a table of random numbers. A questionnaire was mailed to each family member for completion. In addition to the questionnaire, each family completed the Leisure-Interaction Index.

The Leisure Activity-Interaction Index measured participation in individual, parallel, and joint activities. Examination of this index was conducted by a panel of judges with demonstrated expertise in leisure and recreation. Orthner divided marital career into five categories: Period one - 0 to 5 years; Period two - 6 to 11 years; Period three - 12 to 17 years; Period four - 18 to 23 years; and Period five - 24 or more years. Finally a questionnaire was mailed to 317 husbands and 317 wives. Of the questionnaires distributed, 223 were returned from husbands and 228 were returned from wives.

The questionnaire was developed from 96 potential activities. These activities were then reviewed by two different panels, at separate times, to determine which

activities were considered to be individually enjoyed, parallel enjoyed, or jointly enjoyed. The results of the study showed that the frequency of interaction of husband and wife in leisure activities had a direct relationship with communication and marital involvement. It was Orthner's hypothesis that the greater the involvement in shared recreational activities the more openness and shared tasks would result in the marriage. This was true except during childbearing and post-natal periods of time. At these times, activities played an insignificant role in the effectiveness of the marriages. Since most of the marriages revolved around the children and their activities, little time was left for parent's activities.

Orthner concluded that recreators need to program for families as a whole. The use of recreation and leisure to establish communication lines seemed to result in stronger marital relationships and healthier attitudes.

#### Outdoor Recreation and Families

West and Merriam (1970) conducted a study of outdoor recreation involvement and family cohesiveness. This study was conducted at St. Croix State Park in Minnesota in 1967. A random sample of 7306 families was selected from visitor registration cards from the previous day.

This method was chosen to avoid the length of stay bias found in other studies.

Two methodological techniques were utilized in the study. The first was the incorporation of a group interview which included father, mother, and the oldest child over 12 years of age. The second technique was the ex-post facto experimental design. This design involved a dependent variable and an independent variable. The individuals involved were asked questions about family cohesiveness in the spring of 1967 and the past and present outdoor recreation experiences. A follow-up questionnaire was mailed to the 306 families involved to determine the outdoor recreation activity for the summer of 1967 and the cohesiveness of the family at that time. The correlation of the data were tested by the Spearman-Brown coefficient test.

The data revealed very little support for the hypothesis that participation in outdoor recreation has a positive influence on family cohesiveness. Family summer activity seemed to result in a greater amount of cohesiveness in the fall while spring cohesiveness had a minimal effect upon summer activity. According to the authors, this suggested that activity affects cohesiveness more than cohesiveness affects activity.

LaPage and Ragain (1974) conducted a longitudinal study from 1964 to 1968 and from 1969 to 1971 to determine family camping trends. Data were obtained from panel interviews and a questionnaire.

The panel was composed of camping families recruited from eight large campgrounds in New England. The panel consisted of 565 camping families from the years 1964 to 1968, and of 459 camping families from 1969 to 1971.

For 8 years, the panel provided annual data of their camping participation. The results showed that there was both an increase in the number of days of camping but a decline in the number of families who participated in this activity. Those families who increased their camping participation showed an average of 22 days spent camping between 1964 to 1968 and an average of 36 days spent in this activity between 1969 to 1971. Over half of the families however, decreased their camping participation. Some of the reasons for not participating were overcrowding, poor maintenance of camps, shortage of camp sites, lack of security, and lack of free time.

Born (1976) surveyed elderly campers in four different environments. The purpose of the study was to identify differences between campers in these environments and to determine if the camping location, economic status

and pre-retirement camping were related. Personal interviews were conducted with 580 elderly, retired campers at their campsites. The campsites were in Colorado and included urban private trailer parks, rural private trailer parks, and developed campgrounds.

The variables that appeared useful to describe these campers were per person annual income, education of the males and females, total adult pre-retirement camping experience, combined dollar values of the recreational and tow vehicles, and the percentage of the year the respondent lived in a mobile home. Born determined that (a) the expensive camping areas generally were used by those with higher annual incomes and the most education, (b) the value of the equipment found in these areas was also more expensive, and (c) the greater the amount of female pre-retirement camping experience, the more rugged the campsite.

The retiree's financial status and the comfortable-ness of the spouse seemed to dictate the camping lifestyle of each couple. The less involved the spouse, the less rugged the campground. The length of stay was directly related to the amount of money available. Most campers chose areas that did not require additional fees to camp.

## CHAPTER III

### PROCEDURES

The procedures followed in the development of this study are described in this chapter under the following headings: Preliminary Procedures, Selection of the Research Instrument, Development of the Questionnaire, Selection of the Subjects and Collection and Treatment of the Data.

#### Preliminary Procedures

A tentative outline for this study was developed and submitted to the thesis committee for suggestions and/or corrections. Revisions were made in accordance with the suggestions received from the committee, and approval for the tentative outline was obtained. The revised and approved outline was filed in the form of a prospectus in the Office of the Provost of the Graduate School.

#### Selection of the Instrument

The related literature was reviewed. After careful study of several questionnaires, it was decided that an updated version of the Connolly questionnaire (1942) be used.

### Development of the Questionnaire

An updated version of the questionnaire used by Connally (1942) was developed. The questionnaire was divided into the following sections:

1. size of family
2. recreational facilities and equipment at home
3. leisure time activities participated in at home
4. demographic information

The questionnaire was submitted to the thesis committee for review. Revisions were made based upon the suggestions of the committee. Upon completion of all revisions, the questionnaire was submitted to and approved for use by the thesis committee.

### Selection of Subjects

The researcher geographically divided the city of Denton, Texas into quadrants. The subjects were adults in the first 25 homes visited, randomly, in each quadrant by the research assistant. Only those adults with school age children residing in the home were interviewed.

