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## Selected Aspects of Family Change in Provo, Utah: A Replication of Canning's 1955 Survey

Richard B. Miller  
*Brigham Young University - Provo*

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SELECTED ASPECTS OF FAMILY CHANGE IN PROVO, UTAH:  
A REPLICATION OF CANNING'S 1955 SURVEY

A Thesis

Presented to the  
Department of Sociology  
Brigham Young University

In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Science

by

Richard B Miller


August 1984

This thesis by Richard B Miller is accepted in its present form by the Department of Sociology of Brigham young University as satisfying the thesis requirement for the degree of Master of Science.

  
Howard Bahr, Committee Chairman

  
Lynn England, Committee Member

Dec 3, 1984  
Date

  
Bruce Chadwick, Department Chairman

Typed by: Denise Glass

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To my parents, who gave help, encouragement, and support. It is to them that I dedicate this thesis.

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

From the days of Auguste Comte, family change has been an important topic among sociologists and other students of the family. Throughout the nineteenth century, the theory of social evolution was most influential, and it "inspired the myth of progress in the family" (Caplow et al., 1982:323). According to the theory, it was assumed that families in developed societies would always be improving and becoming more egalitarian, affectionate, and efficient. This was the dominant viewpoint until after World War I.

In 1933, William Ogburn wrote the classic work about the family's functions. He argued that the family was losing its time-honored functions in the areas of production, education, recreation, and religion. His work triggered a new major viewpoint about family change, "the myth of the declining family" (Caplow et al., 1982:324). The idea of the declining family persists today; religious and political leaders frequently warn us about the sad state of the family.

Both the myth of the progress in the family and the myth of the declining family are based more on speculation than empirical research. The major proponents of these myths based their theories on an often distorted view of the family in premodern times (Adams, 1980). Without sound empirical data on past family structure and life,

any attempt to discuss family change is largely conjecture. William Goode, a prominent scholar on family change, has remarked that

in order to obtain adequate data on family change any researcher would...have to delve into the past in order to obtain an adequate baseline, a measure of the extent of change that has been going on. It cannot be assumed that merely because people say things are changing greatly that they indeed changed much from the past (1963:366).

\* A survey that was conducted in 1955 on families living in Provo, Utah provides a baseline from which family change can be studied. Canning (1956) surveyed 238 couples who had been married in Provo and were currently living there. His sample included three cohorts of those married between 1905 and 1910, between 1925 and 1930, and between 1945 and 1950. He obtained data on courtship, marriage, and family characteristics, including dating and engagement patterns, religious affiliation and activity, marital and family happiness, maternal employment, family traditions and recreational activities.

Although the raw data from the survey have since been lost<sup>1</sup>, the percentage tables reported in his final report of the project, Changing Patterns and Problems of Family Life in Provo, Utah, 1905 to 1955, (Canning, 1956) provide enough information to be used as a baseline against which to measure some aspects of family change in Provo. As the investigators of the Middletown III project have noted,



Opportunities to study social change by extending a reliable body of information from one point in time to a later point are rare and precious. Sociological research is a relatively new enterprise and there are only a handful of old studies that offer sufficiently reliable data and a sufficient lapse of time to permit an interesting replication (Caplow, Bahr, and Chadwick, 1983:248).

This thesis reports selected portions of a replication of Canning's 1955 survey. In the summer of 1983, questionnaires were mailed out to 500 families currently living in Provo. Following Canning's method, the sample was selected from three cohorts, couples married between 1935 and 40, 1955 and 60, and 1975 and 80. These cohorts represent families who were at the same phases of the family life cycle as Canning's three cohorts, thereby permitting comparisons between the two surveys. The 1983 survey's questionnaire items and sampling duplicated those of the 1955 survey. Every effort was made to faithfully replicate the research method of 1955 so that differences in results between the two surveys might be attributed to family change.

### The Setting

Founded in 1849 by Mormon settlers, Provo lies at the western base of the Wasatch Mountains in North-Central Utah. By 1900, just prior to the marriages of Canning's first cohort, Provo had a population of 6,185 people. In 1950, the last year in his final cohort, there were a total of 28,937 people living in Provo. Since 1950, Provo has grown rapidly. By 1980, its population had almost

tripled to 74,108 people (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1901:477; 1952:13; 1982:8).

Although originally a small farming community located in a rural county, Provo became the county seat of Utah County. As such, it has become the center of government agencies and departments for the county. In addition, Provo is the home of Brigham Young University. Founded in 1875 as a small teacher's academy by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, it has become the largest church-sponsored university in the United States. In 1950, it had about 5,400 students (Wilkinson and Skousen, 1976:482). By 1983 it had grown to 26,986 full-time students (Deseret News, 1982:13). The university growth stimulated Provo's economy, and by 1980 it was probably safe to say that Brigham Young University was the major economic force in Provo.

Provo is remarkably homogeneous. In 1950, only three-tenths of one percent of the population was non-white. The non-white population had increased to only 4.4 percent by 1980 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1952:19; 1982:11). In addition to racial homogeneity, the vast majority of the community share a common religion. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (often abbreviated as "LDS," or called the "Mormon Church") is the predominant religion. No data are available for Provo, but in 1971 Utah County was 90.3 percent LDS. In addition, 97.8 of the Utah County people who said they belonged to a religious denomination

were LDS (Gungel, 1981). Provo families, then, are predominately white and LDS.

In summary, this thesis analyzes family change by reporting on a 1983 replication of a survey that was conducted in Provo, Utah in 1955. The following chapter discusses theoretical frameworks from which family change can be meaningfully measured.

## CHAPTER 2

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

When discussing family change, it is important to have a standard against which comparisons can be made and measured. Otherwise, empirical research that is done on families in transition merely become a haphazard collection of atheoretical data. Max Weber, in his conceptualization of the ideal type, provided a theoretical framework for the creation of standards against which change could be identified and measured.

Weber defines an ideal type as:

the one-sided accentuation of one or more points of view and by the synthesis of a great many diffuse, discrete, more or less present and occasionally absent concrete individual phenomena, which are arranged according to those one-sidedly emphasized viewpoints into a unified analytical construct.... In its conceptual purity, its mental construct...cannot be found empirically anywhere in reality. It is a utopia (1949:90, emphasis in original).

He goes on to say that the researcher can work an idea "into a utopia by arranging certain traits...into a consistent ideal-construct by an accentuation of their essential tendencies" (1949:90-91).

After an ideal type is developed, it is then used as a standard against which to compare actual research. In Weber's words,

[The ideal type] has only one function in an empirical investigation. Its function is the comparison with empirical reality in order to establish its

divergences or similarities, to describe them with the most unambiguously intelligible concepts, and to understand and explain them causally (1949:43, emphasis in original).

The method of developing ideal types has been used by several different sociologists to describe modern families. William Goode explained that his use of the term, "conjugal family," represented a Weberian ideal type.

The concept [conjugal family] was not developed from a summary or from the empirical study of actual United States urban family behavior, it is a theoretical construction, derived from intuition and observation, in which several crucial variables have been combined to form a hypothetical structural harmony. Such a conceptual structure may be used as a measure and model in examining real time trends or contemporary patterns (Goode, 1963:7, emphasis in original).

The most important characteristic of Goode's ideal typical construction of the conjugal family is the limited extension of the kin network. That is, families are nuclear rather than extended (1963). In addition, the family system is bilineal; the husband's and wife's kin lines are equally important because the kin networks do not have great control on the nuclear family. Other characteristics include free choice of mate, where the courtship system is based on mutual attraction between two young people. This attraction continues to be the cement in the relationship throughout marriage, and the family is the center of an individual's emotion and affect.

Another conceptualization of an ideal type in family sociology is the open family (McGinnes and Finnegan, 1976). The open family is characterized by a nonauthoritarian

power structure in the family. Order and stability is maintained by "guidelines rather than strict rules and means of negotiation rather than authoritarian pressure." Also, the family system is "flexible and tolerant enough to allow for the existence and encouragement of alternative ways of thinking, feeling, and acting" (McGinnes and Finnegan, 1976:3).

A third ideal type of the family is Adams' extension of Durkheim's notion of mechanical and organic solidarity. In The Division of Labor in Society (1964), Durkheim classified those societies that had a low division of labor, influential collective conscience, emphasis on consensus of normative patterns, and community involvement in punishing deviants as being based on mechanical solidarity. Societies with a high division of labor, weakened collective conscience, emphasis on consensus on general values, and punishment of deviants by specialized agencies were considered to be based on organic solidarity (1964). The key characteristic in the two ideal types is the division of labor. Adams argued that as the division of labor ceases to be primarily centered in family units and begins to be specialized outside the family, then the internal structure of the family changes. He states that:

as society moves from mechanical to organic solidarity, its family-kin units move from organic to mechanical solidarity. That is, the family division of labor becomes less distinct and is predicated more on choice than tradition, with relations within

the family increasingly based on strong norms and ... bonds (1980:96).

Perhaps the most popular ideal type of the modern family is Burgess, Locke, and Thomes' conceptualization of the companionship family. They describe the companionship family as follows:

(1) affection is the basis for its existence; (2) husband and wife have mutual acceptance of procedures in decision-making; (3) major decisions are consensus; and (4) common interests and activities co-exist with mutual acceptance of division of labor within the family and individuality of interests (1971:9).

They go on to say that the "acceptance of procedures in decision-making" presumes the equality of husband and wife. They also explain that "individuality of interests" include "freedom of self-expression" (1971:485) and an "emphasis ... on the freedom of the individual members to the extent that it does not jeopardize the family unit" (1971:419,420).

The primary criterion I have used in selecting an ideal type for studying Provo families in this study is the fit between an ideal type and the available indicators. Goode's (1963) ideal type of the conjugal family is based largely on the nuclear family's independence from the kin network. The 1955 and 1983 surveys contain virtually no information about contact with, and control by, extended families. In a like manner, the questionnaires do not contain sufficient items about family rules and negotiation patterns in order to use McGinnes and Finnegan's open family (1976). Also, there is not enough available information

from the surveys about the division of labor in the family and family norms to use Adam's mechanical family (1980).

The best fit between ideal type and data seems to be that of Burgess, Locke, and Thomes' companionship family (1971). But the fit is limited. There are adequate data in the questionnaires to operationalize the constructs of affection and individuality within the family. There is, however, virtually no information about marital equality and decision-making patterns. To be sure, there are items in both questionnaires that tap these two constructs, but the data from the 1955 survey concerning family roles and power were never reported in enough detail to constitute baseline data. Being thus limited by available baseline data is a major disadvantage of replication research, but it is appropriate to use whatever baseline data are available.

The companionship family will be used as the ideal type for this study. In so doing, it is important to recognize that it will have to be qualified. Our restricted use of the companionship family will include only two constructs: "affection is the basis for [the family's] existence," and there is an "emphasis...on the freedom of the individual member to the extent that it does not jeopardize the family unit" (Burgess, Locke, and Thomes, 1971:9, 419, 420). Several indicators from the Provo surveys measure these two constructs. The next chapter discusses these



indicators and reviews previous research in which they were studied.

## CHAPTER THREE

### REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF HYPOTHESES

One of the major dimensions of Burgess' conceptualization of the companionship family is that affection is the basis of the family's existence. Burgess defined affection as "an emotion involving liking, being fond of, having a firm attachment to, and desiring to be in the presence of the object of one's affections" (Burgess et al., 1971). For the purposes of this study, affection will be equated with romantic love. Prominent scholars on family change seem to agree that romantic love has been the primary basis for marriage in the United States since at least the beginning of the twentieth century (Goode, 1963; Burgess et al., 1971; Ogburn, 1955; and Reiss, 1964). In fact, it is generally taken for granted that couples marry because of love. As William Goode wrote recently, in the United States,

as in all Western societies to some degree, the child is socialized to fall in love. Falling in love is a common topic of family talk, as it is a theme in movies, television and radio programs, and advertising. Children tease one another about it, and adults engage in mock or serious conversation with youngsters about their "sweethearts." It is taken for granted that eventually most everyone will decide to marry on the basis of romantic attachment (1982:54).

