

ABSTRACT OF THESIS

- - -

NEEDS OF FAMILIES  
FOR HOME MANAGEMENT EDUCATION  
IN TEXAS FARM LABOR SUPPLY CENTERS

Submitted by  
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In partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the Degree of Master of Education  
Colorado State College  
of  
Agriculture and Mechanical Arts  
Fort Collins

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## ABSTRACT OF THESIS

Home management education programs have been in progress and important to management policies of labor centers in Texas since 1940; however, little has been done toward a statistical analysis of the family living problems of the migrants and non-migrants who benefit by this planned way for improving the living standards of farm workers. At present there are no patterns of home management education established in government procedure other than job descriptions of the duties of the home supervisors assigned to the respective housing projects. Interpretations of the job description are left to the individual home supervisor and her immediate supervisors. This study was undertaken for the purpose of arriving at the best means of assisting farm labor families in improving family living.

### The problem

What type of home management education program for satisfactory living is expedient in the farm labor supply centers of Texas on the basis of family information available from housing management records?

Problem analysis.---The problem has been analyzed to include the following questions:

1. What are population trends in Texas farm labor centers?
2. What housing facilities are available in the farm labor centers?
3. What are the characteristics of the migrant farm labor families?
4. What are the characteristics of the non-migrant farm labor families?
5. What is the money income of the families?
6. What is the health of the families?

Delimitation.---The problem has been limited to investigations in the earliest farm labor centers constructed in Texas and located at four towns -- Sinton, Robstown, Raymondville, and Weslaco. At the four centers named similar housing for families and community facilities were found. The study has been limited to the interpretations of the data secured from certain family information records and from the forms available in existing government offices. Records investigated were accumulated in the offices of the four centers under investigation during the years 1940, 1941, and 1942.

There were five main divisions in the methods used to answer the questions raised in the problem:

1. Determining the implication for home management of the annual population trends of the four farm labor supply centers included in the study.
2. Investigating the types of housing provided by the Federal government in the four farm labor supply centers, for family use, for community services, and for public use.
3. Interpreting the implication for home management in the data concerning the characteristics of migrant and non-migrant families who had registered in and out of the four centers under observation.
4. Determining the annual income of the families who were in residence in the four Texas farm labor supply centers.
5. Interpreting the implication for home management in the health condition of the families who were examined and treated by the doctors and clinic nurses available to the four centers included in the study.

In determining the annual population trends of the Sinton, Robstown, Raymondville, and Weslaco farm labor housing centers, the writer utilized the weekly population chart of the number of migrant-family registrations which was graphed for reference purposes in the Regional Office of Farm Labor Management Division, Farm Security Administration, Dallas,



Texas. Information for the graph was cumulative by weeks and by labor centers, on the basis of population reports submitted to the regional office at the end of each week. Cumulative records dated back to 1940 for the four centers included in the study inasmuch as they were the earliest centers constructed in Texas.

Population figures for 1940, 1941, and 1942, for each housing center included in the study were transferred to a new graph, one for each center in question, designed to a scale to show monthly fluctuations in population for three consecutive years. The implication for home management education in these fluctuations was then interpreted.

The data concerning the types of housing provided by the Federal government for the use of migrant families, for community use, and for public use were collected by two methods, interviews and the examination of files and records. The construction records of the Office of the District Engineer of the Farm Security Administration were made available for facts on the number, size, and styles of family units constructed; the number and kind of community service buildings with dimensions and descriptions of interiors; and the number and kind of other buildings constructed for public use. The photograph files of the Information Division of the Regional Farm Security Administration

Office made available certain negatives of the pictures of buildings constructed at the several housing centers. From these a collection of illustrative prints were developed. These pictures were supplemented with other photographs of housing for migrants by a group of prints supplied by the Washington Office of Information of the Farm Security Administration.

The third division of the methods involved in answering the questions raised in the problem included a series of steps in collecting data concerning the characteristics of the migrant and non-migrant families who had registered in the housing centers for farm labor, which were located at Sinton, Robstown, Raymondville, and Weslaco, Texas. The official FSA 240, Registration Form, was used as the source of migrant-family information. A total of 888 information schedules were included in the study. The schedules composed approximately 10 per cent of the families who had registered in and out of each of the four centers from 1940 to 1943. The following information on migrant families was edited, coded, and punched on standard type cards used by International Business Machines Companies for convenience in tabulating results by machines:

1. Size of families
2. Ages of family members
3. Sex of family members

4. Race or nationality
5. Citizenship
6. Grades completed in school
7. Weeks in residence in the center
8. Frequency of work of family members
9. Former residence
10. Type of housing accustomed to elsewhere
11. Number of families owning homes elsewhere
12. Number of families expecting to return to former residence
13. Employment history of families

The above data thus compiled on migrant families were used for two purposes: (1) a background description of the families included in this study, and (2) their implications, in terms of this background, for home management education.

The official FSA 384, Application for Admission to Labor Homes, was used as the source of information for non-migrant families. There were 162 family information schedules included in the study. The number composed all the families who were approved, by the family selection committee, for residence in labor homes at the four centers under observation. The following information on non-migrant families was coded and transferred to cards for convenience in hand sorting and counting in tabulating the results:

1. Size of families
2. Ages of members
3. Sex of members
4. Race or nationality
5. Marital status of members
6. Grade completed in school
7. Enrollment in school
8. Former residence of families
9. Condition of former residence

10. Amount of household equipment
11. Assets and liabilities of families
12. Frequency of work
13. Income of families

The above data thus compiled were used for two purposes: (1) a background description of the families, and (2) the implications for home management education.

For purposes of determining the annual income of migrant families two types of information were accumulated from federal records. The weekly employment and earnings reports of 10 different families for each week for four months at Raymondville, five months at Robstown, three months at Sinton, and for five months at Weslaco during the year 1942 were summarized and tabulated. Information tabulated from these reports included size of the families, number of workers per family, wage rates, number of hours and days worked during the week, and the type of work. From this information the probable annual income of the migrant families were determined by size of families. The annual income of non-migrant families was determined from data already tabulated on non-migrant families. Income of families was then interpreted for implication for home management education.

The health status of families who had registered in and out of the four centers included in the study was determined by an analysis of the medical

reports of the Texas Farm Laborers' Health Association, which association finances and manages all clinical operations and services at each farm labor supply center. Data compiled from the cumulative reports of this association for the years 1941 and 1942 were analyzed for the following:

1. Diseases caused by malnutrition
2. Diseases caused by lack of sanitation
3. Diseases caused by contagion

All diagnoses included a list of diseases by name and category. The information for the above mentioned cumulative reports was secured from the daily reports submitted to the regional office of the Farm Security Administration by the resident nurse at each of the four farm labor supply centers, under investigation, and was interpreted, by the writer, for the implications for home management education.

Results and findings regarding population, housing, characteristics, income and the health condition of families are as follows:

1. Migrant families move often.---"Peaks and "falls" in population trends differed in time of year, frequency of change, and size. These differences were attributed to prevailing crops in the area of each housing center, to sudden weather changes, and to fluctuations in market prices for the different crops. Even though there was considerable variation in the



time and volume of fluctuations in the population of all centers under observation, the seasonal changes which occurred at each center were sufficiently regular for the verification of annual expectations of numbers of people requiring housing.

2. Migrant families come from poor housing elsewhere.--Almost all the families studied were from other points within Texas. Of 807 families who had resided in other Texas towns before their admission to the four housing centers included in this study, almost half lived in rented houses and one fourth lived in miscellaneous houses. Slightly over half the families who reported previous residence expected to return to their residences after the seasonal work was completed.

3. Housing provided in centers demands radical family adjustment.--The housing facilities provided by the federal government in farm labor centers are excellent even though they cannot be classified as "good" according to accepted standards of living for most groups. Facilities typical of each center studied consisted of buildings, equipment, and furnishings of three types, family, community, and public.

4. Migrant families are largely of the Latin-American group.--The migrant population of the four centers studied was largely Latin-American. Anglo-



Americans composed the second largest number in population, while Negroes composed the smallest number. The number and per cent of Latin-Americans were more than double that of the Anglo-Americans.

5. Migrant families are composed largely of younger people.--The median age for all of the major groups was below 19 years. In the Anglo-American family more individuals between 45 and 60 years of age and below school age were found than were found in the Latin-American family. Within the family composition of migrants a predominance of males was found with the median age for the men of all major groups higher than that of the women except for the Negro race.

6. Migrant family members are poorly educated.--Attendance at school for the majority of school age children was very poor during the period of 1940 to 1943. Only 37 of the 575 youths between the ages of 16 and 20 years and only nine adults were participating in formal school activities. About one fourth of the adults and 310 out of 1,674 school age children had completed no grade in school, while of those individuals who had completed no grade in school, the majority had completed no higher than the fifth grade.

7. Family members are irregularly employed.--The frequency of work for the majority of workers in

all working groups varied within a range from zero to 10 days, for the second in majority, from 14 to 16 days, and for the third in majority, from 20 to 22 days for the period of 30 days preceding admission to camp. Regarding the employment status of working groups, more men and minors were employed than were women; however, some women did work in the fields.

8. Migrant families seek employment largely in Texas.--The majority of the families in this study migrated chiefly within the state of Texas, however, a few families from nearby states were found.

9. Migrant families have poor health.--Of 7,202 clinical diagnoses more than 50 per cent of the diseases of migrant families were attributed directly or indirectly to malnutrition, lack of sanitation, and contagion.

10. Migrant families average low incomes.--For the 550 families who reported weekly income from all the centers included in this study, earnings for 1942 ranged from the two extremes of \$0.0 to \$72.40. The latter figure represented an extreme situation for one family and was by no means typical. Considerable variations according to the weekly averages of family income for each housing center were found, with \$1.00 as the lowest and \$21.80 as the highest.

11. Non-migrant families differ somewhat from

the migrant population.--Non-migrants, like the migrants, were composed of two major groups, Anglo-Americans and Latin-Americans. Anglo-Americans were largely in the majority with a total of 119 families as compared to a total of only 43 of the Latin-American group. Other outstanding differences noted were that typical non-migrant Latin-American families were larger than the migrant family of the same race; that non-migrant family members have higher educational status than migrants; that the typical non-migrant family housing is more elaborate; and that the annual income of non-migrant families is higher than that of the migrants, even though considered a low income.

#### Conclusion and recommendation

In view of the findings of this study of four south Texas housing centers for farm labor, the home management education program expedient for satisfactory living in the supply centers for farm labor should:

1. Be planned for peak periods in population and consist of short, flexible units.
2. Approach solutions to the specific problems of the particular migrant family.
3. Educate for satisfactory family living in two situations -- present and future housing.
4. Provide experiences in improvising low and no cost equipment needed.

5. Include management for sleeping, for privacy, for storage, and for cleanliness.
6. Consider the problems of human relationships.
7. Consider needs for education and training for problems of adjustment to the new environment.
8. Adapt methods to cultural differences.
9. Be concerned with the problems of the oversized family in the management of satisfactory living within limited housing space.
10. Consider the needs of migrant women in education and guidance in the solution of problems in family spacing, and personal health during pregnancy.
11. Be adapted in content and vocabulary to uneducated groups.
12. Consider problems of language differences which offer a challenge to any educational program which is planned to meet the particular needs of the migrant population.
13. Include training needed by Latin-American girls for paid home service.
14. Consider the day care of children while the mothers are employed.
15. Consider the Texas climate, weather, and limitations of poor housing in planning units of work.

16. Include elementary nutrition, home sanitation, and home nursing.
17. Adjust home practices and home experiences to the low income of the families.
18. Consider the special needs of the non-migrant population, regarding larger Latin-American families, higher educational status, more elaborate housing, and higher income.

In the opinion of the writer further study needs to be made with reference to the migrants of Texas along these lines:

1. What would be a satisfactory program of nutrition education for the health improvement of migrant families?
2. What money management practices are most satisfactory for families of the migrant population of Texas agricultural workers?

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Iva Mae Dowling Caldwell

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Fort Collins, Colorado

August, 1943



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August 6, 1943

I HEREBY RECOMMEND THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY  
SUPERVISION BY Iva Mae Dowling Caldwell  
ENTITLED Needs of Families for Home Management Education  
in Texas Farm Labor Supply Centers

BE ACCEPTED AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
DEGREE OF MASTER OF Master of Education  
MAJORING IN Home Economics Education

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must be obtained from the Dean of the Graduate School.

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## Chapter I

### INTRODUCTION

At least 350,000 American families -- more than a million men, women, and children -- are wandering from State to State in a desperate effort to earn a living as migrant farm laborers.

These families probably have the lowest living standards of any group in the United States. Their incomes range usually from between \$200 to \$400 a year. They follow the crops in rickety automobiles, packed with their only possessions -- a tent, a couple of blankets, and a few pots and pans. Many of them travel as far as 3,000 miles a year. Usually their homes are temporary roadside camps, which seldom have any kind of sanitary facilities or even a decent water supply. Their children have little chance for education, adequate medical care, or normal community life. Malnutrition and disease are common among both adults and children (12:3).

- - -

The need for migratory farm laborers in certain intensive farming areas throughout the United States is recognized under the present system of agriculture, but the problems encountered in meeting these needs constitute one of the Nation's major social and economic situations. So acute has the problem of migratory labor become in the last several years that, in 1936, the Farm Security Administration, a federal agency, came to the assistance of the states by developing a



two-fold housing program for agricultural workers: (1) camps for migratory seasonal workers, and (2) "Labor Homes". The first two camps were opened in California that year. To date, 1943, numbers of permanent and temporary camps are spotted along the eastern seaboard, the Florida coast, the gulf coast, the west coast, and along the Canadian border as housing centers available to seasonal farm laborers and their families.

In Texas alone, eight permanent housing centers were constructed in 1939 and 1940 in a partial effort to meet the sanitation and shelter requirements of nearly half a million migrant laborers. Four are located in the Rio Grande Valley where large supplies of labor are required for the peak seasons of cotton, citrus, and vegetable harvest. Two are located in Nueces and San Patricio Counties in the center of the Corpus Christi Bay cotton and vegetable producing area. One is located in Zavalla County for the benefit of spinach workers and another in Collin County, for the benefit of cotton and onion workers.

None of the centers mentioned can be classified as "good" housing with respect to accommodations provided for families. They merely offer the barest minimum of decent living facilities which are far better than migrants had before. The earliest

camps, built in California and other west coast states, consisted of rows of wooden platforms for tents. More recent camps were constructed for permanent location in a given community and provided simple, one-room, well-ventilated shelter units for family occupancy. All farm labor centers constructed by the government in Texas, to date, are of the permanent type.

Home management education programs have been in progress and important to management policies of labor centers in Texas since 1940; however, little has been done toward a statistical analysis of the family problems of the migrants and non-migrants who benefit by this planned way for improving the living standards of farm workers. At present there are no patterns of home management education established in government procedure other than the job description of the duties of the home supervisor assigned to the respective housing projects. Interpretations of the job description are left to the individual home supervisor and her immediate supervisors. This study was undertaken for the purpose of arriving at the best means of assisting farm labor families in improving management in family living.

#### The problem

What type of program for home management

education for satisfactory living is expedient in the farm labor supply centers of Texas on the basis of information concerning families available from housing management records?

Problem analysis.--The problem has been analyzed to include the following questions:

1. What are the population trends in Texas farm labor centers?
2. What housing facilities are available in the farm labor centers?
3. What are the characteristics of the migrant farm labor families?
4. What are the characteristics of the non-migrant farm labor families?
5. What is the money income of the families?
6. What is the health condition of the families?

Delimitation.--The problem has been limited to investigations in the earliest farm labor centers constructed in Texas and located at four towns -- Sinton, Robstown, Raymondville, and Weslaco. At the four centers named, similar housing for families and community facilities were found. The study has been limited to the interpretations of the data secured from certain family information records and from other records available in existing government offices.

Records investigated were accumulated in the offices of the four centers under investigation, during the years 1940, 1941, and 1942.

### Definitions of terms

Some of the terms and expressions used which may be unfamiliar to the reader are as follows:

1. Migrant farm workers are those farm laborers, crews or families, who may or may not have homes to which they return at the close of employment seasons. They "follow the crops" in search of employment in agriculture which is available on a seasonal basis; hence the origin of the term "seasonal migratory farm laborers".

2. Non-migrants is used in the discussion in reference to agricultural farm laborers who reside in a given farm area from six to nine months in the year. Income earned during that period is usually supplemented by part-time work of other types between crop harvesting seasons.

3. Camps was the name first given to housing projects for agricultural workers by virtue of the fact that rows of tents and trailers gave the appearance of a camp. Recently, the name "camp" has been used more technically to apply to mobile and temporary quarters while the name "farm labor center" is used when speaking of a permanent community

composed of wooden or metal shelter units, community facilities, and permanent labor homes.

4. Labor home is a term used to denote the type of housing available for agricultural workers of the non-migrant type. Such homes are usually furnished cottages or apartments with yard and garden space.

5. Housing Center is used to denote the entire community settlement which is composed of family shelters, community buildings, and public facilities.

6. Housing management refers to the staff assigned to the business operations of the housing center. At the present time housing management of all farm labor supply centers, both permanent and temporary, is under the direction of the Farm Security Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture. Procedure for fiscal operations, such as rent collections, registrations, maintenance of property, etc., is defined by this federal agency.

#### Location of camps

Housing centers for migratory labor in Texas are strategically located along well-defined pathways of seasonal labor movements. To date, permanent camps have been constructed on highways near the towns of Princeton, Sinton, Robstown, Raymondville, Harlingen, Weslaco, McAllen, Crystal City, and Lamesa (Fig. 1). The four centers included in the study are Sinton,





Robstown, Raymondville, and Weslaco. These centers have been in operation for the longest period of time, and, because of their location in the Rio Grande Valley where much seasonal labor is needed, represent a good cross section of migratory labor housing on a state-wide basis.

The strategic location of permanent camps was determined by the Farm Security Administration working jointly with state agencies and local communities which had requested federal aid in housing migratory labor. Cotton is known to be the principal Texas crop requiring large supplies of labor during the chopping and picking seasons. Starting in the lower Rio Grande Valley in July and extending through the middle of August, the workers needed in cotton harvest move to the Corpus Christi area, and from there to the Black Land Strip where the season extends from August through October, moving on to the western cotton area in September or October through November, and ending in the extreme southwestern portion of the state in December (Fig. 2).

What happens in the migration of cotton workers happens also in the migration of vegetable workers, particularly in onions and spinach, except that the movement is not state wide as for the cotton crop, but is rather sharply localized (Fig. 3).

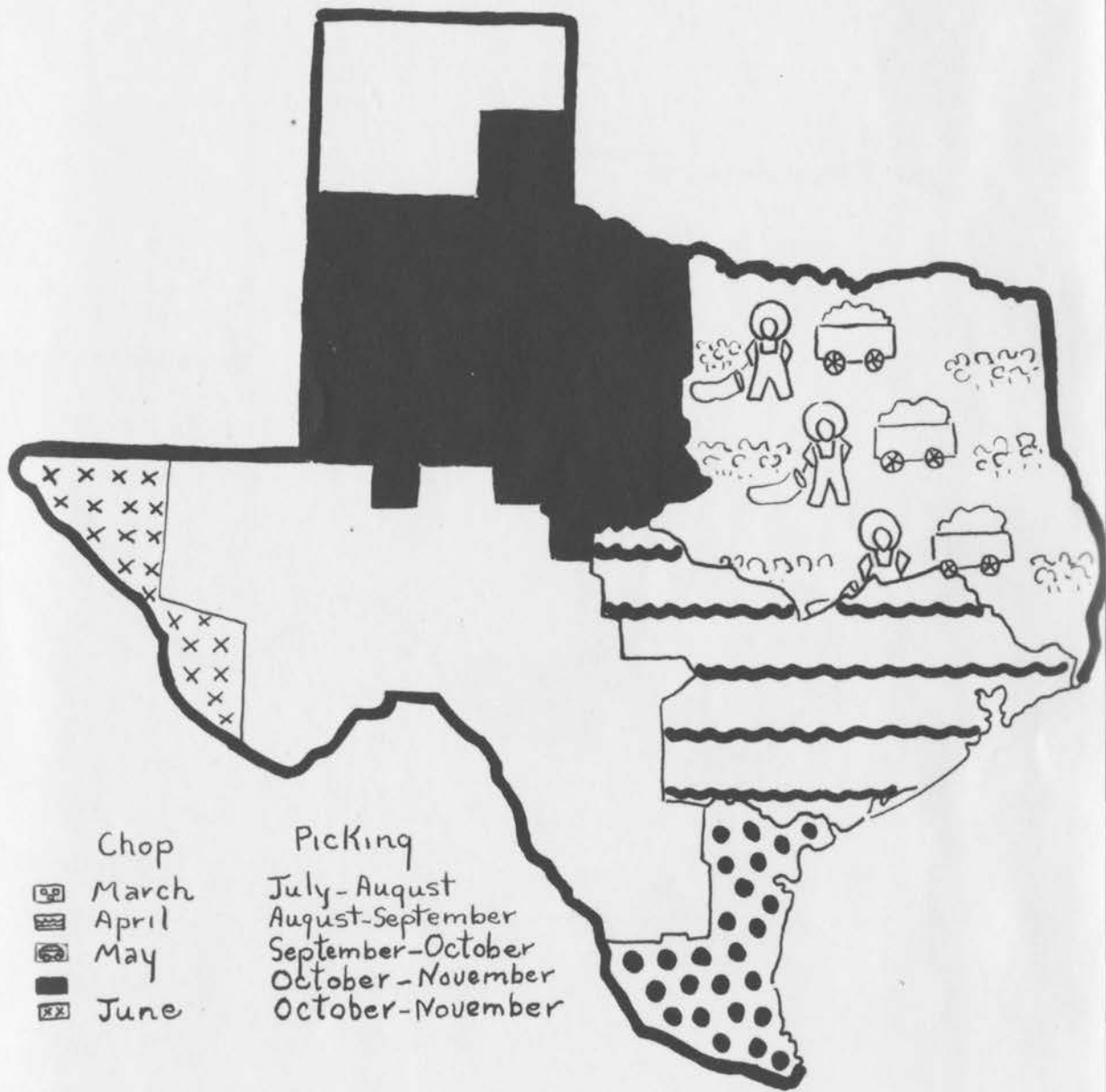


Fig.2...Seasonal Calendar of Cotton Harvest  
Indicating Areas Using Migratory Labor

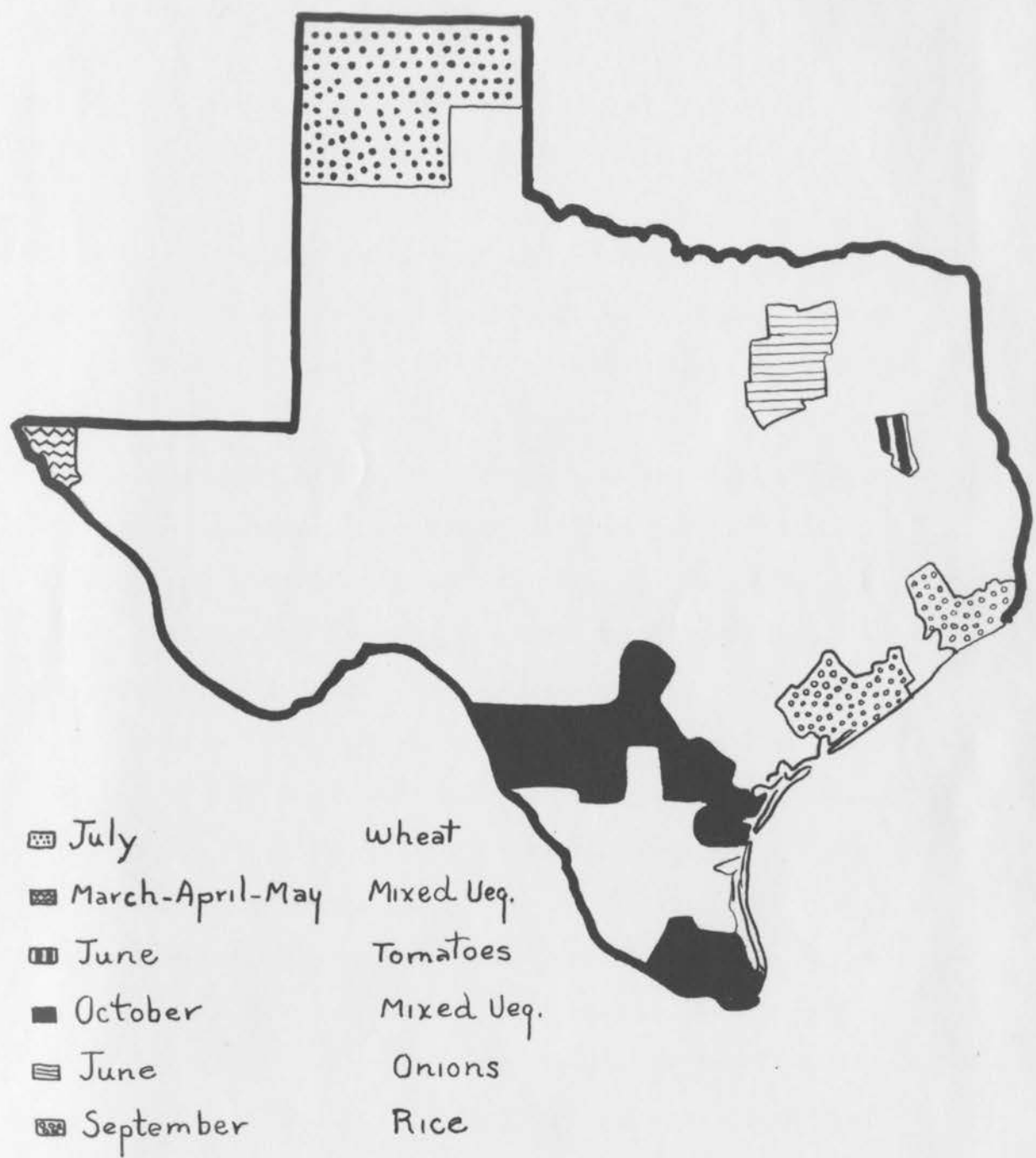


Fig.3.- Seasonal Calendar of Other Crops  
 Indicating Areas Using Migratory Labor

## Chapter II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Investigations of the amount of literature available relative to the subject of migratory farm labor revealed the fact that prior to 1940 little was known about the problems of migratory agricultural workers in the different states. Labor histories contained virtually no references to agricultural labor, and none to migratory workers. In 1939, according to literary records, Mr. John Steinbeck established himself as the spokesman of the migrants when in his publication, The Grapes of Wrath, he dramatized the plight of the Joads and tens of thousands like them. The La Follette Committee investigations in California followed immediately after the publication and resulted from the public concern created by Steinbeck. Later in 1940 the Tolan Committee was created for purposes of investigating further the problem of migrant farm labor on a national basis. Works Progress Administration monographs, which were a part of the National Research Project, and a series of special papers and studies made by agricultural colleges and governmental agencies followed.

