

RURAL YOUNG PEOPLE, 16 to 24 YEARS OF AGE  
A Survey of the Status and Activities of 300 Unmarried  
Individuals in Nine Ohio Townships

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#### I. Introduction

The age group of rural youth ranging from 16 to about 25 years of age has come to be regarded as a neglected group. In recent years, educators, sociologists and agricultural extension workers have manifested an increasing interest in attempting to solve the problems of this group. Programs of organization have been discussed, but definite procedure has been difficult to establish because of the scarcity of detailed information bearing upon the status, activities and interests of rural young men and women. The present investigation was undertaken for the purpose of contributing to a fund of information on this subject. During the spring of 1932 the 300 individuals included in this survey were interviewed. The investigation was limited to young persons 16 to 24 years of age, unmarried, and living in rural territory. It included persons both attending school and not attending school. Individuals attending college and living outside the sample areas selected were not included. From one-third to one-half of the persons eligible by age in the selected areas were interviewed.

The areas studied were nine selected townships in four Ohio counties. Three were located in Medina county, and two each in Logan, Morgan and Muskingum counties. A brief description of the areas from which the cases were drawn follows.

#### II. Characteristics of the Areas Studied

Logan County. This county is in western Ohio and lies in the eastern edge of the corn belt. It is not a typical corn belt county, however. The eastern half is rough and hilly with fertile valleys, while the western half consists of level agricultural land. The rural population has declined from 23,771 in 1900 to 19,438 in 1930, but the total population has grown on account of the growth of Bellefontaine, the county seat.

McArthur township, one of those studied, is located in the northwestern part of the county. The only village has a population of 300. The population has declined from 1348 in 1900 to 1100 in 1930. The farm population of this township is very stable although there is a fairly high percentage of tenancy. Many renters stay on the same farm from 8 to 10 years. The soil is very fertile, and is alkaline enough to grow clover and alfalfa. General farming predominates with an emphasis on crops which are fed to livestock. The wealth of the township was well distributed so that most of the inhabitants possessed moderate means. During 1931-32 there were no families in such dire circumstances that they were unable to buy clothes and books for their children attending school.

The social desires particularly of the boys and girls who were still in school were well taken care of by the church, school and agricultural extension. Three Protestant churches held church services and Sunday School each Sunday while all three denominations had joined to form a Young People's Christian Association which met each Sunday evening. Various social functions were conducted by the school such as parties, plays, lectures and concerts as well as athletic events such as baseball and basketball. The centralized school in the village ranked with the best in the county. A short course in agriculture conducted by the teacher of vocational agriculture interested 20 to 25 of the young farmers each year. In addition, the city of Bellefontaine, with its picture shows and dances and Indian Lake with its facilities for dancing, swimming, fishing, picnics and skating offered a variety of activity for young people in the vicinity. The work of the 4-H Clubs was popular. The Farm Bureau and Farmers' Cooperative Associations were also strong. There were no local granges or lodges. Local leadership appeared to be fairly adequate. In several parts of the county, groups of both young and old had been formed spontaneously, meeting at the different homes where square dancing and party games were enjoyed. There were also many groups that met to play cards. The facilities for obtaining reading material were poor as there was no library except the one at the high school. In two different localities young people were exchanging books and magazines with their neighbors.

Perry township is located in the eastern half of the county. East Liberty, a small unincorporated village with a population of 250 is the only village in the township with the exception of West Mansfield which is on the line between this township and Bokes Creek. The population reached its peak in 1920 with a population of 1141 and dropped to 1004 in the year 1930.

The soil in this township is of many grades. There is considerable rich tillable land in the valleys but there is a larger acreage of very thin land on the hills. Most of the soil is acid so that it is difficult to grow clover or alfalfa. A general type of farming is followed although considerable emphasis is placed upon livestock. Maple syrup is an important product in this area. Most of the people were poor but comfortable. Approximately 50 per cent of the farms were operated by tenants who moved frequently.

The organized activities of this area were meagre. The scout organizations for both boys and girls had died out. The Farm Bureau, Masons and Odd Fellows groups were relatively inactive. Agricultural Extension activities were limited to 4-H Club work. The school system was not of the best. There was no auditorium or gymnasium available for meetings and sports. No agriculture was taught in the schools. Formerly, many of the high school graduates were employed in a small brass factory located in the village, but at the time of the survey it was not in operation.

Medina County. This county is in the northeastern part of Ohio, in the Cleveland-Akron areas. The topography is gently rolling, with small areas of flat land in the western part. Dairying and poultry raising were the leading sources of agricultural income. The rural population has declined from 21,958 in 1900 to 19,676 in 1930, but the total has increased, owing to the growth of Wadsworth and Medina.