### Collection of the Data

A doctoral student from the Texas Woman's University was trained by the investigator to interview the subjects. These families were selected at random, with 25 families being selected from each quadrant of the city of Denton,

Texas. A total of 98 adults, who had schoolage children residing in the home, were interviewed in the spring of 1982.

#### Treatment of Data

The responses from the subjects were hand tabulated by the investigator. The frequencies for each question were recorded and percentages were computed.

## CHAPTER IV

### PRESENTATION OF THE FINDINGS

The purpose of this study was to determine the leisure participation patterns, recreational equipment usage and the extent of parent involvement with children during recreation in and around the home. The study was limited to families in Denton, Texas who had children under the age of 18 years who lived in a single parent dwelling.

The data for the study were collected by the use of a questionnaire. A Research Assistant was trained by the investigator and by use of the interview process, collected data from 98 families. The data obtained from the families are presented in this chapter in tabular and narrative form.

#### Demographic Profile

Of the 98 homes visited for the study, three were single parent homes with only the mother present. The remaining 95 homes were inhabited by both a male and a female parent. A total of 193 adult subjects participated in the study (see Table 1). The majority (75.1%) of the subjects were between the ages of 21 and 40 years. Approximately one-third of the respondents (32.6%) were employed in professional positions. Taken individually, 44.2% of the male subjects held professional positions while 21.4% of the

Table 1

Parents Who Live in the Home by Age, Occupation,  
Ethnic Origin, and Education

Category	Father		Mother		Total	
	<u>n</u> <sup>a</sup>	%	<u>n</u> <sup>b</sup>	%	<u>n</u> <sup>c</sup>	%
Age (in years)						
21-40	70	73.7	75	76.5	145	75.1
41-60	23	24.2	19	19.3	42	21.8
61+	2	2.1	2	2.0	4	2.1
No Response	0	0	2	2.0	2	1.0
Occupation						
Student	3	3.1	6	6.1	9	4.7
Housewife	0	0	23	23.5	23	11.9
Unskilled	19	20.0	32	32.7	51	26.4
Skilled	26	27.5	16	16.3	42	21.8
Professional	42	44.2	21	21.4	63	32.6
Retired	0	0	2	2.0	2	1.0
Unemployed	3	3.1	0	0	3	1.6
Ethnic Origin						
Caucasian	81	85.3	82	83.7	163	84.5
Black	11	11.6	14	14.3	25	12.9
Hispanic	2	2.1	1	1.0	3	1.6
Asian	1	1.1	1	1.0	2	1.0
Education (in years)						
0- 5	0	0	0	0	0	0
6-12	23	24.2	42	42.9	65	33.7
13-18	52	54.7	41	41.8	93	48.2
18+	18	19.0	11	11.2	29	15.0
No Response	2	2.1	4	4.1	6	3.1

a<sub>n</sub> = 95

b<sub>n</sub> = 98

c<sub>n</sub> = 193

female respondents had been employed in this category. The largest occupational group of female subjects was the unskilled area with 32.7% responding to this category. The majority of male (85.3%) and female (83.7%) respondents were Caucasian. The educational background of 93 of the subjects was at the graduate level which accounted for 48.2% of the sample.

As shown in Table 2, approximately one-third of the families (34.7%) had an annual income between \$30,000 and \$49,999. The second largest income area was \$10,000 to \$29,000 per year which accounted for 31.6% of the households. Eight families (8.2%) did not disclose their earnings.

As revealed in Table 3, the majority (56.4%) of the children living in the 98 homes visited for the study were male. The largest number of male children (53%) and female children (51%) living at home were between the ages of 7 and 13 years.

#### Recreational Equipment, Facilities and Family Participation

Table 4 shows the recreational equipment most often found in the home. The items most often present were the television (100%) followed by the radio (99%) and camera (93.9%). Those items least often present in the home were the ham radio (6.1%) and a pool table (7.1%).

Table 2  
Annual Income per Household

Income (in dollars)	Percentage
0- 9,999	5.1
10,000-29,999	31.6
30,000-49,999	34.7
50,000-69,999	15.3
70,000-89,999	3.1
90,000+	2.0
No Response	8.2

n = 98

Table 3  
Children Living at Home by Age and Sex

Age (in years)	Male		Female		Total	
	<u>n</u> <sup>a</sup>	%	<u>n</u> <sup>b</sup>	%	<u>n</u> <sup>c</sup>	%
0- 6	38	28.8	21	20.6	59	25.2
7-13	70	53.0	52	51.0	122	52.1
14-18	24	18.2	29	28.4	53	22.7

<sup>a</sup>n = 132 (56.4%)

<sup>b</sup>n = 102 (43.6%)

<sup>c</sup>n = 234

Table 4  
Recreational Equipment Available in the Home

Category	Percentage
Sports and Games	
Tennis/Racquetball Racquets	22.4
Table Tennis	17.3
Table Games	55.1
Pool Table	7.1
Camping Equipment	66.3
Musical Equipment	
Cassette Tapedeck	71.4
Open Reel to Reel Tapedeck	23.5
Headphones	27.6
Piano	40.8
Stereo Components	68.4
Tape Recorder	50.0
Audio Visual Equipment	
Television	100.0
Radio	99.0
Ham Radio	6.1
Miscellaneous	
Camera	93.9
Binoculars	54.1
Movie Projector	14.3
Other	14.3

n = 98

As shown in Table 5, the recreational facilities available in the yards of the majority of homes were a shade tree (91.8%), swing (64.3%) and a table and chairs (62.2%). The facilities available to less than 10% of the

families included a tennis court (7.1%), see-saw (6.1%) and a tree house (6.1%).