The above mentioned releases and other publications which followed included a voluminous amount of material in the form of pamphlets, reports, bulletins, and magazine articles concerned with the general history of the migratory farm labor problem, its labor forces, and labor relations. The writer has avoided the wealth of material of such general nature and, for the purposes of the study as presented, has reviewed only the literature related to the major fields of the problem investigations; namely, migrant population trends, housing of migrant families, personal characteristics of migrant families, health of migrant families, education of migrant family members, and income of migrant families.

#### Migrant population trends

C. M. Evans (2) testified before the Tolan Committee Hearing on Inter-state Migration at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in September, 1940, with a statement of migrant population among agricultural workers in Texas:

No one knows definitely how many migratory workers there are in Texas. Estimates made vary from 300,000 to 400,000 persons. A recent study on employment in agriculture made by the National Research Project of the Works Progress Administration shows a variation of wage labor employment from 150,000 in January to 266,000 in July for Texas and Oklahoma jointly.

In 1930, according to the Census of Occupations, over 2,207,118 persons were gainfully employed in Texas, of which 842,001, or 38.1 per cent, were employed in agriculture. Of those employed in agriculture, 198,760, or 23 per cent of the total, were classified as agricultural wage earners (2:7).

In 1942 the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Farm Security Administration completed and released for the United States Department of Agriculture (10) a report on the backgrounds of the war farm labor problem. Viewpoints on the migrant population engaged in agricultural work in the United States were presented as follows:

It has been estimated on the basis of census figures that between one and two million workers are needed seasonally in agriculture besides those hired the year round. This figure is, of course, subject to qualifications.

In 1937, Paul S. Taylor hazarded a preliminary estimate that there were from 200,000 to 350,000 regular agricultural migrants in the United States. No estimate has been made since that time (10:61).

#### Housing of migrant families

A study of the migratory cotton pickers in Arizona was made by Malcolm Brown and others (1) in 1939 as a part of the National Research Project. Housing conditions for the cotton pickers in this state were reported as conforming to the usual run of Arizona camps which consisted of a crowded, filthy, makeshift collection of shelters. Although some of the



camps housed as many as 1,000 people during the picking season, even elementary sanitary facilities frequently were not provided.

The few "good" camps that were reported, even though adequate in every respect, were not considered as typical. "Average camps" consisted of tents erected over floorless wooden boxes. Street lights, laundries, and shower baths were not provided. Sanitary facilities quite generally were inadequate. The "poor camps" were described as unspeakably wretched and comparable to squatter camps in their lack of convenience and sanitary conditions. Camps of the poor type were usually set up by labor contractors or by the smaller farmers. Although they were frequently small, many of the poor camps which were visited during the 1937 cotton-picking season housed as many as 100 people under conditions void of any of the so-called "luxuries" of the average camp.

In 1940, Edith E. Lowry (3), Executive Secretary, Council of Women for Home Missions, in a special study of the migrants of the crops, commented more generally on how the migrants lived.

They live in all kinds of places -- shelters that look like chicken coops, tents on the river bottoms, squatters' camps, and shacks on the banks of the irrigation ditch. A familiar type is the long shed partitioned into single rooms, each, in many cases, the home of an entire family.

A director of the Farm Security Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture thus describes a squatters' camp: Migrants' camp, 756 individuals, and on the adjoining lot, 415 individuals. Here was a small city, a city without order, a city of neglected souls. The only sanitary facilities available were two rough, pit-type privies. The only water supply was furnished by a broken hand-pump. So great was the demand for space that tents were pitched wall against wall. Here and there a "lean-to", called "hide behinds" by the children, dotted the acreage, while on the outer fringe of it all, many had thrown their mattresses or bedding in the dirt and the sand, having abandoned all thought or hope for privacy. With the great variety of tents and housing facilities, the whole thing resembled a crazy quilt of filth, and with an atmosphere of stench. Adding to the misery of it all, flies swarmed by the millions (3:21).

Another description of the poor housing provided for agricultural laborers was localized to Florida by John Beecher (11), a Farm Security Supervisor, in his testimony of the living and working conditions of migratory farm workers in the Florida vegetable areas before the Senate Civil Liberties Committee in 1940. The prevailing Negro housing, as described in the reports of investigations, was portrayed in the living conditions of one family.

The family lives in one room of a 14-room filthy barracks. ... The three children all have colds and are filthy -- crying most of the time. ... The children were eating wienies and buns, dropping both in the dirt several times. ... Garbage is emptied in the yard 10 feet from the front door -- flies by the hundreds.

Entire camp of barracks very filthy. Only about three rooms have windows, which makes about one window to a barrack. ... Children of all ages run around naked.

... subject lives in one small room of 14-room barracks, his wife, himself and the four children all sleep in one bed. ... They have three men roomers -- one of whom sleeps on a cot and the other two on the floor -- making a total of nine in the room (11:3).

A picture of the housing conditions generally provided for migrant farm laborers in the states where migration is heaviest was briefly outlined by states in a 1940 report released by the Farm Security Administration (12). A few excerpts from the reports of trained investigators were presented in this manner:

1. California: In Imperial Valley in a typical ditch-bank camp, dwellings were constructed of old tents, gunny sacks, dry goods boxes, scrap tin. All the shacks were without floors ... very dirty and swarming with flies. No sanitary facilities and backyard used as toilet. Irrigation ditch half filled with water used for all purposes.

2. Florida: Typical housing for migrants: 14-room shelter, each room containing a family numbering from two to 10 people, each room renting from \$1.50 per week. During the eight-month season the landlord receives \$819. The cost of building this shelter was \$400. For each four to eight such shelters, the common practice is to have a single open-pit toilet.

3. Arizona: Cotton-picking season: Housing consisting of deserted chicken sheds and a barn. Eight or ten families lived in the barn with rough rag partitions for privacy and slept on the bare dirt floor. No toilets at all.

4. New Jersey: Housing consists of crude barracks, particularly in the cranberry bogs, designed to house from 10 to 30 families. Absolutely no comforts or conveniences. No bathing or laundry facilities.

5. Texas: During the harvest season, the community becomes an open camp with a huge fluctuating migrant population deprived of facilities for washing, bathing, cooking. 'Jungles' spring up as seasonal suburbs.

6. Washington: The conditions under which the transient workers lived on the average were insanitary and inadequate for health and decency. ... Toilet facilities often were insufficient to meet the county board of health requirement. ... Sickness, particularly dysentery, was found in nearly all camps. The victims usually were unable to afford the assistance of a doctor. ... (12:6-7).

A revealing picture of how the pecan shellers of San Antonio, Texas, live was painted by Seldon C. Menefee and Orin C. Cassmore (5) in a study completed in 1938 and released in 1940 as a part of the National Research Project. Interviews with 512 families of pecan shellers showed the average number of rooms, occupied by the average family consisting of 4.6 persons, as 2.2. There were 28 families, ranging from five to 10 persons, each of which lived in a single room. Ideas of the living conditions among the pecan workers were gathered from the fact that only 60, or 12 per cent, had running water in their houses. Only nine per cent had inside sanitary toilets, while 39 per cent had old-fashioned privies. The balance had outdoor toilets of the sanitary pit type constructed in large

numbers in recent years by W. P. A. labor, or had either a cesspool or sewer connections. Only 25 per cent of the families had electric lights, while the other three fourths used kerosene lamps.

A similar study of the Mexican spinach workers in and around Crystal City, Texas, was made by Menefee (4) in 1938 and released in 1941 as a part of the National Research Project. This study provided an opportunity for a comparison of the living conditions of both urban and rural agricultural workers. According to the findings of the study of 300 dwellings investigated, the houses of the Crystal City Mexicans were mostly unpainted one- or two-room frame shacks with single walls. The cracks were covered on the outside with narrow strips of lumber. A few were of the typical adobe construction which is a cheap but durable type of sun-baked brick used widely in the construction of homes in Old Mexico. Other descriptive features of the houses studied were the following: a predominance of dirt floors, tin roofs with no ceilings below, few glass windows and many window openings covered with cheese cloth and flour sacks to keep the insects out, open toilets, and the lack of any system for refuse disposal.

Scraps of lumber pieced together, old signboards, tar paper, and flattened oil cans were the



materials common to the poorer homes, which usually had only one room with a lean-to kitchen. Many of these shacks were built by squatters on public land or on land rented at 50 cents per month.

It was further reported that less than a tenth of the 300 dwellings visited had electric lights, and still fewer had indoor plumbing. Several families shared a single water faucet at rates ranging from 50 cents to \$1.00 per month as a source of family water supply. About one family out of 10 used wells, cisterns, or river water.

With reference to the number of occupants to houses, an average of 2.6 persons to the room was noted in the study by Menefee. As the size of the family increased, the number of rooms failed to keep pace. Families with two persons averaged about one person to the room, while families of 10 persons or more had an average of more than four persons to the room. Fifteen families of 10 persons or more lived in one- or two-room houses.

According to a release of the United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Security Administration (14), in 1940, a concerted effort has been made by the federal government to improve living quarters for migrants since 1936. For the migrant families who travel well-defined routes of work, permanent migratory



labor camps, established by the Farm Security Administration, have made available clean shelters, laundry and toilet facilities, showers and a chance for normal community life.

To meet the special needs of the migrant, especially in areas with short work seasons, a kind of traveling camp was worked out, commonly called a "camp on wheels". Certain features of the circus, such as the use of tents and the efficient organization which made it possible to dismantle the whole tent colony overnight and move it to a new location, were adapted by Farm Security Administration engineers to mobile camp construction. Such camps provided more service to more people at a greatly reduced investment and permitted the same equipment to be used almost continuously throughout the year as it moved from one short-season area to another.

A later release of the Farm Security Administration (13) reported the status of the migratory labor camp construction program as of September, 1942. According to this report, a total of 95 camps had been constructed in 11 states with accommodations for 19,464 families. Included in the total was a chain of mobile camps which serviced the eastern seaboard during peak harvest seasons of the spring and summer. Of the 95 camps, 46 were of standard permanent construction made

of wood and metal, while 49 of the 95 were of the mobile type. The accommodations for 19,464 families included 7,711 permanent shelters, 9,556 tent shelters, and 2,197 labor homes. Of the states serviced by the Farm Security program for housing migratory farm workers and their families, California and Texas had the largest number of standard permanent housing centers.

Personal characteristics of  
migrant families

A report of studies of the migratory-casual worker was prepared by John N. Webb (15) in 1937 as a by product of other studies of the transient unemployed in the United States, conducted by the research section of the Division of Research, Statistics, and Finance, Federal Emergency Relief Administration, during 1934 and 1935. Some of the personal characteristics of migratory-casual workers were recorded with certain qualifications as to the manner in which the sample was selected. Two tests were used, applied jointly, to distinguish the habitual from the temporary migrant: (1) an occupation that depended upon short-time seasonal or intermittent employments, at casual pursuits, joined with (2) at least one year of migration immediately preceding the time the study was made. Because the study was made at a time of social unrest

when thousands of temporary migrants were moving about the country, it was essential that individuals who were selected had made a complete break with the sedentary way of life. As shown in the report, the great majority of the 500 workers studied were virtual veterans of the road who had learned the ropes, so to speak, before the depression brought on a horde of temporary recruits.

With reference to the number of years spent in migratory-casual work by the 500 workers, Webb found that nearly half of the workers had followed such pursuits for 10 years or longer, and a large proportion for 20 or more years. Of the workers following agricultural employment, the smallest number of "old timers" were in evidence. The highest number of "old timers" appeared among the workers who had habitually followed industrial employment.

Most of the 500 workers in both agricultural and industrial employment studied by Webb were between 20 and 45 years of age. It was also noted that the native-white group represented about three quarters of the total, the foreign-born group (white, Oriental, and Mexican) about one sixth, and the Negro group, one twentieth. The color and nativity characteristics of agricultural workers, industrial workers, and those working at combinations of the two showed the Mexican

to be a more important element among workers following agricultural employment. According to Webb it is probable that the actual percentages were biased by the fact that two of the cities where most of the interviews were made, Denver and Minneapolis, are in the sugar-beet areas where the Mexican worker is greatly in demand. However, the indication of the frequency of the Mexican employment in agriculture was believed to be a correct statement of importance.

The small proportion of Negroes among the migratory-casual workers was explained by Webb as a reflection of the fact that employment for this group on the road has been limited. The traditional immobility of this group was also given importance. Racial prejudice was recorded as the factor which has operated as a check on the mobility of the Negroes by increasing the difficulties of travel and by limiting the number of job opportunities.

In a later study of the migratory cotton pickers in Arizona, in 1939, Malcolm Brown and Orin Cassmore (1) determined the predominance of families among the migratory workers. A total of 1,058 workers were contained in the 518 migrant groups interviewed; 83 per cent of these workers were family persons, and only 17 per cent were unattached, while about two thirds of the migrant groups were families. According

to the writer, it was the common belief in Arizona that the cotton-picker families tend to be very large.

The study revealed the contrary situation. Nearly one fourth of the families consisted of only two persons, usually husband and wife, and an additional one fifth consisted of only three persons, usually husband, wife, and one child. The very large family was scarce; only one family in five consisted of seven persons or more.

Migratory groups in general showed a tendency in Arizona to be younger than settled groups. Youth was characteristic of both family heads and unattached persons. Statistics showed half of the family heads at 37 years of age and under, while only one in 10 family heads were 55 years of age and over.

With respect to racial differences, Brown and Cassmore determined that the majority of the migratory workers studied in Arizona in 1937 were white. Only five per cent of the 518 migrant groups included in the study were Negroes, and only three Spanish-American. The low percentage of Negroes represented was explained as an under representation, because of the difficulties encountered in securing information on this group. It was definitely determined, however, that the Spanish-American workers had come to the cotton fields of Arizona from the sugar-beet work in Colorado.



Of the workers interviewed all had lived outside of Arizona during a part of 1937. The pickers who had remained in the state throughout the year were not included in the survey. The location of the migratory-cotton pickers was determined as of January 1, 1937, thus revealing the origin of the Arizona migratory labor supply by states. Eighty five per cent of the part-year migrants came from the states of Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri. Oklahoma alone was the origin of 54 per cent; Texas followed with 17 per cent; and Arkansas and Missouri supplied eight and six per cent, respectively.

In 1940, a study made by Selden C. Menefee and Orin C. Cassmore (5) revealed some of the personal characteristics of the pecan shellers of San Antonio, Texas. According to the findings of this report, the typical pecan worker did not come directly to San Antonio upon arriving in this country. Only 41 per cent of the families whose heads were not born in the city came there directly from Mexico; 56 per cent lived elsewhere in Texas, and three per cent in some other part of the United States, before moving to San Antonio.

It was further reported by Menefee and Cassmore that a majority of the shellers were heads of normal, unbroken families which ranged in size from



husband and wife alone to one family of 15 persons. Of broken families, there were 158, of which 82 per cent were headed by women. Only three per cent of the workers studied were unattached persons.

Among the pecan workers in the families interviewed, it was found that men outnumbered women by 2 to 1. The median age of the men was 44 years, while that of the women was only 33 years. The necessity for speed and the large number of finger-maiming accidents were factors reported as forces in keeping older workers from continuing at the occupation of pecan shelling.

A later study by Menefee (4) in 1941 described the Mexican spinach workers of Crystal City, Texas, as members of large families, as a rule. The average family included 5.5 persons. More than four fifths of the 300 families studied were of the normal type, with husband and wife, with or without children. In determining citizenship it was found that more than seven eighths of the families had one or more workers who were citizens, while most of the children were American-born.

With respect to the number of workers, the families studied had an average of 3.1 each. It was noted that the number of workers increased with the size of the family. Families of nine persons or more

averaged more than five workers; the largest family, with 18 persons, had 12 workers.

According to Menefee, Crystal City was apparently a secondary migration point for the families studied. Statistics showed that only one fifth of the family heads had come directly from Mexico, and 77 per cent had lived in some other part of Texas before coming to the spinach center.

#### Health of migrant families

The incidence of illness and mortality among migratory cotton pickers was believed to be exceedingly high during the Arizona cotton season, according to Malcolm Brown and Orin Cassmore (1) in a study of such conditions completed in 1939. The evidence on the amount of illness and the number of deaths among the pickers was incomplete, and, while it appeared highly probable that a serious health problem existed in view of demonstrated unsatisfactory living conditions, no positive conclusions could be reached without additional evidence. The health problem in one typical cotton district was described as an example. During the month of February, 1938, the doctor in the district treated 200 patients, all of whom were from the cotton camps. The doctor estimated that he treated only one third of those who were ill. He also stated that whenever he visited the camp, he saw many people lying

sick. He attributed the illness to malnutrition, plus living in shelters that could not be kept sanitary.

C. M. Evans (2) testified before the Tolan Committee Hearing on Inter-state Migration at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in September, 1940, with the following statements:

Due to an almost complete absence of medical care, poor housing, lack of sanitary facilities, and malnutrition, the health of the migratory farm workers in Texas is poor. In each of our four camps we have a registered nurse and a camp physician. The medical reports from the camps show that large numbers of these people suffer from practically every disease which is a direct or an indirect result of malnutrition.

The State of Texas as a whole suffers from a lack of medical care. In 1937, with 4.7 per cent of the nation's population, Texas had: 10.5 per cent of all deaths from diarrhea and enteritis, 11.5 per cent of all deaths from malaria, 11.2 per cent of all deaths from diphtheria, 12.5 per cent of all deaths from typhoid fever, and 19 per cent of all deaths from pellegra. The farm workers, being the lowest economic group in Texas, get less medical care than any other group. Although the camps are attempting to furnish adequate medical care for those served by them, this care will probably be extended under present arrangements to less than one per cent of the total agricultural workers (2:11-12).

Further elaboration on the reasons for poor health among the migrants was found in the study by Edith E. Lowry (3) in 1940. According to Lowry, migrants are outside the health service because of the following reasons:

Health privileges are for those with legal residence. Only in extreme emergencies are outsiders cared for, and often such aid comes too late. Yet these migrant workers and their families are the very ones who most need help. Impure and inadequate water supply, unsanitary toilets, overcrowded housing, lack of ventilation, excessive dampness, lack of screening, and scanty and unbalanced diet, are all characteristics of life in most migrant camps. A report made by one county health officer revealed 11 cases of typhoid, seven of infantile paralysis, a large but untabulated incidence of tuberculosis, and infant mortality that was triple the national average. The unsanitary environment, the constant moving, the ignorance of the mother, and the insufficient wage, all spell tragedy for the baby coming to camp (3:35-6).

An opinion on the health conditions among the Florida migratory farm workers in the vegetable area was given by John Beecher (11), a Farm Security Supervisor, before the Senate Liberties Committee, in May, 1940.

Public health officials and other informed people are unanimous in saying that it is nothing less than a miracle that no serious epidemics have swept through the Lake area. Such conditions of housing and sanitation would anywhere else, they say, have furnished an excellent breeding ground for communicable disease, but the equable climate, the fresh air and sunshine have warded off the usual consequences of a filthy environment and human overcrowding. Malaria is not prevalent in the Glades, although many migrants suffer from malaria contracted elsewhere, and the anopheles mosquito, which was not indigenous to the area, is now beginning to breed in the drainage canals. Hookworm parasites apparently do not flourish in the muck soils, but again a considerable proportion of the migrant children are already infested when they arrive. Venereal disease is the great scourge of the area, the county physician estimating off-hand that 50 per cent of the Negro migrant population is syphilitic.

The syphilis death rate of Palm Beach county is several times greater than that of the country as a whole, and twice the state average. The county physician holds weekly venereal clinics in two lakeside towns, with treatments given at nominal cost, but only a fraction of the diseased are reached, and those who receive treatment often stop coming to the clinic as soon as they feel a little better or move on to the next place (11:8).

According to the study made by Selden C. Menefee and Orin C. Cassmore (5) in 1940, the high death and disease rates in San Antonio were due primarily to the extremely high rates among the Mexican people. In 1938, San Antonio had 12.5 deaths per 1,000 population compared with a national average of approximately 10.7. There were 148 deaths from tuberculosis per 100,000 population in 1937, and 129 in 1938, compared with a national average of 54 in 1937. Of infant deaths there were 103 per 1,000 live births in 1937 and 81 in 1938.

According to George Graze, executive secretary of the Bexar County Tuberculosis Association as quoted in the above study (5), Mexicans made up only 38 per cent of the population of San Antonio, Texas, but composed the group in which 72 per cent of all the tuberculosis deaths occurred. In 1938, the department of health indicated that some 1,448 cases of tuberculosis were reported among children under 13 years of age; of these cases 77 per cent were Mexican children.