Most of the empirical evidence that supports this generalization is based on content analysis of literature and media. Examples are Furstenberg's analysis of foreign

traveler's impressions of America in their letters (1966), and Lantz's content analysis of colonial magazines (Lantz et al., 1968). However useful these studies may be, they are not surveys of the American people's attitudes and behavior regarding romantic love in mate selection and family life. Burgess has commented,

it is important to note that most of the evidence about romantic love is in the mass media rather than in systematic studies of the population or even in case studies. Consequently, we know very little about the actual incidence or course of this phenomenon (Burgess et al., 1971:271).

The study here presented may help provide systematic survey data to help us better understand changes in romantic love in American families.

The role of romantic love in the process of mate selection has been measured in several ways. Ogburn notes that the increased importance of love in mate selection is illustrated by the qualities that one finds attractive in a potential mate. He argues that these characteristics form a trend "from economics to romance" (1955:45). According to Ogburn, in the past the most desired quality in a husband was to be a good provider. The wife, on the other hand, was to be a good housekeeper. But in contemporary America, Ogburn wrote (1955:45,35)

the evidence indicates that young people today wish to marry on the basis of personal qualities and particularly for love and companionship, rather than as in the past either for economic or utilitarian reasons. [These personal qualities include] good looks, charm, attractive disposition, or strong character.

Another aspect of the role of romantic love in mate selection is the degree of freedom couples are given to select the mate of their choice. If parents or other kindred can control children's choice of mate, then romantic love between two people has little, if any, role in the mate selection process. In earlier centuries, marriages were often arranged before children reached puberty. A less dramatic form of control is the tradition where the young man asks his fiance's father for his permission and blessing to marry his daughter.

An additional form of parental control that was common in the United States up until the turn of the twentieth century is chaperonage (Goode, 1982). Parents controlled love relationships by not permitting young people to be alone together. In the early 1900's, however, "dating" became a new form of courtship. Adam's definition of dating, "unchaperoned heterosexual activity and experience" (1980:79) indicates that young people were given more freedom to become involved in romantic relationships. William Goode has commented that "the freedom to date and to form one's own friendships necessarily means that a higher proportion of marriages are based on love and are independently made" (1963:32). Thus dating, or unchaperoned time together, is an important part of the process whereby people obtained the freedom to marry someone on the basis of romantic love.

Besides the importance of romantic love in mate selection and family life, the other important dimension in our restricted use of the companionship family is individuality. Individuality gives members of the family opportunity to go outside the family to pursue personal interests and goals. This individuality can be expressed in many aspects of family life, including recreation and maternal employment.

Prominent scholars of family change agree that members of families go outside the home to seek entertainment more today than they did a century ago (Ogburn, 1955; Burgess et al., 1971; Adams, 1980). In addition, recreation today is less often a family event than it once was. Instead, family members in today's society are said to spend leisure time with their friends rather than with family members, (Adams, 1980 and Burgess et al., 1971). However logical is their description of recreation, there is no sound empirical support for the idea that modern families are more "individual" than were families of past generations. In fact, none of the cited authors offer any evidence at all to support their generalizations.

One effort to study leisure time and recreational behavior over time is the Middletown III project. Replicating the Lynds' 1924 study of Middletown (Lynd and Lynd, 1929), Caplow and his associates found that in the middle 1970's teenage boys spent essentially the same number of evenings away from home as they did in 1924. Girls, however,

spent significantly more time away from home than they did 50 years ago. Whereas in 1924 boys were out far more than girls, by 1977 this difference had disappeared (Bahr, 1980).

Results from the Middletown replication also indicate that today husbands and wives spend more leisure time together than they did in the 1920's. Then, recreational activities in Middletown usually were segregated by gender. By the middle 1970's, husbands and wives were "engaging in a great deal of leisure activity together" (Caplow et al., 1982:124). Even this conclusion, however, is based on casual observations, and not on empirical data.

The data from Middletown, then, seems to contradict the general conclusions made by the major scholars on family change. Whereas the latter have announced a substantial recreational exodus from the family, reports from Middletown seem to down play that trend. It may be, though, that most of the changes occurred in Middletown before 1924, thus reducing the amount of change in the past fifty years.

Another indicator of individuality within the family is the trend toward more wives working outside the home. In 1890, 17.3 percent of all women in the United States ten years of age or older were in the labor force. These women constituted 17.2 percent of the total labor force (Waite, 1981). By 1950, 33.9 percent of women sixteen years of age or older were in the labor force, which consisted

of 28.8 percent women. In 1980, these figures had increased to 51.6 and 42.6 percent, respectively.

A century ago, the majority of the female work force was made up of unmarried daughters, but today it consists largely of mothers and wives (Adams, 1980). In fact,

by March 1980, 25 million wives, exactly half of all married women living with the husbands, were working or looking for work. They made up 56 percent of the female labor force, with a quarter more still unmarried and the remaining 19 percent divorced, separated, or widowed women (Waite, 1981:5).

Mothers with children at home also became an important part of the labor force. Whereas in 1950 only 12 percent of married mothers with children under six were working outside the home, by 1980 the rate had increased to 45 percent. In addition, 54 percent of married mothers with children under 18 years old were in the labor force (Waite, 1981).

Thus, the review of the literature seems to partially support Burgess' proposition that American families are shifting towards companionship families. Today, romantic love, largely devoid of parental control, is the primary criterion for mate selection. Moreover, women, especially wives and mothers, are becoming part of the labor force in growing numbers. Recreation is shifting to outside the home and is engaged among friends, not family members. The empirical evidence, however, seems to contradict the

theoretical expectation that family recreation is shifting towards individuality.

How do these findings compare to families living in Provo? Does Provo, with its predominantly LDS population, differ significantly from the national trends? The major hypothesis of this study is that Provo families, too, are shifting toward the ideal type of the companionship family, compared to thirty years ago. The specific hypotheses are that:

1. There is an increased emphasis on romantic love in mate selection;
2. Desired characteristics in a spouse are shifting from economic to personal qualities;
3. Fewer young men today ask their fiance's father for his permission to marry his daughter;
4. Chaperonage is less common today;
5. Recreation is moving outside the home;
6. More wives and mothers are working outside the home.

Before examining the results of the comparisons between the two surveys, it is important to first discuss in more detail the methods that were used to conduct the 1955 and 1983 surveys. In addition, it would be helpful to outline and compare the general characteristics of the respondents to each survey.



## CHAPTER FOUR

### METHODOLOGY

Canning's 1955 survey drew a sample from couples who were married in Utah County during any one of three time periods: 1905-10, 1925-30, and 1945-50. Marriage license records from the County Clerk for these time periods were his sampling frame. He used them in conjunction with the 1955 Provo City directory to locate couples married in those five-year intervals who currently lived in Provo. From an original list of 7,800 couples in the sample frame, he located 699 couples. All of the earliest cohort, 137 families, were used in the survey, as well as randomly selected samples from the later two cohorts. The sample consisted of 137, 181, and 187 families respectively, for a total of 505 families.

Canning (1956:15) collected data from the families by either face-to-face interview or mailed questionnaire. He doesn't say why he combined collection methods, or who he interviewed, but he does report that 56 percent of the respondents were interviewed; the others returned questionnaires by mail<sup>2</sup>.

Canning reports that 297 families responded to data collection attempts, for an overall response rate of 58.8 percent. Among the three cohorts, 52, 60, and 63 percent, respectively, participated in the study.

Because he wanted to limit his study to Provo residents who had experienced life in Provo for a number of years, Canning only used in his analysis those respondents who had lived in Provo for at least five years at the time of the survey. "This requirement was an attempt to standardize as well as possible the general cultural influences of [sic] the three groups" (Canning, 1956:13,14). This criterion reduced the number of families in the three cohorts to 63, 83, and 93, respectively, for a final sample of 238 cases.

#### 1983 Survey

The 1983 replication of Canning's survey attempted to duplicate the earlier study as closely as possible. According to Bahr et al. (1983:251), replications may differ from the original study in "time, place, subjects, methods, and investigators purpose." Bahr's typology of replications includes each permutation of the four major kinds of differences. Based on this typology, the present replication is a "type C" in which place, method, and characteristics of the subjects are duplicated as closely as possible. However, a researcher doing a replication must admit that it is impossible to accurately duplicate every detail of the earlier survey. Indeed, many of the details are left unreported, and, therefore, are unknown to future researchers. But by consciously controlling the place, method, and subjects of the later survey, it is theoret-

ically possible to attribute any differences in results to the timing of the surveys, i.e. to social change.

The sociologists who replicated the Lynd's Middletown study (1929) helped refine the use of replication as a research design. They have stressed the importance of duplicating the original methodology. In particular, they warn against changing the wording of the questions.

The principle intellectual asset of the project was the opportunity to compare systematic observations (including survey findings) about a community at a given point in time with systematic observations of the same community more than half a century later, and that we weakened those comparisons whenever we changed the observational procedure, even in minor ways. We came to regret keenly the small changes we had made in some of the Lynd's questionnaire and interview items to bring them up to date... (Bahr et al., 1983:247).

In keeping with these suggestions, the present study used questionnaire items verbatim from Canning's instrument. Some of the items were obviously outdated, but a cover letter explained why some of the items seemed peculiar and archaic. The 1983 questionnaire included additional items that were not in Canning's instrument. These may be used in future analysis on topics other than family change. In addition, some of the items that were replicated are not included in the present analyses because they are not relevant to the ideal type of the companionship family. However, for the interested reader, comparisons of marital and family happiness is included in Appendix 1.

As Canning did,<sup>v</sup> the present study used a list of names of couples who obtained marriage licenses from the Utah County Clerk's office for three time periods, 1935 to 1940, 1955 to 1960, and 1975 to 1980. These time periods were chosen to correspond to Canning's three cohorts. That is, cohorts for the 1983 survey were chosen that were in the same stage of the family life cycle as those cohorts in the 1955 survey. In this way, results from the two surveys presumably would be directly comparable. The growth of Provo and Utah County is illustrated by the number of marriage licenses issued during the three time periods: 2,723 licenses for the 1935-40 cohort, 4,091 in the 1955-60 period, and 13,147 in the 1975-80 cohort.

✓ The 1982 Provo City Polk Directory was used to locate people in these marriage cohorts who were living in Provo. Every name was checked in the first two cohorts, but the number of licenses issued in the final time period was too large. ✓ Therefore, systematic sampling was used to randomly select one-fourth of the names. The results of the city directory search yielded 145, 206, and 264 of the families, respectively, presently living in Provo. All of the 145 families in the earliest cohort were in the sample. From the latter two cohorts 161 and 194 families were selected by random numbers tables to complete a sample of 500 families. A larger number was selected from the youngest cohort because it was anticipated that their greater

mobility would increase the chances of them having moved from Provo between the publication of the 1982 city directory and the 1983 survey.

In the 1955 survey, Canning does not report which spouse filled out the questionnaires or who was interviewed<sup>3</sup>. He does mention, however, that sometimes it was the wife, sometimes the husband, and sometimes both of them together (Canning, 1956:17). Because Canning's method was ambiguous, I was forced to arbitrarily decide which spouse would participate in the survey. In the cover letter I instructed the wife to fill out the questionnaire, but if that were impractical, then the husband should complete and return it. An eleven page questionnaire and a pre-paid return envelop was mailed to each of the families. Two weeks after the initial mailing, a follow-up postcard was sent to those who had not yet responded. After another three weeks, a follow-up letter containing another copy of the questionnaire and another return envelope was mailed out to enhance the response rate. Lack of time and money prevented additional follow-up mailings.