Table 5  
Recreational Facilities Available in the  
Yard of the Home

Category	Percentage
Sports and Games	
Basketball Goal	35.7
Croquet	18.4
Swimming Pool	17.3
Tennis Court	7.1
Play Equipment	
Sandbox	43.8
Slide	29.6
Swing	64.3
See Saw	6.1
Tree House	6.1
Social Equipment	
Benches	17.3
Grill	58.2
Shade Trees	91.8
Table and Chairs	62.2
Other	10.2

n = 98

As indicated in Table 6, the most often identified categories of books read by the children were adventure (65%), nature (56%) and science fiction (50%). The categories of books identified as read by 15% or less of

the children included travel (15%), autobiographies (10.7%) and biographies (7.7%).

Table 6  
Types of Books Read by Children in the Home

Category	<u>n</u>	Percentage
Adventure	152	65.0
Autobiography	25	10.7
Biography	18	7.7
Comic	74	31.6
Historical	74	31.6
Nature	131	56.0
Novels	60	25.6
Science Fiction	117	50.0
Travel	35	15.0
Other	58	24.8

n = 234

Table 7 reveals the types of magazines purchased regularly by the families. Of the nine categories, news (48.9%) and sports (41.8%) were most often purchased. Those magazines purchased by less than 15% of the families were technical (14.3%), automotive (11.2%), religious

(11.2%) and movie magazines (7.1%). Just under three-fourths of the families (71.4%) subscribed to a daily newspaper.

Table 7  
Magazines and Newspapers Regularly  
Purchased by the Family

Category	Percentage
Magazines	
Automotive	11.2
Craft	38.8
Movie	7.1
News	48.9
Pictorial	26.5
Religious	11.2
Science/Mechanical	26.5
Technical	14.3
Sports	41.8
Other	26.5
Newspaper	
Daily Subscription	71.4

n = 98

The level of involvement of parents in musical activities with their children is shown in Table 8. Thirty-one percent of the parents "seldom" sang with their children while 11.2% "never" engaged in this activity, and 9.2% sang with their children "extremely often." Thirty-three percent of the parents "frequently" encouraged their

children to sing with them, while 8.2% "never" encouraged their children to join them in singing. Approximately one-fourth of the parents (20.4%) had "never" given their children a musical toy. One-half of the parents (50%) had given their child a musical toy "fairly often" or "frequently." The frequency with which parents kept time to music with their children was more evenly distributed. Forty-one percent "seldom" or "never" engaged in this activity while 48.9% of the parents had kept time to music with their children "fairly often" or "frequently." Over one-half of the parents (66.4%) listened to music with their children "fairly often" or "frequently." Two percent "never" participated in this activity. Slightly less than three-fourths of the respondents (69.4%) "seldom" or "never" played a musical instrument with their children.

Table 9 disclosed that the majority of fathers (71.6%) and mothers (59.2%) did not play a musical instrument. The largest number of children (62.4%) followed the same participation pattern of their parents and did not play a musical instrument.

As shown in Table 10, 77.8% of the children purchased 1 to 3 comic books each month. A much smaller number, 11.5%, purchased 4 to 7 books on a monthly basis and 10.7% purchased 8 or more comic books each month.

Table 8

## Parental Involvement in Music in the Home

Activity	Never		Seldom		Fairly Often		Frequently		Extremely Often	
	%		%		%		%		%	
Sing with Children	11.2		31.6		25.5		22.4		9.2	
Encourage Children to Sing with Parents	8.2		21.4		26.5		33.7		10.2	
Give Children Musical Toys	20.4		18.4		26.5		23.5		11.2	
Keep Time to Music with Children	16.3		25.5		29.6		19.3		9.2	
Listen to Music with Children	2.0		14.3		32.7		33.7		17.3	
Play Musical Instrument with Children	42.9		26.5		13.3		10.2		7.1	

n = 98

Table 9  
Family Members Who Play Musical Instruments

Play Musical Instrument	Father		Mother		Children	
	<u>n</u> <sup>a</sup>	%	<u>n</u> <sup>b</sup>	%	<u>n</u> <sup>c</sup>	%
Yes	27	28.4	40	40.8	88	37.6
No	68	71.6	58	59.2	146	62.4

<sup>a</sup>n = 95

<sup>b</sup>n = 87

<sup>c</sup>n = 234

Table 10  
Comic Books Purchased Monthly by Children

Number Purchased Monthly	<u>n</u>	Percentage
1-3	182	77.8
4-7	27	11.5
8-11	17	7.3
12-15	8	3.4

n = 234

Table 11 reveals that those special events celebrated by the family most often were Christmas (99%), birthdays (98%) and Thanksgiving (93%). The majority of families also celebrated July 4th (70%) and New Years (56%). Approximately one-third of the families celebrated Memorial Day (35%) and Labor Day (34%). Religious holidays and events were celebrated by 10% or less of the families interviewed.

The level of involvement of parents in their children's participation in listening to the radio and listening and watching television is shown in Table 12. Approximately one-third of the parents (33.7%) "seldom" allowed the radio or television to be on when no one was listening or watching. A similar number, 31.6%, allowed this situation to exist on a "fairly often" basis. Approximately three-fourths of the parents allowed their children to listen/watch what they wished on a "fairly often" (28%), "frequently" (26%) or "extremely often" (27.4%) basis. A similar number allowed their children to select programs at pre-set hours only on a "never" (28%), "seldom" (20.1%) or "fairly often" (24.9%) basis. Less than one-half of the parents (42%) interviewed indicated that they selected programs "fairly often" for their children and encouraged them to listen/watch. More than one-half of the parents (65%) indicated that they believed

Table 11  
Special Events Celebrated by Families

Event	Percentage
Christmas	99
Birthdays	98
Thanksgiving	93
July 4th	70
New Year	56
Labor Day	34
Memorial Day	35
Confirmation	10
Passover	3
Yom Kipper	3
Hannaka	1
Other	30

n = 98

that radio and/or television programs did influence the play activities of their children.