Granger township, located in the eastern part of the county is about equidistant from Cleveland and Akron. It is a strictly rural township with no villages excepting the two hamlets, Remsen Corners and Granger. Its population, numbering 857 in 1900, was stable until 1920 and increased to 959 in 1930. The

type of farming ranges from truck raising on the muck soils in the central part of the township to poultry farming and extensive dairying. Most of the people were in comfortable circumstances. A centralized school is located near the center of the township and is something of a social center. An active Grange organization meets in the school building. The work in vocational agriculture and 4-H Club work is satisfactory. There are two active churches, one in each of the hamlets. A women's club performs some of the functions of a parent-teacher association.

Lafayette township lies southwest of the corporate limits of Medina. In it are two small villages, Lafayette and Chippewa-on-the-Lake; the latter incorporated in 1929 is located on Chippewa Lake, a popular summer resort. The total population of the township declined from 1157 in 1900 to 1100 in 1920, increasing to 1296 in 1930. Extending from the lake to the northern part of the township is a broad, fertile valley; the rest of the township has slightly rolling topography and fairly productive clay loam soil.

Perhaps the greatest handicap to unity in this township was the fact that there was no centralized high school. High school students were formerly transported to Medina, but in recent years a transfer was made to Lodi, the latter offering the service at a lower figure. There was considerable opposition to this within the township and many students rather than go to Lodi dropped out of high school before graduation. The Grange at Lafayette was of interest to only a small percentage of the younger people. The same might be said of the churches.

Homer township is located in the southwestern corner of the county; it has one small unincorporated village, Homerville. The population of the township declined from 764 in 1900 to 639 in 1930. The soil is mostly clay and not very productive, and the farmers have been slow to adopt approved methods and practices. As a result most of the farmers are in poor circumstances. Small factories in West Salem and Spencer (located in adjoining townships) have given employment to a considerable number of the young people of the township. One of these factories was closed at the time of the survey, resulting in idleness for many young men formerly employed. There were five churches in the township, but an attempt to organize an Epworth League for all denominations resulted in failure. The Grange had reorganized and was exerting some influence on the young people. Extension work has not met with satisfactory response excepting that the Farmers Institutes have been well attended.

Morgan County. Morgan county is in southeastern Ohio. The surface is hilly to very hilly, there being no level land except in the narrow valleys of the streams, some of which are tributaries of the Muskingum river which traverses the county. The soil, largely of limestone origin, varies widely in productive capacity. General farming predominates, with dairying, sheep and poultry raising the principal sources of agricultural income. Some truck farming is carried on along the Muskingum. Coal, natural gas and petroleum are found in the county. The total population of the county declined from 17,905 in 1900 to 13,583 in 1930, making it next to the smallest in the State in this respect.

Marion township is in the southern part of Morgan county. It's population declined from 1913 in 1900 to 1366 in 1930. Chester Hill, the only village, has a population of 431. The topography is hilly and the tillable land is well adapted to the production of fruits and wheat. According to the Census about 65 per cent of the farm land is in pasture. Coal and oil resources were

once of importance but these have been depleted. Two churches in the village were doing little to interest the young people of the community, while a Grange some two miles distant was of but little influence in this regard.

York township is in the northwestern corner of the county in a mining region. Its population declined from 1215 in 1910 to 1139 in 1930. Deavertown, the only village has a population of 192.

The soil of this township is of very poor quality and little farming is possible. Many abandoned farm homes were found and only the best farms were being tilled. Most of the people are minors or oil field workers, idle at the time of the survey but still living on farms or in small towns hoping for employment. This is a typical mining community, representative of a large part of the mining regions in southeastern Ohio.

Educational facilities were very poor for people of the community. A three-year high school was located at Deavertown. Very few pupils availed themselves of the opportunity of going to Crooksville for their fourth year. Many of them remained at home and worked in the coal mines occasionally.

Muskingum County. Muskingum county is in the southeast central part of Ohio. The topography varies from broad level valleys to very steep hills. The soils of the valleys consist of deep silt loam. Those on the hills vary from rich limestone clay loams to residual sandstone soils. Dairying, sheep and poultry raising are the leading types of farming. Large deposits of pottery clay, gravel, coal and oil are found within the county. The total population increased from 53,185 in 1900 to 67,398 in 1930. Zanesville, the county seat and a thriving industrial center had a population of 36,440 in 1930.

Rich Hill township, located in the southeastern part of the county is strictly rural, there being only two small hamlets. Its population declined from 1219 in 1900 to 708 in 1930. Sheep and cattle are the leading agricultural enterprises. There was only one church in the township and the educational facilities were poor. A Grange was of interest to the middle age groups, but leadership for the younger people appeared to be lacking.

Jackson township is located in the northwestern corner of the county. Its soils vary from residual sandstone soil on the hills to silt loam in the valleys. Wool growing and stock raising predominated, while work in the oil fields gave employment to many people. The population of the township declined from 1546 in 1900 to 1308 in 1930. Frazzysburg, the only incorporated village, had a population of 679 in 1930. All of the social activities of the township centered around the schools, churches and lodges located in this village.

The three churches took an interest in various young people's organizations, while the Grange, Masonic order, Woodsmen and Eastern Star attracted the older people. A Boy Scout organization was providing opportunities for younger boys. The local school was also the center of a variety of social activities throughout the year. On the whole the people of this township were thrifty and energetic and possessed an abundance of good leadership.