Table 1 summarizes the response to the 1983 survey. Eighty-two families from the 1935-40 cohort returned completed questionnaires. Excluding those families who that had moved or whose questionnaires were otherwise undeliverable, these 82 represent a 61.7 percent response rate. A total of 108 families from the 1955-60 cohort participated, for

a response rate of 73.5 percent. From the 1975-80 cohort, 110 families (76.4 percent) returned completed questionnaires. In all, 70.8 percent of the total sample participated in the survey. Of the 124 non-respondents, 36 sent back blank questionnaires indicating they were unwilling to participate in the study.

TABLE 1  
Summary of 1983 Sample and Data Collection

| <u>Cohort</u> | <u>Sample</u> | <u>Undeliverable</u> | <u>Returned<br/>Questionnaires</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Final<br/>Sample</u> |
|---------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 1935-40       | 145           | 12                   | 82                                 | 61.7%       | 81                      |
| 1955-60       | 161           | 14                   | 108                                | 73.5        | 104                     |
| 1975-80       | 194           | 50                   | 110                                | 76.4        | 70                      |
| Total         | 500           | 76                   | 300                                | 70.8        | 255                     |

Adhering to Canning's requirement that respondents must have lived in Provo for the past five years trimmed down the usable pool of families. One family from the oldest and the middle cohorts, and 37 families in the youngest cohort failed to meet this requirement. In addition, it was decided to exclude from the final sample those respondents whose marriage during the sampled time periods was a remarriage following widowhood. These respondents were much older than the rest of the couples in the cohort, and it was judged that their responses would be atypical, and subsequently distort the data.

Canning reports that he did not have this problem of older couples appearing in the young cohorts (1984). He earlier stated

that the birthdates of the couples comprising the earliest group [1905-10] ranged from 1882 through 1889, while people of the middle group [1925-30] were born from 1900 to 1909, and the youngest group [1945-50] membership was born in the period of 1920 through 1928 (1956:20).

It appears, then, that by dropping these respondents whose ages were atypical in the 1983 study, (one man in the 1975-80 cohort was over 80 years old), the two samples are more comparable.

Excluding remarriages following widowhood dropped two families from the middle cohort and three from the younger cohort. The final sample included 256 families, 81 from the 1935-40, 105 from the 1955-60, and 70 from the 1975-80 cohort.

#### Measurement of Constructs

Our restricted use of Burgess' ideal typical companion-ship family includes the constructs of affection as the basis of the existence of the family and individuality in internal family functioning. As discussed earlier in the review of the literature, the role of affect in the family has several dimensions, including emphasis on romantic love in mate selection and marriage, chaperonage, and characteristics that are desired in a spouse. These dimensions, as well as the individuality dimensions of family recreational

and wife's employment, were operationalized using selected items from the 1955 questionnaire that were replicated in the 1983 instrument.

A potential source of measurement error is that much of the collected data is retrospective. Respondents who are 65 or 70 years old were asked to recall details from their courtship. Other respondents, barely 25 years old, were asked the same questions. It would seem that the wide variation between the cohorts in elapsed time since the events in question transpired would create significant measurement error. However, we can partially allow for this variability by comparing only the matching cohorts from the two surveys. For example, the 1905-10 cohort from the 1955 survey and the 1935-40 cohort from the 1983 survey were at almost identical stages of their family life cycle when they answered their questionnaires. Presumably, problems recalling past events would be the same for both groups. In a like manner, we can argue that other measurement problems are also controlled because persons in both cohorts answered the same questions in the same circumstances (i.e., stage of family life).

Another measurement problem was coding the qualitative material. After developing response categories for each of the open-ended questions, two persons coded each of the 1983 questionnaires. In order to test for coding reliability, they independently coded ten of the same question-



naires, or 290 items. Coding decisions were identical for 255 items, or 88 percent of the responses.

#### ANALYSIS DESIGN

The overriding purpose of the 1983 survey was to replicate as fully as possible to the 1955 survey. The questionnaire construction and data collection painstakingly duplicated Canning's original study. Having done that, the analysis of the data for this replication consists of systematic comparisons of the results of the two surveys.

Because the raw data are no longer available from Canning's survey (1956), all that is available are the percentage tables in his final report. The percentage distributions of the two studies were compared, and tested for the statistical significance of the difference between percentages (Davies, 1962).

#### GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE

As seen in Table 2, most of the respondents in the 1955 survey were natives of Provo. Two-thirds had grown up in Provo, and an additional 20 percent had spent their childhood in Utah County, outside of Provo. Another six percent had lived elsewhere in Utah. Only seven percent had grown up outside of Utah.

Of the 1983 sample, only 43 percent of the husbands and wives had grown up in Provo. An additional 17 percent were natives of Utah County, outside Provo. Another 16

percent had grown up elsewhere in Utah, and 24 percent listed their hometowns as outside of Utah. The 1983 sample, then, consists of fewer Provo natives and more people who grew up outside of Utah.

TABLE 2

Hometown of Husbands and Wives in Provo, Utah  
1955 and 1983

| <u>Hometown</u>            | <u>1955</u> | <u>1988</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Provo                      | 67%         | 43%         |
| Utah County, outside Provo | 20          | 17          |
| Utah, outside Utah County  | 6           | 16          |
| Outside Utah               | 7           | 24          |
| Total                      | 100%        | 100%        |

As expected, most of Canning's respondents were Mormons. In fact, 94.5 percent of the husbands and 97.5 percent of the wives were LDS. Also, the majority (55.9 percent) of the couples had been married in LDS temples. An additional 17.6 percent of all couples had been married in an LDS temple subsequent to their legal marriage. (Members of the LDS Church believe that if they are married in the temple, then their marriage will still be in effect after they die. Couples originally married in a civil or regular church ceremony can later have their marriage solemnized in the temple.) Because only devout members of the LDS Church in good standing are permitted to be married in the temple, a temple marriage is a good measure of religiosity for Mormons.

Like the 1955 sample, the 1983 respondents were mostly LDS. In all, 97.9 percent of the husbands and 98.3 percent of the wives said they were LDS.

A larger percentage of the 1983 couples had married in an LDS temple. In all, 62.5 percent were originally married in the temple, and another 19.4 percent had their marriages solemnized in the temple at a later date.

Besides temple related marriages, 23.5 percent of the 1955 couples were married civilly, and 2.5 percent were married in traditional church ceremonies. One respondent from 1955 reported having a common-law marriage. Only 10.7 percent of the 1983 couples were married civilly and 2.5 percent had been married in a traditional church ceremony. Four couples in 1983 reported they had common law marriages.

At the time of Canning's data collection, 89.5 percent of his sample was currently married and living with their spouse. An additional 2.9 percent were still married but not living together, and 7.6 percent were widowed. None of his respondents was currently divorced.

The 1983 sample also consists mostly of intact marriages: 90.2 percent of the respondents reported that they were currently in a first marriage, and an additional 5.5 percent were remarried following divorce. Canning did not have this unique category. Over three percent (3.9) were widowed, and none was currently divorced.

As indicated in Table 3, at the time of marriage, 70.6 percent of the husbands in 1955 had been high school graduates, 8.8 percent had college degrees, and 2.9 percent had received advanced degrees. Of the wives, 71.4 percent were high school graduates when they were married, 8.4 percent were college graduates, and about one percent had advanced degrees.

Compared to 1955, the 1983 sample was more educated at the time of their marriage; 92.8 percent of the husbands and 93.9 percent of the wives had graduated from high school at the time of their marriage. In addition, 19.2 and 14.1 percent, respectively, had graduated from college, and 3.6 of the husbands had advanced degrees. None of the wives had advanced degrees when they married.

TABLE 3  
Education At Time of Marriage, Provo, Utah,  
1955 and 1983

| Level of Education | 1955     |       | 1983     |       |
|--------------------|----------|-------|----------|-------|
|                    | Husbands | Wives | Husbands | Wives |
| High School Degree | 70.6%    | 71.4% | 92.8%    | 93.9% |
| College Degree     | 8.8      | 8.4   | 19.2     | 14.1  |
| Advanced Degree    | 2.9      | 0.8   | 3.6      | 0     |

It may seem odd that both surveys yielded such a large percentage of intact families and no divorced respon-

dents. Three conditions may have skewed the sampling towards intact families. First, the sample was drawn from couples who obtained marriage licenses in Utah County and who were living in Provo at the time of the survey. In addition, only couples living in Provo for at least five years prior to the survey were included in the final sample. In other words, the respondents had to be long-term residents of Provo. It seems likely that both the 1955 and 1983 samples over-represent the stable, traditional families in Provo, stable in the sense of non-divorce as well as non-mobility. Second, because these surveys concerned courtship, marriage, and the family, many divorced people who received the questionnaires may have decided not to participate. They may have felt alienated from the study, that the survey did not apply to divorced people, or they may have preferred not to recall painful memories that might be renewed in the process of completing the questionnaires.

Lastly, the questionnaires from the 1983 survey were mailed from Brigham Young University using official university stationery. Because it is sponsored by the LDS church, and they are LDS church members, most Provo residents esteem the university highly. In fact, the relatively high response rate of the 1983 survey despite only two follow-up mailings, is evidence this favorable bias. However, some Provo residents resent the prestige the university enjoys and oppose the religious atmosphere it seems to

impose on the community. These negative feelings would decrease the likelihood that they would respond to a questionnaire sent from the university, and would be most likely among persons who did not belong to the LDS church or among LDS persons whose values did not conform to the orthodox standard.

The 1983 survey is not representative of the entire population in Provo. Obviously, it is biased toward devout LDS, intact families. But this does not affect the validity of the study. It was never my purpose to describe representative Provo families. Instead, I have tried to measure social change in families. To do that, replication, not representativeness, is the key issue. Moreover, I tried to test Burgess' proposition that American families are shifting toward the ideal typical companionship family (Burgess et. al., 1971), and for that test a representative sample of the city's families is not required. Rather, it is only essential that the biases in the subsample used be roughly the same. And has been articulated throughout this chapter, every effort was made to use identical methods, thereby enhancing the probability that the biases will be the same.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### RESULTS

The conceptualization of the companionship family yields the expectation that couples in the 1983 survey were more likely than their 1955 counterparts to view romantic love as being essential in mate selection. Results show that there was a modest increase, from 74.9 to 83.1 percent, in respondents who consider love to be essential. This increase was statistically significant at the .05 level (See Appendix A, Table 1). The findings indicate that by the turn of the twentieth century, the important role of romantic love was already a norm in Provo: 63.9 percent of the 1905-10 cohort considered it to be essential.

Respondents from each survey were asked what characteristic of their spouse first attracted them. Canning asked the question to both spouses, but because only wives were asked to fill out the 1983 questionnaire, only their perspective will be analyzed. In addition, adequate data is available only for the overall 1955 sample. Therefore, individual cohort comparisons are not possible.

\* Canning reported that the four most frequent overall responses, in order, were pleasant personality, handsomeness, religiousness, and friendliness (1956:26). Wives in 1983, on the other hand, answered that they were first

attracted to their husband's handsomeness, pleasant personality, kindness and understanding, sense of humor, and friendliness, in that order. As displayed in Table 4, there was a significant increase in the frequency of handsomeness and a decrease in religiousness. Although the slight decrease in having a pleasant personality and friendliness were not statistically significant, they dropped in rank order from first and third in 1955 to second and fifth, respectively, in 1983.

TABLE 4

Characteristics of Future Husband that First Attracted Women in Provo, Utah, 1955 and 1983

| Characteristics      | 1955 <sup>a, b</sup> | 1983 <sup>c</sup> |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Pleasing Personality | 17% <sup>d</sup>     | 12.2%             |
| Handsomeness         | 16 **                | 26.2              |
| Religiousness        | 9 **                 | 3.0               |
| Friendliness         | 9                    | 7.6               |
| Total                | 51% <sup>e</sup>     | 49.0              |
| Number of Cases      | (123)                | (116)             |

<sup>a</sup>In the 1955 survey the item read, "What characteristic of the husband first attracted the wife?"