The parental involvement in the handicraft, creative arts and play activities of their children is revealed in Table 13. The largest group of parents "seldom" (37.8%) taught their children to make their own toys. Another

Table 12

## Parental Involvement in Radio and Television in the Home

Activity	Never		Seldom		Fairly Often		Frequently		Extremely Often	
	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%
Allow radio/TV to be on when no one is listening or watching	33	17.1	65	33.7	61	31.6	18	9.3	16	8.3
Allow children to listen/watch what they wish	16	8.2	20	10.4	54	28.0	50	26.0	53	27.4
Allow children to select programs at pre-set hours only	54	28.0	39	20.1	48	24.9	27	14.0	25	13.0
Select programs for children and encourage them to listen/watch	29	15.0	40	20.7	81	42.0	35	18.1	8	4.1

n = 193

Table 13

Parental Involvement in Handicrafts, Creative  
Arts and Play Activities

Activity	Never		Seldom		Fairly Often		Frequently		Extremely Often	
	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%
Teach children to make own toys	25	13.0	73	37.8	57	29.5	14	7.3	24	12.4
Teach children to do handiwork	39	20.1	74	38.3	46	23.8	20	10.5	14	7.3
Encourage children to express ideas through storytelling, writing, etc.	12	6.2	27	14.0	77	39.9	52	26.9	25	13.0
Buy educational as well as recreational toys	6	3.1	29	15.0	53	27.5	61	31.6	44	22.8
Assist and direct creative arts activities of children	29	15.0	43	22.3	54	28.0	61	31.6	6	3.1

n = 193

29.5% did this activity "fairly often." A similar number of parents, 38.3%, "seldom" taught their children handiwork, while 23.8% indicated they had engaged in this activity "fairly often." More than one-half of the respondents encouraged their children to express their ideas through storytelling, writing and similar activities on a "fairly often" (39.9%) or "frequently" (26.9%) basis. Over three-fourths of the parents had purchased educational as well as recreational toys "fairly often" (27.5%), "frequently" (31.6%) or "extremely often" (22.8%). The majority of parents indicated that they assisted and directed the creative arts activities of their children "fairly often" (28%) or "frequently" (31.6%). Fifteen percent of the parents "never" engaged in this activity.

When asked if they had a garden at home, 53% of the parents responded negatively. Of those who did have a garden, 65% indicated they had a flower garden and 35% specified that their garden contained only vegetables. Table 14 shows the involvement of the children in the care of the garden. The majority of parents responded that they "never" (29.7%) or "seldom" (25.5%) had given their child a garden. The largest group of parents responded that they encouraged their child to help with the garden "fairly often" (38.3%). The second largest group "seldom" (21.3%)

Table 14  
Involvement of Children in Care of Garden

Activity	Never		Seldom		Fairly Often		Frequently		Extremely Often	
	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%
Child is given a garden	14	29.7	12	25.5	13	27.7	6	12.8	2	4.3
Children are encouraged to help with garden	6	12.8	10	21.3	18	38.3	6	12.8	7	14.8
Children are given definite responsibilities to care for garden	10	21.3	15	31.9	12	25.5	8	17.0	2	4.3
<u>n</u> = 47										

gave this encouragement to their child. Approximately one-third of the parents "seldom" (31.9%) gave definite responsibilities for the care of the garden to their child, while 25.5% had given these responsibilities "fairly often."

In response to a question inquiring if there was a pet in the home, 62% of the parents responded in the affirmative. Table 15 reveals the responsibilities of the children for the pet(s) in the home. While 25.5% of the children had been given their own pet(s) "extremely often," a similar number were encouraged "extremely often" (32.3%) to care for the pet(s). The majority of children were given responsibilities to care for the pet(s) "extremely often" (30.6%), "fairly often" (27.4%) or "frequently" (25.8%).

Table 16 discloses the involvement of the parents with the friends of their children. The majority of children were allowed to visit their friends' homes "frequently" (34.7%) or "fairly often" (32.6%). Only 1% were "never" allowed to visit the home of their friends. Over three-fourths of the parents accompanied the children "fairly often" (32.6%), "frequently" (28%) or "extremely often" (20.7%) when the children's friends were visited. Well over one-half of the parents assisted their children

Table 15  
Responsibilities of Children for Pets in the Home

Responsibility	Never		Seldom		Fairly Often		Frequently		Extremely Often	
	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%
Children have their own pet(s)	6	9.7	9	14.5	15	24.2	10	16.1	22	35.5
Children are encouraged to care for pet(s)	2	3.2	5	8.1	19	30.6	16	25.8	20	32.3
Children are given responsibilities for care of pet(s)	4	6.5	6	9.7	17	27.4	16	25.8	19	30.6

n = 62

Table 16  
Involvement of Parents with Friends of the Children

Activity	Never		Seldom		Fairly Often		Frequently		Extremely Often	
	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%
Children are allowed to visit their friends' homes	2	1.0	37	19.2	63	32.6	67	34.7	24	12.4
Children accompany parents when visiting friends	1	.5	35	18.1	63	32.6	54	28.0	40	20.7
Parents assist children to entertain their friends in the home	1	.5	43	22.2	77	39.9	60	31.1	12	6.2
Parents encourage children to bring their friends to the home	6	3.1	29	15.0	85	44.0	49	25.4	24	12.4
Parents know the friends of their children	2	1.0	20	10.4	49	25.4	74	38.3	48	24.9
Parents make an effort to become acquainted with their children's friends	3	1.5	25	12.9	48	24.9	89	35.8	48	24.9
Parents encourage children to make new friends	3	1.5	29	15.0	55	28.5	65	33.7	41	21.2