III. General Background of Persons Interviewed

Age and Sex. Of the 300 young people interviewed, 171 were males and 129 were females. It was difficult to locate many unmarried females above the age of 19 years. Girls marry earlier than boys. They also leave the rural districts in larger proportion and at an earlier age than boys. The age distribution of the individuals interviewed was as follows:

	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Total	Per cent
Males	26	33	32	26	12	19	10	5	8	171	57
Females	30	27	27	18	10	5	8	2	2	129	43
Total	56	60	59	44	22	24	18	7	10	300	100
Per cent	19	20	20	15	7	8	6	2	3	100	

The families from which these young people came varied greatly in size. Nine per cent had no brothers or sisters; 20 per cent had one brother or sister; 18 per cent had two; 14 per cent had three; 14 per cent had four; 14 per cent had five; and 12 per cent had six or more. One individual had 12 brothers and sisters. The average number of children per family was 4.0. Logan and Medina counties averaged 3.8 and 2.5 children, respectively, while the Muskingum and Morgan county groups averaged 4.6 and 4.1 children per family. This is a larger average number of children per family than was recorded in 1063 farm families in eight selected areas in 1927-28.<sup>#</sup> The difference is readily accounted for by the fact that the 300 families herein represented were selected on the basis of having at least one child in the 16 to 24 age group. Such a group yields a larger average number of children than any unselected group.

Occupational and Economic Status of Parents. It was found that the parents of 222 of the persons interviewed could be classified as farmers. The occupations of the remaining 78 were divided about equally among carpenters, mail carriers, miners, oil field workers and laborers.

Of the 300 individuals for whom records were obtained, 247 lived on farms. Ninety-nine were found to live on farms of less than 100 acres and 39 lived on farms of more than 200 acres. With respect to agriculture the 300 parental families were distributed as follows:

Location	Number of Families	Property Owned by Family
On Farms	247	196
Under 50 acres	45	38
50 to 99 "	54	43
100 to 199 "	109	81
200 or more "	39	34
Not on Farms	54	--
Total	300	196

<sup>#</sup> See Lively, C. E., "The Growth Cycle of the Farm Family." Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station. Mimeographed Bull. No. 51, p. 10.

Of the 247 persons living on farms, 70 stated that they expected to take charge of the home farm at some future date. In spite of the fact that only 40 per cent of these persons were not in school, this group included more than half of those who expected to take over the home farm. They constituted an older group than those in school and probably had a better opportunity to decide what they would ultimately do. Six times as many boys as girls stated that they expected to operate the home farm.

Occupational Status. If employment in the home and on the home farm without contractual arrangement may be called gainful employment, 89 per cent of these 300 young people were gainfully employed. Seventy-eight per cent were working either in the home or on the home farm. Eleven per cent were otherwise employed. The occupations of those not working in the home or on the home farm were many and varied. Five did odd jobs, four were working in stores, four were salesmen, four were mechanics, two were teachers, two were miners, one was church janitor, one was a carpenter, one a decorator, one a beauty parlor operator, one a laborer, one a school bus driver and four were raising hogs or poultry as an individual enterprise. The occupational activities of these persons living in the villages were much more varied than those of the young people living on farms.

The great majority of these young people were working for their parents. Only 9 per cent was working for themselves. All but two of these were males. The proportion of those self-employed was much higher in the village than in the open country. Seventy-three per cent of the total was working for their parents. For those still attending school the corresponding percentage was 83; for those not attending school it was 59.

Table 1.- Occupational Activity at the Time of the Interview, by School Attendance, Sex and Residence

Occupational Activity	Number of Persons								
	Total	In School				Not in School			
		Males		Females		Males		Females	
		On Farms	Not on Farms	On Farms	Not on Farms	On Farms	Not on Farms	On Farms	Not on Farms
Farm Work	127	68	2	0	0	54	0	3	0
Home Work	97	--	4	57	14	--	--	20	2
Otherwise gainfully employed	34	2	11	1	--	6	7	5	2
Not gainfully employed	34	2	1	8	3	6	3	8	3
No Information	8	4	--	2	--	1	--	--	1
Total	300	76	18	68	17	67	10	36	8

Table 2 shows that 73 per cent of the young people interviewed were without definite arrangement for economic return for their labor. In the case of those attending school, this might be expected, since the parents (with whom nearly all were living) were probably bearing the expense of schooling. However, 61 per cent of those not attending school also had no definite arrangement. In the case of males 68 per cent of those in school and 55 per cent of those not in school had no definite arrangement. Nineteen males and six females received a share of the farm products, three farm boys were in definite partnership with

their parents and 51 or 17 per cent possessed a definite cash agreement with their parents. The latter received various amounts ranging from twenty-five cents per week to a fair yearly wage. Only 31 per cent of the males not attending school, and 16 per cent of the females received cash according to any definite plan.