In a similar study made of Mexican migratory workers of south Texas in 1938, and published in 1941, Menefee (4) reported on the health status of 300 families investigated in and around Crystal City, Texas.

Because of low incomes, poor housing, unsanitary conditions, and inadequate medical care, sickness and disease are common among the Mexicans of Crystal City and the Winter Garden Area. According to a relief official in a neighboring town, the tuberculosis rate is extremely high in the Winter Garden because the Mexicans have been undernourished over a long period of years. Enteritis, tuberculosis, and other diseases are widespread in the Crystal City Area.

From April to July of 1939 there was an epidemic of diarrhea in Zavala County. At least 2,000 persons became ill. When one member of the family contracted the disease, almost invariably all other members would catch it. Several infants died before a doctor could reach them. By the end of June, 16 persons, 15 of whom were Mexicans, had died of diarrhea in the county. All of these but one were babies less than a year old. This epidemic was directly traceable to the poor sanitation in the Mexican communities.

Many cases of tuberculosis were reported among the 300 families studied. In the first 10 months of 1939, 25 persons died of tuberculosis in Zavala County; this is the equivalent to about 290 tuberculosis deaths per 100,000 population per year. The Mexicans reported great difficulty in gaining admittance to a State institution for the treatment of tuberculosis because beds were not available except for the most advanced cases (4:43).

In a 1942 release of the United States Department of Agriculture, prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Farm Security



Administration (10), the health of the migrant families engaged in agricultural labor was given consideration. Excerpts of the study carried on by the California Bureau of Child Hygiene among migratory children in the Central Valley of California in 1936 and 1937 are as follows:

A total of 1,002 migrant children were studied and a comparable survey made on 1,000 resident children examined in rural centers and small communities during the same year. It will be noted that migrants appear to suffer from health defects to a very much greater degree than resident children. While the comparative incidence of defects sheds light on the relative disadvantage of the two groups, the fact that 83 out of each 100 migrant children examined were defective in some respect, is even more alarming.

A total of 1,369 defects were found in the 1,002 migratory children. The largest single type of defect observed involved the tonsils and the adenoids. However, there were 41 cases of communicable diseases, 32 gastrointestinal ailments, 167 nutritional defects and 137 respiratory illnesses, or a total of 377 defects more or less attributable to inadequate diet and housing (10:80-1).

#### Education of migrant family members

The extent of school attendance of the children of migratory cotton pickers in Arizona was commented on by Malcolm Brown and Orin Cassmore (1) in a study of this group in 1939.

School attendance is compulsory after two weeks' residence in most Arizona school districts. In the Arizona rural schools where the pickers' children mix with the children of the alfalfa and livestock farmers, however, there is widespread resentment against

the cotton pickers. The farmers feel that their own children are corrupted and degraded because of the contact with the poorer migrants. This resentment is also directed against the large cotton growers, who are frequently charged by the non-cotton farmers with "ruining the community" by importing migratory workers (1:7).

In a release of the United States Department of Agriculture (11) of 1940, John Beecher, a Farm Security Supervisor, Florida Migratory Labor Camps, reported education as "in competition with beans, and beans as winning out". These were the words of the Palm Beach County Superintendent of Public Instruction, spoken in an effort to characterize the situation in the Lake Okeechobee area. According to local school authorities in their discussions with Beecher, the children of the migratory packing house workers were a problem to them due to irregularities in attendance, retarded learning, and difficulties encountered in adjusting to school discipline.

Examination of the school records, made by Beecher, revealed the following:

The Negro children have less chance for an education. After the disastrous freeze this winter, which destroyed all the growing beans, many of the Negro migrants put their children in school for the first time in the season. The enrollment of the Belle Glade Negro school, which has desks for 280 children, rocketed to 503. For a couple of months the school ran on a double shift. Then beans came in again. One week the enrollment was 485. The next week it was 20. Ninety five per cent

of the children were in the bean fields. They had to be. It had been a hard time for little folks to get through -- two months with no work at all, and only a little government grant money to live on, pieced out with frost-bitten cabbage, rabbits and catfish from the canal. So when the picking started again, everybody that could pick, picked.

In the Negro school of another lakeside town nearby, half of the pupils are repeating grades. Three fourths of them are in grades one, two, and three. ... The first grade in this school contains children ranging from six to 15 years old. The average first-grader is 10 years old. ... Of the 50 boys and girls who started to read and write in late August (a second, third, fourth, or fifth start for half of them) only 10 remained (11:6).

Among the 512 pecan-shelling families studied by Selden C. Menefee and Orin C. Cassmore (5) in San Antonio, Texas, in 1940, there were 867 children between the ages of seven and 18. Of the 867, only 55 per cent attended the full school term and only 62 per cent attended school at all in 1938. Handicaps among the 217 children of migratory workers were reported as greater than those of the 650 children of families who had lived in San Antonio throughout the year. Of the children aged 11 to 13 in the migratory group, 22 per cent had not attended school at all in 1938, while in the non-migratory group the corresponding figure was only 11 per cent.

Further determinations of the educational status of children of Mexican pecan shellers were revealed that almost one sixth of the children aged

eight and nine years had never attended school or had never completed the first grade; the average school attainment of 10-year olds was 2.7 grades, and that of the 13-year olds, 4.9 grades; of the 82 children 18 years old for whom information was obtained, five per cent had never completed even one grade in school, 62 per cent had completed one to five grades, 29 per cent had completed six to eight grades, four per cent had completed the first year of senior high school, and none had completed the eleventh grade to graduate. The average grade attainment for both boys and girls at the age of 18 was 5.2 grades.

The later study by Menefee of the Mexican migratory workers of south Texas in 1940 presented data on the school attendance of the children of spinach workers in Crystal City, Texas:

Almost 22 per cent of Zavala County's population was illiterate in 1930. Nearly all illiteracy was among Mexicans. The older generation is limited by its background of recent immigration and low economic status; and the younger generation is further handicapped by inability to attend school regularly when following migratory agricultural work.

Only about 17 per cent of the children aged seven to 10 years and about 40 per cent of those from 11 to 13 years attended school for the full year in 1938. Of the remainder almost half were in school during part of the year; many attended only during the spinach season, from November or December through March. The rest did not go to school at all in spite of a legal requirement that all Texas children seven to 16 years of age must attend school for at least 120 days each year (4:44).

The United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics and Farm Security Administration (10) released in 1942 a study of the backgrounds of the war labor problem in which a picture of the enrollment of children of agricultural laborers in California schools was presented.

Attendance records of schools in Imperial County, California, indicate the fluctuations which confront educators in communities through which large numbers of migrants pass. Since this county used much Mexican farm labor, enrollment figures for Mexican children are revealing.

In June, 1930, the number of Mexican children enrolled in the school districts with peak enrollment in the fall was 58.5 per cent, of the annual average Mexican enrollment, while in November of the preceding fall it had been 125.9 per cent. In terms of percentage of all children attending the Mexican element constituted 29.6 per cent of the student body in November but only 16.8 per cent in June of the same school year (10:82).

#### Income of migrant families

Annual earnings of migratory-casual workers were reported by John N. Webb (15) in 1937, in a study of 500 workers, as ranging from maintenance to \$1,350 for the entire group. The most frequent earnings were between maintenance and \$250 a year. According to statistics compiled by Webb, the lowest median earning (\$110 to \$124) was among agricultural workers, while the widest spread between low and high yearly earnings was among industrial workers. However,



net incomes of over \$500 a year were few in number and the median earnings were \$257 in 1933 and \$203 in 1934 for the industrial workers. Of the 518 families studied by Malcolm Brown and Orin Cassmore (1) in Arizona in 1939, the average cash income for both the families and unattached persons was \$393, from all pursuits combined, and \$459, from cash and perquisites.

Analysis of the data of this study revealed that more than one third of the migrants had earned less than \$300 cash during the year; even when the value of perquisites was added, more than one fourth still earned less than \$300, and, while the unattached pickers were somewhat overrepresented in this lowest income group, more than one half of those earning less than \$300 were families and more than one fourth were families containing four persons or more.

Within the next income group, analysis of data revealed that nearly one third of the families and individuals reported both cash and total earnings of \$300 to \$500 for 1937; that the proportion of families in this group was much larger than in the lowest income groups; and that, of those who reported from \$300 to \$500 income, over one third represented families containing from four to 11 persons. Only one family, or unattached person, out of five among the Arizona cotton pickers earned as much as \$700 in 1937.



A summary report on the migratory labor problem in Texas contained the testimony of C. M. Evans (2), as presented before the Tolan Committee Hearing on Inter-state Migration at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1940. Evans commented on attempts which have been made in Texas to gather detailed and definite information regarding the employment and earnings of the migratory workers. He described the plan used in the operation of the Farm Security Administration labor camps whereby 10 per cent of the families were contacted weekly regarding their employment and earnings for the preceding seven days. It was found in one camp that the average income per person of 108 families studied was \$2.53 per week, or \$0.36 per day. In another camp where 100 families were studied, the weekly income per person was \$1.60, or \$0.23 per day. In still another camp the average income per person was \$1.08 per week, or \$0.15 per day.

According to Edith E. Lowry (3), in a study of the migrants and the crops released in 1940, the earnings of an entire migrant family for a year are extremely low. The following conclusions were drawn from a study made by the Relief Administration of one state with its 12 month growing season:

In 1930, 19 per cent had steady work; in 1935, only two per cent reported no period of unemployment. The average yearly earnings of 775 migrant families were between three and

four hundred dollars in 1930, and between one and two hundred dollars in 1935 (3:25).

Another study released in 1940 by the United States Department of Agriculture (11) contained the testimony of John Beecher, a Farm Security Supervisor, regarding family income of farm workers in the vegetable area of Florida.

The median family income of all white workers was \$455; 56 per cent of the incomes were \$500 or less; 15 per cent received more than \$800. Among colored families, the median was \$384; 13 per cent had family incomes of \$200 or less; 72 per cent had family incomes of \$500 or less, and only five per cent had incomes higher than \$800. It should be remembered that these small earnings must cover the migrants' transportation costs, the high rent they usually must pay in the area, and the equally high food costs (11:13).

The pecan workers of San Antonio, Texas, according to Selden C. Menefee and Orin C. Cassmore (5) in a 1940 study, customarily used all persons of 12 years or older in a family as workers; therefore, incomes varied greatly with the size of the family. It was found in this study that total annual family incomes varied from an average of \$124 for single persons to \$637 for units of 10 or more persons. The study was based on 510 families whose incomes were ascertainable.

Factors, determined in the San Antonio study, which influenced family earnings were the size of family and the number of workers in the family.

It was noted that large families with more than one worker were common among migratory workers. The average migratory family had five persons with 2.8 working members, as compared with an average of 4.5 persons and only 1.8 workers in non-migratory families. The difference in the number of workers was explained partly by the fact that in agricultural work jobs were available during the busy season for all members of the family who were old enough to work.

In 1941, another study, compiled by Menefee (4), released the following information on family incomes of the Mexicans of Crystal City, Texas, in 1938:

Families who derived the major part of their incomes from beet work had on the average larger annual incomes than any other group. Cotton workers were not far behind; both groups earned over \$500 cash per family in 1938. Families whose major source of income was other farm work (including spinach) around Crystal City had average earnings of \$400 in 1938.

Total family incomes varied in striking correspondence with the size of the family and the number of workers. Two-person families had average incomes of \$338 in cash and kind, while families of 10 persons or more averaged over \$1,100 in 1938. One-worker families averaged \$344 in cash and kind in 1938, while families with five workers or more averaged \$983.

The Crystal City families showed a surprisingly wide range of incomes, however, in 1938. At the bottom of the scale were 15 per cent of the families who received less than \$300 in cash, while at the other extreme were 10 per cent who earned from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per family, and three per cent who earned \$1,500 or more (4:38-9).

With regard to the range of income and earnings of migratory farm labor families in the United States, a 1942 release of the United States Department of Agriculture (10), prepared jointly by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Farm Security Administration, stated briefly:

Estimates of annual income of family groups, varying with the time and locales of the data, indicate that the median family income of migrant farm workers may be expected to range between \$350 and \$400.

The meagerness of these incomes is demonstrated in available data concerning the extent to which these families were forced to supplement their earnings by recourse to public relief.

Farm Security Administration Labor Division surveys show relief incomes for from nine per cent to 42 per cent of the families included in various surveys. The median amount received ranged from \$25 to \$250 a year (10:73).

### SUMMARY

#### Migrant population trends

It has been determined that seasonal agricultural laborers have women and children as well as men included in their numbers. The employment of women and children has arisen out of the fact that the habitual migrant of today is frequently a married man. His family, of necessity, has moved about with him.

The actual number of migrants has not been definitely determined. Wide fluctuations have been found in the need for seasonal workers in certain areas and in the actual migration movements. Extreme difficulties in making an over-all estimate of the number of agricultural migrants in the United States have been encountered. The Tolan Committee, which is studying migration in all its aspects, has not attempted to make such an estimate. However, the first estimate was hazarded in 1937 by Paul S. Taylor, who concluded that there were from 200,000 to 350,000 regular agricultural migrants in the United States. According to available literature, no estimate has been made since that time.

Estimates of the number of migratory workers in Texas, a principal state requiring the use of such labor, have varied from 300,000 to 400,000 persons. The 1930 Census of occupations showed over 2,207,118 persons gainfully employed in Texas, of which 842,001, or 38.1 per cent, were employed in agriculture. Of those who were employed in agriculture, 198,760, or 23 per cent of the total, were classified as agricultural wage earners.

#### Housing of migrant families

The living conditions of agricultural migrants have been called worse than those of any other



group in the United States. The housing of migrant agricultural workers has presented unusual complications because of the constant change which has characterized their lives. According to reports of the United States Department of Agriculture, three aspects of migrant housing have been determined as important: first, shelter while migrants are on the road; second, housing while waiting for employment or lying over between jobs; and third, housing while employed. Housing on the road has consisted of a tent or trailer, a low-rent tourist cabin, or merely the shelter of the family car or truck parked by the roadside. Reports have shown that in many parts of the United States, particularly the South, the Southwest, and the Pacific Coast, it has been the prevailing practice to convert vacant lots on the edge of towns into temporary squatters' camps. In such a way, Texas "jungles" have sprung up overnight.

Commercial camps have been little better than squatters' camps but have cost from \$0.25 to \$1.25 for a single nights lodging. Regulation and control of commercial camps has been so limited that they have fallen far short of standards of sanitation, cleanliness, and orderliness.

During periods of idleness between jobs housing has ordinarily been of the same character as



housing on the road; however, a few farmers have permitted migratory workers to continue to occupy, in the slack seasons, the same housing occupied while at work. Housing on farms has varied with the general character of housing in the different areas of the country, consequently standards of so-called "good" and "very good" have been difficult to set in terms of money values and have been limited to efforts to encourage the provision of rudimentary requirements for decency of human living.

Housing furnished for the seasonal agricultural workers by the growers has been universally inadequate throughout the country, according to reports and descriptions of the housing which have been analyzed as typical for the different states concerned with the use of migratory labor. In a series of studies which compose different parts of the National Research Project, conducted between 1937 and 1941; in reports of the United States Department of Agriculture and its agencies, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Farm Security Administration; and in the research of the Council of Women for Home Missions pictures of the housing conditions generally provided for migrants have been painted.

From New Jersey and crude housing of barracks in the cranberry bogs, designed to house from 10 to

30 families without comforts, conveniences, bathing, or laundry facilities to Florida where 14-room shelters, each contained a family numbering from two to 10 persons at rents of \$1.50 per week and up; to Texas during the harvest season, where communities turned into open camps with a huge migrant population deprived of facilities for washing, bathing, and cooking; to Arizona during the cotton-picking season, where housing consisted of deserted chicken sheds and barns in which eight or 10 families lived with rough rag partitions for privacy, with no sanitation at all; to California and its Imperial Valley where typical ditch-bank camps were constructed of old tents, gunny sacks, boxes, and tin, with no floors, no sanitary facilities, no water supply other than the canal; and to Washington where conditions under which the transient workers lived were insanitary and inadequate for decency, the picture of inadequacy has remained the same regardless of the setting. Crowded conditions in rooms and shelters, filth, poor ventilation, lack of sanitary facilities, sickness and even death have prevailed in all sections.

According to reports from the United States Department of Agriculture, the need for federal housing for agricultural workers was created out of the general failure of the states to provide decent

housing. This need has been met in part by a federal agency, the Farm Security Administration, in a two-fold housing program: (1) camps for migratory seasonal workers, and (2) labor homes. Construction of camps has been of two types, standard (permanent) and mobile (temporary). A late release of the Farm Security Administration reported the status of the migratory labor camp construction program, as of 1942: a total of 95 camps have been constructed in 11 states with accommodations for 19,464 families. Of the 95 camps, 46 were of the standard type, while 49 were of the mobile type. The total accommodations for 19,464 families included 7,711 permanent shelters, 9,556 shelters, and 2,197 labor homes.

Personal characteristics of migrant families

One of the earliest studies of migratory-casual workers was that of John N. Webb in 1937, which study was a by product of the 1934 and 1935 National Research studies of the transient unemployed in the United States. The great majority of the 500 workers studied were virtual veterans of the road; nearly half of the workers had followed migratory-casual work for 10 years or longer; a large proportion had followed such pursuits for 20 years or more; and the smallest number of "old timers" were in evidence among

agricultural workers, while the highest number of "old timers" appeared among the workers who had habitually followed industrial employment.

Most of the 500 workers studied by Webb (for both agricultural and industrial employment) were between 20 and 45 years of age. With respect to nativity, the native-white group represented about three quarters of the total; the foreign-born group (white, Oriental, and Mexican) represented about one sixth; and the Negro group represented about one twentieth. The Mexican was found to be a most important element among workers following agricultural employment, while the small proportion of Negroes among the migratory-casual workers was explained by Webb as a reflection of the fact that employment on the road for this group has been limited by: traditional immobility of this group, and racial prejudice.

The predominance of families among migratory cotton pickers in Arizona was determined two years later by Brown and Cassmore in 1939. Of the total of 1,058 workers who were contained in the 518 migrant groups interviewed, 83 per cent were family persons, and only 17 per cent were unattached, while about two thirds of the migrant groups were families.

Migratory groups, in general, showed a tendency in Arizona to be younger than settled groups.

Youth was characteristic of both family heads and unattached persons. Statistics showed half of the family heads at 37 years of age and under, while only one in 10 family heads were 55 years of age and over.

With respect to racial differences, Brown and Cassmore determined that the majority of the migratory workers studied in Arizona in 1937 were white. Only five per cent of the 518 migrants included in the study were Negroes, and only three Spanish-American groups were accounted for. The low per cent of Negroes was explained as an under-representation, due to the difficulties encountered in securing accurate information on this group; however, it was definitely determined that the Spanish-American workers had come to the cotton fields of Arizona from the sugar-beet work in Colorado.

It also appeared that all of the cotton pickers had lived outside the state of Arizona during a part of 1937. The survey showed that 85 per cent of the part-year migrants had come from the states of Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri. Oklahoma alone furnished 54 per cent of the workers; Texas followed with 17 per cent; and Arkansas and Missouri supplied eight and six per cent respectively.

The typical pecan shellers of San Antonio, Texas, differed from the Arizona cotton pickers in



many respects, according to the findings of the 1940 study made by Selden C. Menefee and Orin C. Cassmore. With respect to racial predominance all of the 512 shellers interviewed were Mexicans. In the opinion of the interviewers, the group represented a fair cross section of the workers who composed the pecan shelling industry in 1938.

The majority of the workers had lived elsewhere in the state of Texas or had come originally from Mexico before coming to San Antonio for work. It was significant that only three per cent of the workers had lived in some other part of the United States before coming to San Antonio.

In contrast to the predominance of small families in the Arizona study of migrant cotton pickers, the pecan shellers tended toward large families ranging in size from two to 15 persons. The majority of the shellers were heads of normal, unbroken families; however, there were 158 broken families accounted for in the group, of which 82 per cent were headed by women. It was significant that only three per cent of the workers studied were unattached persons.

The prevalence of youth among workers also occurred in the study of the pecan shellers in which the average (median) age for men was 44 years, and that of women was only 33 years. The necessity for



speed and the large number of finger-maiming accidents were factors reported as influences against older workers continuing the occupation of pecan shelling. Among the pecan shellers interviewed it was also found that men outnumbered women by two to one.

In a later study by Selden C. Menefee, in 1941, the Mexican spinach workers of Crystal City, Texas, were also found to be members of large families. More than four fifths of the 300 families studied were of the normal type, with an average of 5.5 persons per family at the end of 1938. The "normal" family was described as including husband and wife, with or without children. It was also found that more than seven eighths of the families had one or more workers who were citizens, while most of the children were American-born.

With respect to the number of workers, the families studied had an average of 3.1 each. It was significant that the number of workers increased with the size of the family; for example, families of nine persons or more averaged more than five workers, while the largest family of 18 persons had 12 workers. The increase of the number of workers per family pointed to the common use of child labor among Mexican families.

The Crystal City spinach workers, like the

San Antonio pecan shellers, had lived in other parts of Texas, in the majority. Statistics showed 77 per cent as living in other parts of Texas before coming to the spinach center, and only one fifth of the family heads as coming directly from Mexico.

Health of migrant farm labor families

All reports and studies of the living conditions of migrant families engaged in agricultural labor have pointed consistently to poor health, and a high incidence of illness and death, to the extent that poor housing, lack of sanitary facilities, and poor food prevails. According to Edith E. Lowry, in a 1940 study of the migrants, these people are definitely outside the health service for several reasons: (1) health privileges are for those with legal residence and only in extreme emergencies are outsiders like the migrants cared for; such aid frequently coming too late, and (2) other factors such as unsanitary environment, ignorance, insufficient wages, all spell tragedy, for children born to migrant families.

A high per cent of illness was apparent, according to all reports, in practically every disease which is a direct or an indirect result of malnutrition -- diarrhea, enteritis, pellegra, tuberculosis. Poor housing and sanitation have furnished excellent

breeding grounds for communicable diseases, therefore, epidemics among migrant groups are difficult to control and dangerous to the surrounding communities.

In Arizona, the belief that the incidence of illness and mortality was exceedingly high among migratory cotton pickers was partially confirmed by Malcolm Brown and Orin Cassmore in a study completed in 1939. In one camp alone, a doctor treated, during the month of February, 1938, 200 patients for illness. This number composed only one third of the cases who were ill and actually in need of a physician's services.

In Texas, C. M. Evans reported in 1940 that the state as a whole suffered from the lack of medical care, and, further, that farm workers, the lowest economic group in the state, received less medical care than any other group. In 1937, with 4.7 per cent of the Nation's population, Texas had: 10.5 per cent of all deaths from diarrhea and enteritis, 11.5 per cent of all deaths from malaria, 11.2 per cent of all deaths from diphtheria, 12.5 per cent of all deaths from typhoid fever, and 19 per cent of all deaths from pellegra.

Further support of the above statistics was found in two studies: (1) the 1940 study of San Antonio, Texas, pecan shellers made by Selden C. Menefee and Orin C. Cassmore, and (2) a similar study

of migratory workers of South Texas made in 1938 and published in 1941 by Selden C. Menefee. According to the first study, the high rate of death and disease in San Antonio was due primarily to the extremely high rates among Mexican people. In 1938, San Antonio had 12.5 deaths per 1,000 population compared with a national average of approximately 10.7. There were 148 deaths from tuberculosis per 100,000 population in 1937 and 129 in 1938, compared with a national average of 54 in 1937. Of infant deaths there were 103 per 1,000 live births in 1937 and 81 in 1938. Facts of significance in the report were that Mexicans made up only 38 per cent of the population of San Antonio, but represented the group in which 72 per cent of all the tuberculosis deaths occurred. In 1938 the department of health indicated that some 1,448 cases of tuberculosis were reported among children under 13 years of age; of these cases 77 per cent were Mexican children.