n = 193

"fairly often" (39.9%) or "frequently" (31.1%) when the children entertained their friends in the home. Approximately three-fourths of the parents encouraged their children to bring their friends to the home "fairly often" (44%), "frequently" (25.4%) or "extremely often" (12.4%). Only 18.1% "never" or "seldom" offered this type of encouragement. A total of 88.6% of the parents "frequently" (38.3%), "fairly often" (25.4%) or "extremely often" (24.9%) knew the friends of their children. Only 11.4% "seldom" or "never" knew their children's friends. The majority of parents also made an effort to know the friends of their children "frequently" (35.8%), "fairly often" (24.9%) or "extremely often" (24.9%). Less than 15% of the parents "seldom" (12.9%) or "never" (1.5%) put forth this effort. Approximately the same number of parents encouraged their children to make new friends "frequently" (33.7%), "fairly often" (28.5%) or "extremely often" (21.2%)

Table 17 discloses the activities outside of the home that parents attended with their children. Of the 193 parents interviewed, the majority attended picnics, ball-games, parties, church, went to the country, to the park and went auto riding for pleasure with their children on a "fairly often," "frequently" or "extremely often" basis.

Table 17

## Activities Parents Attend with Their Children

Activity	Never		Seldom		Fairly Often		Frequently		Extremely Often	
	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%
Go to country	6	3.1	54	28.0	46	23.8	40	20.7	47	24.4
Go to park	8	4.1	33	17.1	73	37.8	48	24.9	31	16.1
Picnics	10	5.7	63	32.5	52	26.8	43	22.2	25	13.0
Ballgames	10	5.7	48	24.8	48	24.8	35	18.1	52	26.9
Parties	25	13.0	71	36.8	48	24.9	27	14.0	22	11.4
Attend church	22	11.4	54	28.0	42	21.8	40	20.7	35	18.1
Auto riding (for pleasure)	31	16.1	59	30.6	46	23.8	37	17.1	20	10.4

n = 193

Three-fourths of the parents went to the park with their children "fairly often" (37.8%), "frequently" (24.9%) or "extremely often" (16.1%). Approximately two-thirds of the parents went to the country or attended ballgames with their children "fairly often," "frequently" or "extremely often," Just over one-half of the parents attended parties "fairly often" (24.9%), "frequently" (14%), or "extremely often" (11.4%) or went auto riding for pleasure "fairly often" (23.8%), "frequently" (19.1%), or "extremely often" (10.4%).

The activities in which the 193 parents interacted with their children are shown in Table 18. Those activities in which the majority of parents "never" interacted included table tennis (126), bicycling (106), rollerskating (102) and jogging (106). The majority of parents did interact with their children "fairly often," "frequently," or "extremely often" in table games (102), ballgames (122) and swimming (100). Three-fourths of the parents (146) "seldom" or "never" interacted with their children in bowling; two-thirds (129) of the parents "seldom" or "never" participated with their children in boating and one-half responded that they "seldom" or "never" interacted with their children in fishing (102) or camping (112).

Table 18  
Activities in which Parents Interact with Children

Activity	Never		Seldom		Fairly Often		Frequently		Extremely Often	
	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%	<u>n</u>	%
Table games	18	9.2	73	37.6	49	25.4	43	22.2	10	5.7
Hiking	54	28.0	71	36.8	43	22.2	16	8.3	9	9.7
Golf	138	71.5	35	18.1	14	7.3	4	2.1	2	1.0
Table tennis	126	65.3	43	22.2	20	10.5	2	1.0	2	1.0
Bicycling	106	54.9	65	33.7	16	8.3	4	2.1	2	1.0
Bowling	85	44.0	61	31.6	31	16.1	14	7.3	2	1.0
Ballgames	16	8.3	55	28.5	52	26.9	35	18.1	35	18.1
Fishing	33	17.1	69	35.8	43	22.2	24	12.4	24	12.4
Camping	49	25.4	63	32.5	43	22.2	20	10.5	18	9.3
Swimming	41	21.2	52	26.9	48	24.9	27	14.0	25	13.0
Boating	75	38.8	54	28.0	25	13.0	27	14.0	12	6.2
Rollerskating	102	52.8	54	28.0	25	13.0	6	3.1	6	3.1
Jogging	106	54.8	59	30.5	20	10.5	4	2.1	4	2.1
Other	181	93.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	6.2

n = 193

### Family Profile

The majority (75.1%) of the subjects were between the ages of 21 and 40 years. Just under one-half of the male respondents (44.2%) were employed in professional positions. The largest occupational group of female subjects was the unskilled area with 32.7% responding to this category. The majority of male (85.3%) and female (83.7%) respondents were Caucasian. The educational background of 93 of the subjects was at the graduate level which accounted for 48.2% of the sample. Approximately one-third of the families (34.7%) had an annual income between \$30,000 and \$49,999. Over half (56.4%) of the children living in the 98 homes visited for the study were male. The majority of male children (53%) and female children (51%) living at home were between the ages of 7 and 13 years.

### Family Leisure Profile

The recreational equipment most often found in the yard of the homes were shade trees (91.8%) and swings (64.3%), followed by table and chairs (62.2%). The recreational equipment found inside the home was much more diverse. The equipment found most often were the television (100%), radio (99%), camera (93.9%), cassette tapedeck (71.4%), stereo components (68.4%), and camping equipment (66.3%).