<sup>b</sup>Canning, 1956, p. 26.

<sup>c</sup>In the 1983 survey, the question was worded, "What characteristic of your spouse first attracted you?"

<sup>d</sup>Canning only gave figures rounded off to the nearest whole integer.

<sup>e</sup>The total percentages do not equal zero because only four of more than twenty different responses



were included in the table.

\*Percentage differences between adjoining column statistically significant at .05 level.

\*\*Percentage differences between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .01 level.

Despite these changes, the important point is that there was no change, as hypothesized, "from economics to romance" (Ogburn, 1955:45). Indeed, Canning reported that handsomeness was the most frequently desired characteristic by wives in the 1905-10 cohort (1956:26). Either handsomeness or having a pleasing personality, both personal, not economic or utilitarian, qualities, were the most desired characteristics in each of the six cohorts.

Another indicator of the role of romantic love in mate selection is the tradition where couples ask the girl's father's permission to marry. As hypothesized, significantly fewer couples in the 1983 survey than their 1955 counterparts asked for permission. A comparison of the pairs of cohorts in Table 5 reveals that the decrease was among the first two sets of cohorts. In fact, the youngest pair, 1945-50 and 1975-80, shows no significant change at all. The findings indicate that the trend away from asking the father of the girl's permission to marry has not changed since 1950.

It was hypothesized that fewer 1983 couples had chaperones during their courtship than 1955 couples. The results do not support this hypothesis. Comparisons of

TABLE 5

Percentage of Couples in Provo, Utah Who Asked The Girl's Father's Permission to Marry, 1955<sup>a</sup> and 1983<sup>b</sup>, by Cohort

| Father Consulted    | Cohorts  |         |          |         |         |         | Totals   |       |
|---------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|-------|
|                     | 1905-10  | 1935-40 | 1925-30  | 1955-60 | 1945-50 | 1975-80 | 1955     | 1983  |
| Yes                 | 79.0% ** | 56.9%   | 67.1% ** | 38.3%   | 37.1%   | 43.9%   | 59.0% ** | 45.7% |
| No                  | 21.0 **  | 43.1    | 32.9     | 61.7    | 62.9    | 56.1    | 41.0 **  | 54.3  |
| Total               | 100%     | 100%    | 100%     | 100%    | 100%    | 100%    | 100%     | 100%  |
| Number of Cases (N) | (63)     | (73)    | (83)     | (94)    | (93)    | (66)    | (239)    | (232) |

<sup>a</sup>Canning, 1956, p. 34

<sup>b</sup>The question in both surveys was worded, "Was the girl's father consulted for his permission?"

\*Percentage difference between adjoining column statistically significant at .05 level.

\*\*Percentage differences between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .01 level.

the percentage distributions in Table 6 show that of the five response categories, there was only one significant difference, an increase in those who reported that they were chaperoned "occasionally."

TABLE 6  
Frequency of Chaperonage of Pre-marital Couples in  
Provo, Utah, 1955 and 1983

| Frequency of Chaperonage | 1955 <sup>a</sup> |   | 1983 <sup>b</sup> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| Always                   | 0.5%              |   | 2.0%              |
| Usually                  | 2.5               |   | 2.4               |
| Occasionally             | 8.4               | * | 14.6              |
| Seldom                   | 21.5              |   | 21.6              |
| Never                    | 67.1              |   | 59.4              |
| Total                    | 100%              |   | 100%              |
| Number of Cases (N)      | (237)             |   | (254)             |

<sup>a</sup>Canning, 1956, p. 31.

<sup>b</sup>In both surveys the question was worded, "How often were you chaperoned?"

\*Percentage difference between adjoining column statistically significant at .05 level.

\*\*Percentage difference between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .01 level.

Much like the norm of romantic love in mate selection, chaperonage was already uncommon by the early twentieth century. Even the 1905-10 cohort only had 6.5 percent of the couples reporting that they were "usually" chaperoned, and none of them said they were "always" chaperoned. In

fact, 66.1 percent of them responded that they were "never" chaperoned (Canning, 1956:31) (see Appendix A, Table 2).

One possible explanation for the unexpected increase in respondents who reported that they were "occasionally" chaperoned may be that respondents in 1955 and 1983 defined chaperonage differently. Traditionally, a chaperone was usually a person who accompanied premarital couples whenever they were together. In the 1970's, on the other hand, chaperones were generally one or two adults who attended school and church dances to make sure the young people acted appropriately. The couples were not supervised before or after the dances. Therefore, it appears that the significant change is an artifact, not a meaningful research finding.

It was anticipated from the conceptualization of the companionship family that families in the 1983 survey would have pursued their recreational interests outside the home more frequently than 1955 families. As may be seen in Table 7, the 1983 family members did spend significantly less time than their 1955 counterparts engaging in recreation exclusively at home, and more time combining inside and outside interests. This trend, however, did not reach the point where home recreation was abandoned. In fact, 48.0 percent of the 1983 families reported their recreation to be "mostly at home."

Caution must be taken when interpreting these results. The wording of the responses, from "almost entirely at

home" to "almost entirely outside the home," is unclear whether recreation outside the home is engaged with family members or with others. Most people would probably refer to the later, but the former interpretation cannot be ignored.

TABLE 7

Location Where Family Members Pursued Recreational Interests, Provo, Utah, 1955 and 1983

| Location <sup>a</sup>  | 1955 <sup>b</sup> |    | 1983 <sup>c</sup> |
|--|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| Almost entirely at home  | 21.3%             | ** | 5.4%              |
| Mostly at home or<br>half in home, half out <sup>d</sup>                         | 74.9              | ** | 88.3              |
| Mostly out of the home or<br>almost entirely outside<br>of the home <sup>e</sup> | 3.8               |    | 6.3               |
| Total  | 100%              |    | 100%              |
| Number of Cases (N)  | (239)             |    | (223)             |

<sup>a</sup>Both questionnaires had the same five response categories, but Canning does not report the percentage of some of the categories.

<sup>b</sup>Canning, 1956, p. 72.

<sup>c</sup>In both surveys, the question was worded, "Indicate below where family members satisfied their recreational interests during the expanding period."

<sup>d</sup>These two categories are residual categories calculated by subtracting the two known results from 100 percent.

<sup>e</sup>Canning combined these two categories in his analysis and provided only a combined percentage. Thus, the same was done in the 1983 tabulation.

\*Percentage difference between adjoining column statistically significant at .05 level.

**\*\*Percentage difference between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .01 level.**

While measuring several family life patterns, including the labor force status of the wife, Canning divided the family life cycle into three stages: founding, expanding, and contracting. He defined the first stage as "when [the family] is first established," the second as "when the family moves towards its maximum size and activity," and the third as "when the children grew up and leave home" (1956:109). In order to more accurately measure the frequency of working wives, he asked for the labor force status of the wife in each of these three stages. The 1983 survey, in turn, duplicated this method.

TABLE 8  
Labor Force Status of Wives in Provo, Utah,  
1955 and 1983<sup>a</sup>

| Labor Force<br>Status   | Family Life Cycle Stage |       |                   |       |                   |       |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
|                         | Founding                |       | Expanding         |       | Contracting       |       |
|                         | 1955 <sup>b</sup>       | 1983  | 1955 <sup>c</sup> | 1983  | 1955 <sup>d</sup> | 1983  |
| No employment           | 71.4%**                 | 41.0% | 74.0%**           | 49.8% | 70.5%**           | 45.9% |
| Part-time<br>employment | 15.5 **                 | 29.1  | 19.7 **           | 28.5  | 14.4**            | 28.9  |
| Full-time<br>employment | 13.0 **                 | 29.9  | 6.3 **            | 16.7  | 15.1 *            | 25.2  |
| Total                   | 100%                    | 100%  | 100%              | 100%  | 100%              | 100%  |
| Number of<br>Cases (N)  | (239)                   | (251) | (239)             | (227) | (146)             | (159) |

<sup>a</sup>In both surveys the questions were worded, "Was the wife employed outside the home during the (founding, expanding, or contracting) period?"

<sup>b</sup>Canning, 1956, p. 69.

<sup>c</sup>Canning, 1956, p. 75.

<sup>d</sup>Canning, 1956, p. 79.

\*Percentage differences between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .05 level.

\*\*Percentage differences between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .01 level.

The labor force status of women in the expanding stage shows a similar trend. Table 9 reveals that the percentage of women not in the labor force during this

stage declined from 74.0 to 49.8 percent. The most dramatic change, though, is the increase in women who worked full-time. For example, the comparison between the youngest pairs of cohorts, 1945-50 and 1975-80, shows that while none of the women from the former cohort was in the labor force, 18.8 percent of the latter cohort was in it (see Appendix A, Table 3).

The trend towards more working women in Provo families remains consistent through the contracting stage. Because the 1945-50 and 1975-80 cohorts, in their respective surveys, had not yet reached the stage of the family life cycle at the time of the surveys, they are excluded from the analysis. The results indicate that the percentage of women not in the labor force again decreased, from 70.5 to 45.9 percent. In addition, the percentage of women working part-time doubled, increasing from 14.4 to 28.9 percent. The percentage of women working full-time also increased, though less drastically than part-time workers.

The overall increases of women in the labor force during the contracting stage were largely a result of dramatic differences between the 1905-10 and 1935-40 cohorts. During this period, the percentage of women working part-time increased from 9.8 to 28.6 percent, and women full-time working women increased from 6.6 to 23.4 percent (see Appendix A, Table 4). On the other hand, there was a much smaller increase of women in the labor force between the 1925-30 and 1955-60 cohorts.



## CHAPTER 6

### CONCLUSIONS

The major theoretical premise of the study has been that Provo families are shifting toward Burgess' (1971) ideal type of the companionship family. The results moderately support the hypothesis that there has been an increased emphasis on the role of affection in mate selection. There was an increase in the percentage of respondents who considered romantic love to be essential in mate selection, as well as a decrease of those who asked the girl's father's permission to marry. However there were no meaningful changes in attractive characteristics in spouses and chaperonage. Actually, shifts in the expected direction were quite impractical in the latter two cases because responses in the 1955 survey were already at the level expected in a companionship family.

It would be tempting to conclude that attractive characteristics in spouses and chaperonage had already changed by the time of the 1955 survey, but that conclusion would require the same unsupported assumptions that other writers of family change have made about courtship in early America. These are the precise assumptions that Adams (1980) and Goode (1963) caution us to avoid. Consequently, all we can properly conclude in this study is that attrac-

tiveness of romantic qualities in spouses and chaperonage has remain unchanged throughout the twentieth century.

*type*  
The findings strongly support the hypothesis that Provo families are shifting toward the companionship family's construct of individuality within the family. The results indicate a strong trend toward recreation moving outside the home and wives becoming a part of the labor force.

Although the findings in this study are generally consistent with the writings of family change scholars, the contribution of this study is that it offers empirical evidence to their arguments. Moreover, it couches the evidence within Burgess' ideal type of the companionship family (1971).

*same*  
It is important, however, to recognize that the unique sample of intact, LDS families makes the findings difficult to generalize to the typical American family. Future research on family change would do well to study a broader population in order for the findings to be more generalizable.

## NOTES

1. Canning reported upon personal inquiry that he had long since lost the data and that the only report of the findings was contained in his 1956 dissertation (Personal Communication, June 12, 1984).
2. Canning reported that he tried to interview his entire sample, but mailed them a questionnaire if an interview was either impractical or inconvenient (Personal Communication, August 29, 1984).
3. Canning stated that he wanted both spouses to participate in the interview or questionnaire but accepted whoever was available and willing (Personal Communication, August 29, 1984).