In the 1941 study made in Texas by Menefee the prevalence of disease was found among the Mexicans of Crystal City. A story was told of an epidemic of diarrhea in Zavala County in which at least 2,000 persons became ill from April to July of 1939. When one family contracted the disease, almost invariably all the other members would catch it. Several infants died before the doctor could reach them. By the end

of June, 16 persons, 15 of whom were Mexicans, had died of diarrhea in the county. This epidemic was directly traceable to the poor sanitation in the Mexican communities.

In California, according to a 1942 release of the United States Department of Agriculture, in which excerpts of the study carried on by the California Bureau of Child Hygiene among migratory children, in 1936 and 1937, were included, migrant children appear to suffer from health defects to a much greater extent than do resident children. A total of 1,002 migrant children were studied and a comparable study made on 1,000 resident children examined in rural areas during the same year. A total of 1,369 defects were found in the 1,002 migrant children. There were 41 cases of communicable diseases, 32 gastro-intestinal ailments, 167 nutritional defects and 137 respiratory illnesses, or a total of 377 defects more or less attributable to inadequate diet and housing.

#### Education of migrant families

Education of migrant family members has been extremely limited, as recorded in the few reports of educational status of heads of families and in school records on attendance of children of migratory workers. According to a 1942 report of the United



States Department of Agriculture, the factors which prevent migrants from obtaining full educational opportunities may be classified as: the generally lower levels of rural schools; the added strain that a sudden influx of children places on existing facilities; the necessity of employing children of school age in the fields to augment the meagre earnings of their parents; the interruptions in regular school attendance induced by an unsettled way of life; the indifference of parents and school authorities to the attendance of migrant children even when it is presumably compulsory; and the diffidence on the part of parents and children toward school attendance where they do not have sufficient clothing.

The above reasons have been verified by a series of studies and reports on the extent of education among migrant families in the several states concerned with the problem. In 1939, Malcolm Brown and Orin Cassmore reported the school attendance of children of migratory cotton pickers in Arizona as poor in spite of a general law among most school districts, which requires school attendance after a period of two week's residence in the state. Resentment of alfalfa and livestock farmers against cotton growers and in turn against cotton pickers was attributed as the general cause of this condition. According to the



report of John Beecher, a Farm Security Supervisor of Florida Migratory labor camps, education for migrant children in that state has been "in competition with beans and beans are winning out". It was also noted that the highest per cent of migratory workers in Florida were Negroes, and that Negro children have less chance for education than any other group in the state. Extreme examples of fluctuations in school enrollment and of extent of education were cited. For example, a school enrollment of 485 in one week dropped to 20 the next week. In a Negro school of a lakeside town, half the pupils are repeating grades; three fourths of them are in grades one, two, and three. Moving from Florida to Texas, the same story prevailed in the reports of school attendance among children of Mexican pecan shellers of San Antonio and the children of Mexican spinach workers of Crystal City. In California, attendance records of schools in Imperial County indicated the fluctuations which confront educators in communities through which large numbers of migrants pass.

Results of the conditions surrounding the education of children of migrant workers have been aptly stated in the 1942 release of the United States Department of Agriculture regarding the backgrounds of the war labor problem: .

Inevitably the result of such circumstances surrounding the education of migrant children is retardation. Even where a conscientious effort is made to educate them, their retardation and irregular attendance make adjustment to the schools' routine and discipline most difficult. (10:83)

#### Income of migrant families

Income and earnings of migratory farm laborers have been consistently low throughout the United States. As expressed in the 1942 release of the United States Department of Agriculture on backgrounds of the war labor problem, estimates of annual income of family groups, varying with the time and locale of the data, indicate that the median family income of migrant farm workers may be expected to range between \$350 and \$400. This expected range is based upon earlier studies on the problems of migratory labor.

1937.--John N. Webb, in a study of 500 migratory-casual workers, found a range in income from maintenance to \$1,350, with most frequent earnings at \$250 a year. The lowest median earning (\$110 to \$124) was among agricultural workers, while the widest spread between low and high yearly earnings was among industrial workers.

1939.--Malcolm Brown and Orin Cassmore studied 518 migratory cotton pickers in Arizona and found the average income for both the families and unattached persons to be \$393, from all pursuits

combined, and \$459, from cash and perquisites. It was significant in this study that more than one third of the migrants earned less than \$300 cash during the year, and that, even when perquisites were added, more than one fourth still earned less than \$300. Within the next income group, analysis of data revealed that nearly one third of the families and individuals reported both cash and total earnings of \$300 to \$500 for 1937, of those who reported in this group, over one third were families containing four to 11 persons.

1940.---Edith E. Lowry drew conclusions from a study made by the Relief Administration of one state with its 12 month growing season and found the average yearly earnings of 775 migrant families to be between three and four hundred dollars in 1930, and between one and two hundred dollars in 1935.

1940.---John Beecher reported on family income of farm workers in the vegetable area of Florida. Income of white workers was found to be higher than Negro workers; the median for whites was \$455, while that of the Negroes was \$384. Of the whites, 56 per cent of the families received \$500 or less, and only 15 per cent received more than \$800. Among the colored families, 13 per cent had incomes of \$200 or less, 72 per cent had incomes of \$500 or less, and only five per cent had incomes higher than \$800.

1940.--Selden C. Menefee and Orin C. Cassmore found that, of 510 families interviewed, all persons of 12 years or older in a family were considered as workers, therefore, the incomes of Mexican pecan shellers in San Antonio, Texas, varied greatly with the size of the family. Total annual family income varied from an average of \$124 for single persons to \$637 for units of 10 or more persons. Large families with more than one worker were common among migratory workers. The average migratory family had five persons with 2.8 workers.

1941.--A later study by Menefee, reported family incomes of the Mexican spinach workers of Crystal City, Texas, as of 1938. Families who derived the major part of their incomes from beet work had on the average larger annual incomes than any other group. Cotton workers were not far behind the beet workers. It was found that both groups earned over \$500 cash per family in 1938. Families whose major source of income was other farm work, including spinach, averaged \$400 for the year 1938. The most significant factor related to income in this study was the size of families with respect to the number of workers per family. It was noticed that income varied strikingly with the number of workers in the family; for example, two-person families had an

average of \$338 in cash and kind; while 10-person families averaged over \$1,100 during 1938; one-worker families averaged \$344 in cash and kind; while families with five workers or more averaged \$983.

In all reports of earnings of migratory agricultural workers, it should be remembered that small incomes must cover transportation costs, high rent for the type of housing available in the area, and equally high food costs induced by transient and irregular purchasing habits.



### Chapter III

#### METHODS AND MATERIALS

In 1941 the writer attempted to answer some of the questions raised in the problem by the analysis of data on income and expenditure patterns of migrant families. These data were to have been secured from a sample of simple, family-account books which were designed to fit the needs of families "who follow the crops" in their efforts to earn a living. A series of conferences were held with the resident home economist located at each farm labor supply center in Texas for purposes of considering the problem of presenting such a record book to families with educational backgrounds. All of the home economists recognized the difficulties which would be encountered in presenting the idea of keeping accounts to families who had known little or nothing about their earnings and expenditures in the past. They also recognized the difficulties to be encountered in working with Spanish-speaking and non-English reading families; nevertheless, they were willing to experiment.

It was agreed that each home economist would work with at least 25 families who were in residence

for a period of at least three months, in an effort to secure summaries of recordings of earning and expenditure patterns of the families. Additional information on the families would be kept in the form of personal family histories. The progress of this experiment with family-account books was checked periodically. By July, 1942, it was discovered that few families, especially those who composed the Latin-American population, could read or write. It was also discovered that little accurate information on family earnings and money value of expenditures could be recorded by Latin-American homemakers, without the aid of the head of the household, due to the fact that the head of the household of this group had customarily handled all income and had either spent all earnings or directed their expenditure for the benefit of the family as he saw it. As a result of the problems encountered in obtaining accurate and complete records from a representative number of families, the plan for the analysis of family record-book data in solving the problem of the study was eliminated. The reasons for the abandonment of this procedure were: (1) the record book, although very elementary, was too difficult for most of the migrant families to keep because of their limited educational backgrounds, (2) the methods used in presenting the instructions could

not be controlled for effectiveness and, therefore, did not produce useful results, and (3) the approach to the major problem of determining the type of home management education program needed by families was faulty in that it pre-conceded the use of one educational technique which had not been tested for all educational levels.

As a result of failure in the first efforts to secure data adequate for solving the problem, the writer devoted time in 1942 to investigations of other sources of data on migrant farm labor families. Through interviews with regional and local housing center personnel representing the Farm Security Administration, certain federal records on families residing in housing centers and on families who had been in residence were found to be available. The approach to the problem was then reorganized. Information taken from such family records as were accumulated in the process of normal operations of the farm labor housing centers was interpreted in terms of needs for home management education. There were five main divisions in the methods used to answer the questions raised in the problem:

1. Determining the implication for home management of the annual population trends of the four farm labor supply centers included in

the study.

2. Investigating the types of housing provided by the Federal government in the four farm labor supply centers, for family use, for community services, and for public use.

3. Interpreting the implication for home management in the data concerning the characteristics of migrant and non-migrant families who had registered in and out of the four centers under observation.

4. Determining the annual income of the families who were in residence in the four Texas farm labor supply centers.

5. Interpreting the implication for home management in the health condition of the families who were examined and treated by the doctors and clinic nurses available to the four centers included in this study.

In determining the annual population trends of the Sinton, Robstown, Raymondville, and Weslaco farm labor housing centers the writer utilized the weekly population chart of the number of migrant-family registrations which was graphed for reference purposes in the Regional Office of Farm Labor Management Division, Farm Security Administration, Dallas, Texas. Information for the graph was cumulative by

weeks and by labor centers, on the basis of population reports submitted to the regional office at the end of each week. Cumulative records dated back to 1940 for the four centers included in the study inasmuch as they were the earliest centers constructed in Texas.

Population figures for 1940, 1941, and 1942 for each housing center included in the study were transferred to a new graph, one for each center in question, designed to a scale to show monthly fluctuations in population for three consecutive years. The implication for home management education in these fluctuations was then interpreted.

The data concerning the types of housing provided by the Federal government for the use of migrant families, for community use, and for public use were collected by two methods, interviews and the examination of files and records. The construction records of the Office of the District Engineer of the Farm Security Administration were made available for facts on the number, size, and styles of family units constructed; the number and kind of community service buildings with dimensions and descriptions of interiors; and the number and kind of other buildings constructed for public use. The photograph files of the Information Division of the Regional Farm Security Administration Office made available certain negatives



of the pictures of buildings constructed at the several housing centers. From these a collection of illustrative prints were developed. These pictures were supplemented with other photographs of housing for migrants by a group of prints supplied by the Washington Office of Information of the Farm Security Administration.

The third division of the methods involved in answering the questions raised in the problem included a series of steps in collecting data concerning the characteristics of the migrant and non-migrant families who had registered in the housing centers for farm labor, which were located at Sinton, Robstown, Raymondville, and Weslaco, Texas. The official FSA 240 1/, Registration Form, was used as the source of migrant-family information. A total of 888 information schedules were included in the study. The schedules composed approximately 10 per cent of the families who had registered in and out of each of the four centers from 1940 to 1943. The following information on migrant families was edited, coded, and punched on standard type cards used by International Business Machines Companies for convenience in tabulating results by machines:

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1/ See Appendix for copy

1. Size of families
2. Ages of family members
3. Sex of family members
4. Race or nationality
5. Citizenship
6. Grades completed in school
7. Weeks in residence in the center
8. Frequency of work of family members
9. Former residence
10. Type of housing accustomed to elsewhere
11. Number of families owning homes elsewhere
12. Number of families expecting to return to  
former residence
13. Employment history of families

The above data were thus compiled on migrant families and used for two purposes: (1) a background description of the families included in the study, and (2) their implications in the light of this background.

The official FSA 384 2/, Application for Admission to Labor Homes, was used as the source of information for non-migrant families. There were 162 family information schedules included in the study. The number composed all the families who were approved, by the family selection committee, for residence in

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2/ See Appendix for copy

labor homes at the four centers under observation.

The following information on non-migrant families was coded and transferred to cards for convenience in hand sorting and counting in tabulating the results:

1. Size of families
2. Ages of members
3. Sex of members
4. Race or nationality
5. Marital status of members
6. Grade completed in school
7. Enrollment in school
8. Former residence of families
9. Condition of former residence
10. Amount of household equipment
11. Assets and liabilities of families
12. Frequency of work
13. Income of families

The above data thus compiled were used for two purposes: (1) a background description of the families, and (2) the implications for home management education.

For purposes of determining the annual income of migrant families two types of information were accumulated from Federal records. The weekly employment and earnings reports of 10 different families for each week for four months at Raymondville, five

months at Robstown, three months at Sinton, and for five months at Weslaco during the year 1942 were summarized and tabulated. Information tabulated from these reports included size of the families, number of workers per family, wage rates, number of hours and days worked during the week, and the type of work. From this information the probable annual income of the migrant families was determined by size of families. The annual income of the migrant families was determined by size of families. The annual income of non-migrant families was determined from data already tabulated on non-migrant families. Income of families was then interpreted for implication for home management education.

The health status of families who had registered in and out of the four centers included in the study was determined by an analysis of the medical reports of the Texas Farm Laborers' Health Association, which association finances and manages all clinical operations and services at each farm labor supply center. Data compiled from the cumulative reports of this association for the years 1941 and 1942 were analyzed for the following:

1. Diseases caused by malnutrition
2. Diseases caused by lack of sanitation
3. Diseases caused by contagion

All diagnoses included a list of diseases by name and category. The information for the above mentioned cumulative reports was secured from the daily reports submitted to the regional office of the Farm Security Administration by the resident nurse at each of the four farm labor supply centers, under investigation, and was interpreted, by the writer, for the implication for home management education.



## Chapter IV

### ANALYSIS OF DATA

For purposes of determining and interpreting the implications for home management, data and information taken from such family records as were accumulated in the process of normal operations of the farm labor housing centers were compiled and organized under the following main divisions: (1) Annual population trends of Texas farm labor centers, (2) housing facilities provided in Texas farm labor centers, (3) characteristics of migrant farm labor families, (4) characteristics of non-migrant farm labor families, (5) annual income of families, and (6) health condition of families.

#### Annual population trends of Texas farm labor centers

As shown in the graph of the population of the center for farm labor at Sinton, Texas (Fig. 4), after the first few months following the official opening of this center trends in population for 1940, 1941, and 1942 were similar with respect to year round conditions and seasonal changes to be expected. At no time during the three years was the center lacking

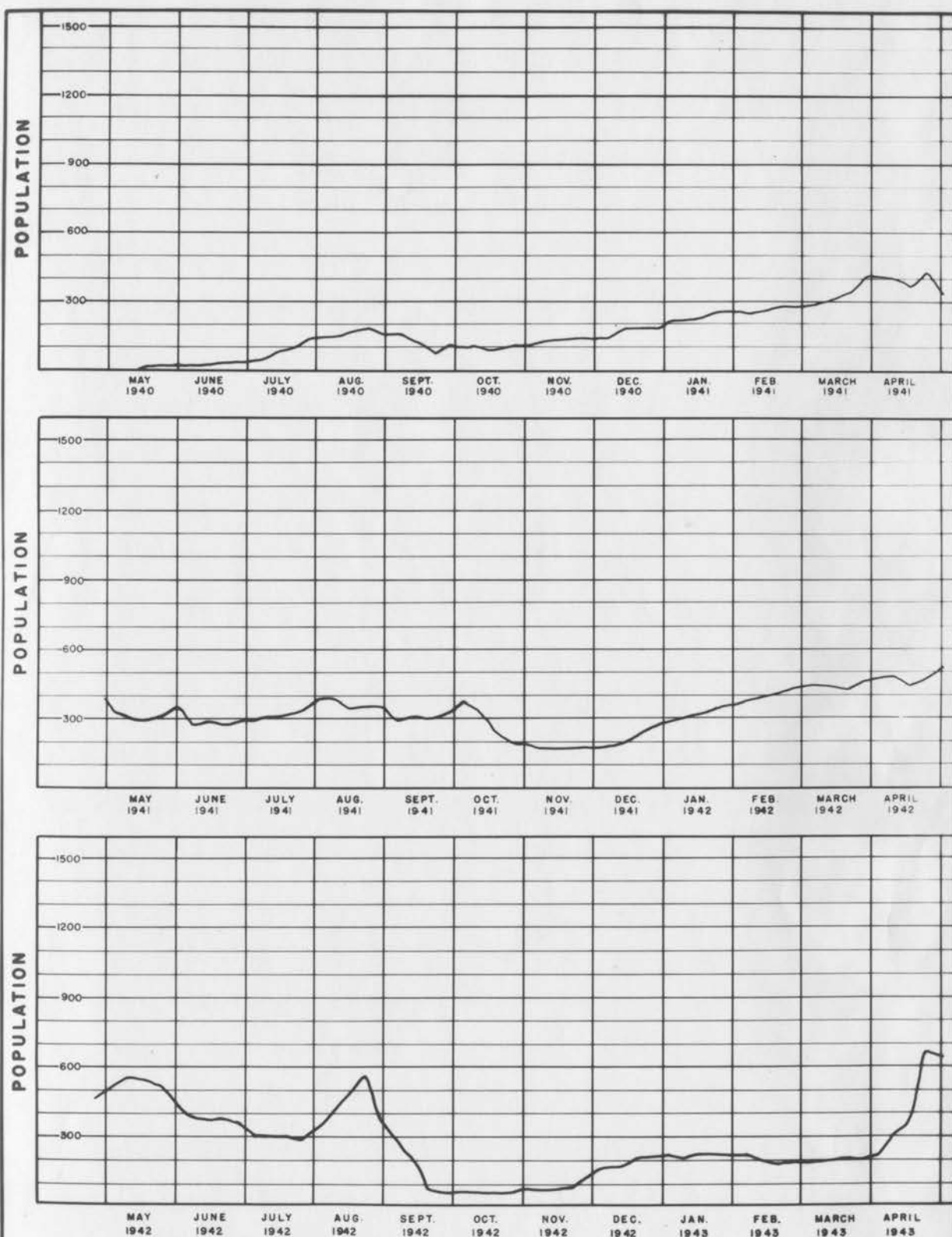


Fig. 4.--SINTON LABOR CENTER

in some population; however, lowest total numbers of people occurred repeatedly during September, October, or November of each year. It is significant that the highest annual populations occurred during April and the second highest in August with variations in numbers for the months between these two intervals. During April, 1941, the population was slightly over 400, in 1942 an increase to over 500 was noted, while in 1943 the number of people in residence rose to over 600. The month of August showed similar annual increases in peaks of population.

Observation of the graph of the farm labor center at Robstown, Texas (Fig. 5), disclosed a pattern of population trends definitely inconsistent in total numbers for the three different years studied, but also showed some similarity in seasons during which peaks occurred. The two greatest extremes in the total number of people in residence were found during 1940 and 1941 from almost no people during September, 1940, to almost 1,100 during April, 1941. Trends toward the smallest population occurred annually during September, October, and November, while trends toward the largest population occurred annually from December to April. In August and September, 1942, the population suddenly dropped from 1,000 people to below 200, the lowest population after the camp had started operation.

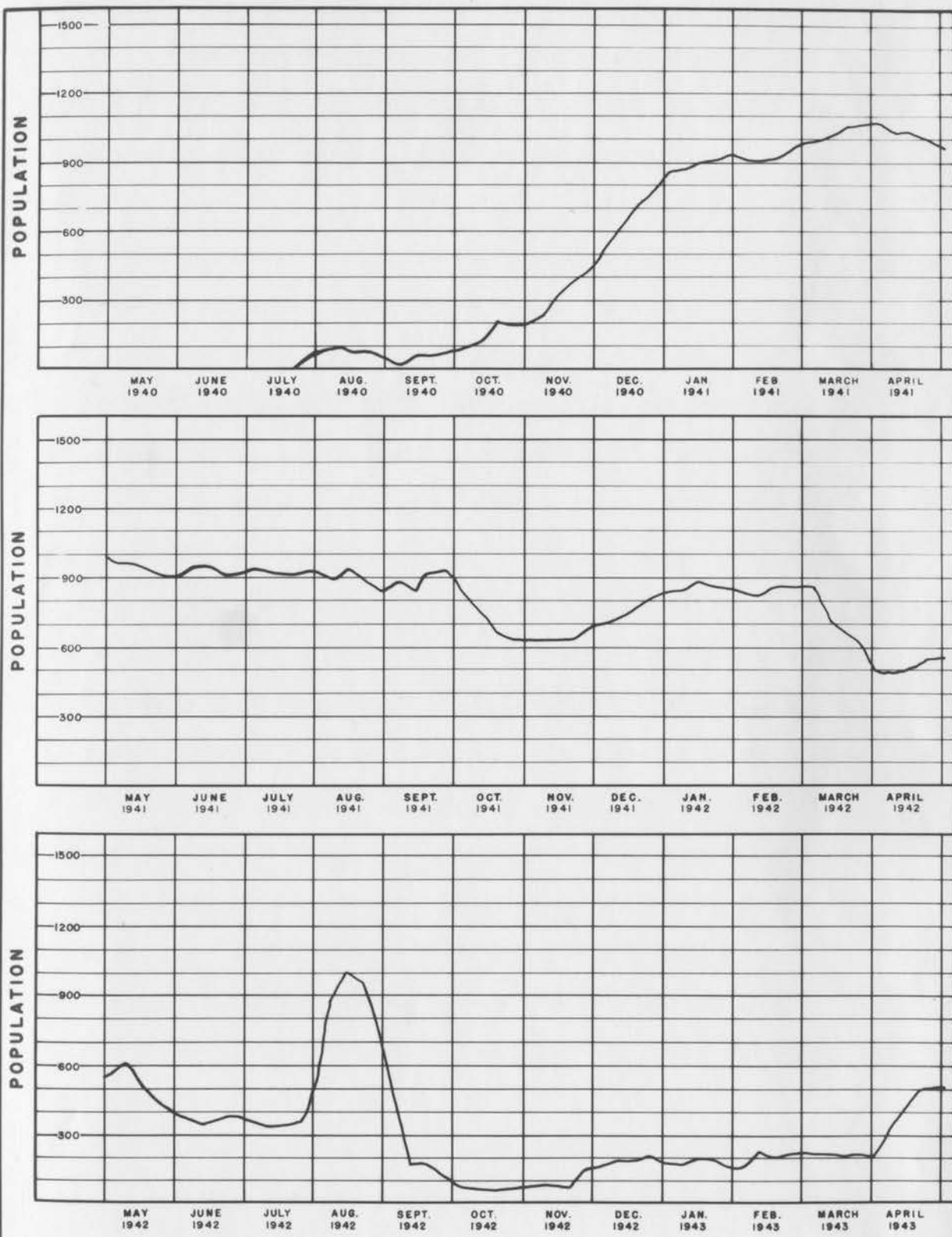


Fig.5.--ROBSTOWN LABOR CENTER

The population trends of the farm labor center at Raymondville, Texas, were clearly defined regarding seasonal patterns of work, as indicated in the graph for this center (Fig. 6). For the three years studied, 1940, 1941, and 1942, identical peaks and falls in population occurred, during the same months for the three years in which this center was observed, in a pattern of two high population periods for each year interspersed with periods of extremely low population. During July, August, and September, the cotton picking months, the highest annual population, which consisted of almost 600 people in 1940, 1,200 in 1941, and over 1,400 in 1942, was found in this camp. The second peak of the year for the Raymondville center was during the month of April. In April, 1940, the population was 400 at the highest number; in April, 1941, the highest number reached was almost 1,200; while in April, 1943, the highest population was slightly over 1,100 people. Irrespective of the differences in total numbers of population of this center, the seasonal patterns of sudden increases followed by sudden falls was clearly defined.