The most often identified categories of books read by the children in the family were adventure (65%), nature (56%) and science fiction (50%). The types of magazines most often purchased on a regular basis by the family were news (48.9%) and sports (41.8%). Over three-fourths (77.8%) of the children in the study purchased from 1 to 3 comic books each month.

Thirty-one percent of the parents "seldom" sang with their children and 11.2% "never" engaged in this activity. Thirty-three percent of the parents "frequently" encouraged their children to sing with them and 50% had given their child a musical toy "fairly often" or "frequently." Over one-half of the parents (66.4%) listened to music with their children "fairly often" or "frequently." Just under three-fourths of the respondents (69.4%) "seldom" or "never" played a musical instrument with their children. The majority of fathers (71.6%) and mothers (59.2%) did not play a musical instrument. Over one-half (62.4%) of the children followed their parents participation pattern and did not play a musical instrument.

Those special events celebrated by the family most often were Christmas (99%), birthday (98%) and Thanksgiving (93%). The majority of families also celebrated July 4 (70%) and New Years (56%).

One-half of the parents (50.8%) "seldom" or "never" allowed the radio or television to be on when no one was listening or watching. Approximately three-fourths of the parents allowed their children to listen/watch what they wished on a "fairly often" (28%), "frequently" (26%) or "extremely often" (27.4%) basis. A similar number allowed their children to select programs at pre-set hours only on a "never" (28%), "seldom" (20.1%) or "fairly often" (24.9%) basis. Less than one-half of the parents interviewed (42%) indicated that they selected programs "fairly often" for their children and encouraged them to listen/watch. More than one-half of the parents (65%) indicated that they believed that radio and/or television programs did influence the play activities of their children.

Approximately one-third of the parents (37.8%) "seldom" taught their children to make their own toys. A similar number (38.3%) "seldom" taught their children handiwork. More than one-half of the respondents encouraged their children to express their ideas through storytelling, writing or similar activities on a "fairly often" (39.9%) or "frequently" (26.9%) basis. Over three-fourths of the parents purchased educational as well as recreational toys "fairly often" (27.5%), "frequently" (31.6%) or "extremely often" (22.8%). The majority of parents

indicated that they assisted and directed the creative arts activities of their children "fairly often" (28%) or "frequently" (31.6%).

Over one-half of the respondents (53%) indicated that they did not have a garden. Of those who did have a garden, 65% had a flower garden. The majority of parents responded that they had "never" (29.7%) or "seldom" (25.5%) given their child a garden. Just over one-third of the parents (38.3%) encouraged their child to help with the garden "fairly often." A similar number (31.9%) "seldom" gave definite responsibilities for the care of the garden to their child.

Over one-half (62%) of the parents responded that they did have a pet in the home. Approximately one-third of the children (35.5%) had been given their own pet "extremely often," had been encouraged "extremely often" to care for the pet (32.3%) and had been given definite responsibilities to care for the pet "extremely often" (30.6%).

The majority of children were allowed to visit their friends' homes "frequently" (34.7%) or "fairly often" (32.6%). Over three-fourths of the parents accompanied their children "fairly often" (32.6%), "frequently" (28%) or "extremely often" (20.7%) when the children's friends

were visited. Approximately three-fourths of the parents encouraged their children to bring their friends to the home "fairly often" (44%), "frequently" (25.4%) or "extremely often" (12.4%). A total of 88.6% of the parents "frequently" (38.3%), "fairly often" (25.4%) or "extremely often" (24.9%) knew the friends of their children. The majority of parents also made an effort to know the friends of their children "frequently" (35.8%), "fairly often" (24.9%), or "extremely often" (24.9%).

Three-fourths of the parents went to the park with their children "fairly often" (37.8%), "frequently" (24.9%) or "extremely often" (16.1%). Approximately two-thirds of the parents went to the country or attended ballgames with their children "fairly often," "frequently" or "extremely often." Just over one-half of the respondents attended parties "fairly often" (24.9%), "frequently" (14%) or "extremely often" (11.4%) or went auto riding for pleasure "fairly often" (23.8%), "frequently" (19.1%) or "extremely often" (10.4%).

The majority of the 193 parents interacted with their children "fairly often," "frequently," or "extremely often" in table games (102), ballgames (122) and swimming (100).

CHAPTER V  
SUMMARY, DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The present study was undertaken to identify a leisure profile of families living in Denton, Texas. A review of the literature revealed that very little research had been published describing family recreation in the home. The one exception was the Connolly (1942) study completed approximately forty years prior to the present study.

The population for the study was 98 families residing in single family homes in Denton, Texas who had one or more children 18 years of age or younger living at home. A leisure profile of this population was prepared on the basis of the data obtained in May 1982 by means of personal interviews utilizing a questionnaire. The questionnaire was divided into four sections: (a) size of family, (b) recreational facilities and equipment at home, (c) leisure time activities participated in at home, and (d) demographic information. The following are the major findings based upon the data obtained from the response to the questionnaire.

The average family consisted of a father, mother, and two children. The family house had a yard for recreation

with shade trees, a swing and a table and chairs available. The average family had a garden of some type and had a family pet. However, the care of the garden was not usually assigned to the children.

The recreation equipment found in the home was a radio, a television, camera, tapedeck, stereo, and camping equipment. The type of books selected for reading by the children were adventure, nature, or science fiction, and the average child purchased from 1 to 3 comic books each month. The majority of families subscribed to a newspaper on a daily basis. The magazines bought regularly were news and sports.

Parents tended to give their children musical toys and educational as well as recreational toys, and to listen to music with their children. However, the parents did not play a musical instrument nor did the children. Singing with the children was not an activity in which many parents participated.