The above data make the situation fairly clear. These young people were unable to obtain remunerative employment. Subsistence was essential. Even though these youth were of legal age and no longer in school their parental families stood willing to provide that subsistence, but not much more. In a few cases the parental business was in such a state that it could utilize the

Table 2.- Arrangement Made for Economic Return for Labor, by School Attendance, Sex and Residence

Economic Arrangement	Number of Persons								
	Total	In School				Not In School			
		Males		Females		Males		Females	
		On Farms	Not on Farms	On Farms	Not on Farms	On Farms	Not on Farms	On Farms	Not on Farms
Cash Return	50	7	8	2	2	18	6	5	2
Share in Farm Products	25	10	1	-	-	9	-	5	-
Partnership in Business	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	3	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
No arrangement	<u>219</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>6</u>
Total	300	76	18	68	17	67	10	36	8

labor of such youth and pay wages. In most cases the young people were forced to be content with subsistence plus whatever else the parents felt able to give, which frequently was nothing at all.

School Status. Of the 300 persons interviewed 179 were in school and 121 were not in school at the time. Fifty-five per cent of the males were in school as compared with 66 per cent of the females. At age 16 practically all were in school. After that age, the percentage declined steadily until at age 21 none was in school. The rate of decline of the percentage in school as age increased was similar for both sexes.

The 179 persons in school, at the time of the survey, were distributed from the seventh grade to college. One was in the 7th and one was in the 8th grade; 8 were freshmen in High School; 25 were sophomores; 91 were juniors; 42 were seniors; and 11 were in college. The fact that the schedules were taken during the months of March, April and May undoubtedly reduced the proportion that was in college, as many of these individuals were not then at home.

Analysis of the records of the 121 persons that were not in school showed that 2 per cent had left school after completing the 7th grade, 8 per cent after completing the 8th grade, 7 per cent after the 9th, 12 per cent after the 10th, 2 per cent after the 11th, 52 per cent after the 12th, 10 per cent after one year in college, 3 per cent after two years in college, 1 per cent after three



Table 3.- School Attendance of 300 Rural Young People, by Age and Sex

Age	Males and Females			Males			Females		
	In School	Not in School	Per cent in School	In School	Not in School	Per cent in School	In School	Not in School	Per cent in School
16	55	1	98	26	0	96	29	1	100
17	53	7	88	28	5	85	25	2	93
18	45	14	76	25	7	78	20	7	74
19	16	28	36	10	16	38	6	12	33
20	8	14	36	4	8	33	4	6	40
21	0	24	0	0	19	0	0	5	0
22	2	16	11	1	9	10	1	7	12
23	0	7	0	0	5	0	0	2	0
24	0	10	0	0	8	0	0	2	0
Total	179	121	60	94	77	55	85	44	66

years, 2 per cent after four years and 1 per cent after five years in college. Thirty-one had received some college training.

Whether the individual lived on a small farm or on a large farm apparently had no relation to continuance in school. Approximately the same proportion of those persons living on farms of less than 100 acres were in school as of those living on farms of more than 100 acres. Only 51 per cent of those not living on farms was in school, however, as compared with 59 per cent of those living on farms.

The most common explanation given for dropping out of school was graduation from high school. Fifty-two per cent of the males and 54 per cent of the females not in school gave this reason for dropping out. The next most important reason given was work. Twenty per cent said they quit school for this reason. Other explanations were dislike for school, financial reasons, only two years of high school available, bad roads, and dropped out to teach. None of these reasons included as many as 10 per cent of the individuals. There was little difference in the explanations given by the two sexes.

The interviews disclosed that many of these young people had quit school during prosperity and had obtained jobs. These had later been lost and the individuals felt that they were in no financial circumstances to return to school.

Of 103 persons that had attended high school but were not in school at the time of the survey, nearly all stated that they had taken a general high school course. Twelve per cent of the males had taken vocational agriculture and 2 per cent of the girls had studied home economics.

Church Membership. In replying to the question, "Are you a church member?", 197 boys and girls replied "yes" and 103 said "no." This indicates that 65.6 per cent of the 300 people interviewed were affiliated with some church. Marion township in Morgan county fell below the average as only 12 of the 38 persons interviewed belonged to church. Many reasons were given by these young people for non-attendance at church. Some said they did not like the minister because he did not understand the interests of young people; other had been

offended by certain members of the congregation, while some were not interested in religious activities. The following tabulation shows church affiliation by denomination:

Membership	Total		Males		Females	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Church Members	197	65.7	93	54.4	104	80.0
Methodist	108	36.0	50	29.2	58	45.0
Presbyterian	36	12.0	22	12.9	14	11.0
United Brethren	12	4.0	4	2.3	8	6.0
Catholic	12	4.0	8	4.7	4	3.0
All Others	29	9.5	9	5.3	20	15.0
Not Church Members	103	34.3	78	45.6	25	20.0
Total Number of Persons	300	100.0	171	100.0	129	100.0

The table shows that a larger percentage of the girls belonged to church than was the case with the boys. More than half of the church members belonged to the Methodist denomination.