Trends in the population of the Weslaco, Texas, housing center for farm labor (Fig. 7) presented a pattern of some regularity, following the first few months of operations, even though the graph of this



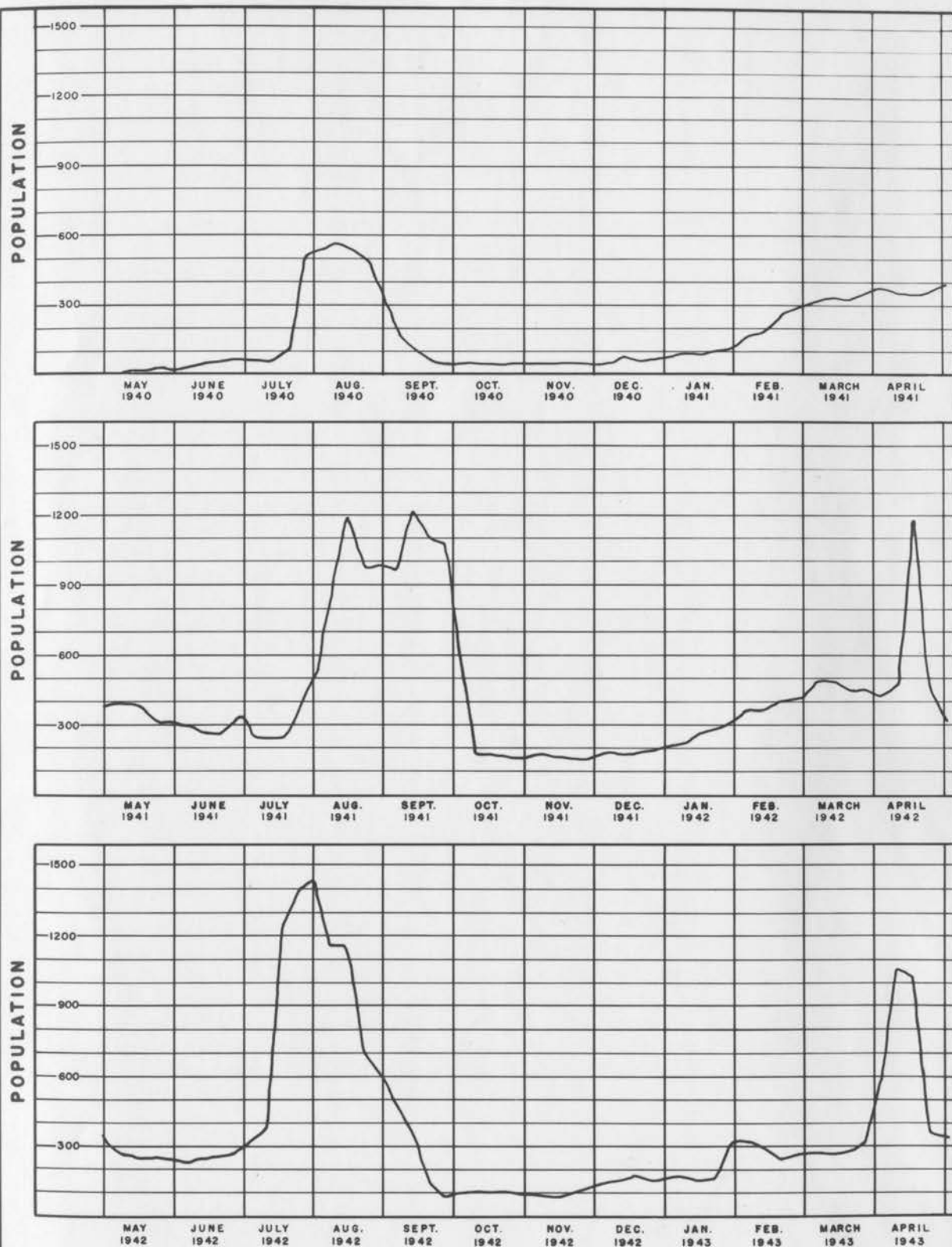


Fig.6.--RAYMONDVILLE LABOR CENTER

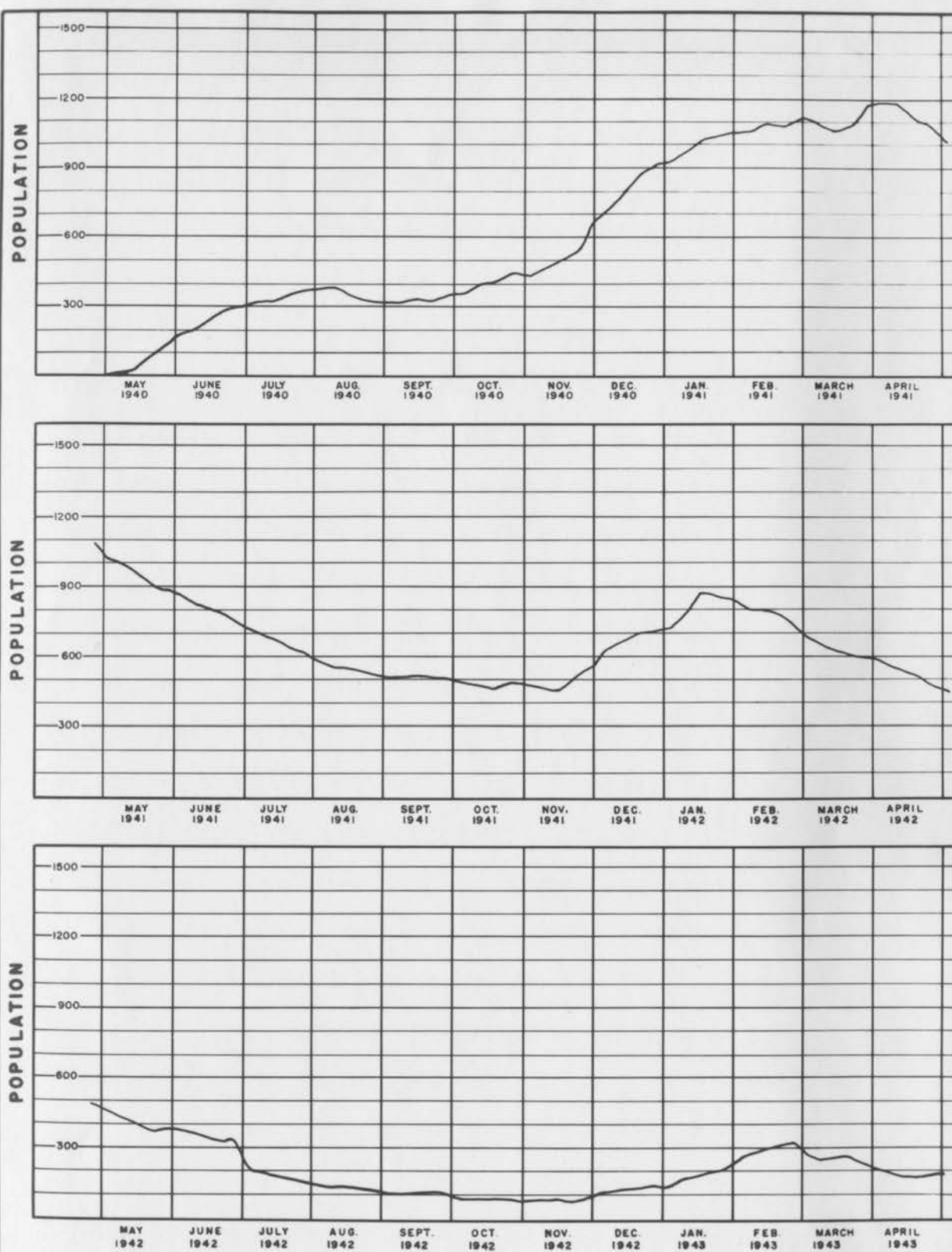


Fig.7.-- WESLACO LABOR CENTER

center showed considerable variations in the size of the peaks in population and in the months in which these peaks occurred. November was the month when increases in population started for each of the three years observed, 1940, 1941, and 1942. In 1940, the population increased gradually from over 400 in November to almost 1,200 in April. This period was followed by a gradual falling off in numbers which continued until September, October, and part of November of the same year when a low of around 500 was reached. During the latter part of November of 1941, the Fall increase noted in 1940 began to repeat itself; however, January was the month of highest population for 1942, when the largest number of people in residence was only near 900 in contrast to almost 1,200 in April of 1941. Consequently, the dropping off of population for the Spring of 1942 began earlier and continued through August. September, October, and November were the months of lowest population in 1942, when a population of 100 and less was maintained. Again, at the end of November, a rise in total population occurred for the third year, but the highest mark in population attained for the Spring of this year was only a little over 300 and lower than the lowest of the preceding year.

Housing facilities provided  
by the federal government

The construction of federal housing facilities for migratory farm labor was begun in Texas in 1939. In 1940, the first housing centers were opened officially by the Farm Security Administration at Sinton, Robstown, Raymondville, and Weslaco. In 1943, a total of 10 such projects are in operation in Texas under the administration of this agency. Facilities common to each of these centers for farm labor were found to be of three types, family, community, and public. All buildings were constructed of wood and metal and were designed somewhat in the pattern of a permanent community. Much similarity in designs and styles of buildings in use at the four centers included in this study was found. With respect to family housing the wooden row shelter was common to all except Raymondville; the labor home cottage was common to Robstown and Raymondville; and the labor home apartment was common to Sinton and Weslaco. The same style of community center building, clinic, and other public buildings was in use at each of these locations. In a typical camp the administrative office, community building, and clinic were located near the entrance gate and along the main drive, while family housing was arranged in sections and areas along the outside. Some ideas of this

arrangement are presented in Figures 8, 9, and 10.

Family housing.--The two typical types of family housing in use at the four centers included in this study were shelters and labor homes. A total of 198 family units of the shelter type were found at each center located at Sinton, Robstown, and Weslaco. These were buildings housing six families (Fig. 11) and were arranged somewhat in the army camp style, which meant that families were living rather close together (Fig. 13). At Raymondville a slightly different type of shelter was made of metal and designed as separate family units (Fig. 14). A total of 249 metal units were constructed there.

Inspection and observation of the interior of a typical wooden shelter unit found a family in occupancy (Fig. 12). The unit was 14 by 16 feet in dimensions and was used by the family as an all-purpose area for sleeping, eating, and storage of personal possessions. Each unit was well ventilated, screened, and wired with electricity. Running water and sanitary garbage disposal were available a few feet from the door and sanitary toilets and showers within a short walking distance. Furnishings provided for the family by the federal government were limited to an oil stove with an oven, two beds and springs, at least one chair, and shelf space for equipment.





Fig. 8.--Camp as seen from a distance



Fig. 9.--Row of shelters as seen from the entrance gate and looking down main street  
of the Sinton housing center



Fig. 10.--Several sections of row shelters showing arrangement near a sanitary unit,  
Sinton, Texas



Fig. 11.--Close-up of a front view of a row shelter section for six families



Fig. 12.--Interior view of a single shelter unit showing family in occupancy





Fig. 13.--Camp scene showing people, cars, and shelters  
in close proximity



Fig. 14.--Single unit metal shelters

For the more or less year-round farm laborers and their families, two types of labor homes were provided. A total of 75 cottages were constructed for this purpose at Robstown and Raymondville, and a total of 72 apartment units were constructed at Sinton and Weslaco. A typical labor home cottage (Fig. 15), 24 by 24 feet in overall dimensions, contained a combination living room and kitchen-dinette, two bedrooms, and a bath. The cottage was furnished with minimum furniture for family comfort and was provided with refrigeration. The element of convenience was predominant in such features as running water inside the house, sanitary bath equipment, sewage disposal, and built-in storage spaces for clothes, linens, food and equipment. Fig. 17 shows the style of built-in kitchen cabinet and the interior finish of walls. Fig. 16 shows the convenience of individual family laundry tubs provided on the back porch.

The second type of labor home provided at Sinton and Weslaco centers was in the nature of several six-family rows of apartments with each individual family apartment constructed in two floors within a 16 by 20 foot overall dimension (Fig. 18 and Fig. 19). Convenience was also a feature of the interior arrangement and of the accommodations provided in each family apartment. Behind each apartment there was a fenced



Fig. 15.--Front view of a labor home cottage



Fig. 16.--Back view of the same cottage showing laundry porch





Fig. 17.--Interior of a labor home cottage  
showing kitchen cabinet



Fig. 18.--View showing entrance drive to the apartment area of a housing center



Fig. 19.--Close-up showing front view of a six-family apartment row

yard which was used for gardens, children, or dogs. (Fig. 20) At the end of each row of apartments, laundry tubs were provided on a small porch. Sanitary garbage disposal was available nearby.

Community buildings.--A community-center of the same style and arrangement was located at each of the housing projects included in this study (Figs. 21 and 22). In the playground space behind this building a limited amount of standard playground equipment was isolated in a fenced area (Fig. 23). The interior of the center building (Fig. 24) was composed of a 72 by 60 feet assembly room, including the front porch, a 46 by 34 foot nursery and stage combination with utility rooms, and a community kitchen (Fig. 26). The front of the assembly room, or sections on both sides of the front entrance to the auditorium, was used as conference and meeting rooms (Fig. 25).

A second community need, emergency medical treatment, was met through the use of a building designed for clinical operations (Fig. 27). This building was located across the street from the community center, very near the administrative office. The overall dimensions of the four clinics varied somewhat, but, on the whole, the interior space division was the same. A typical clinic of the four housing centers included in this study was composed of



Fig. 20.--Close-up showing back view of an apartment row





Fig. 21.--Front view of community center building



Fig. 22.--Back view of community center building



Fig. 23.--View showing playground equipment in back of community center building

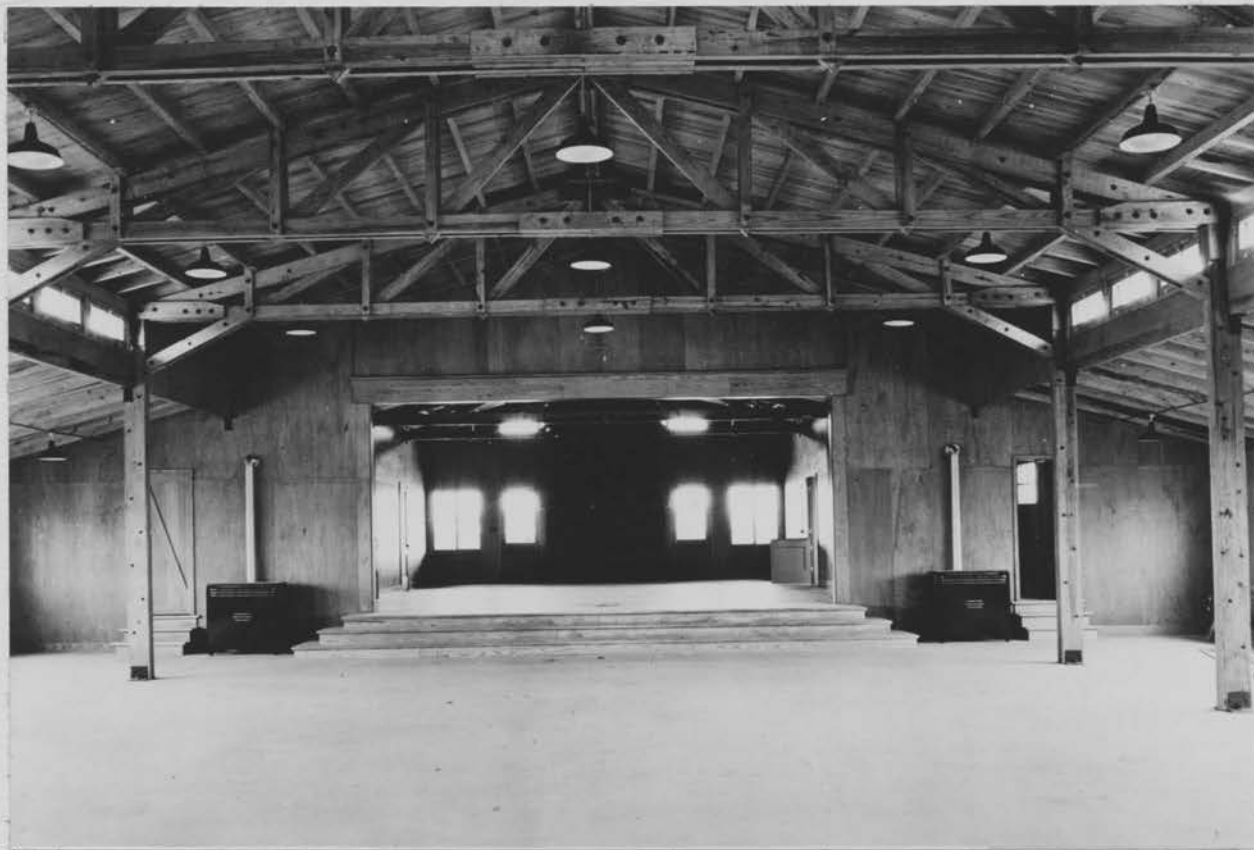


Fig. 24.--Interior view of community center building



Fig. 25.--Interior scene showing building in use by  
community council





Fig. 26.--Interior of a community kitchen showing women  
at work



Fig. 27.---Clinic building

a waiting room, dressing rooms, examination and treatment room, toilet rooms, an office for the nurse, and quarters for the nurse.

Public buildings.--In addition to the administrative office building (Fig. 28), which also housed the workshop and official garage, public facilities provided for the use of migrant farm workers and their families included a general utility building and five smaller buildings in which sanitary toilets were located. The central utility building common to the housing centers located at Sinton, Robstown, Raymondville, and Weslaco was quite large, 214 feet and six inches by 20 feet, and was designed for several functions. Figs. 29 and 30 show two views of this building. A laundry porch equipped with standard units of double tubs, including both hot and cold running water, was connected to the central structure (Fig. 31). In the opinion of the administrators of the four housing centers, this area was one of the most frequently used, as illustrated in Figs. 32, 33, and 34. The interior of the central utility building was divided into rooms especially designed and equipped for sewing, ironing, showers for both sexes, and baths for babies.

Five buildings, designed to house sanitary toilet facilities for both sexes, were conveniently



Fig. 28.--Administrative office, tool shed, and garage for government owned vehicles



Fig. 29.--Back view of utility building





Fig. 30.--Front view of utility building showing laundry equipment and clothes lines



Fig. 31.--Close-up of laundry tubs located on laundry porch  
of the utility building



Fig. 32.--Close-up view showing laundry tubs in use



Fig. 33.--Close-up showing one woman with a laundry bundle



Fig. 34.--Close-up view showing people making use of clothes lines





Fig. 35.--Typical building housing sanitary toilets



Figure 36.--Previous residence--A sixty-foot lot near Weslaco, Texas, where five families camped for a rental charge of fifty cents per week. Facilities were limited to one open toilet and water from a nearby filling station.



Figure 37.--Previous residence--Farm workers' village near Weslaco, Texas, showing children with a worker from the Home Missions Council.



Figure 38.--Previous residence--Typical "Tule" shack near Weslaco, Texas.



Figure 39.--Previous residence--Latin-American mother and child in front of improvised lean-to shelter.



Figure 40.--Previous residence--A typical Mexican frame shack, a car shed, and a worker from the Home Missions Council.



located for the families of five neighborhoods in the community arrangement (Fig. 35). All of these buildings were of identical design and construction.

Characteristics of migrant  
farm labor families

A majority of the total of 888 families included in this study of migrant farm laborers (Table 1) were of Latin-American origin, the second largest number of Anglo-American origin, while the smallest number was of the Negro race. It is significant that the number of Latin-Americans was almost double that of the Anglo-Americans.

Table 1.--NUMBER, AVERAGE SIZE, AND CITIZENSHIP OF 888  
MIGRANT FAMILIES, BY RACES, IN FOUR SOUTH TEXAS  
FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

NATIONALITY OR RACE	FAMILIES		SIZE OF FAMILY Average	CITIZEN- SHIP		NOT REPORTED
	Num- ber	Per cent		Yes	No	
Latin-American --	553	62.4	4.6	472	73	8
Anglo-American --	305	34.3	4.0	300	3	2
Negro -----	11	1.2	6.0	10	0	1
Other -----	1	.1	1.0	1	0	0
Not reported ----	18	2.0	4.7	7	6	5
	<hr/>			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
All Families ----	888			790	82	16

There was slight difference between the average family of the two prevalent races, as found in an average of 4.6 members among Latin-Americans and 4.0 members among Anglo-Americans (Table 1). Of the small number of Negro families, the average size was larger than that of the other two groups.

A negligible number of the 888 families were not citizens of the United States as shown in the low figures of 73 families among Latin-Americans and of 3 families among Anglo-Americans who had not applied for citizenship (Table 1).

An analysis of the ages of members of the 888 migrant families included in this study shows a predominance of young people (Table 2). The median age for all of the major groups was below 19 years. The percentage of individuals in the different age groups below 45 years was similar for both Latin-Americans and Anglo-Americans; however, it is significant that the percentage of Anglo-Americans between 46 and 60 years was almost double that of Latin-Americans. Of the children of pre-school age, the percentage of Anglo-Americans was slightly higher than that of the Latin-Americans.

Males predominated in the migrant families, according to the findings reported in Table 3, with a median age of 18.7 as compared with 17.8 for females.

Table 2.--AGES OF MEMBERS OF 888 MIGRANT FAMILIES, BY RACES, IN FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

AGE GROUPS	RACES								
	LATIN-AMERICAN	Per Cent	ANGLO-AMERICAN	Per Cent	NEGRO	Per Cent	RACE UNKNOWN	ALL FAMILIES	Per Cent
Under 2	156	6.2	95	7.8	0		6	257	6.6
3 to 5	158	6.3	82	6.8	0		3	243	6.3
6 to 10	369	14.6	147	12.1	10	16.7	13	539	13.9
11 to 15	409	16.2	188	15.5	13	21.7	17	627	16.1
16 to 20	416	16.5	179	14.7	11	18.3	12	618	15.9
21 to 30	375	14.8	171	14.1	9	15.0	12	567	14.6
31 to 45	430	17.0	185	15.2	13	21.7	17	645	16.6
46 to 60	169	6.7	147	12.1	3	5.3	5	324	8.3
61 to 75	36	1.4	19	1.6	1	1.7	1	57	1.5
Over 75	<u>8</u>	.3	<u>1</u>	.1	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>9</u>	.2
	2,526		1,214		60		86	3,886	
Median Age	18.1		18.7		18.7			18.2	

Table 3.--SEX OF MEMBERS OF 888 MIGRANT FAMILIES, BY RACES, IN FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS,  
1940 TO 1943 <sup>1</sup>

AGE GROUPS	RACE AND SEX															
	LATIN-AMERICAN				ANGLO-AMERICAN				NEGRO				ALL FAMILIES			
	MALE		FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE	
	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent
Under 2	80	6.5	61	5.8	41	7.1	36	7.9	0	0	0	0	125	6.6	99	6.3
3 to 5	73	5.9	76	7.2	32	5.6	35	7.7	0	0	0	0	103	5.6	114	7.2
6 to 10	171	13.9	164	15.5	66	11.5	62	13.7	7	21.9	3	12.0	253	13.4	233	14.8
11 to 15	213	17.3	156	14.8	83	14.5	77	17.0	8	25.0	5	20.0	314	16.7	245	15.5
16 to 20	172	14.0	198	18.6	88	15.3	66	14.5	7	21.9	3	12.0	272	14.4	274	17.3
21 to 30	177	14.4	157	14.9	77	13.4	61	13.4	3	9.4	5	20.0	261	13.9	231	14.7
31 to 45	220	17.9	173	16.4	82	14.3	78	17.2	5	15.6	7	28.0	318	16.9	264	16.8
46 to 60	97	7.9	58	5.5	89	15.5	35	7.7	1	3.1	2	8.0	190	10.1	97	6.2
61 to 75	25	2.0	10	.9	15	2.6	4	.9	1	3.1	0	0	42	2.2	14	.9
Over 75	3	.2	4	.4	1	.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	.2	4	.3
	1,231		1,057		574		454		32		25		1,884		1,575	
Median Age	18.3		17.8		19.7		17.3		16.7		25.0		18.7		17.8	

<sup>1</sup> Out of 888 families, 46 males and 38 females did not report race.