Parents usually did not allow the radio or television to be on when no one was listening or watching. Children were allowed to listen to or watch what they wished at the times they wished. Parents, as a rule, believed that radio and/or television programs did influence the play activities of their children.

For the most part, parents did not teach their children handicraft or how to make their own toys. Most parents did encourage their children to express their ideas through storytelling, writing or similar activities.

Children were allowed to visit the homes of their friends and parents usually accompanied their children on these visits. The children were encouraged by their parents to bring their friends home and most parents knew the friends of their children.

Parents interacted with their children regularly in trips to the park and to the country, in automobile rides, and attending parties and ballgames together. Interaction also took place between parents and children in their participation together in table games and swimming.

#### Discussion

Technology has made possible an expanded variety of recreational equipment and through mass production, the cost of this equipment has been reduced. The result in the 1970s was that the average family was able to purchase a great many new items of equipment for recreational use.

This investigator found that the recreational equipment most often found in the home of the subjects was of an electronic nature. Items such as the cassette, television, camera, and stereo were abundant. This may be due

in part to the high income level of the subjects in this study. Two major universities are located in Denton, Texas. Thus the educational level achieved by the subjects in this study, and also their income, are higher than might normally be expected. The specific item that did not appear with any regularity was the video game for home usage.

As the sophistication of recreational equipment increases and prices for these pieces of equipment decreases, it is imperative that the recreation professionals be able to use the technological field to reach their desired population. The use of radio and television for recreational programming and the publishing of program schedules are examples of ways in which the recreation professionals will be able to capitalize on electronic equipment usage.

The mass production of a variety of recreational items has made it possible for families to purchase these items rather than have to rely on home-made equipment such as toys and handcrafts. However, recreational professionals still find that many people, adults and children alike, receive a great deal of satisfaction through creative expression. The fact that individuals are not being taught how to make things with their hands does not mean that the interest is not there. The possibility that parents are

busy working and simply do not have the time to assist their children may have a direct bearing upon this situation. However, the recreational professional may be able to kindle an interest in these areas. If the interest exists, then the skills can be taught.

In order to meet the needs of families in today's society, recreational professionals must be more creative in their attempts to reach people in their homes. The use of the media for advertising, smaller and more centralized recreation centers and/or mobile recreation vans for community involvement are needed. Professionals need to take recreational programs to the people who may not be aware of or who are unable to reach our recreation centers. The effects of technology on society and thus on recreation in the home and in the neighborhood will be the key issue. If the recreation professionals can learn to use technology to design creative programs, more people can become involved more often and for greater pleasure.

### Conclusions

The findings of the investigator were consistent with the published literature within the limitations of this study. The major conclusions which were indicated by the data obtained are as follows:

1. The families studied owned very little outdoor recreation equipment but possessed a number of electronic devices, subscribed to or purchased books, magazines and newspapers, all of which were utilized for recreation in the home.
2. There was very little interaction between parents and children in musical or creative activities.
3. Parents and their children did participate together in a number of spectator, athletic, and social activities.
4. The families studied enjoyed individual leisure pursuits which did not require interaction.

#### Recommendations

As a result of this investigation, the following recommendations for further study are suggested:

1. Study the amounts of money expended by families on home recreation as compared to recreation outside the home.
2. Study the recreation programs provided by the Denton Parks and Recreation Department to determine if the leisure needs of families in this area are being met.

3. Study the differences in family leisure participation patterns in a large metropolitan area as compared to a small town and to a rural area.

4. Replicate this study in ten years to determine the changes in the leisure participation patterns of families.

5. Study the relationships of children with peers and as related to their involvement in recreation.

APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE: FAMILIES AND THEIR  
LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES

## FAMILIES AND THEIR LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES

Your family is being asked to take part in a study of family recreation in Dallas, Texas by filling out the following questionnaire. This study is an attempt to estimate the extent to which families share leisure time experiences. We are also attempting to determine the recreational equipment and facilities in use by families in Dallas. Your name is not requested because this information is gathered to give a general viewpoint of home and family recreation, not individual family references. If possible, please check all of the questions.

I. Size of family: (Note those persons living in your family at this time)

Please check: (✓) Father \_\_\_\_\_ Mother \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children 18 years of age or younger.  
Please write the number within each group:

0- 6 years of age \_\_\_\_\_  
7-13 years of age \_\_\_\_\_  
14-18 years of age \_\_\_\_\_

II. Recreation facilities at your home

A. Is there a yard around the house to play in?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

B. If yes, please check (✓) those items which are available in your yard.

Basketball goal _____	Swing _____
Benches _____	Table and chairs _____
Croquet set _____	Teeter Toter or _____
Grill _____	seesaw _____
Sandbox _____	Tennis court _____
Shade trees _____	Tree house _____
Slide _____	Other: Please list _____
Swimming Pool _____	_____
	_____

- C. Please check (✓) the recreational equipment in your home.

AM/FM radio	_____	Open reel tape deck	_____
Binoculars	_____	Piano	_____
Camera	_____	Stereo components	_____
Camping equipment	_____	Tape recorder	_____
Cassette tape deck	_____	Television	_____
Ham radio equipment	_____	Black and White	_____
Headphones	_____	Color	_____
Pool table	_____	Tennis/Raquetball	_____
Table tennis table	_____	Raquets	_____
Table games	_____	Other: Please list	_____
Movie Projector	_____		_____

- D. Please check (✓) which type of books your children enjoy reading.

Adventure	_____	Novels	_____
Autobiographical	_____	Science fiction	_____
Biographical	_____	Travel	_____
Comic books	_____	Other: Please list	_____
Historical	_____		_____
Nature	_____		_____

- E. Does the family take the daily newspaper?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

- F. Please check (✓) the types of magazines the family buys regularly.