#### IV. Leisure-Time Activities and Interests

Organization Membership. The number of organizations to which these young people belonged was not large. If the church and Sunday School were not included their organization affiliations would indeed be meagre. The Grange, the 4-H Clubs, the Future Farmers Club, and the Lodge of 1000 claimed the most members. There were a few Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and a few members of the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A., but they were practically all in the group that was still attending school. Epworth League enrolled a few, and a small number belonged to fraternal orders.

The 300 persons interviewed held a total of 700 memberships in these organizations. More than half of them (420) were memberships in Church and Sunday School. Seventy-eight were affiliated with 4-H Clubs, either as member or leader, and 69 were members of the Grange. Forty-six belonged to the Lodge of 1000, 42 belonged to the Future Farmers' Club and 45 belonged to other organizations. For every 100 persons there were 234 organization memberships. For every 100 memberships there were 21 officerships. As might be expected the rate of officerships was highest in the distinctly young people's organizations, such as the 4-H Clubs and the Future Farmers' Club. In the church, where young people are generally in the minority, the rate of officerships held by these youth was lowest.

Analysis of organization membership by school attendance showed certain important differences. For all three points of comparison used, the group still attending school showed the highest rating. These points were percentage of persons having membership in one or more organizations, number of memberships per 100 persons, and number of officerships held per 100 members. Of the group in school, 90 per cent held at least one organization membership as compared with 77 per cent for those not in school. The former held 261 memberships per 100 persons and 25 officerships per 100 members, as compared with 193 memberships and 15 officerships per 100 members in the group not attending school. There was considerable variation from area to area very likely due to variation in the

Table 4.- Percentage of Persons Holding Membership in One or More Organizations, by Area, School Attendance and Sex

Area	In School				Not In School			
	Males		Females		Males		Females	
	Number of Persons	Per cent with Membership	Number of Persons	Per cent with Membership	Number of Persons	Per cent with Membership	Number of Persons	Per cent with Membership
Perry	10	80	5	100	9	89	5	80
McArthur	9	100	5	100	8	87	5	80
Honer	7	86	8	75	9	67	3	67
Granger	10	80	6	67	7	57	3	67
Lafayette	7	100	10	100	12	50	3	100
Marion	16	94	11	82	10	60	4	100
York	13	77	15	100	7	86	7	100
Jackson	8	100	11	91	4	100	4	100
Rich Hill	14	93	14	93	11	64	10	90
All Areas	94	89	85	91	77	70	44	89

Table 5.- Number of Organization Memberships per 100 Persons and Number of Officerships per 100 Members, by Area, School Attendance and Sex

Area	In School				Not In School			
	Males		Females		Males		Females	
	Number of Memberships per 100 persons	Number of Officerships per 100 members	Number of Memberships per 100 persons	Number of Officerships per 100 members	Number of Memberships per 100 persons	Number of Officerships per 100 members	Number of Memberships per 100 persons	Number of Officerships per 100 members
Perry	162	8	320	25	200	0	160	12
McArthur	311	18	300	13	200	6	200	20
Honer	350	14	225	61	189	18	167	0
Granger	260	4	233	43	200	0	200	33
Lafayette	243	29	290	27	116	0	233	0
Marion	260	18	290	31	100		250	40
York	280	18	327	14	186	8	300	33
Jackson	300	8	254	36	225	22	200	12
Rich Hill	261	35	251	43	181	5	260	23
All Areas	245	18	280	31	170	8	230	23

general organization situation in the areas. Statistical tests showed that the observed differences between these two groups in the case of the percentage of persons having one or more organization memberships could be attributed to error of sampling. The same was true of the total number of memberships per 100 persons.

In the case of officerships, however, the difference between the two groups was significant and could not be attributed to the chance fluctuations of sampling. This becomes all the more significant when it is recalled that the group still attending school was decidedly more youthful than the group not attending school. Apparently, continuing in school is related to the emergence of leadership qualities. The mark of this is the attainment of positions of leadership in the organizations with which the individual is affiliated.

Analysis of these factors on the basis of sex revealed a situation similar to that existing between the group in school and the group not in school. That is, the difference between the sexes in the matter of percentage belonging to one or more organizations and also in the number of memberships held per 100 persons could be accounted for by error of sampling. The sex difference in number of officerships held was significant, however, and could not be explained by error of sampling.

Since the proportions of the sexes was not equal in the school attendance groups, the question at once arises whether the apparent difference between these groups could be the result of sex differences. Analysis of the school attendance groups by sex showed that the observed difference between the females in school and the females not in school was not necessarily significant for either of the three tests of organization participation used. That is, the differences could have been due to sampling. In the case of the males, however, the differences between the group in school and the group not in school were significant for all three of the tests used, and could not be attributed to error of sampling. See Tables 4 and 5. These results suggest that school status influences the organization behavior of rural young men more than rural young women. In the case of the 300 young people here considered, dropping out of school was associated with lower organization participation in the case of the boys than in the case of the girls.