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**APPENDIX A**

TABLE 1

Percentage of Respondents who Consider Romantic Love to be Essential  
in Mate Selection in Provo, Utah, 1955<sup>a</sup> and 1983<sup>b</sup>, by Cohort

| Response            | Cohorts |         |         |         |         |         | Total   |       |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
|                     | 1905-10 | 1935-40 | 1925-30 | 1955-60 | 1945-50 | 1975-80 | 1955    | 1983  |
| Yes                 | 63.9%   | 75.3%   | 81.5%   | 88.3%   | 76.1%   | 84.1%   | 74.9% * | 83.1% |
| No                  | 36.1    | 24.7    | 18.5    | 11.7    | 23.9    | 15.9    | 25.1 *  | 16.9  |
| Total               | 100%    | 100%    | 100%    | 100%    | 100%    | 100%    | 100%    | 100%  |
| Number of Cases (N) | (63)    | (77)    | (83)    | (103)   | (93)    | (69)    | (239)   | (249) |

<sup>a</sup>Canning, 1956, p. 35.

<sup>b</sup>The question in both surveys was worded, "Did you, as a couple, consider romantic love to be an essential requirement in your choice of a mate?"

\*\*Percentage differences between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .05 level.



TABLE 2  
 Frequency of Chaperonage of Pre-marital Couples in  
 Provo, Utah, by Cohort<sup>a</sup>

| Frequency of<br>Chaperonage<br>1975-80 | Cohorts <sup>b</sup> |         |         |         |         |      |
|--|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|
|  | 1905-10 <sup>c</sup> | 1935-40 | 1925-30 | 1955-60 | 1945-50 |      |
| Always                                 | 0                    | 3.8     | 1.2     | 1.0     | 0       | 1.4  |
| Usually                                | 6.5                  | 3.8     | 0       | 1.9     | 2.2     | 1.4  |
| Occasionally                           | 11.3                 | 15.2    | 9.8     | 15.2    | 5.4     | 12.9 |
| Seldom                                 | 16.1                 | 19.0    | 25.6    | 21.0    | 21.5    | 25.7 |
| Never                                  | 66.1                 | 58.2    | 63.4    | 60.9    | 71.0    | 58.6 |
| Total                                  | 100%                 | 100%    | 100%    | 100%    | 100%    | 100% |
| Number of Cases (N)                    | (62)                 | (79)    | (82)    | (105)   | (93)    | (70) |

<sup>a</sup>In both surveys the question was worded, "How often were you chaperoned?"

<sup>b</sup>No findings are statistically significant at the .05 level.

<sup>c</sup>Canning, 1956, p. 31.

TABLE 3  
Location Where Family Members Pursued Recreational  
Interests, Provo, Utah, by Cohort

| Location  | Cohort               |                      |          |         |          |         |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
|   | 1905-10 <sup>a</sup> | 1935-40 <sup>b</sup> | 1925-30  | 1955-60 | 1945-50  | 1975-80 |
| Almost entirely at home                                       | 28.6% **             | 9.2%                 | 20.5% ** | 3.9%    | 17.6% ** | 2.3%    |
| Mostly at home or half in home, half out <sup>c</sup>         | 71.4 *               | 88.2                 | 74.5 *   | 87.4    | 76.9     | 90.9    |
| Mostly out of the home or almost entirely outside of the home | 0                    | 2.6                  | 5.0      | 8.7     | 5.5      | 6.8     |
| Total   | 100%                 | 100%                 | 100%     | 100%    | 100%     | 100%    |
| Number of Cases (N)   | (63)                 | (76)                 | (83)     | (103)   | (93)     | (44)    |

<sup>a</sup>Canning, 1956, p. 72.

<sup>b</sup>In both surveys, the question was worded, "Indicate below where family members satisfied their recreational interests during the expanding period."

<sup>c</sup>The last four response categories are combined into two.

\*Percentage difference between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .05 level.

\*\*percentage difference between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .01 level.

TABLE 4

Labor Force Status of Wives During the Founding Stage of the  
Family Life Cycle in Provo, Utah, by Cohort

| Labor Force Status   | Cohort               |                      |          |         |          |         |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
|                      | 1905-10 <sup>a</sup> | 1935-40 <sup>b</sup> | 1925-30  | 1955-60 | 1945-50  | 1975-80 |
| No employment        | 90.1% **             | 51.9%                | 84.0% ** | 43.3%   | 47.2% ** | 25.7%   |
| Part-time employment | 3.3 **               | 32.5                 | 4.9 **   | 24.0    | 33.0     | 32.9    |
| Full-time employment | 6.6                  | 15.6                 | 11.1 **  | 32.7    | 19.8 **  | 41.4    |
| Total                | 100%                 | 100%                 | 100%     | 100%    | 100%     | 100%    |
| Number of Cases (N)  | (63)                 | (77)                 | (83)     | (104)   | (93)     | (70)    |

<sup>a</sup>Canning, 1956, p. 69.

<sup>b</sup>In both surveys, the question was worded, "Was the wife employed outside the home during the founding period?"

\*\*Percentage difference between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .01 level.

TABLE 5

Labor Force Status of Wives During the Expanding Stage of the Family Life Cycle in Provo, Utah, by Cohort

| Labor Force Status   | Cohort               |                      |         |         |          |         |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
|                      | 1905-10 <sup>a</sup> | 1935-40 <sup>b</sup> | 1925-30 | 1955-60 | 1945-50  | 1975-80 |
| No employment        | 77.8% **             | 51.9%                | 69.2% * | 52.9%   | 76.7% ** | 52.1%   |
| Part-time employment | 12.7 *               | 27.3                 | 20.5    | 32.4    | 23.3     | 29.2    |
| Full-time employment | 9.5                  | 20.8                 | 10.3    | 14.7    | 0 **     | 18.8    |
| Total                | 100%                 | 100%                 | 100%    | 100%    | 100%     | 100%    |
| Number of Cases (N)  | (63)                 | (77)                 | (83)    | (102)   | (93)     | (48)    |

<sup>a</sup>Canning, 1956, p. 75.

<sup>b</sup>In both surveys, the question was worded, "Was the wife employed outside the home during the expanding period.?"

\*Percentage difference between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .05 level.

\*\*Percentage difference between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .01 level.

TABLE 6

Labor Force Status of Wives During the Contracting  
Stage of the Family Life Cycle in Provo,  
Utah, by Cohort<sup>a</sup>

| Labor Force<br>Status | Cohort               |                      |         |         |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|
|                       | 1905-10 <sup>b</sup> | 1935-40 <sup>c</sup> | 1925-30 | 1955-60 |
| No employment         | 83.6% **             | 48.1%                | 60.3% * | 43.9%   |
| Part-time employment  | 9.8 **               | 28.6                 | 17.9    | 29.3    |
| Full-time employment  | 6.6 **               | 23.4                 | 21.8    | 26.8    |
| Total                 | 100%                 | 100%                 | 100%    | 100%    |
| Number of Cases (N)   | (63)                 | (77)                 | (83)    | (82)    |

<sup>a</sup>No data is reported for the youngest pair of cohorts because they had not reached the contracting stage of family life cycle at the time of the surveys.

<sup>b</sup>Canning, 1956, p.79.

<sup>c</sup>In both surveys, the question was worded, "Was the wife employed outside the home during the contracting period?"

\*Percentage difference between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .05 level.

\*\*Percentage difference between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .01 level.

TABLE 7  
 Marital Happiness of Couples in Provo, Utah,  
 1955 and 1983

| <u>Response</u>     | <u>1955</u> <sup>a</sup> | <u>1983</u> <sup>b</sup> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Very Happy          | 62.4% *                  | 51.4%                    |
| Happy               | 17.5 **                  | 30.0                     |
| Average             | 16.4                     | 16.6                     |
| Unhappy             | 1.7                      | 1.2                      |
| Very Unhappy        | 2.1                      | .8                       |
| Total               | 100%                     | 100%                     |
| Number of Cases (N) | (234)                    | (253)                    |

<sup>a</sup> Canning, 1956, p. 57

<sup>b</sup> In both surveys the question was worded "How happy would you rate your marriage? (If separated by death, divorce, or dissolution, mark prior to separation.)"

\*Percentage difference between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .05 level.

\*\*Percentage difference between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .01 level.

TABLE 8

Family Happiness of Families in the Founding  
Stage of the Family Life Cycle, Provo,  
Utah, 1955 and 1983

| <u>Response</u>                  | <u>1955</u> <sup>a</sup> | <u>1983</u> <sup>b</sup> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Happy or Very Happy <sup>c</sup> | 85.4%                    | 78.7%                    |
| Average                          | 11.3                     | 16.3                     |
| Unhappy or Very Unhappy          | 3.3                      | 5.1                      |
| Total                            | 100%                     | 100%                     |
| Number of Cases (N)              | (239)                    | (254)                    |

<sup>a</sup>Canning, 1956, p. 70.

<sup>b</sup>In both surveys the question was worded, "How would you rate your general family happiness during the founding period?"

<sup>c</sup>Canning condensed the five response categories into three.

\*Percentage difference between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .05 level.

\*\*Percentage difference between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .01 level.

TABLE 9

Family Happiness of Families in the Expanding Stage  
of the Family Life Cycle, Provo, Utah,  
1955 and 1983

| <u>Response</u>     | <u>1955</u> <sup>a</sup> | <u>1983</u> <sup>b</sup> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Very Happy          | 54.4% **                 | 34.8%                    |
| Happy               | 34.7 **                  | 47.8                     |
| Average             | 10.5 *                   | 16.5                     |
| Unhappy             | 0                        | .9                       |
| Very Unhappy        | .4                       | 0                        |
| Total               | 100%                     | 100%                     |
| Number of Cases (N) | (239)                    | (230)                    |

<sup>a</sup> Canning, 1956, p. 78.

<sup>b</sup> In both surveys the question was worded, "How would you rate the general happiness of your expanding family?"

\*Percentage difference between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .05 level.

\*\*Percentage difference between adjoining columns statistically at the .01 level.



TABLE 10

Family Happiness of Families in the Contracting  
Stage of the Family Life Cycle, Provo,  
Utah, 1955 and 1983

| <u>Response</u>     | <u>1955</u> <sup>a</sup> | <u>1983</u> <sup>b</sup> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Very Happy          | 32.2%                    | 28.8%                    |
| Happy               | 37.7                     | 42.9                     |
| Average             | 22.6                     | 25.2                     |
| Unhappy             | 5.5                      | 2.5                      |
| Very Unhappy        | 2.0                      | .6                       |
| Total               | 100%                     | 100%                     |
| Number of Cases (N) | (146)                    | (163)                    |

<sup>a</sup>Canning, 1956, p. 80.

<sup>b</sup>The question in both surveys was worded, "What is your happiness rating for this period?"

\*Percentage difference between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .05 level.

\*\*Percentage difference between adjoining columns statistically significant at the .01 level.

APPENDIX B

1983 COVER LETTER



Brigham Young University

Department of Sociology

July 26, 1983

Dear Mr. and Mrs.

We are writing to request your participation in a study of families in Provo. This study is a repeat of a study conducted in 1955 on the courtship, marriage, and family patterns of Provo families. By repeating the earlier study, we hope to be able to determine how Provo families have changed and how they have remained the same over the past twenty-eight years. The enclosed questionnaire has been designed specifically to provide valuable scientific information about family life in Provo and, we hope, to be meaningful and interesting.

Your name was selected at random from the Utah County Marriage License records. Because you are one of a small, scientifically selected sample, your response is very important. This survey was designed to have the wife fill out the questionnaire; however, if it is impractical for her to complete it, the husband should fill it out. In either case, the questionnaire should be filled out by only one person. When you have completed the questionnaire, please mail it in the enclosed postpaid envelope. Each questionnaire contains an identification number for mailing purposes only. This is so that we may remove your name from the mailing list when the questionnaire is returned. Your name will never be linked with the questionnaire you return.