Automotive	_____	Religious	_____
Craft magazines	_____	Science/mechanics	_____
Movie magazines	_____	Technical magazines	_____
News magazines	_____	Sports magazines	_____
Pictorial	_____	Other: Please list	_____
			_____
			_____

III. Leisure time activities: Please check (✓) the following statements in terms of how often either or both parents share the following experiences with one or more of children in the family. It is not necessary to note which parent shares the experience.

	Never	Seldom	Fairly Often	Frequently	Extremely Often
A. <u>Music</u> : Does one or both parent(s):					
1. encourage children to sing..					
2. sing with children.....					
3. give children musical toys to aid in developing a sense of rhythm.....					
4. clap, walk, etc., to music with children.....					
5. listen to music with children.....					
6. spend time playing musical instruments together.....					

7. Does father play a musical instrument  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

8. Does mother play a musical instrument  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

9. Do the children play musical instrument(s)  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

10. Approximately how many comic books does each child buy each month?

Child	0-3	4-7	8-11	12-15	15+
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Additional children \_\_\_\_\_

- C. Special Events for family recreation: Please check (✓) those special days when the family celebrates together in a customary way.

Christmas	_____	Passover	_____
Birthdays	_____	Hannuka	_____
Thanksgiving	_____	Yom Kippur	_____
Fourth of July	_____	New Year's Day	_____
Confirmation	_____	Other: Please list	_____
Labor Day	_____		_____
Memorial Day	_____		_____

- D. Radio and Television: Please check (✓) the following statements for either or both parent(s) who share the following experiences with one or more children in the family.

	Never	Seldom	Fairly Often	Frequently	Extremely Often
Does one or both parent(s)					
1. allow the radio/or television to be turned on when no one is listening or watching the program.....					

	Never	Seldom	Fairly Often	Frequently	Extremely Often
2. allow children to watch or listen to programs <u>they</u> want to see/hear.....					
3. allow children to select their own programs only at certain hours of the day...					
4. select programs for children and encourage the children to watch those programs.....					
5. discuss programs with family members.....					
6. Do one or both parent(s) believe that programs influence play activities of family members? Yes _____ No _____					

E. Handcrafts and Creative Arts and Play: One or both parent(s)

	Never	Seldom	Fairly Often	Frequently	Extremely Often
1. teach children to make their own toys.....					
2. buy toys for children that are educational as well as recreational.....					
3. teach children to do hand-work such as knitting, woodworking, etc.....					
4. encourage children to express their ideas in conversations, story telling, writing, etc.....					
5. assist and direct creative art of children.....					

F. Gardening

1. Do you have a garden? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 What kind: Flower \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetable \_\_\_\_\_

	Never	Seldom	Fairly Often	Frequently	Extremely Often
Do one or both parent(s):					
1. give children a garden of their own.....					
2. encourage children to help with the gardening.....					
3. give children definite responsibilities for care of the garden.....					

G. Care of Pets

1. Is there a pet in the home? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

	Never	Seldom	Fairly Often	Frequently	Extremely Often
Do one or both parent(s):					
1. encourage children to care for the pet(s).....					
2. give the children their own pet.....					
3. give children responsibilities in care for the pet.....					

H. Social Contact: One or both parent(s):

	Never	Seldom	Fairly Often	Frequently	Extremely Often
1. help children entertain their friends in the home..					
2. encourage children to bring and invite their friends to the house.....					
3. allow children to visit in their friends' homes.....					
4. have children accompany you when visiting friends..					
5. know the children chosen as friends by your children.....					
6. make an effort to become acquainted with children's friends.....					
7. encourage children to make new friends.....					
8. go to the country with children.....					
9. go to the park with children.....					
10. go on picnics with children.....					
11. attend ball games with children.....					
12. attend parties with children.....					
13. go to church with children.					

	Never	Seldom	Fairly Often	Frequently	Extremely Often
14. go automobile riding (for pleasure) with children....					
15. play table games with children.....					
16. hike with children.....					
17. play golf with children....					
18. play tennis with children..					
19. play table tennis with children.....					
20. go bicycling with children.					
21. go bowling with children...					
22. play ball games with children.....					
23. go fishing with children...					
24. go camping with children...					
25. go swimming with children..					
26. go boating with children...					
27. rollerskating.....					
28. jogging.....					
29. participate in other activities with children Please list:					
_____ .....					
_____ .....					

IV. Demographic: Please check (✓) or fill in the blanks for each individual presently living in the home:

A. Age of Father: 0-20 years \_\_\_\_\_ 21-40 years \_\_\_\_\_  
 41-60 years \_\_\_\_\_ Over 61 years \_\_\_\_\_

B. Age of Mother: 0-20 years \_\_\_\_\_ 21-40 years \_\_\_\_\_  
 41-60 years \_\_\_\_\_ Over 61 years \_\_\_\_\_

C. Please check (✓) the sex of each child:

Child	Male	Female
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

Additional children: \_\_\_\_\_

D. Current occupation:

Father: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

E. Education: Please list the years of education completed by:

Father: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

F. Yearly combined family income:

0- 9,999 _____	50,000-69,999 _____
10,000-29,999 _____	70,000-89,999 _____
30,000-49,999 _____	90,000 and over _____

## G. Ethnic background of the family:

Father

Anglo\_\_\_\_\_

Asiatic\_\_\_\_\_

Black\_\_\_\_\_

Philippine\_\_\_\_\_

Hispanic\_\_\_\_\_

Other: Please list:  
\_\_\_\_\_Mother

Anglo\_\_\_\_\_

Asiatic\_\_\_\_\_

Black\_\_\_\_\_

Philippine\_\_\_\_\_

Hispanic\_\_\_\_\_

Other: Please list:  
\_\_\_\_\_

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