When the nine sample areas were grouped into three groups of three areas each on the basis of general economic status, no significant trend was found in the three criteria used: i.e., percentage of persons affiliated with one or more organization, number of memberships per 100 persons, and number of officerships per 100 members. There was no consistency of variation in either the sex groups or the school attendance groups.

Attendance at Organization Meetings. The frequency of attendance at organization meetings was obtained for 679 of the 700 organization memberships. The period of time covered was one year prior to the date of the survey. The results are given in Table 6. For organizations other than the six listed in the table, the number of members in each was too small to list separately. The table shows that average attendance at meetings by organization members varied from 11 times per year in the 4-H Clubs to 37 times per year in the Sunday Schools, for the group still attending school. The group not attending school averaged slightly lower in attendance. Since 254 of the 300 persons studied held one or more memberships in these organizations, each of these persons averaged 2.7 memberships. It follows, therefore, that 46 persons attended no organization meetings; these persons holding memberships averaged approximately 73 meetings per year, or about six meetings per month.

Money Contributions to Organizations. Contributions in money to organizations other than those listed in Table 6 were insignificant. The median contribution to all organizations by the group still attending school was \$1.21 per person; for the group not attending school, it was \$1.65. In the former

group, 44 per cent contributed less than one dollar and 94 per cent gave less than five dollars. In the latter group, 29 per cent gave less than one dollar and 87 per cent less than five dollars.

Table 6.- Frequency of Attendance at Organization Meetings During 12 Months Prior to Survey

Organization	In School								Not In School						
	No. of Cases	Times Attended					Mean Attendance	No. of Cases	Times Attended					Mean Attendance	
		Un-der 10	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 and over		Un-der 10	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 and over	
Grange	38	8	15	14	1		17	24	6	11	7			15	
Church	125	18	15	23	19	34	16	33	79	12	12	16	13	26	29
Sunday School	136	10	9	24	17	53	23	37	80	8	15	7	18	32	31
4-H Club	60	21	39					11	14	2	11			1	16
Future Farmers' Clubs	30	10	7	4	4	3	2	21	9	4	3	1	1		14
Lodge of 1000	31	6	6	7	5	7		28	14	3	3	2		6	27
All Others	28	5	7	4	5	7		32	11	1	5	3	1	1	21
Total	448	78	98	76	51	104	41	28	231	36	60	36	33	66	26

The median contribution to Grange, Church and Sunday School, 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers' Clubs and Lodge of 1000 was \$1.23 for the group still attending school, and \$1.50 for those not attending school. Grange contributions were all under \$2.00. The great majority paid nothing to the 4-H Clubs. The spread was wide for the other organizations, ranging from no contribution to \$25.00 in the case of church and Sunday School.

Reading Interests and Habits. Reading is not only a valuable recreational activity but it is also important for social adjustment. Today people read both for amusement and for education. The reading interests and habits of these 300 rural young people are, therefore, significant. The data collected include the amount and kind of reading done during the six months immediately preceding the survey, and the amount of time habitually spent in reading during that time. The reports do not include the reading of school assignments in textbooks, but includes books read upon recommendation of school teachers.

Table 7 summarizes the number and kind of books read during the six months period under consideration. A total of 299 different volumes were read 451 times. When put in terms of averages, the figures were as follows:

	<u>All Persons</u>	<u>In School</u>	<u>Not In School</u>
Average number of volumes read per person	1.5	1.9	1.0
Average number of times each volume was read	1.3	1.3	1.3

It is evident from these averages that those persons attending school read twice as many books as those persons not attending school. This is true when measured either as number of different volumes read per person, or total number of volumes read per person.

Table 7.- Number and Type of Books Read During the Six-Months' Period, Prior to the Survey, by School Attendance

Type of Books Read	Total		In School		Not In School	
	Number of Different Volumes	Total Number of Times Read	Number of Different Volumes	Total Number of Times Read	Number of Different Volumes	Total Number of Times Read
<b>Fiction:</b>						
Standard	63	87	55	75	10	12
Popular	60	108	48	71	24	34
Western	57	104	48	66	25	38
Mystery	5	6	4	4	2	2
Historical	4	8	3	6	2	2
Drama	13	16	11	13	3	3
Essay	2	3	2	3	0	-
Biography	26	37	19	28	8	9
Travel	3	4	1	2	2	2
Poetry	2	4	2	4	0	-
Natural Science	1	1	1	1	0	-
Psychology, Education and Sociology	5	8	4	4	2	4
School Stories	2	2	2	2	0	-
Unclassified (Chiefly fiction)	<u>56</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>
<b>Total</b>	299	451	250	334	87	117

With respect to types of books read, it is evident from Table 7 that fiction easily held first place. Owing to the considerable number of titles that could not be accurately classified, it is difficult to state accurately what proportion of the volumes read was fiction. It appears sufficiently conservative to say, however, that approximately 75 per cent of the books read was fiction. There was no significant difference on this point between the group attending school and the group not attending school. It was evident, however, that with the group attending school, standard fiction occupied a place that was twice as important as was the case in the group not attending school. That is, the reading of the latter group, in so far as it was composed of fiction, was more limited to popular fiction, especially western stories. Undoubtedly the influence of the school is indicated here, since the suggested reading of the schools is included in the analysis. Much of that reading would fall in the standard fiction group.