Among the major groups, the median age of the men was higher than that of the women except for the Negro race, in which the median age for women was 25.0 and for the men, 16.7. Little difference was found in the predominance of men in the different age groups under 45 years for all races. For Anglo-Americans, however, the number and per cent of men between 46 and 60 years of age were more than double that of the women. In the Latin-American group also, the percentage of men older than 45 years of age was higher than that of women. In the Negro group, however, a larger percentage of the women than of the men were older than 45 years.

According to the findings in Table 4, the educational status of the members of the 888 migrant families studied was extremely low. Of the children between the ages of six and 15 years whose educational level was reported 437 were not pupils during the regular school terms of 1940 to 1943; only 37 of the 575 youths between the ages of 16 and 20 years were participating in formal school education; and only nine adults were reported as registered with school activities.

The picture with respect to grades completed in school by the individual members, according to age groups, was extreme in retardation. Of 1,674 school-age children and youths, 310 had completed no grades in

Table 4.--EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF MEMBERS OF 888 MIGRANT FAMILIES, BY AGE GROUPS, IN FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

AGE GROUP	PUPIL DURING SCHOOL TERM			GRADE COMPLETED IN SCHOOL										Not Reported
	Yes	No	Not Reported	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 and Over	
Under 2 yrs.	0	213	44	219	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38
3 to 5 yrs.	2	200	41	204	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
6 to 10 yrs.	304	196	39	165	188	95	46	18	5	2	1	0	1	18
11 to 15 yrs.	358	241	28	63	44	116	126	100	71	48	40	12	6	1
16 to 20 yrs.	37	538	43	82	31	70	86	94	74	50	42	42	26	22
21 to 30 yrs.	2	518	47	119	35	72	68	61	46	44	35	35	38	14
31 to 45 yrs.	6	580	59	201	33	65	72	55	54	45	28	39	36	16
46 to 60 yrs.	1	301	22	102	14	31	29	33	25	25	25	17	16	7
61 to 75 yrs.	0	52	5	23	3	5	5	6	6	2	1	2	1	3
Over 75 yrs.	0	7	2	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
	710	2,846	330	1,183	348	455	432	366	282	216	172	147	125	160



school. Of 2,142 adults whose educational status was reported, about one fourth had completed no grade in school whatever. Among all groups considered, the majority of the individuals had completed no more than the fifth grade; slightly more than 200 individuals had completed the sixth grade; around 175 had completed the seventh grade; about 150 had completed the eighth grade; and only 125 had completed the ninth grade or over. The above findings were tabulated from a total of 3,141 children of school age and adults who were members of 888 families included in this study. An additional 330 individuals reported no information regarding educational status for the regular school term, while 127 individuals reported no information on grades completed in school.

The length of residence of migrant families, by weeks, in four south Texas farm labor centers varied considerably during 1940 to 1943, as indicated in Table 5. Of 168 families studied in 1940 the average weeks in residence was 44.0. About one third of the families remained in residence 61 weeks or longer, during this year, while approximately the same number of families remained in residence less than five weeks. Of 260 families included in this study during 1941 the average weeks in residence was 12.4. Within a frequency range from less than one week to over 80

Table 5.--LENGTH OF RESIDENCE OF 888 MIGRANT FAMILIES  
IN FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO  
1943

WEEKS IN RESIDENCE	NUMBER OF FAMILIES BY YEARS		
	1940	1941	1942
Less than 1	39	24	30
1	17	18	62
2	15	23	67
3 to 4	9	26	110
5 to 6	16	17	46
7 to 12	11	44	41
13 to 20	11	40	33
21 to 30	17	30	28
31 to 40	9	19	32
41 to 60	20	12	9
61 to 80	80	0	0
Over 80	1	2	0
Not reported	3	5	0
-----			
All Families	Number 248	Number 260	Number 458
-----			
All Families	Average Weeks 32.9	Average Weeks 12.4	Average Weeks 8.7

weeks, the majority of the families studied in 1941 remained in residence from seven to 40 weeks. The majority of the remainder resided in the four housing centers studied less than seven weeks. During 1942 a total of 458 families studied averaged 8.7 weeks in residence with the majority in residence less than five weeks. The period of residence for the remainder of the total of 458 varied from five to 60 weeks.

Previous residence according to states was reported by 887 of a total of 888 migrant families in this study, before their admission to the centers during 1940 to 1943 (Table 6). Almost all of the families had migrated within the state of Texas from various types of residences such as auto camps, grower camps, roadside camps, federally-owned camps, rented houses, trailers, homes which they owned, and other miscellaneous housing. Of 807 families who had resided in other Texas towns before their admission to the four housing centers included in this study, almost half lived in rented houses; more than one fourth had lived in miscellaneous types of houses; and only slightly over one sixth owned their own homes elsewhere. Grower, federally owned, and roadside camps were other previous residences reported by the balance of these 807 families.

Regarding previous residence in states other

Table 6.--PREVIOUS RESIDENCE OF 888 MIGRANT FAMILIES BEFORE ADMISSION TO FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

STATE	NUMBER OF FAMILIES BY TYPE OF RESIDENCE									
	Total Families	Auto Camp	FSA Camp	Grower Camp	Roadside Camp	Rented House	Other Trailer	Other Miscel.	Owned Home	Expect to Return Home
Texas -----	807	7	43	81	21	349	15	287	144	318
Oklahoma -----	17	x	x	1	x	5	x	11	0	2
Arkansas -----	14	x	x	2	x	8	1	3	1	2
Louisiana -----	2	x	x	x	x	1	x	1	0	1
Mississippi --	1	x	x	x	x	1	x	x	0	1
Others -----	46	3	6	3	2	16	6	8	4	6
	<hr/> 887	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 49	<hr/> 87	<hr/> 23	<hr/> 380	<hr/> 22	<hr/> 310	<hr/> 149	<hr/> 330

than Texas, only 17 were from Oklahoma, 14 from Arkansas, two from Louisiana, one from Mississippi, and 46 from other states which have not been mentioned. Considerably less than half of the families reporting previous residences said that they expected to return to their former housing after the seasonal work was over (Table 6).

Employment status of working groups among the migrant families of this study was determined according to those groups who were registered with the United States Employment Service for employment and were working at the time of admission to the four south Texas farm labor centers included in all investigations. The largest number of workers was composed of men and minors. More children between the ages of 12 and 20 were at work than any other age, however, 64 children were under 12 years of age. Of a total of 604 women, who reported employment status, only 94 were at work.

The men and older children were the most frequently registered for employment as indicated in Table 7.

The highest frequency of work of members of 888 migrant families, for the 30 days preceding admission to four south Texas farm labor housing centers, was also among the men and the children between the ages of 12 and 20 years. Women and the children who composed the age group between six and 12 were second

Table 7.--EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF WORKING GROUPS AMONG 888 MIGRANT FAMILIES IN FOUR  
SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

WORKERS	EMPLOYMENT STATUS					
	REGISTERED			WORKING NOW		
	Yes	No	Not Reported	Yes	No	Not Reported
Men -----	412	252	151	324	447	44
Women -----	50	335	222	94	426	84
Children -----	145	1,222	867	388	1,407	411
Under 6 -----	10	308	158	3	355	107
6 to 12 -----	6	295	228	61	343	119
12 to 20 -----	119	619	481	324	709	185



Table 8.--FREQUENCY OF WORK OF MEMBERS OF 888 MIGRANT FAMILIES IN FOUR SOUTH TEXAS  
FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

DAYS WORKED IN PAST 30 DAYS	NUMBER DAYS WORKED BY FAMILY MEMBERS					
	MEN	WOMEN	CHILDREN			All
			Under 6	6 to 12	12 to 20	
0	91	367	409	342	366	1,117
1 to 4	58	36	24	33	130	187
5 to 7	82	27	26	39	133	198
8 to 10	130	35	2	25	119	146
11 to 13	50	9	0	7	54	61
14 to 16	139	36	0	5	104	109
17 to 19	29	14	0	7	31	38
20 to 22	114	24	0	9	120	129
23 to 25	56	7	0	6	48	54
26 and over	54	10	0	9	29	38
	803	565	461	482	1,134	2,077
Average	13.2	4.4	.5	3.2	8.6	

in frequency of work, while the fewest number of days was worked by the children who composed the age group of under six years. The frequency of days worked for the month preceding camp admission by the majority of the workers in all working groups was within a range from zero to 10, while for the remainder of the workers the frequency of days worked varied largely between 14 and 16 and between 20 and 22, as shown in Table 8.

Regarding the previous agricultural work experience of the heads of the migrant families, as reported in Table 9, more heads of families of both Latin-Americans and Anglo-Americans had been engaged in migrant, non-migrant, and unpaid farm labor than had been croppers, tenants, owners, or in other agricultural activities.

Table 9.--NUMBER OF HEADS OF 888 MIGRANT FAMILIES ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURAL WORK BEFORE ADMISSION TO FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

TYPE OF AGRICULTURAL WORK	NUMBER		
	LATIN- AMERICANS (N = 553)	ANGLO- AMERICANS (N = 305)	NEGRO (N = 11)
Migrant -----	422	239	6
Non-migrant -----	330	152	5
Unpaid labor -----	235	200	5
Cropper -----	109	118	9
Tenant -----	90	132	2
Other -----	47	52	3
Owner -----	21	35	3
	1,254	928	33

Of the small Negro group which was included in this study, more heads of families had been croppers than other types of agricultural workers. In all of the groups included in this study more evidence of tenancy and home ownership was found among the Anglo-Americans than among Latin-Americans and Negroes.

As shown in Table 10, almost all of the Latin-Americans, Anglo-Americans, and Negroes who reported information on destination were going somewhere else in Texas. The southwest, excluding Texas, was second in rank with 20 Anglo-Americans who designated that area; the south was third in rank with only five Latin-Americans and only eight Anglo-Americans enroute to that section of the United States; while other sections were designated by a nominal number of families. Only three heads of families of both the Latin-American and Anglo-American groups designated military service as a future destination.

The kind of work expected by the migrant families in this study after leaving the housing centers was principally cotton picking and general farming (Table 11). Of the 600 families reporting, more than one half expected to secure employment at cotton picking and a little more than one eighth expected work with general farming operations. Fifty families expected to be engaged in the harvesting of

Table 10.--DESTINATION OF 888 MIGRANT FAMILIES AFTER  
LEAVING FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS,  
1940 TO 1943 <sup>1</sup>

DESTINATION	NATIONALITY OR RACE		
	LATIN- AMERICANS	ANGLO- AMERICANS	NEGRO
Texas -----	442	198	10
Southwest (Not Texas)-	0	20	0
South -----	5	8	0
Northwest -----	1	1	0
Northeast -----	0	0	0
Midwest -----	3	1	0
Rocky Mountains -----	0	0	0
California and Nevada -----	0	5	0
Pacific Northwest ----	0	1	0
Military Service -----	3	3	0
Total -----	454	237	10

<sup>1</sup> Destination for 187 families not reported.

fruits and vegetables, while the remainder of the 888 families, who reported their expectations, were contemplating work of varying natures. No information regarding kind of work expected was reported by more than one fourth of the total families studied.

Table 11.--KIND OF WORK EXPECTED BY 888 MIGRANT FAMILIES AT DESTINATION AFTER LEAVING  
FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

KIND OF WORK	Number	SOURCES OF INFORMATION					
		Employer or Contract	Crew Leader	Employment Service	Rumor or gen. know.	Unknown or none	Not Reported
Cotton Pickers -----	320	62	44	15	139	33	27
General Farming -----	117	38	0	1	55	6	17
Harvesting (Fruit and Vegetables)	50	17	1	1	27	3	1
Mechanical-Industrial -	31	16	0	1	10	2	2
Other Rural -----	33	15	0	0	8	8	2
Other Urban -----	21	11	0	0	2	2	6
Domestic -----	9	3	0	0	2	2	2
Ranching -----	8	4	0	0	4	0	0
Dairy -----	6	0	0	2	2	1	1
Cannery -----	5	3	0	0	2	0	0
Not Reported -----	288	7	1	0	20	64	196

Rumor, or general knowledge, was the source of information regarding the availability of work with the largest number of families; word from a potential employer, or a signed contract, was the second most frequently known source of information; the crew leader was the third most frequently known source of information as reported by 44 cotton-picker families; and the employment service was the least used source of information in that only 20 of the 888 indicated the use of the service. It was significant, however, that 64 of the 888 families included in this study had no source of information and reported none regarding future employment expected, as indicated in Table 11.

Characteristics of non-migrant  
farm labor families

Analysis of information schedules on 162 families approved for residence in labor homes in four south Texas housing centers for farm labor during the years 1940 to 1943 showed a predominance of two races or nationalities, Anglo-Americans and Latin-Americans (Table 12). Almost three times as many of the families who were accepted for labor home occupancy were Anglo-Americans as were Latin-Americans. The average size family was 4.1 for the Anglo-Americans, but the Latin-American family was larger with an average of 5.3 members. Most all the families of both



nationalities were American citizens as shown by the fact that only 11 Latin-Americans had not applied for citizenship, and that there were no Anglo-American families without citizenship.

Table 12.--NUMBER, AVERAGE SIZE, AND CITIZENSHIP OF 162 NON-MIGRANT FAMILIES, BY RACES, RESIDING IN FARM LABOR HOMES IN FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

RACE OR NATIONALITY	NUMBER FAMILIES	SIZE OF FAMILIES		CITIZENSHIP	
		Average	Range	Yes	No
Anglo- Americans ----	119	4.1	2 to 9	119	0
Latin- Americans ----	43	5.3	3 to 11	32	11
Other -----	0	x	x	x	x
Not Reported ---	0	x	x	x	x
All Families ---	162	4.4	2 to 11	151	11

According to Table 13, the findings regarding the age of members of non-migrant families show a predominance of young people. The median age for Anglo-Americans was 21.2, for Latin-Americans 15.5, and for all families 19.6. Of the children of pre-school age little difference in percentages for both groups was found, while of the children between six and 10 years, and 11 and 15 years, higher percentages for Latin-Americans were reported. Of the adults over

46 years the percentages for Anglo-Americans were more than double those for Latin-Americans.

Table 13.--AGES OF MEMBERS OF 162 NON-MIGRANT FAMILIES, BY RACES, RESIDING IN FARM LABOR HOMES IN FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

AGE GROUPS	RACE OR NATIONALITY					
	ANGLO-AMERICAN		LATIN-AMERICAN		ALL	
	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
Under 2	48	9.8	23	9.9	71	9.8
3 to 5	37	7.5	21	9.0	58	8.0
6 to 10	56	11.4	39	16.8	95	13.2
11 to 15	51	10.5	36	15.5	87	12.1
16 to 20	50	10.3	18	7.7	68	9.4
21 to 30	89	18.3	35	15.1	124	17.1
31 to 45	83	17.0	44	19.0	127	17.6
46 to 60	56	11.4	12	5.1	68	9.4
61 to 75	14	2.8	3	1.2	17	2.3
Over 75	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Reported	3	0	0	0	3	0
	487		231		718	
Median Age		21.2		15.5		19.6

Regarding the sex of members of non-migrant families living in farm labor homes of four south Texas farm labor centers, the number of males was slightly more than females for most age groups of both Anglo-American and Latin-American families during the period from 1940 to 1943.

Table 14.--SEX OF MEMBERS OF 162 NON-MIGRANT FAMILIES, BY RACES, RESIDING IN FARM LABOR HOMES IN FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

AGE GROUPS	SEX ACCORDING TO RACES				ALL
	ANGLO-AMERICAN		LATIN-AMERICAN		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Under 2	22	26	11	12	71
3 to 5	20	17	12	9	58
6 to 10	30	26	17	22	95
11 to 15	20	31	17	19	87
16 to 20	23	27	10	8	68
21 to 30	41	48	13	22	124
31 to 45	45	38	23	21	127
46 to 60	31	25	10	2	68
61 to 75	11	3	1	2	17
Over 75	0	0	0	0	0
Not Reported	2	1	0	0	3
Total	245	242	114	117	718

A slight difference in favor of females was apparent for both races in the age groups of under two, and 11 to 15. A few more girls than boys of Latin-American families, within the age group of six to 10, and of Anglo-American families, within the age group of 16 to 20, were in evidence, as indicated in Table 14.

An analysis of the educational status of the members of 162 non-migrant families shows a higher level than that determined for the migrant population, as shown in Table 15. With respect to the grade completed in school by the different family members of the age groups considered, only 63 out of a total of 588 individuals six years of age or over had completed no grade in school whatever. Of the individuals who had completed grade levels, the majority had completed grades from seven through nine. Among the 162 who reported regarding school attendance during the regular school terms from 1940 to 1943, 37, little more than one fifth, were not in school.

For both races which composed the 162 families in residence in labor homes the majority of married family members were over 21 years of age during the period from 1940 to 1943. According to the findings of Table 16, there was no indication of early marriages in either race since only 12 Anglo-American and only two Latin-American adolescent family members

Table 15.--EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF MEMBERS OF 162 NON-MIGRANT FAMILIES, BY AGE GROUPS, RESIDING IN FARM LABOR HOMES IN FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

AGE GROUP	PUPIL DURING SCHOOL TERM			GRADE COMPLETED IN SCHOOL												Not Reported
	Yes	No	Not Reported	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Over 9		
Under 2	x	70	2	70	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	2	
3 to 5	x	56	1	56	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	1	
6 to 10	67	22	9	23	29	16	10	8	3	x	x	x	x	x	9	
11 to 15	58	15	11	4	7	4	6	13	11	11	16	5	5	2	0	
16 to 20	11	51	5	5	2	x	4	4	2	4	5	9	7	19	6	
21 to 30	x	125	x	10	4	4	4	5	8	8	14	13	18	36	1	
31 to 45	x	126	1	15	5	12	6	6	7	9	11	18	17	18	3	
46 to 60	x	68	1	5	x	1	5	8	5	4	15	14	4	5	3	
61 to 75	x	17	1	1	1	x	1	x	x	2	3	1	1	5	3	
Over 75	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	136	550	31	189	48	37	36	44	36	38	64	60	52	85	28	

Table 16.--MARITAL STATUS OF MEMBERS OF 162 NON-MIGRANT FAMILIES, BY RACES, RESIDING IN FARM LABOR HOMES IN FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

AGE GROUP	MARITAL STATUS						TOTAL
	ANGLO-AMERICAN		LATIN-AMERICAN		ALL FAMILIES		
	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	
Under 2	x	48	x	23	x	71	71
3 to 5	x	37	x	21	x	58	58
6 to 10	x	56	x	39	x	95	95
11 to 15	x	51	x	36	x	87	87
16 to 20	12	38	2	16	14	54	68
21 to 30	80	9	34	1	114	10	124
31 to 45	80	3	41	3	121	6	127
46 to 60	55	1	12	x	67	1	68
61 to 75	14	x	3	x	17	x	17
Not Reported							3
	<hr/> 241	<hr/> 243	<hr/> 92	<hr/> 139	<hr/> 333	<hr/> 382	<hr/> 718



were married. This total of 14 was slightly over one fourth of the individuals between the ages of 16 and 20 for all families studied.

Analysis of the previous living quarters of the 162 families who were approved for residence in farm labor homes was made by types of residences. The largest number of Anglo-Americans had previously lived in houses, and the majority of the remaining numbers of this nationality had occupied either shelters or apartments of some sort. The reverse was true of Latin-Americans as indicated in the fact that over half of a total of 43 families of this nationality progressed to farm labor homes from the shelter units of the four centers of this study, and the fact that only 16 Latin-American families had previously occupied houses elsewhere (Table 17).

Table 17.--PREVIOUS LIVING QUARTERS OF 162 NON-MIGRANT FAMILIES, BY RACES, RESIDING IN FARM LABOR HOMES IN FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

TYPE OF RESIDENCE	RACE OR NATIONALITY		
	ANGLO-AMERICAN	LATIN-AMERICAN	ALL FAMILIES
House -----	70	14	84
Shelter ----	22	26	48
Apartment --	19	x	19
Other -----	6	x	6
Not Reported -	2	3	5
Total ---	119	43	162

The conveniences provided in previous living quarters of non-migrant families, who were in residence in farm labor homes, varied with respect to type of previous housing (Table 18). More variety in conveniences had been enjoyed by those families who had previously lived in houses and apartments than had been enjoyed by those who came to labor homes from shelter units. Regarding the special conveniences of houses and apartments of former residence it was found that indoor toilets, kitchen sinks, bathrooms, and the use of gas as a fuel predominated. Almost all houses, shelters, and apartments had water supply on the premises and were wired with electricity; the majority of houses and shelters had outdoor toilet facilities; but only two shelters and 41 houses had running water in the home. All but two apartments had running water inside the home.

On the basis of the number of rooms or amount of space previously lived in by 162 families, who were approved for labor homes in four south Texas housing centers for farm labor during the period from 1940 to 1943, a predominance of poor accommodations was common to all families. More than half the families came from residences of one to two rooms. Only 33 types of residences were appraised as "fair" housing, and only 23 houses and apartments together

Table 18.--CONVENIENCES PROVIDED IN PREVIOUS LIVING QUARTERS, BY TYPES OF RESIDENCE, OF 162 NON-MIGRANT FAMILIES, RESIDING IN FARM LABOR HOMES IN FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

CONVENIENCES	TYPE OF RESIDENCE							
	HOUSE (N = 84)		SHELTER (N = 48)		APARTMENT (N = 19)		OTHER (N = 6)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Water Supply on premises -----	67	15	43	6	18	1	3	1
Outdoor Toilet -----	54	31	48	0	4	14	2	2
Running water in home-	41	41	2	47	17	2	2	2
Electricity -----	39	44	47	2	11	3	4	1
Kitchen Sink -----	36	47	2	47	16	3	3	2
Indoor Toilet -----	31	52	4	45	15	3	2	3
Bath -----	30	51	3	45	17	2	3	1
Gas -----	26	54	1	47	9	4	1	4
Telephone -----	1	63	x	49	x	9	x	4

Table 19.--APPRAISAL OF PREVIOUS LIVING QUARTERS, BY TYPES OF RESIDENCE, OF 162 NON-MIGRANT FAMILIES RESIDING IN FARM LABOR HOMES IN FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

TYPE OF RESIDENCE	NUMBER OF ROOMS						APPRAISAL		
	1	2	3	4	5	Over 5	Poor	Fair	Good
House -----	6	16	20	28	5	7	40	22	20
Shelter -----	29	19	1	x	x	x	48	1	x
Apartment -----	1	7	5	4	x	x	3	11	3
Other -----	4	x	1	x	x	x	3	2	x
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	40	42	27	32	5	7	94	36	23

were appraised as "good", according to the results as shown in Table 19.

According to the findings of Table 20, very little household equipment and furnishings was owned by a total of 162 families who were approved for residence in the labor homes of four south Texas housing centers for farm labor from 1940 to 1943.