We have undertaken this study because we believe that decisions of our legislators, teachers, local officials, and others can be better made if they understand the lifestyle and needs of families in Provo. Also, up-to-date information about how Provo family life is changing is badly needed by counselors, administrators and, to some extent, by all of us.

If you have any questions, please call me during working hours at 378-3115. Thank you for your cooperation.

Best regards,

Richard B. Miller  
Project Director

FIRST FOLLOW-UP LETTER

August 16, 1983

Would you please help us complete a very important project? As a part of a study of Provo families, we recently sent you a questionnaire. Because it was sent to only a small sample of Provo families, your responses are most important.

However, we have not yet received your complete questionnaire. Since it has been about two weeks, we thought you might appreciate this brief reminder. Won't you please take a few minutes, complete the questionnaire, and return it in the postpaid envelope?

If you have already returned the questionnaire, please accept our gratitude for this community service. If, by chance, the questionnaire was never delivered or has been misplaced, or if you have any questions, please call me at 378-3115, and we will be glad to send you another copy or answer any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Rick*  
Richard B. Miller  
Project Director

## SECOND FOLLOW-UP LETTER



Brigham Young University

Department of Sociology

August 31, 1983

Dear Mr. and Mrs.

About a month ago we wrote you about a study of the courtship, marriage, and family patterns of Provo families. Since, as of today, we have not yet heard from you, we are writing to ask that you help us by completing and returning the questionnaire. We have enclosed a new questionnaire and postpaid envelope in case you have misplaced the the ones sent earlier.

Please understand that we would not trouble you a second time if the matter were less important. We feel that it is in everyone's interest for people to learn what is happening to families in our community. This survey is an extensive attempt to see if Provo families have changed over the past 30 years, and your answers are important towards learning what these changes are. Remember, your answers will be anonymous. The questionnaire should be filled out by the wife. However, if she is not present, then the husband should complete it.

If you would rather not participate, please send the blank questionnaire back and we will take your name off the sample and not bother you with any more follow-up letters.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 378-3115. Again, we would like to urge you to please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire in the postpaid envelope. Thank you very much for your patience and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Miller  
Project Director

## 1983 QUESTIONNAIRE

### PROVO FAMILIES

THIS SURVEY IS A REPEAT OF AN EARLIER SURVEY OF PROVO FAMILIES THAT WAS CONDUCTED IN 1955. BY COMPARING THE RESULTS OF THIS AND THE EARLIER SURVEY, WE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE HOW PROVO FAMILIES HAVE STAYED THE SAME AND HOW THEY HAVE CHANGED IN THE PAST TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS. IN ORDER TO COMPARE RESULTS OF THE TWO SURVEYS, MOST OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM THE 1955 QUESTIONNAIRE. FOR THIS REASON SOME OF THE QUESTIONS MAY SEEM OUTDATED.

MOST OF THE QUESTIONS CAN BE ANSWERED BY CIRCLING ONE ANSWER. PLEASE DON'T CIRCLE MORE THAN ONE ANSWER UNLESS THE INSTRUCTIONS CALL FOR MORE THAN ONE. SOME OF THE QUESTIONS CALL ON YOU TO GIVE ANSWERS IN YOUR OWN WORDS. WRITE THESE ANSWERS ON THE BLANK LINES THAT ARE PROVIDED. IF YOU NEED MORE ROOM, USE THE MARGIN OR ATTACH AN ADDITIONAL SHEET OF PAPER. IT MIGHT BE BEST TO USE A PENCIL SO THAT AN ANSWER CAN BE CHANGED IF YOU WISH TO DO SO.

REMEMBER THAT YOUR ANSWERS ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL BE USED ONLY AS DATA IN THE RESEARCH REPORT. THANK YOU.

**SECTION I INTRODUCTION**  
**THIS FIRST SECTION ASKS QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR GENERAL BACKGROUND.**

1. You are:
  1. Male
  2. Female
  
2. How many brothers and sisters did you have in all? \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. What is your present age? \_\_\_\_\_ years old
  
4. Where did you live most of your childhood?  
\_\_\_\_\_ city  
\_\_\_\_\_ state
  
5. How long have you lived in Provo? \_\_\_\_\_ years
  
6. Which do you consider yourself to be?
  1. White
  2. Black
  3. Asian American
  4. American Indian
  5. Chicano or Mexican American
  6. Other(specify) \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. According to the Utah County Marriage License records, you were married in \_\_\_\_\_. Were you, in fact, married on this date?
  1. Yes
  2. NoIf no, when were you married? \_\_\_\_\_
  
8. What is your present marital status?
  1. First marriage
  2. Remarriage following divorce
  3. Remarriage following widowhood
  4. Divorced
  5. Widowed
  6. Separated
  7. Single, never married

The questions in this questionnaire ask you about your courtship, marriage, and family. If you are presently divorced, widowed, or separated, answer the questions based on your marriage before separation.

**SECTION II COURTSHIP PATTERNS**  
**THIS FIRST SECTION ASKS QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR COURTSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT. COURTSHIP REFERS TO THE TIME AFTER CASUAL DATING AND BEFORE MARRIAGE.**

1. At what age did you begin to "date"? \_\_\_\_\_ years old
  
2. At what age did your spouse begin to "date"? \_\_\_\_\_ years old

3. How did you and your spouse first become acquainted?
1. Through shared church activities
  2. At dances or socials
  3. While participating in school activities
  4. Through introduction by friends or relatives
  5. Grew up together
  6. Employed at the same place
  7. Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
4. What characteristic of your spouse first attracted you?
- \_\_\_\_\_
5. How far apart (in miles) did you live? \_\_\_\_\_ miles
6. Approximately how long (in MONTHS) did you date each other before becoming engaged? \_\_\_\_\_ months
7. What was your favorite courting activity? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
8. During courtship, approximately how many dates did you average per month? \_\_\_\_\_ dates
9. How often were you chaperoned?
1. Always
  2. Usually
  3. Occasionally
  4. Seldom
  5. Never
10. Who PROPOSED?
1. Man
  2. Women
  3. Mutually understood
  4. Other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_
11. Under what circumstances did the proposal take place?  
(Examples: In the girl's home; while car riding; in a letter.)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
12. Was the girl's father consulted for his permission?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. Other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_
13. Did you, as a couple, consider romantic love to be an essential requirement in your choice of a mate?
1. Yes
  2. No



14. How do you feel about this question (romantic love as essential) today?

---

15. Did you have an engagement period prior to marriage?

1. Yes
2. No

16. Which engagement was this for the man? (First, second, third, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_engagement

17. Which engagement was this for the woman? (First, second, third, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_engagement

18. What symbol of engagement was given by the man?

1. Nothing
2. Diamond ring
3. Other ring
4. Fraternity pin
5. Watch
6. A kiss
7. Other (Describe)\_\_\_\_\_

19. During the engagement did you as a couple discuss the number of children you hoped to have in your family?

1. Yes
2. No

If so, how many children did you hope to have in your forthcoming family?\_\_\_\_\_children

20. In their order, what were the two most important adjustments which you had to make during the engagement period?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

|   |
|---|
| <p>SECTION III YOUR MARRIAGE<br/>THIS SECTION ASKS QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR MARRIAGE.</p> |
|---|

2. Type of wedding:

1. Civil ceremony
2. Church wedding
3. Temple wedding
4. Common-law
5. Civil or church wedding followed later by a temple ceremony.
6. Other (explain)\_\_\_\_\_

If number 5 is checked, indicate how long after first ceremony the temple ceremony was performed:\_\_\_\_\_

2. Husband's age at time of first marriage ceremony:  
\_\_\_\_\_years old

3. Wife's age at time of first marriage ceremony:  
\_\_\_\_\_years old

4. Was there a honeymoon?  
1. Yes  
2. No

If yes, where did you go? (Examples: to seashore, mountains, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How long was the honeymoon (in days)? \_\_\_\_\_days

6. Indicate the effect of the honeymoon upon your early marriage adjustments.
1. Greatly aided marriage adjustmenmts
  2. Helped a little
  3. Had no effect either way
  4. Slightly hindered marriage adjustments
  5. Greatly hindered marriage adjustments

7. How happy would you rate your marriage? (If separated by death, divorce, or dissertion, mark rating prior to separation.)
1. Very happy
  2. Happy
  3. Average
  4. Unhappy
  5. Very unhappy

8. Occupation of husband:
- A. At time of marriage: \_\_\_\_\_
- B. After ten years of marriage: \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Now: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Occupation of wife:
- A. At time of marriage: \_\_\_\_\_
- B. After ten years of marriage: \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Now: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Education:
- |                        | Husband | Wife  |
|------------------------|---------|-------|
| A. At time of marrige: | _____   | _____ |
| B. Now:                | _____   | _____ |

11. Religion:
- |                        | Husband | Wife  |
|------------------------|---------|-------|
| A. At time of marrige: | _____   | _____ |
| B. Now:                | _____   | _____ |

12. Type of residence (Apartment, Room, Rent House, Own House, etc.)

A. At time of marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Now: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Have you ever owned a home?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

If yes, how long after your wedding did you buy it? \_\_\_\_\_

14. In their order of importance, what were the first two major adjustment problems in your marriage?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

15. Indicate with an a, b, c, d, or e (see explanation below) the approximate length of time which was required for satisfactory adjustment to the following marital problems:

- \_\_\_ Religious activities and beliefs
- \_\_\_ In-law relationships
- \_\_\_ Earning and spending income
- \_\_\_ Social activities
- \_\_\_ Sex relations

|  |
|--|
| <p>Mark answers by the following letters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Were adjusted from the beginning</li> <li>b. 1-12 months</li> <li>c. 1-5 years</li> <li>d. 5-10 years</li> <li>e. Never</li> </ul> |
|--|

17. How many children have you ever had? Please count all that were ever born. \_\_\_\_\_ children

18. What are their ages? (Please enter present age of each child.)

\_\_\_\_\_

|   |
|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SECTION IV FOUNDING STAGE</b></p> <p>WE SHALL CONSIDER THE FAMILY GOING THROUGH THREE STAGES, THE FOUNDING, EXPANDING, AND CONTRACTING STAGES. THIS SECTION ASKS QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY WHEN IT WAS IN THE FOUNDING STAGE. THIS STAGE REFERS TO THE PERIOD FROM YOUR WEDDING TO THE TIME CHILDREN WERE JUST BEGINNING TO BE BORN INTO YOUR HOME.</p> |
|---|

1. What were the greatest problems of YOUR family during its founding period?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How would you rate your general family happiness during the founding period?
  1. Very happy
  2. Happy
  3. Average
  4. Unhappy
  5. Very unhappy
  
3. Was the wife employed outside the home during the founding period?
  1. Not at all
  2. Part-time
  3. Full-time

SECTION V EXPANDING STAGE

THIS SECTION ASKS QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY WHEN IT WAS IN THE EXPANDING STAGE. THIS STAGE REFERS TO THE PERIOD FROM WHEN YOUR OLDEST CHILDREN WERE SMALL UNTIL THE RIME WHEN THEY PREPARED TO LEAVE HOME. IF YOUR FAMILY HAS NOT YET, OR DID NOT, REACH THIS STAGE, FEEL FREE TO SKIP THOSE QUESTIONS THAT DO NOT APPLY TO YOUR SITUATION.