One of the marked characteristics of the record of books read was its diversity of titles. No single volume was read by more than eight persons during the period. "Girl of the Linber Lost" and "When a Man's A Man" were read by 8 persons; "Henry Esmond" and "Betty Zane" were read by 7 persons attending school; "Riders of the Purple Sage" was read by 6 persons. No other volume was read by more than 5 persons; 220 volumes had been read by only one person.

Table 8 summarizes the number and kind of magazines read more or less regularly by these 300 young people. A total of 97 different magazine titles were named. These magazines were listed a total of 770 times. That is, each person

averaged 2.5 magazines and each magazine was listed, on the average by 8 persons. The group attending school read, on the average, more magazines per person and were familiar with a wider range of magazines than was the group not attending school.

As to types of magazines read, those dealing with farming and fiction led the list in both the "in school" and "out of school" groups. These were followed by women's magazines. The most widely read magazine was the American. One person in three stated he read it frequently. Twenty-two persons in 100 read the Ohio Farmer, 19 read McCall's, 13 read Country Gentleman, 12 read Colliers,

Table 8.- Number and Type of Magazine Read More or Less Regularly by School Attendance

Type of Magazine	Total		In School		Not In School	
	Number of Magazines	Number of Persons Reading	Number of Magazines	Number of Persons Reading	Number of Magazines	Number of Persons Reading
Farming	24	221	18	118	17	103
Women's	15	167	14	118	8	49
Children's	3	16	3	12	2	4
Fiction	23	126	18	71	16	55
Current Events	7	74	7	56	5	18
Literary	6	17	6	14	2	3
Popular Science	5	27	6	17	3	10
Success	2	108	2	72	1	36
Music	1	2	1	2	0	0
Religion	3	2	1	1	1	1
Business	1	1	1	1	0	0
Travel	1	3	1	3	0	0
Physical Culture	1	1	1	1	0	0
Unclassified	5	5	1	1	4	4
Total	97	770	80	487	59	283

and 11 in 100 read Farm Journal and Successful Farming. Seven persons in 100 read Women's Home Companion, Farmers' Wife and Literary Digest. Eight in 100 read Saturday Evening Post. Six in 100 read Pictorial Review and Pathfinder. Four in 100 read Popular Science, Western Stories and Country Home. Three in 100 read True Story, Red Book, Popular Mechanics and Delincoator. One in 100 read Harpers, Forum, Liberty, National Geographic, Modern Romance, Hoarth and Home, Needle Craft, and Christian Herald. One in 300 read Atlantic Monthly, Review of Reviews, North American Review, Motion Picture, Blue Book, Photoplay, Physical Culture and Lee High.

There was considerable variation in amount of reading done by the young people in the different townships investigated. The meagre reading done in some areas was explained by the young people on the ground that books were not available; yet it was noticeable that these same areas were low in magazine reading as well. There appeared to be more reading done in the Morgan and Muskingum county areas than in the Logan and Medina county areas. Of the 300 persons interviewed,

70 had read no book during the previous six months; 12 had read books but no magazines regularly; 67 had not read any books, neither had they read any magazines regularly or frequently during the period.

Each individual interviewed was asked to estimate the amount of time spent in reading. The reply was given in the form of the average number of hours per month for the year preceding the interview. Such estimates are, of course, subject to error, but they were considered as apparently honest estimates and possess some value.

The average amount of time spent reading was 24.6 hours per month. This figure is misleading, however, unless it is remembered that 15 per cent of the individuals stated that they had done no reading during the period in question. Males averaged 22.9 hours per month and females 26.9 hours. Less than 9 per cent of the females stated that they had done no reading, as compared with 21 per cent of the males. The group attending school averaged 22.5 hours per month as compared with 27.7 hours for the group not attending school. There was greater variation in the group not attending school than in the school group. In the school group 10 per cent reported no reading and less than 6 per cent reported 50 or more hours per month. In the group not attending school, 33 per cent reported no reading, but 23 per cent reported 50 or more hours reading per month. This group difference possibly may be explained as follows. Because of school influence, those attending were likely to do some reading other than textbook assignments, yet school routine probably prevented a large amount of general reading. On the other hand, those not attending school were, in the main, not employed and were free to follow personal inclinations. This resulted in some reading rather heavily and others not at all.

There was some variation in the amount of reading reported from area to area. These variations were in accord with those mentioned above. The percentage of individuals reporting no reading was highest in Medina and Logan county areas.