Table 20.--AMOUNT OF HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND FURNISHINGS OWNED BY 162 NON-MIGRANT FAMILIES RESIDING IN FARM LABOR HOMES IN FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

KIND OF EQUIPMENT AND FURNISHINGS	AMOUNT		Average Per Family	Not Reported
	Total Number	Range		
Tables -----	13	0 - 1	0.1	65
Chairs -----	528	0 - 10	3.3	2
Couches -----	199	0 - 7	1.2	2
Rugs -----	116	0 - 7	0.7	6
Lamps -----	147	0 - 6	0.9	3
Beds -----	235	0 - 8	1.4	2
Mattresses -----	289	0 - 8	1.8	3
Blankets and quilts ---	481	0 - 16	5.1	68
Radio -----	96	0 - 2	0.6	3
Sewing machine -----	24	0 - 1	0.2	66
Cooking utensils -----	582	0 - 24	6.9	78
Cooking stove -----	104	0 - 2	0.6	3
Washing machine -----	23	0 - 1	0.1	5
Vacuum cleaner -----	1	0 - 1	0.0	33
Flat irons -----	95	0 - 4	0.9	62

Of the highest averages of equipment and furnishings per family, little more than six cooking utensils, five blankets and quilts, three chairs, one couch, one mattress, and one bed was common to all families. No equipment and furnishings on hand was reported by large numbers of families.

Assets and liabilities of the 162 families residing in farm labor homes varied with respect to the size of families during the period from 1940 to 1943, as shown in Table 21. Highest debts and values of household goods were found to be common to the very small and very large families. For the families who averaged higher investments in automobiles the least amount of cash was on hand at the time of acceptance for residence in labor homes; but for the families who averaged the lowest investment in automobiles, the reverse was true.

Among the members of non-migrant families who were approved for residence in farm labor homes in four south Texas farm labor supply centers, it was found that the highest frequency of work prevailed with men. According to Table 22, only 14 women and 37 children of the 162 families in this study were employed at the time of admission to labor homes, while the majority of the men were employed. Of the children who were employed, the largest number was between the



Table 21.--ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF 162 NON-MIGRANT FAMILIES RESIDING IN FARM LABOR HOMES OF FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

SIZE OF FAMILY	AMOUNT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES									
	DEBTS		CASH ON HAND		VALUE OF H.H. GOODS		VALUE OF CAR		VALUE OF TRUCK	
	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range
1 to 3	115.98	0-1456	3.24	0-180	155.07	0-700	187.72	0-800	32.08	0-1,500
4 to 5	49.90	0- 868	32.49	0-250	116.41	0-500	73.38	0-500	75.47	0-1,200
6 to 7	36.63	0- 242	23.75	0-150	103.93	0-400	58.90	0-350	113.63	0-1,800
Over 7	122.48	0- 880	34.11	0-100	167.77	0-1000	14.33	0-250	152.22	0- 700

ages of 13 and 20 years, the smallest number was between seven and 12 years, and no children under six were at work.

Table 22.--EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF MEMBERS OF 162 NON-MIGRANT FAMILIES RESIDING IN FARM LABOR HOMES OF FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

WORKERS	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	
	Yes	No
Men -----	130	49
Women -----	14	158
Children -----	37	326
Under 6 -----	x	152
7 to 12 -----	7	97
13 to 20 -----	30	77

The average weekly income of migrant families was extremely low during 1942, according to the findings reported in Table 23. While the weekly income for the 550 families who reported from all the centers in this study ranged from \$0.0 to \$72.40, much lower averages for each center were noted. At Sinton the lowest weekly average for the year studied was \$1.50 and the highest was \$21.80, but at Robstown the lowest weekly average was \$4.40 and the highest was slightly over \$12.00. At Weslaco lowest average

Table 23.--AVERAGE INCOME, BY WEEKS, OF 550 MIGRANT FAMILIES IN FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, DURING 1942

SINTON			ROBSTOWN		
WEEK	AVERAGE	RANGE	WEEK	AVERAGE	RANGE
6/29/42	3.47	0- 8.00	2/ 7/42	9.00	.54-33.04
8/ 1/42	21.40	5.00-45.00	2/14/42	7.80	.56-16.00
8/ 8/42	21.80	12.50-43.75	2/21/42	5.10	0-19.20
8/15/42	14.00	3.74-20.00	3/ 7/42	4.80	3.00-10.00
8/22/42	21.60	5.70-46.12	3/14/42	11.80	7.75-21.00
7/ 4/42	4.90	0-14.05	3/21/42	10.50	.50-16.00
7/11/42	1.50	0-15.00	3/28/42	5.40	0-11.40
7/18/42	8.50	0-46.02	5/ 2/42	12.30	4.50-24.00
7/25/42	6.80	0-22.00	5/ 9/42	12.60	2.60-31.00
			5/16/42	11.90	4.80-18.00
			5/23/42	10.00	4.32-23.10
			5/30/42	4.40	3.25- 8.40

Table 23.--AVERAGE INCOME, BY WEEKS, OF 550 MIGRANT FAMILIES IN FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, DURING 1942--Continued

RAYMONDVILLE			WESLACO		
WEEK	AVERAGE	RANGE	WEEK	AVERAGE	RANGE
2/ 9/42	13.72	0-67.00	1/ 4/42	4.30	0-18.00
2/16/42	5.15	0-20.00	1/10/42	1.00	0- 5.64
2/23/42	6.57	0-14.43	1/24/42	5.23	0-24.00
6/ 5/42	3.58	0-26.48	1/31/42	10.59	0-72.40
6/20/42	13.23	8.00-23.10	3/ 7/42	9.77	0-45.00
7/ 4/42	7.56	0-20.00	3/14/42	11.00	0-27.00
7/11/42	5.12	0-17.00	3/21/42	12.00	0-18.00
7/18/42	5.79	5.00-27.00	3/28/42	13.96	0-23.00
7/23/42	5.47	6.00-12.50	5/ 2/42	13.02	.75-62.15
7/26/42	20.84	13.00-47.00	5/ 9/42	9.57	0-18.00
8/ 1/42	12.92	5.00-26.00	5/16/42	11.20	0-17.00
8/15/42	18.96	5.00-26.09	5/23/42	10.95	0-34.40
2/22/42	18.19	11.40-32.40	5/30/42	14.23	8.00-24.80
			7/ 4/42	8.93	0-17.40
			7/11/42	7.08	0-15.40
			7/18/42	19.00	0-30.00
			7/25/42	10.95	0-64.00
			8/ 1/42	15.73	8.00-29.40
			8/ 8/42	13.17	3.50-16.80
			8/15/42	17.27	9.37-33.00
			8/22/42	11.23	0-22.50

weekly earnings were \$1.00 in contrast to \$19.00 as the highest, while at Raymondville lowest average earnings were \$3.58 in contrast to the highest of \$20.84.

The results of an analysis of the income of non-migrant families from 1940 to 1943 show variations by years as well as by size of families. Table 24 shows highest average earnings for 1940 and 1941 by families of four and five members in contrast to highest average earnings for 1942 by families smaller than four and larger than seven. It is significant that the range in family income increased from 1940 to 1943 as reflected in the figures for the consecutive years. For 1940 the incomes ranged from \$100 to \$1,718, for 1941, from \$0.0 to \$1,900, and for 1942, from \$0.0 to \$2,350.

The prevalence of disease among migrant families who have received medical examinations and treatment in the clinics of four South Texas farm labor centers is shown in Table 25. According to these findings, more than 50 per cent of all clinical diagnoses was found to be diseases caused directly or indirectly by malnutrition, lack of sanitation, and contagion among 7,202 diagnoses. Of the diseases in these categories the highest number and per cent of cases were found to be respiratory, stomach and intestines, skin, and eye types. A total of 867

Table 24.--INCOME, BY SIZE OF FAMILY, OF 162 NON-MIGRANT FAMILIES RESIDING IN FARM LABOR HOMES OF FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, 1940 TO 1943

SIZE OF FAMILY	INCOME					
	1940		1941		1942	
	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range
1 to 3	\$525	\$100-\$1,310	\$851	\$ 6-\$1,310	\$614	\$200-\$1,200
4 to 5	\$587	\$140-\$1,718	\$1,246	\$ 0-\$1,900	\$581	\$ 0-\$2,350
6 to 7	\$474	\$120-\$1,320	\$535	\$120-\$1,715	\$493	\$120-\$1,800
Over 7	\$514	\$225-\$ 700	\$689	\$200-\$1,526	\$701	\$350-\$1,400



Table 25.--DISEASES CAUSED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY BY MALNUTRITION, LACK OF SANITATION, AND CONTAGION AMONG 888 MIGRANT FAMILIES RECEIVING MEDICAL TREATMENT IN FOUR SOUTH TEXAS FARM LABOR CENTERS, DURING 1941 AND 1942.

DISEASES	NUMBER (N=3,886)	PER CENT	PER CENT (All Diagnoses)
Respiratory -----	867	22.7	12.02
Stomach and Intestines ---	829	21.7	11.50
Skin -----	646	16.9	8.96
Eye -----	404	10.6	5.60
Diarrhea -----	175	4.6	2.42
Colds -----	169	4.4	2.34
Syphilis -----	111	2.9	1.54
Other parasitic -----	103	2.7	1.43
Influenza -----	101	2.6	1.40
General Malnutrition -----	81	2.1	1.11
Mumps -----	77	2.0	1.00
Measles -----	70	1.8	.97
Chicken pox -----	40	1.0	.55
Nervous -----	37	.9	.51
Tuberculosis -----	24	.6	.33
Whooping cough -----	21	.5	.29
Gonococcus Infection -----	14	.3	.19
Anemia -----	9	.2	.12
Pellegra -----	8	.2	.11
Obesity -----	5	.1	.06
Dysentary -----	4	.1	.05
Rickets -----	3	.07	.04
Poisoning -----	2	.07	.04
Hookwork -----	2	.05	.02
Goiter -----	1	.02	.01
Total -----	3,804	100.00	53.11
-----			
All clinical diagnoses ---	7,202	53.1	

respiratory cases composed 22.7 per cent of all diseases studied, 3,804; a total of 829 stomach and intestine difficulties composed 21.7; a total of 646 skin diseases composed 16.9 per cent; and a total of 404 eye diseases composed a total of 10.6 of the diseases included in this study.

The second highest number and percentage of diseases were composed of between 100 and 175 cases of such diseases as diarrhea, common colds, syphilis, other parasitic, and influenza. Other diseases attributive to malnutrition, lack of sanitation, and contagion among migrant families were found in numbers varying from 81 to as low as one, and in percentages varying from 2.1 to as low as .02.

## Chapter V

### DISCUSSION

In answering the questions raised in this study the vast amount of social data and information analyzed and presented in the preceding chapter has been interpreted for implications for education in home management. The results and findings regarding population, housing, characteristics, income, and the health condition of families point to the following conclusions regarding the needs of families for home management education in Texas housing centers for farm labor:

#### Migrant families

Migrant families move often.--As evidenced in Figs. 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the four housing centers for farm labor which were included in this study and observed from 1940 to 1943, trends in population "peaks" and "falls" differed in time of year, frequency of change, and size. These differences are attributed, by the authorities who were questioned on the subject, to prevailing crops in the area of each housing center, to sudden weather changes, and to fluctuations in market prices for the different crops. Even though there was considerable variation in the time and volume of

fluctuations in the population of all centers under observation, the season changes which occurred at each center were sufficiently regular for the verification of annual expectations of numbers of people requiring housing. It was significant that some population can be expected on a year round basis at all centers; however, spectacular "peaks" and "falls" can be expected at Robstown and Raymondville during the cotton picking season and during the harvest of certain vegetables, and at Weslaco in proportion to seasonal demands for the fruit harvest. Therefore any educational program should be planned for these peak periods and consist of short flexible units.

Because migrant families move around often few pieces of home equipment and little in the way of home furnishings can be carried with them. The migrant homemaker is constantly faced with the worry and tension of moving to some vague and questionable destination, with the problems of packing and unpacking few possessions, with the wear and tear of what little the family can afford to own, with possible ways and means for protecting small quantities of food from pests and spoilage, with problems of keeping the family clean and fairly decently clothed under the hardships of travel and camping out, and with many other problems which no one but a migrant can imagine. As evidenced

by the habitual manner in which families on the road have lived and traveled in the past throughout the United States (12) these tensions and problems are common to all families who are engaged in seasonal agricultural employment. On the basis of such needs education in home management, for the period of time in which families are in residence in labor housing centers, should approach solutions to the specific problems of the particular migrant family. Implications for training in quick, easy, and compact methods for packing, in the care of equipment and bedding while on the road, in the sanitary care and use of food, in methods of camp cookery, and in roadside care and maintenance of family clothing are evident in terms of units short in content.

Migrant families come from poor housing elsewhere.--According to the findings regarding characteristic backgrounds of residence (Table 6), almost all the families studied were from other points within Texas. Of 807 families who had resided in other Texas towns before their admission to the four housing centers included in this study, almost half had lived in rented houses and one fourth in miscellaneous houses. Slightly over one sixth owned homes elsewhere. Considerably over half the families who reported previous residence expected to return to their residences after the



seasonal work was completed. From the writer's observations in frequent travel throughout the state of Texas, rented and miscellaneous residences available to migrants usually are of the types pictured in Figs. 36, 37, 38, 39, and 40. Considering this background of living in terms of education for home management, education for satisfactory family living in two situations is needed. Not only must the migrant family be assisted in adjustments and management for living within the housing center, but the family needs assistance in improving living within some type of residence elsewhere in Texas. Observation of the illustrations cited points to the need for education in the simple principles of: dishwashing; laundering; food preparation; bathing; disposal of waste food, water, and human refuse; and the physical care of children. Education in these principles needs to be in terms of experiences meaningful under the circumstances of limited home furnishings and equipment for maintaining standards of health and sanitation, therefore units of work in home management education need first of all to provide experiences in improvising low and no cost equipment needed. Experiences in building a wash bench the correct height for the woman who is doing the family washing, in constructing devices for carrying water to the wash tubs with the least physical strain



involved, in improvising kitchen utensils that are sanitary and useable from old oil cans and such available materials, in constructing a simple shower bath out of low and no cost materials, and in methods for making an iceless milk cooler for the baby's milk, are some of the needs implied for home management education in relationship to the housing to which families expect to return.

Housing provided in centers demands radical family adjustment.--Considering the background of previous housing of migrant farm workers in Texas, the housing facilities provided by the federal government in farm labor centers are excellent even though they cannot be classified as "good" according to accepted living standards for most groups. With respect to family housing two types in use at the four centers in this study were shelters and labor homes. Shelters were of two types, wood and metal construction; however, the use of wooden types prevailed in all centers except Raymondville where metal units were designed for the shelter of migrants. Wooden shelters were designed in "row style" consisting of six units per row. The individual family unit consists of a 14 by 16 foot room which is used for all purposes, sleeping, eating, and the storage of personal possessions. Each unit was wired with electricity, screened, and well ventilated. Running

water and sanitary garbage disposal were available a few feet from the door and sanitary toilets and showers were within walking distance. The furnishings provided for individual family use by the federal government were limited to a few pieces, such as an oil stove with an oven, two beds and springs, at least one chair, and shelf space for kitchen supplies and equipment. Similar furnishings were provided for the metal units at Raymondville. In view of the limited space and equipment available for family use in each shelter unit and in view of the close contact of families which is unavoidable because of the design of the row shelters, education in home management should include management for sleeping, for privacy, for storage, and for cleanliness. In a 14 by 16 foot space where the entire family must eat, sleep, and store all the family possessions innumerable problems in management will arise. A separate bed for the baby needs to be constructed out of waste lumber picked up at lumber yard waste lots or a box-crate on legs present opportunities for education in the hygiene and safety in where baby sleeps. Where families have habitually mixed children of all ages and all sexes in the same beds, problems of separating the sexes for sleeping in a room that will hold just so much and no more in floor space are found. Education for management of the sleeping problems of

the migrant family needs to provide experiences in constructing and improvising trundle beds, bed rolls for the floor, and double-decker bunks and such devices as solutions to the problem.

The storage of family clothing, bedding, equipment and miscellaneous small articles becomes a problem for home management education to solve. How best to use every inch of available wall and corner space in different ways of improvising closets is a fundamental need of migrant families in their new housing situation. The storage of the family food supply also presents a problem for home management education to solve to the extent that families can be guided into developing home constructed ice boxes or waterless coolers and to the extent that families can be guided into practices of separating food from trash, pots and pans, and clothing. After food has been used by the family the disposal of food waste presents a problem of education for families who have been in the habit of using the front door or a window as the garbage can. How and where the family washes dishes and disposes of dish water becomes the concern of home management for purposes of protecting the health of the family and the lifetime of public property likewise.

With close contact within the family and between families inevitable because of crowded

conditions and close proximity of shelters, it is evident that home management education should consider the problems of human relationships. Management of time and energy with respect to the family while at work and at play becomes a problem for the concern of home management education to the extent that "frictions" can be avoided and eliminated within the family and between families who are close neighbors. Guidance of adults, youth, and children regarding satisfactory family and community recreation as an outlet for surplus energy after work is done appears as a possibility for education in consideration for others and the respect of individual or group rights.

In addition to family housing for migrants, all farm labor centers provided facilities for community or public use which consist of a community center building, a clinic, a central utility building, and units containing sanitary toilets. The community center building contains interior space and equipment for general assembly meetings, day nursery, and quantity food preparation and service. Playground space and a limited amount of standard playground equipment were the principal features of the exterior of this building. The typical clinic for all the centers was designed to consist of rooms for reception, dressing, examination and treatment, bathing and the personal care of patients.

The central utility building common to all centers was designed to provide space and equipment for laundry, sewing, ironing, and bathing purposes. Other public buildings, five in number, are conveniently located for the families of the different areas of the community, and were equipped with sanitary toilet facilities for both sexes.

In view of the limited background of migrant families with respect to the use and care of modern equipment and facilities, as well as in ability to share, participate, and cooperate in group activities which can serve a common purpose, home management education should consider needs for education and training for problems of adjustment to the new environment. Guidance in the simple practices involved in the use of hot and cold water, soaps, and bleaches in laundering different materials, in the use and care of electric irons, in the use and care of sewing machines, in the use and care of bathing facilities, and even in how to take a bath, are fundamental needs of families using the central utility building. Regarding the community center building and the clinic, guidance and some leadership in the use of the community kitchen and the equipment of this area for purposes of food conservation, community feeding and care of pre-school age children of working parents, and in participation in



health improvement programs are essential needs of all families.

Migrant families are largely of the Latin-American group.--In the light of findings concerning personal characteristics of 888 migrant families included in this study certain other implications for education in home management are noted. As evidenced in the findings of Table 1, the migrant population of the four centers studied was largely Latin-American. Anglo-Americans composed the second largest number of the population, while Negroes composed the smallest number. The number and per cent of Latin-Americans were more than double that of Anglo-Americans. Since the population was composed of two races in the majority and largely of Latin-Americans within this majority, special consideration needs to be given to the differences in language, habits, social customs, and interpretations of standards of living of these two groups. Therefore home management education must adapt methods to cultural differences. Since Latin-Americans and Anglo-Americans live in the same housing centers under conditions which require close communication and participation, all methods utilized in presenting home management education courses need to be developed for the maximum of democratic thinking.

No special meanings for home management



education were implied regarding extreme differences in size of families of the two major groups in population. Contrary to the general belief that Latin-American families are larger than families of other races in Texas, the average migrant family of Latin-American origin was little larger than the average family of Anglo-American origin. According to the findings of Table 1, in the total of 888 families included in this study, Latin-Americans averaged 4.6 members per family, Anglo-Americans averaged 4.0, while the small number of Negro families averaged more members per family than the other two races. For all races, however, it is apparent that home management education needs to be concerned with the problems of the over-sized family in the management of satisfactory living within limited housing space.

Migrant families are composed of young people.--The typical migrant family was composed largely of young people regardless of race, with a median age below 19 years for all of the major groups. As evidenced in the findings of Table 2 concerning the Anglo-American family, however, more individuals between 46 and 60 years of age and below school age were found than were found in the Latin-American family. The findings of Table 3 showed a predominance of male family members with a median age of 18.7 as compared with 17.8 for the females. Among the major groups the median

age for the men was higher than that of the women except for the Negro race, in which the median age for the women was 25.0 and for the men, 16.7. In the different age groups under 45 years of age little difference was found in the predominance of men for all races. For Anglo-Americans, however, the number and per cent of men between 46 and 60 years were double that of women. The same situation was true for the Latin-Americans, but did not hold true for the Negro group in which more women than men were older than 45 years.

The above findings regarding older age of migrant men coupled with the writer's frequent observation that migrant women as a group look older than their years point to the hardships of migration as contributing factors to a short life of women in the migrant population. Ages of migrant women point to specific needs in education for home management with units of work and guidance in the solution of problems in family spacing, and personal health during pregnancy as related to food eaten and clothing worn, assistance in managing work at the proper working heights, the construction and wearing of supports where needed, and in general health and nutrition.

Migrant family members are poorly educated.-- As reflected in the findings regarding the educational status of the members of the 888 families in Table 4,

437 of the children between the ages of six and 15 years were not in school during the regular school terms of 1940 to 1943. Only 37 of the 575 youths between the ages of 16 and 20 years and only nine adults were participating in formal school activities. About one fourth of the adults and 310 out of 1,674 school age children had completed no grade in school, while of those individuals who had completed grades in school, the majority had completed no higher than the fifth grade. It is significant that the higher the grade, the fewer the people who had completed it. One fourth of the adults among the migrant families had completed no grade in school; the fifth grade was the highest average educational level for all groups. Low educational status implies that education for home management must be adapted in content and in vocabulary to uneducated groups. Since the majority of the uneducated population was of the Latin-American group, intensified problems of language differences offer a challenge to any educational program which is planned to meet the particular needs of the migrant population. Courses in home management for migrant adults must be simple and must be presented in small amounts with emphasis on visual education as the chief learning technique for families with low educational levels. The special needs of the Latin-Americans will also have to be

considered through interpretations of visual education projects in Spanish as well as in English. It appears also that, as far as possible, individual teaching in the form of home visits and individual demonstrations of simple home practices needs to be adopted as the best learning technique.

Since only 37 of 575 youths between the ages of 16 and 20 were participating in formal school activities, education in home management for out of school youth is desirable. Lacking in opportunities for education in the past, Latin-American girls in particular have either taken low wage jobs on a temporary basis in the community or have continued working in the fields or vegetable sheds until the time arrives for establishing their own families. Too frequently, according to the writer's knowledge and observation of labor practices in the south Texas area, Latin-American girls who have been employed as domestic laborers, have received the lowest wages of any group employed. Education in home management which will give these girls training needed for paid home service is desirable. Knowledge of the best methods of house-keeping, food preparation and service, and of child care is fundamental to this group of potential household employees.

An apparent factor contributing to lack of

education among migrant family members is the frequency of moving from point to point. According to the findings in Table 5, the length of residence of the 888 migrant families in this study varied considerably during 1940 to 1943. Of 168 families studied in 1940, the average weeks in residence was 44.0; however, about one third of the families remained in residence 61 weeks or longer. Of 260 families studied in 1941, the average weeks in residence was 12.4, much less than that of 1940, and with a majority of the families in residence from seven to 40 weeks. In 1942, a total of 458 families averaged 8.7 weeks in residence with the majority in residence less than five weeks.

In the light of the above findings the need for education in the problems of everyday living for those groups who have failed to secure such training from the formal school and out of school youth training programs is fundamental.