1. Describe two of the most important traditions which were developed in your family during the expanding period.
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Indicate below where the family members satisfied their recreational interests during the expanding period:
  1. Almost entirely at home
  2. Mostly in the home but sometimes outside too
  3. About half in the home and half out
  4. Mostly out of the home
  5. Almost entirely outside the home
  
3. List the two favorite recreational activities of your family outside the home:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. List the two favorite recreational activities of your family in the home:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Check the occupational pattern of your expanding family:
  1. Family members worked in different places and at separate jobs
  2. Family members worked together at a common occupation.  
If so, at what occupation? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Other (Explain) \_\_\_\_\_

6. How would you rate the general happiness or your expanding family?

1. Very happy
2. Happy
3. Average
4. Unhappy
5. Very Unhappy

7. Was the wife employed outside the home during the expanding period?

1. Not at all
2. Part-time
3. Full-time

8. What were the greatest problems of your expanding family?

9. In your family, while the children are/were growing up, who is/was responsible for performing the following family activities? (Circle a number for each activity.)

|   | Husband always | Husband more than Wife | Husband and Wife equally | Wife more than Husband | Wife always |
|---|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| a. Earning the family income  | 1              | 2                      | 3                        | 4                      | 5           |
| b. Grocery shopping   | 1              | 2                      | 3                        | 4                      | 5           |
| c. Organizing family recreation   | 1              | 2                      | 3                        | 4                      | 5           |
| d. Care of preschool children   | 1              | 2                      | 3                        | 4                      | 5           |
| e. Teaching, helping and disciplining school-age children   | 1              | 2                      | 3                        | 4                      | 5           |
| f. Home repairs   | 1              | 2                      | 3                        | 4                      | 5           |
| g. Cooking breakfast  | 1              | 2                      | 3                        | 4                      | 5           |
| h. Mowing the lawn  | 1              | 2                      | 3                        | 4                      | 5           |
| i. Washing the evening dishes   | 1              | 2                      | 3                        | 4                      | 5           |
| j. Making major family decisions  | 1              | 2                      | 3                        | 4                      | 5           |
| k. Keeping track of money and bills   | 1              | 2                      | 3                        | 4                      | 5           |
| l. Keeping in touch with relatives  | 1              | 2                      | 3                        | 4                      | 5           |
| m. Who usually takes the responsibility for seeing that everyone is happy and that there is a good feeling in the home?                                     | 1              | 2                      | 3                        | 4                      | 5           |
| n. In most homes, one person is usually recognized as the leader or presiding authority in the home. In your home, who is usually recognized as the leader? | 1              | 2                      | 3                        | 4                      | 5           |

10. Following are some statements about aspects of the family that some people believe and some don't. Please indicate whether you very strongly disagree(1), strongly disagree(2), disagree(3), are neutral(4), agree(5), strongly agree(6), or very strongly agree(7). Circle your reaction to each statement. Feel free to note how you really feel about these statements. Remember, you are assured of complete anonymity.

|   | Very Strongly Disagree |   |   |   |   | Very Strongly Agree |   |
|---|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---------------------|---|
|   | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                   | 7 |
| 1. Some equality in marriage is a good thing, but by and large the husband ought to have the main say-so in family matters.                           |                        |   |   |   |   |                     |   |
| 2. If children are told much about sex, they are likely to go too far in experimenting with it.   | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                   | 7 |
| 3. Women who want to remove the word <u>obey</u> from the marriage service don't understand what it means to be a wife.                               | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                   | 7 |
| 4. The most important qualities of a real man are determination and driving ambition.   | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                   | 7 |
| 5. A child should never be allowed to talk back to his parents, or else he will lose respect for them.  | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                   | 7 |
| 6. It is somehow unnatural to place women in positions of authority over men.   | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                   | 7 |
| 7. The family is a sacred institution, divinely ordained.   | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                   | 7 |
| 8. A woman whose children are at all messy or rowdy has failed in her duties as a mother.   | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                   | 7 |
| 9. If a child is unusual in any way, his parents should get him to be more like other children.   | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                   | 7 |
| 10. There is hardly anything lower than a person who does not feel a great love, gratitude, and respect for his parents.                              | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                   | 7 |
| 11. The facts on crime and sexual immorality show that we will have to crack down harder on young people if we are going to save our moral standards. | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                   | 7 |
| 12. A preschool child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works.   | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                   | 7 |
| 13. Whatever some educators may say, "Spare the rod and spoil the child" still holds, even in these modern times.                                     | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                   | 7 |
| 14. It is better for a couple to be happy and divorced than stay together and be unhappy.   | 1                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                   | 7 |

|   | Very<br>Strongly<br>Disagree |   |   |   |   |   | Very<br>Strongly<br>Agree |
|---|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|
|   | 1                            | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7                         |
| 15. A woman can be a good wife and mother even she has a very demanding job.      |                              |   |   |   |   |   |                           |
| 16. A well raised child is one who doesn't have to be told twice to do something. |                              |   |   |   |   |   |                           |
| 17. Girls should be encouraged to be ambitious in terms of a career.              |                              |   |   |   |   |   |                           |
| 18. Women are men's equal intellectually.   |                              |   |   |   |   |   |                           |

**SECTION VI CONTRACTING STAGE**

THIS SECTION ASKS QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY WHEN IT IS IN THE CONTRACTING STAGE, WHEN YOUR CHILDREN GROW UP AND LEAVE HOME. IF YOUR FAMILY HAS NOT YET, OR DID NOT, REACH THIS STAGE, YOU DO NOT NEED TO FILL OUT THIS SECTION. PLEASE GO ON TO THE FINAL SECTION.

1. What have been the greatest problems during the contracting period of your family life?

---



---

2. What is your happiness rating for this period?

1. Very happy
2. Happy
3. Average
4. Unhappy
5. Very unhappy

3. Was the wife employed outside the home during the contracting period?

1. Not at all
2. Part-time
3. Full-time

**SECTION VII GENERAL QUESTIONS**

THIS FINAL SECTION ASKS YOU QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR SPOUSE'S GENERAL BACKGROUND AND YOUR RELIGIOUS PARTICIPATION.

1. Where did your spouse live most of his/her childhood?

\_\_\_\_\_ city

\_\_\_\_\_ state

2. How long has your spouse lived in Provo? \_\_\_\_\_ years

3. Which does your spouse consider him/herself to be?
1. White
  2. Black
  3. Asian American
  4. American Indian
  5. Chicano or Mexican American
  6. Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
4. How religious do you consider yourself to be (whether affiliated with an organized religion or not)?
1. Extremely religious
  2. Very Religious
  3. Moderately religious
  4. Somewhat religious
  5. Not religious at all
5. Do you hold an office in your church, congregation, or temple?
1. Yes
  2. No
6. Does your spouse hold an office in your church, congregation, or temple?
1. Yes
  2. No
7. Did you give any money to your church during the past year?
1. No
  2. Yes
- If yes, about what percent of your family income did you give?
1. 0-2 percent
  2. 3-5 percent
  3. 6-9 percent
  4. 10 percent or more
8. How often do you attend religious services?
1. Weekly
  2. Nearly every week
  3. At least once a month
  4. Several times a year
  5. Only on special occasions
  6. Never
9. How often does your spouse attend religious services?
1. Weekly
  2. Nearly every week
  3. At least once a month
  4. Several times a year
  5. Only on special occasions
  6. Never



10. How many hours per week or month do you usually spend in church and church-related activities? (If none, please enter zero(0) in the blank.)

\_\_\_\_\_hours per week or \_\_\_\_\_hours per month

11. How many hours per week or month does your spouse usually spend in church and church-related activities?

\_\_\_\_\_hours per week or \_\_\_\_\_hours per month

12. Do you ever pray privately?

1. Never pray
2. Pray only on very special occasions
3. Pray quite often, but not at regular times
4. Pray regularly, at least once a week
5. Pray daily, or almost daily

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. PLEASE RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IN THE POSTPAID ENVELOPE AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. YOUR COOPERATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED, AND HAS ADDED TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF PROVO FAMILIES IN THESE CHANGING TIMES.

APPENDIX C

CANNING'S 1955 QUESTIONNAIRE

COURTSHIP PATTERNS

A. Becoming Acquainted.

1. How did you and your husband (wife) first become acquainted?  
\_\_\_(1) Through shared church activities  
\_\_\_(2) At dances or socials  
\_\_\_(3) While participating in school activities  
\_\_\_(4) Through introduction by friends or relatives  
\_\_\_(5) Grew up together  
\_\_\_(6) Employed at the same place  
\_\_\_(7) Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What characteristic of the husband first attracted the wife?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What characteristic of the wife first attracted the husband?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How far apart (in miles) did you live? \_\_\_\_\_
5. At what age did you begin to "date?" \_\_\_\_\_
6. Approximately how long (in months) did you date each other before becoming engaged? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Courting Activities.

(By "Courtship" we mean the time between casual dating and marriage—when marriage was a possible goal.)

1. What was your favorite courting activity? \_\_\_\_\_
2. During courtship, approximately how many dates did you average per month? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How often were you chaperoned?  
(1) Always \_\_\_ (2) Usually \_\_\_  
(3) Occasionally \_\_\_ (4) Seldom \_\_\_  
(5) Never \_\_\_
4. How well acquainted were you with your future in-laws before marriage?  
(1) Very intimate acquaintance \_\_\_  
(2) Close acquaintance \_\_\_  
(3) Only casual acquaintance \_\_\_  
(4) No acquaintance \_\_\_
5. How well acquainted was your husband (wife) with your parents?  
(1) Very intimate acquaintance \_\_\_  
(2) Close acquaintance \_\_\_  
(3) Only casual acquaintance \_\_\_  
(4) No acquaintance \_\_\_
6. Who proposed?  
(1) Man \_\_\_ (2) Woman \_\_\_ (3) Mutually understood \_\_\_  
(4) Other \_\_\_ explain \_\_\_\_\_
7. Under what circumstances did the proposal take place? (Examples: In girl's home; while car riding; in a letter.)  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Was the girl's father consulted for his permission?  
(1) Yes \_\_\_ (2) No \_\_\_  
(3) Girl's father was dead \_\_\_

9. Did you, as a couple, consider romantic love to be an essential requirement in your choice of a mate?  
 (1) Yes \_\_\_ (2) No \_\_\_
10. How do you feel about this question today? \_\_\_\_\_
- 

C. Engagement.

1. Did you have an engagement period prior to marriage?  
 (1) Yes \_\_\_ (2) No \_\_\_
2. What symbol of engagement was given by the man?  
 (1) Nothing \_\_\_ (2) Diamond ring \_\_\_ (3) Other ring \_\_\_  
 (4) Fraternity pin \_\_\_ (5) Watch \_\_\_ (6) A kiss \_\_\_ (7) Other  
 \_\_\_(describe)\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did the man's parents react to the proposed marriage?  
 (1) Strongly favored \_\_\_ (2) Moderately favored (3) Were neutral  
 \_\_\_ (4) Moderately opposed \_\_\_ (5) Strongly opposed \_\_\_
4. How did the girl's parents react to the proposed marriage?  
 (1) Strongly favored \_\_\_ (2) Moderately favored \_\_\_ (3) Were  
 neutral \_\_\_ (4) Moderately opposed \_\_\_ (5) Strongly opposed \_\_\_
5. What was the length of engagement in months? \_\_\_\_\_. (If less  
 than one month, indicate number of weeks.)
6. Which engagement was this for the man? \_\_\_\_\_. (First, second,  
 third, etc.)
7. Which engagement was this for the woman? \_\_\_\_\_. (First, second,  
 third, etc.)
8. During the engagement did you as a couple discuss the number  
 of children you hoped to have in your family?  
 (1) Yes \_\_\_ (2) No \_\_\_
9. If so, how many children did you hope to have in your forth-  
 coming family? \_\_\_\_\_
10. In their order, what were the two most important adjustments  
 which you had to make to each other during the engagement period?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 

MARRIAGE PATTERNS

A. The Wedding.

1. Date of Wedding \_\_\_\_\_
2. Type of wedding: (1) civil ceremony \_\_\_ (2) Church wedding \_\_\_  
 (3) Temple \_\_\_, (4) Common-law \_\_\_, (5) Civil or church wedding  
 followed later by a temple ceremony \_\_\_ (6) Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If number 5 above is checked, indicate how long after first  
 ceremony, the temple ceremony was performed:

3. Husband's age at time of first marriage ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Wife's age at time of first marriage ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_

## B. The Honeymoon.

1. Was there a honeymoon? (1) Yes \_\_\_\_, (2) No \_\_\_\_
2. If yes, where did you go? (Examples: To seashore, Mts., etc.

3. How long was the honeymoon (in days)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Indicate the effect of the honeymoon upon your early marriage adjustments.
  - \_\_\_\_(1) Greatly aided marriage adjustments.
  - \_\_\_\_(2) Helped a little.
  - \_\_\_\_(3) Had no effect either way.
  - \_\_\_\_(4) Slightly hindered marriage adjustments.
  - \_\_\_\_(5) Greatly hindered marriage adjustments.

## C. Check the present condition of your marriage.

- \_\_\_\_(1) Still married and living together
- \_\_\_\_(2) Still married but NOT living together
- \_\_\_\_(3) Divorced
- \_\_\_\_(4) Husband (wife) dead.

How happy would you rate your marriage? (If separated by death, divorce, or desertion, mark rating prior to separation.)

- (1) Very happy \_\_\_\_, (2) Happy \_\_\_\_, (3) Average \_\_\_\_, (4) Unhappy \_\_\_\_, (5) Very unhappy \_\_\_\_

## D. Occupation of Husband

1. At time of marriage \_\_\_\_\_
2. After first five years \_\_\_\_\_
3. Now \_\_\_\_\_

## E. Occupation of Wife

1. At time of marriage \_\_\_\_\_
2. After first five years \_\_\_\_\_
3. Now \_\_\_\_\_

## F. Education:

|                         | Husband | Wife  |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|
| At time of marriage     | _____   | _____ |
| At end of first 5 years | _____   | _____ |
| Now                     | _____   | _____ |

## G. Religion:

|                         | Husband | Wife  |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|
| At time of marriage     | _____   | _____ |
| At end of first 5 years | _____   | _____ |
| Now                     | _____   | _____ |

## H. Type of residence (Apartment, Room, House, etc.)

- At time of marriage \_\_\_\_\_
- At end of first five years \_\_\_\_\_
- Now \_\_\_\_\_

## I. Approximate family income:

- At time of marriage \_\_\_\_\_
- At end of first five years \_\_\_\_\_

J. How many other people lived with you when you were first married. Number \_\_\_\_\_ Who were they (what relationship?) (Examples: wife's father, husband's brother, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

K. Check when the following conveniences became part of your family life:

|                          | At<br>Time<br>of<br>Marriage | After<br>Marriage<br>(Indicate<br>Year) | Still<br>Don't<br>Have |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Own Home:                |                              |   |                        |
| Elec. Lights:            |                              |   |                        |
| Running water in home:   |                              |   |                        |
| Central heating in home: |                              |   |                        |
| Stationary bathtub:      |                              |   |                        |
| Indoor toilet:           |                              |   |                        |
| Telephone:               |                              |   |                        |
| Radio:                   |                              |   |                        |
| Regriferator:            |                              |   |                        |
| Deep Freezer:            |                              |   |                        |
| Television:              |                              |   |                        |
| Automobile:              |                              |   |                        |

L. In their order of importance, what were the first two major adjustment problems in your marriage:

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

M. Indicate with an a, b, c, d, or e (see explanation in box below) the approximate length of time which was required for satisfactory adjustment to the following marital problems:

Mark answers by the following letter:

- a. Were adjusted from the beginning.
- b. 1-12 months
- c. 1-5 years
- d. 5-10 years
- e. Never

\_\_\_ Religious activities and beliefs.

\_\_\_ In-law relationships.

\_\_\_ Earning and spending income.

\_\_\_ Social activities.

\_\_\_ Sex relations.

\_\_\_ Mutual friends.

\_\_\_ Other problems: \_\_\_\_\_

Were there separations during these adjustment periods which may have influenced the above answers? \_\_\_Yes. \_\_\_No. If so, describe:

\_\_\_\_\_

N. Who answered this questionnaire? Husband \_\_\_\_, Wife \_\_\_\_, Both together  
 \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY PATTERNS

A. Please fill in the section below showing information about your children. DO NOT USE THEIR NAMES. Identify them by number. (Indicate those who have died with a "D" in front of their numbers.) Encircle the numbers of children who were adopted.

| Child's | Sex   | Date  | Married? | Number |
|---------|-------|-------|----------|--------|
| 1       | _____ | _____ | _____    | _____  |
| 2       | _____ | _____ | _____    | _____  |
| 3       | _____ | _____ | _____    | _____  |
| 4       | _____ | _____ | _____    | _____  |
| 5       | _____ | _____ | _____    | _____  |
| 6       | _____ | _____ | _____    | _____  |
| 7       | _____ | _____ | _____    | _____  |
| 8       | _____ | _____ | _____    | _____  |
| 9       | _____ | _____ | _____    | _____  |
| 10      | _____ | _____ | _____    | _____  |
| 11      | _____ | _____ | _____    | _____  |
| 12      | _____ | _____ | _____    | _____  |
| 13      | _____ | _____ | _____    | _____  |

- B. We shall consider each family as going through three stages:
1. The founding stage, when it is first established.
  2. The expanding stage, when the family moves toward its maximum size and activity.
  3. The contracting stage, when the children grow up and leave the home.

Please answer the following questions concerning each of these general stages of your family history.

**THE FOUNDING FAMILY:**

1. What were the greatest problems of YOUR family during its founding period?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How would you rate your general family happiness during the founding period?

- (1) Very happy \_\_\_\_, (2) Happy \_\_\_\_, (3) Average \_\_\_\_,  
 (4) Unhappy \_\_\_\_, (5) Very unhappy \_\_\_\_.

3. Was the wife employed outside the home?

|                                  | Part<br>Time | Full<br>Time | Not<br>at all |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| a. During the Founding Period    |              |              |               |
| b. During the Expanding Period   |              |              |               |
| c. During the Contracting Period |              |              |               |

**THE EXPANDING FAMILY:**

1. Describe two of the most important traditions which were developed in your family during the expanding period.

---

2. Indicate below where the family members satisfied their recreational interests during the expanding period:

- (1) Almost entirely at home
- (2) Mostly in the home, but some times outside too
- (3) About half in the home and half out
- (4) Mostly out of the home
- (5) Almost entirely outside the home

3. List the two favorite recreational activities of your family in the home:

---

4. List the two favorite recreational activities of your family outside the home:

---

5. Check the occupational pattern of your expanding family: (1) Family members worked together at a common occupation  (2) Family members worked in different places and at separate jobs  (3) Other  (Explain) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Check below the persons or person in your family who performed the following functions during the expanding period:

|                         | Father<br>Only | Mother<br>Only | Both<br>but not<br>Children | Children<br>but not<br>Parents | All<br>Family<br>Members |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Disciplined the family  |                |                |                             |                                |                          |
| Earned the living       |                |                |                             |                                |                          |
| Counselor or Confidant  |                |                |                             |                                |                          |
| Family Peacemaker       |                |                |                             |                                |                          |
| Problem Solver          |                |                |                             |                                |                          |
| Mopped Floors           |                |                |                             |                                |                          |
| Washed dishes           |                |                |                             |                                |                          |
| Cared for sick children |                |                |                             |                                |                          |
| Changed diapers         |                |                |                             |                                |                          |
| Bought groceries        |                |                |                             |                                |                          |
| Who kept budget         |                |                |                             |                                |                          |



7. How would you rate the general happiness of your expanding family?  
 (1) Very happy \_\_\_\_, (2) Happy \_\_\_\_, (3) Average \_\_\_\_,  
 (4) Unhappy \_\_\_\_, (5) Very unhappy \_\_\_\_.
8. What were the greatest problems of your expanding family?
- 
- 

#### THE CONTRACTING FAMILY

1. Indicate (by his number) each child who has now left your home and the reason for his leaving (marriage, death, work, etc.)
- 
2. What have been the greatest problems during the contracting period of your family life?
- 
3. What is your happiness rating for this period?  
 (1) Very happy \_\_\_\_, (2) Happy \_\_\_\_, (3) Average \_\_\_\_,  
 (4) Unhappy \_\_\_\_, (5) Very unhappy \_\_\_\_.

#### GENERAL CHANGE

1. Mark with an x the social class in which your family would have been classified at its beginning.

|              |               |              |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| <u>Lower</u> | <u>Middle</u> | <u>Upper</u> |
| Class        | Class         | Class        |

Indicate with an "O" in which social class you think your family now belongs.

2. Show with a 1, 2, or 3 (see box below how your general family attitudes concerning the following items compare today to what they were at the time your family began:

1 = less acceptable  
 2 = stayed the same  
 3 = more acceptable

Divorce \_\_\_\_\_  
 Temple marriage \_\_\_\_\_  
 Working Mothers \_\_\_\_\_  
 Others living with the family \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children's "talking back" to parents \_\_\_\_\_  
 Possible families through birth control techniques \_\_\_\_\_  
 Planned families through birth control techniques \_\_\_\_\_  
 The idea that it is better for a couple to be happy and divorced than to stay together and be unhappy \_\_\_\_\_  
 The idea that roles of husband and wife are based on male superiority \_\_\_\_\_  
 The idea that the best years of life are those of youth \_\_\_\_\_  
 The idea that the purpose of the family is the development, growth, and happiness of every individual member \_\_\_\_\_

Has Provo been your home for the last 5 years?

Yes       No

Other (Explain) \_\_\_\_\_

SELECTED ASPECTS OF FAMILY CHANGE IN PROVO, UTAH:

A REPLICATION OF CANNING'S 1955 SURVEY

Richard B Miller

Department of Sociology

M.S. Degree, August 1984

ABSTRACT

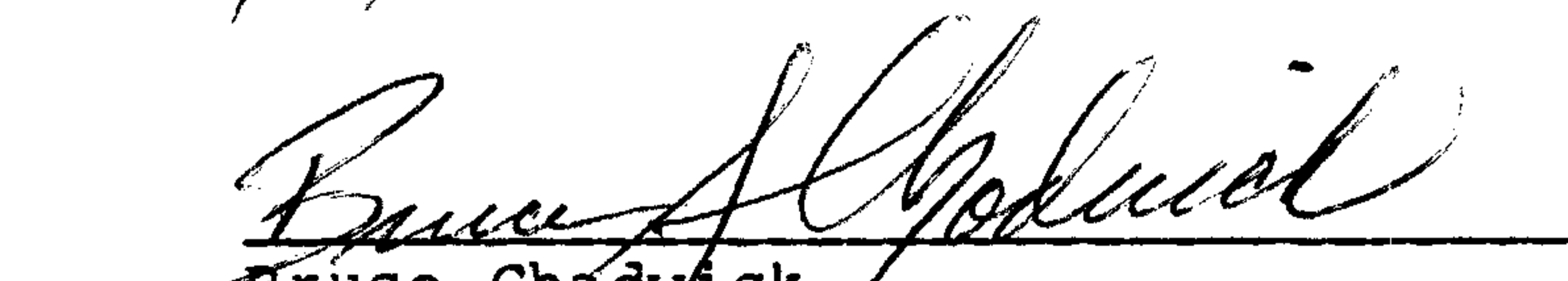
This study is a replication of Canning's 1955 survey of family life in Provo, Utah. The original sample consisted of 239 couples who were married and currently living there. The replication was a 1983 mail survey that used many of Canning's original questions and included a sample of 255 Provo families.

This study measured changes in several courtship and family variables using the companionship family as an ideal type. Findings included increases in the emphasis on the role of romantic love in mate selection, handsomeness as an attractive quality that women seek in a spouse, family members seeking recreation outside the home, and wives in the labor force. There was no change in the incidence of chaperonage. Results also indicated decreases in religiousness as an attractive quality that women seek in a spouse, and the incidence of couples asking the girl's father's permission to marry.

COMMITTEE APPROVAL:

  
Howard Bahr, Committee Chairman

  
Lynn England, Committee Member

  
Bruce Chadwick,  
Department Chairman