Family members are irregularly employed.--

As evidenced by the findings in Table 7 regarding the employment status of migrant families, more men and minors in the family worked than did women. More children between the ages of 12 and 20 years were at work than any other age, however, some children under school age did work. Apparently the majority of the women were concerned with the responsibilities of



keeping the family as clean as possible and well fed while the husband and older children earned the living, since of a total of 604 women who reported employment status, only 94 were at work. According to the findings of Table 8, the frequency of work, during a period of 30 days preceding admission to camp, for the majority of workers in all working groups in the family varied within a range from zero to 10 days, for the second in majority, from 14 to 16 days, and for the third in majority, from 20 to 22 days.

Since some women with children were employed in agricultural labor, the day care of children while the mothers are employed is desirable. Possibilities for cooperative programs in child care under the direction and leadership of a trained home economist in each housing center are implied in this instance. Further consideration of the frequency of employment of family members leads to the conclusion that the financial security of the family is affected by the irregularity of employment of the men and minors. When employment is irregular income must also be irregular; therefore guidance and leadership in stretching family income to cover food and clothing and personal care purchases during non-earning periods is needed. Ways and means of conserving and storing food for use during slack-earning periods need to be developed in a program



of home management, as well as desires to save and provide for so-called "rainy days".

As evidenced in Table 9, the majority of the heads of the families of Latin-American and Anglo-American groups studied were most recently engaged in work as migrants, non-migrants, and unpaid farm laborers. More evidence of tenancy and past home ownership was found among Anglo-Americans than any other groups. Almost all of the Latin-Americans, Anglo-Americans, and Negroes who reported information concerning destination in the findings of Table 10, said that they were going somewhere else in Texas. Employment at cotton picking and general farming operations were the chief types of work expected for the future. Fifty out of 600 families reporting expected to be engaged in the harvesting of fruits and vegetables. In the majority of cases, rumor or general knowledge were the chief sources of a migrant's information regarding future employment, consequently the security of the migrant family is dependent upon the reliability of these factors. Word from a potential employer or a signed contract were the second most frequently known sources of information, while a few families relied upon the word of a crew leader.

Migrant families seek employment largely in Texas.---Since the majority of the migrant families in

this study migrated chiefly within the state of Texas and more than half the families expected to return to some miscellaneous type of housing or rented houses after leaving camp, needs of the Texas climate, weather, and the limitations of poor housing should be considered in planning units of work in home management.

Experiences in purchasing and constructing articles of clothing which are within the limits of the family income and adaptable to the more or less year round mild climate of Texas need to be provided. However, special consideration of the clothing needs for cold and rainy seasons and the sudden "northers" must also be given in the matter of managing the clothing budget of the family. Other phases of home management which are related directly to Texas conditions are food conservation, production, and care. Regarding the use of food in the daily diet of families it has come to the attention of the writer that many Latin-American family members are not familiar with the taste of large numbers of the vegetables with which they work at harvesting, and that some families understand that Texas grows vegetables for crating and shipping purposes only. Another group was found by the writer who did not know the names of some of the vegetables commonly grown in the state. These were cases of families who had come from outside the state of Texas.

Migrant families have poor health.--According to the findings of this study of the prevalence of disease among migrant families who have received medical examinations and treatment in the clinics of four south Texas farm labor supply centers, conditions are equally poor. Of 7,202 clinical diagnoses more than 50 per cent of the cases are attributed directly or indirectly to malnutrition, lack of sanitation, and contagion. Of the diseases in these categories the highest number and per cent of cases were found to be respiratory, stomach and intestine, skin, and eye types. The second highest number and percentage of diseases were in the nature of diarrhea, common colds, syphilis, other parasitic, and influenza. It is significant that the number and percentage of contagious diseases were considerably lower than would be expected for this type of population. The reduction of contagion is attributed, by authorities questioned on the question, to the policy of vaccination and immunization which takes effect immediately upon the date of registration for all families in all federally owned and operated housing centers for farm labor. This policy is considered most essential for the prevention of the spread of disease because of the crowded conditions under which the families must live, as well as for the protection of the health of families in general.

Since malnutrition, lack of sanitation, and contagion are causes of more than 50 per cent of diseases in all clinical diagnoses, home management education should include elementary nutrition, home sanitation, and home nursing. The limited space in which families live in shelters and the closeness of neighbors in all housing centers are factors which intensify the need for such education.

Migrant families average low annual incomes.--

Of the 550 families who reported weekly income from all the centers included in this study, earnings for 1942 ranged from as low as \$0.0 to as high as \$72.40 per week. This extremely high figure was not typical of the majority. Considerable variations according to the weekly averages for each housing center occurred. At Sinton the lowest weekly average for the year studied was \$1.50 and the highest was \$21.80, but at Robstown, a few miles from Sinton, the lowest weekly average was \$4.40 and the highest was slightly over \$12.00. At Weslaco lowest average weekly earnings were \$1.00 in contrast to \$19.00 as the highest, while at Raymondville lowest earnings were \$3.58 in contrast to the highest of \$20.84.

On the basis of these findings, if a family worked the maximum of 20 to 22 days per month, the highest frequency of work found in this study, at the

maximum average weekly income of all the centers studied, \$21.80, maximum income to be expected would be \$65.40 per month or \$784.80 per year. The lowest income to be expected at the other extreme would be \$0.0. For all practical purposes with respect to family planning, the income of migrant families in Texas falls somewhere between these two extremes which figures compare favorably with the national expectations of a range between \$350.00 and \$400.00 annually for the migrant population engaged in agricultural work.

Because the expected annual income of the migrant families in this study is low, home practices and home experiences need to be adjusted to the low income of the family so that maximum satisfactions can be realized in family living for the money spent. Better buymanship practices as solutions to the specific problems of particular migrant families need to be developed.

### Non-migrants

Non-migrant families differ somewhat in needs.--As evidenced in the findings regarding the 162 non-migrant families studied certain differences between the characteristics of this group and the migrant population need to be considered in planning a program for education in home management in Texas housing centers for farm labor. Outstanding differences were



noted with respect to the size of the typical Latin-American non-migrant family, the educational level, the type of housing occupied, and the annual income.

The typical Latin-American non-migrant family averaged 5.3 members per family which is more members than that of the migrant family of the same race.

With the typical Anglo-American non-migrant family, which was largely in the majority, the size was similar to that of the migrant family of the same racial group. With both racial groups the need for the adjustment of the family to the new housing environment is apparent because of the common background of "poor housing accommodations" but with the Latin-American group special adjustments of the large family to the room arrangement of labor homes are fundamental needs.

Regarding the housing provided for the non-migrant population, two types of family residences were used, labor homes and labor apartments. In each instance modern facilities were provided throughout consisting of electricity, sanitary bathrooms, running water, gas for fuel, kitchen sinks, built-in cabinets, and individual laundry tubs for each unit. The interior of both types of family housing for the non-migrant group was designed to consist of a combination living room-kitchen-dinette, two bedrooms, and bathroom. Furniture provided for family use consisted of a stove,



refrigerator, dining table, chairs, living room chairs, beds, and chests of drawers. Exterior space around the labor home or apartment consisted of a small front yard, back yard, and individual family garden space.

Since the housing of non-migrant agricultural workers differs considerably from that of the migrant families the level of education for adjustment to the new environment needs to be considered in planning a program for home management education. Non-migrant families require training in the care and use of the buildings in which they live; and in the care and use of refrigeration, hot and cold water, electricity, gas stoves, and more elaborate furniture. For the non-migrant family experiences in the arrangement and use of the family's meagre supply of household equipment and furnishings along with that which is furnished need to be considered. Special attention to home production and conservation of food needs also to be given.

The educational level of non-migrant family members was higher than that of the migrant population as evidenced by the fact that only 63 out of a total of 588 individuals of school age and over had completed no grade in school. Of the individuals who had completed grades, the majority had completed from seven to nine in contrast to five for migrant families. In terms of education for home management this means that the

content of adult courses for the non-migrants can be a little less simple than those planned for the migrants. Methods also need to vary in keeping with the level of understanding of the seventh and ninth grades. Since the average educational level for Latin-American non-migrants is the same as that for the Anglo-American non-migrant, it is conceivable that the majority of the family members of both races can read and write.

For the non-migrant population of the 162 families studied income varied considerably by the size of the family and by the years studied. In all instances, however, the total annual income was higher than that of the migrants and was sufficient to allow the family to remain in the area somewhat on a year round basis at a rental rate of from \$5.00 to \$7.50. Implications for home management are in terms of needs for training in money management adapted to the specific needs of the non-migrant family income, ranging from \$474 in 1940 for families of six and seven members to as high as \$1,246 during 1941 for families of four and five members.

#### Conclusion and recommendation

In view of the findings of this study of four south Texas housing centers for farm labor, the home management education program expedient for satisfactory living in the supply centers for farm

labor in Texas should:

1. Be planned for peak periods in population and consist of short, flexible units.
2. Approach solutions to the specific problems of the particular migrant family.
3. Educate for satisfactory family living in two situations -- present and future housing.
4. Provide experiences in improvising low and no cost equipment needed.
5. Include management for sleeping, for privacy, for storage, and for cleanliness.
6. Consider the problems of human relationships.
7. Consider needs for education and training for problems of adjustment to the new environment.
8. Adapt methods to cultural differences.
9. Be concerned with the problems of the oversized family in the management of satisfactory living within limited housing space.
10. Consider the needs of migrant women in education and guidance in the solution of problems in family spacing, and personal health during pregnancy.
11. Be adapted in content and vocabulary to uneducated groups.
12. Consider problems of language differences which offer a challenge to any educational

program which is planned to meet the particular needs of the migrant population.

13. Include training needed by Latin-American girls for paid home service.
14. Consider the day care of children while the mothers are employed.
15. Consider the Texas climate, weather, and the limitations of poor housing in planning units of work.
16. Include elementary nutrition, home sanitation, and home nursing.
17. Adjust home practices and home experiences to the low income of families.
18. Consider the special needs of the non-migrant population regarding larger Latin-American families, higher educational status, more elaborate housing, and higher incomes.

In the opinion of the writer further study needs to be made with reference to the migrants of Texas along these lines:

1. What would be a satisfactory program of nutrition education for the health improvement of migrant families?
2. What money management practices are most satisfactory for families of the migrant population of Texas agricultural workers?

## Chapter VI

### SUMMARY

The problem -- What type of home management education program for satisfactory living is expedient in the farm labor supply centers of Texas on the basis of family information available from housing management records? -- was analyzed to include the following questions:

1. What are population trends in Texas farm labor centers?
2. What housing facilities are available in farm labor centers?
3. What are the characteristics of the migrant farm labor families?
4. What are the characteristics of the non-migrant farm labor families?
5. What is the money income of the families?
6. What is the health condition of the families?

Investigations were limited to the earliest farm labor centers constructed in Texas and located at four towns -- Sinton, Robstown, Raymondville, and Weslaco. The study was limited to the interpretations of the data secured from certain family information



records and from the forms available in existing government offices. Records investigated were accumulated in the offices of the four centers under investigation during the years 1940, 1941, and 1942.

Results and findings regarding population, housing, characteristics, income and the health condition of families are as follows:

1. Migrant families move often.--"Peaks" and "falls" in population trends differed in time of year, frequency of change, and size. These differences were attributed to prevailing crops in the area of each housing center, to sudden weather changes, and to fluctuations in marked prices for the different crops. Even though there was considerable variation in the time and volume of fluctuations in the population of all centers under observation, the seasonal changes which occurred at each center were sufficiently regular for the verification of annual expectations of numbers of people requiring housing.

2. Migrant families come from poor housing elsewhere.--Almost all the families studied were from other points within Texas. Of 807 families who had resided in other Texas towns before their admission to the four housing centers included in this study, almost half lived in rented houses and one fourth lived in miscellaneous houses. Slightly over one sixth owned



homes elsewhere. Considerably over half the families who reported previous residence expected to return to their residences after the seasonal work was completed.

3. Housing provided in centers demands radical family adjustment.--The housing facilities provided by the federal government in farm labor centers are excellent even though they cannot be classified as "good" according to accepted standards of living for most groups. Facilities typical of each center studied consisted of buildings, equipment, and furnishings of three types, family, community, and public.

4. Migrant families are largely of the Latin-American group.--The migrant population of the four centers studied was largely Latin-American. Anglo-Americans composed the second largest number in population, while Negroes composed the smallest number. The number and per cent of Latin-Americans were more than double that of the Anglo-Americans.

5. Migrant families are composed largely of younger people.--The median age for all of the major groups was below 19 years. In the Anglo-American family more individuals between 46 and 60 years of age and below school age were found than were found in the Latin-American family. Within the family composition of migrants a predominance of males was found with the median age for the men of all major groups

higher than that of the women except for the Negro race.

6. Migrant family members are poorly educated.--Attendance at school for the majority of school age children was very poor during the period of 1940 to 1943. Only 37 of the 575 youths between the ages of 16 and 20 years and only nine adults were participating in formal school activities. About one fourth of the adults and 310 out of 1,674 school age children had completed no grade in school, while of those individuals who had completed grades in school, the majority had completed no higher than the fifth grade.

7. Family members are irregularly employed.--The frequency of work for the majority of workers in all working groups varied within a range from zero to 10 days, for the second in majority, from 14 to 16 days, and for the third in majority, from 20 to 22 days for the period of 30 days preceding admission to camp. Regarding the employment status of working groups, more men and minors were employed than were women; however, some women did work in the fields.

8. Migrant families seek employment largely in Texas.--The majority of the families in this study migrated chiefly within the state of Texas, however, a few families from nearby states were found.

9. Migrant families have poor health.--

Of 7,202 clinical diagnoses more than 50 per cent of the diseases of migrant families were attributed directly or indirectly to malnutrition, lack of sanitation, and contagion.

10. Migrant families average low incomes.--

For the 550 families who reported weekly income from all the centers included in this study, earnings for 1942 ranged from the two extremes of \$0.0 to \$72.40. The latter figure represented an extreme situation for one family and was by no means typical. Considerable variations according to the weekly averages of family income for each housing center were found, with \$1.00 as the lowest and \$21.80 as the highest.

11. Non-migrant families differ somewhat from the migrant population.--Non-migrants, like the migrants, were composed of two major groups, Anglo-Americans and Latin-Americans. Anglo-Americans were largely in the majority with a total of 119 families as compared to a total of only 43 of the Latin-American group. Other outstanding differences noted were that typical non-migrant Latin-American families were larger than the migrant family of the same race; that non-migrant family members have higher educational status than migrants; that the typical non-migrant family housing is more elaborate; and that the annual

income of non-migrant families is higher than that of the migrants, even though considered a low income.

#### Conclusion and recommendation

In view of the findings of this study of four south Texas housing centers for farm labor, the home management education program expedient for satisfactory living in the supply centers for farm labor should:

1. Be planned for peak periods in population and consist of short, flexible units.
2. Approach solutions to the specific problems of the particular migrant family.
3. Educate for satisfactory family living in two situations -- present and future housing.
4. Provide experiences in improvising low and no cost equipment needed.
5. Include management for sleeping, for privacy, for storage, and for cleanliness.
6. Consider the problems of human relationships.
7. Consider needs for education and training for problems of adjustment to the new environment.
8. Adapt methods to cultural differences.
9. Be concerned with the problems of the oversized family in the management of satisfactory living within limited housing space.
10. Consider the needs of migrant women in education and guidance in the solution of

problems in family spacing, and personal health during pregnancy.

11. Be adapted in content and vocabulary to uneducated groups.
12. Consider problems of language differences which offer a challenge to any educational program which is planned to meet the particular needs of the migrant population.
13. Include training needed by Latin-American girls for paid home service.
14. Consider the day care of children while the mothers are employed.
15. Consider the Texas climate, weather, and limitations of poor housing in planning units of work.
16. Include elementary nutrition, home sanitation, and home nursing.
17. Adjust home practices and home experiences to the low income of the families.
18. Consider the special needs of the non-migrant population, regarding larger Latin-American families, higher educational status, more elaborate housing, and higher income.

In the opinion of the writer further study needs to be made with reference to the migrants of Texas along these lines:

1. What would be a satisfactory program of nutrition education for the health improvement of migrant families?
2. What money management practices are most satisfactory for families of the migrant population of Texas agricultural workers?



A P P E N D I X

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Appendix A.--FORM FSA 240, REGISTRATION SHEET

Raw data secured from 888 schedules of information are on file in the offices of the four housing centers studied. Governmental regulations prohibit removal from files.

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Farm Security Administration

REGISTRATION SHEET—

FARM FAMILY LABOR CAMP

Date Admitted _____	Name _____			
Date Departed _____	Race or Nat. of Head _____	Citizen-Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Veteran-Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Camp Reg. No. _____
Weeks in Camp _____	Car _____	(Make) _____	(Year) _____	License _____
		(State) _____	(Number) _____	Camp Lot No. _____

List Head of Family then other Members of the Household	Relation to Head	Age	Sex (M or F)	Number of Days Worked in the Past 30 Days	Working Now		Not Working Now				Registered with State Employment Service		Pupil During School Term		Last School Grade Completed
					Yes	No	Work Promised		Seeking Work		Date	Place	Yes	No	
							Yes	No	Yes	No					
1	HEAD														
2															
3															
4															
5															
6															
7															
8															
9															
10															

1. Place Lived for Two Weeks or More Prior to Arrival.....

(Town or County)

(State)

Auto Camp	FSA Camp	Grower Camp	Roadside Camp	Rented House	Other (Specify)

2. Type of Housing There (Check).....

3. Has the Family a Place of Residence to Which They Expect to Return?

Yes ☐ No ☐

4. Number of Weeks Resided there

(Town or County)

(State)

During the Past 12 Months.....

Yes ☐ No ☐

Does Family Expect to Return During Next 12 Months?.....

Yes ☐ No ☐

5. Does the Family Own a Home There?.....

6. Year When Last Entered This State.....

7. Place Last Resided in for 1 Yr. or More Prior to Arrival in This State

(Town or County)

(State)

Date Left \_\_\_\_\_

(Month)

(Year)

8. Agricultural Experience since age 15 (Years).....

Cropper \_\_\_\_\_ Tenant \_\_\_\_\_ Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Unpaid Family Labor \_\_\_\_\_

Hired Farm Laborer: Migrant \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Migrant \_\_\_\_\_

Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

8a. Type of Experience Just Prior to Becoming Migrant.....

9. Principal Non-Agricultural Experience.....

(Job)

(Industry)

(Years)

10. Destination.....

(Town or County)

(State)

Kind of Work Expected There.....

(Job)

(Crop or Industry)

Source of Information Concerning Work.....

Type of Housing Expected There.....

11. Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Appendix B.--FORM FSA 384, APPLICATION FOR  
ADMISSION TO FARM LABOR HOMES

Raw data secured from 162 information  
schedules for labor home families are on  
file in the Regional Office of the Farm  
Security Administration, Dallas, Texas.  
Governmental regulations prohibit removal  
from files.

III. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES Give the replacement value of all property owned or being purchased and the amount of all debts.

Item	(A) Value	(B) Amount Owed
1. Auto . . . . .		
2. Truck . . . . .		
3. Real Estate . . . . .		
4. Farm Equipment . . . . .		
5. Livestock . . . . .		
6. Household Goods . . . . .		
7. Cash on Hand or in Bank . . . . .		XXXXXXXXXX
8. Securities and Investments. (Include cash or loan value of life insurance) . . . . .		XXXXXXXXXXXX
9. Grocery Bills . . . . .	XXXXXXXXXXXX	
10. Doctor Bills . . . . .	XXXXXXXXXXXX	
11. Other (Specify) . . . . .		
TOTALS . . . . .		
NET WORTH (Total of column A less the total of column B) . . . . .		

XII. REFERENCES.

Name	Address	Relationship

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Form #SA-284  
8-22-41



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

## INFORMATION SCHEDULE FOR LABOR HOME FAMILIES

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Project Number \_\_\_\_\_

Project Name \_\_\_\_\_

Application Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

(First name)

(Initial)

(Last name)

PRESENT ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

(Number and street or R. F. D.)

(City or town)

(County)

(State)

I. MEMBERS OF FAMILY. - List all family members at home and away from home. (a) Place check (✓) before names of those who will not live in proposed home. (b) Married-M; Single-S; Separated-Sep; Widowed-W; Divorced-D. (c) Fill in grade or school years completed for every member of family. (d) Check if still in school. (e) Use the words "YES" or "NO".

(a) Number	Name (Last first)	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	(b) Marital Status	Relation to Head	Grade or School Years Completed	(d)	(e) Employed
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

If NOT American-born, give date of naturalization and number of years in this country: Husband \_\_\_\_\_ (Date of naturalization) \_\_\_\_\_ (Years in this country)

Wife \_\_\_\_\_ (Date of naturalization) \_\_\_\_\_ (Years in this country)

If American-born, give national extraction, i. e., German, Norwegian, English, Spanish-Americans, etc.:

Husband \_\_\_\_\_, Wife \_\_\_\_\_, Wife's maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

II. HEALTH. Give a brief description of the health history of family and list, in detail, any serious illness (Tuberculosis, pellagra, or other chronic disease) or physical disability. \_\_\_\_\_

III. MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS (Past and Present). (a) Identify family members by numbers as in section I. (b) Check if a member. (c) Number of meetings held per year. (d) Number of meetings attended during the past year.

(a) Number	Name of Organization or Activity	(b)	(c)	(d)	Office Held or Kind of Participation

IV. PRESENT LIVING QUARTERS (Check): House \_\_\_\_\_; Apartment \_\_\_\_\_; Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_; Number of rooms \_\_\_\_\_

Appraisal of residence \_\_\_\_\_

V. CONVENIENCES IN PRESENT QUARTERS (Circle one word after each item)

1. Water supply on premises . . . . .	YES NO	4. Outdoor toilet . . . . .	YES NO	7. Gas . . . . .	YES NO
2. Running water in home . . . . .	YES NO	5. Indoor toilet . . . . .	YES NO	8. Electricity . . . . .	YES NO
3. Bath . . . . .	YES NO	6. Kitchen sink . . . . .	YES NO	9. Telephone . . . . .	YES NO

VI. HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT, FARMING EQUIPMENT, ETC. Enter the correct number after each item. If item will not be available for use in your proposed home, place a circle around the number.

Item	Number	Item	Number	Item	Number	Item	Number	Item	Number	Item	Number
1. Couches . . . . .		9. Lamps . . . . .		17. Radio . . . . .		25. Refrigerator . . . . .		33. Auto . . . . .		41. Horses . . . . .	
2. Chairs . . . . .		10. Beds . . . . .		18. Sewing machine . . . . .		26. Washing machine . . . . .		34. Trucks . . . . .		42. Cows . . . . .	
3. Tables . . . . .		11. Mattresses . . . . .		19. Cooking stove . . . . .		27. Vacuum cleaner . . . . .		35. Wagons . . . . .		43. Hogs . . . . .	
4. Large rugs . . . . .		12. Heavy blankets . . . . .		20. Heaters . . . . .		28. Flat irons . . . . .		36. Plows . . . . .		44. Sheep . . . . .	
5. Small rugs . . . . .		13. Light blankets . . . . .		21. Cooking utensils . . . . .		29. . . . .		37. . . . .		45. Chickens . . . . .	
6. . . . .		14. . . . .		22. . . . .		30. . . . .		38. . . . .		46. . . . .	
7. . . . .		15. . . . .		23. . . . .		31. . . . .		39. . . . .		47. . . . .	
8. . . . .		16. . . . .		24. . . . .		32. . . . .		40. . . . .		48. . . . .	



Appendix C.--FORM TFLHA - 3, MEDICAL  
STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE TEXAS  
FARM LABORERS' HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Raw data secured from the annual  
cumulative records are on file in the  
Regional Office of the Farm Security  
Administration, Dallas, Texas.  
Governmental regulations prohibit  
removal from files.



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