Participation in Selected Activities. Table 9 presents data showing the number and percentage of young persons participating in a list of 36 leisure-time activities. The number and proportion participating are indicated by school attendance and sex. Within the limits of this list, the ten most wide-spread activities were reading, attending shows, automobile riding, playing cards, attending parties, playing basket ball, friendly visiting, listening to radio, attending picnics and swimming. The same may be said for the group still attending school. The list for the group not attending school included hunting and playing baseball instead of listening to radio and attending picnics. In order to make the list represent the ten most wide-spread activities for males it was necessary merely to substitute hunting for attending picnics. To make the list represent the ten most wide-spread activities for females, it was necessary to substitute singing and fancy work for swimming and listening to radio.

An attempt was made to obtain estimates of the extent of participation in the various leisure-time activities considered. Each person interviewed was asked to estimate the amount of time spent at such activities as listening to radio, and the frequency with which he participated in such activities as dancing and swimming. In spite of the fact that these estimates were made in personal interview, it must be recognized that they are merely guesses and not sufficiently accurate to permit detailed analysis. In a general way, however, the figures support the results of Table 9. That is, the most wide-spread activities, as indicated in Table 9 appeared to be those in which participation was most extensive for the individual. Median values indicating degree of participation were highest



Table 9.- Number and Per Cent of Persons Participating in Certain Leisure-Time Activities, by School Attendance and Sex

Activity	Total		In School				Not In School			
			Males		Females		Males		Females	
	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent	Num- ber	Per cent
Total Persons	300	100	94	100	85	100	77	100	44	100
Reading	254	85	81	86	82	96	55	71	36	82
Attending Shows	228	76	77	82	58	68	65	84	28	64
Auto Driving	206	69	70	74	46	54	62	81	28	64
Playing Cards	206	69	68	72	60	71	51	66	27	61
Attending Parties	201	67	69	73	76	89	27	35	29	66
Playing Basket Ball	192	64	54	57	66	78	40	52	27	61
Visiting	191	64	58	62	58	68	53	69	27	61
Listening to Radio	155	52	63	67	38	45	38	49	16	36
Attending Picnics	154	51	53	56	64	75	19	25	18	41
Swimming	150	50	73	78	13	15	57	74	7	16
Playing Baseball	146	49	43	46	44	52	47	61	12	27
Hunting	140	47	75	80	3	4	59	77	3	7
Playing Golf	134	45	61	65	36	42	27	35	10	23
Dancing	131	44	44	47	34	40	36	47	17	39
Fishing	124	41	56	60	27	32	31	40	10	23
Hiking	108	36	44	47	44	52	12	16	8	18
Attending Institutes	107	36	42	45	30	35	25	32	10	23
Singing	98	33	23	24	53	62	9	12	13	30
Playing Musical Inst.	97	32	26	28	41	48	14	18	16	36
Fancy Work	83	28	4	4	48	56	2	3	29	66
Playing Victrola	70	23	19	20	28	33	10	13	13	30
Skating	68	23	34	36	18	21	9	12	7	16
Attending Socials	66	22	22	23	29	34	8	10	7	16
Attending Football Games	63	21	32	34	10	12	17	22	4	9
Coasting	57	19	25	27	18	21	7	9	7	16
Camping	54	18	26	28	17	20	5	6	6	14
Attending Lectures and Concerts	51	17	21	22	20	24	6	8	4	9
Amateur Dramatics	50	17	14	15	21	25	5	6	10	23
Playing Croquet	45	15	16	17	20	24	4	5	5	11
Playing Football	37	12	8	9	11	13	12	16	6	14
Attending Fairs	29	10	11	12	6	7	8	10	4	9
Playing Pool & Billiards	23	8	11	12	1	1	11	14	0	0
Attending Basketball Games	20	7	9	10	2	2	7	9	2	5
Attending Baseball Games	19	6	5	5	8	9	3	4	3	7
Painting	14	5	3	3	9	11	1	1	1	2
Playing Tennis	9	3	2	2	5	6	0	0	2	5

for reading, auto driving, listening to radio, friendly visiting, playing cards, attending parties, shows, and picnics, swimming, playing basket ball and observing basket ball games.

On the basis of these data, it may be tentatively concluded that as far as the comparative popularity of the leisure-time activities considered in this survey is concerned, there were no great differences between the in-school and out-of-school groups. There were also no great differences to be observed according to age. The greatest differences were noted between the sexes and among individuals. (See the following section on total number of activities per individual.) The males showed greater interest in sports and active games while the females gave greater attention to reading, music, fancy work and picnics.

Number of Activities Per Individual. The total number of activities per person is of interest. The mean participation, in terms of number of activities was as follows:

	<u>Attending School</u>	<u>Not Attending School</u>
Males	17.2	12.8
Females	16.2	13.0

Thus of the activities considered, those persons attending school participated to some degree in about 45 per cent, and those not attending school participated in about 35 per cent. The factor of school attendance was more significant than sex in accounting for variation, as the above figures show. Variation also occurred according to age. There was a noticeable tendency for the number of activities to decline as the age increased. However, the fact that few persons above the age of 18 years were still attending school makes it appear likely that school attendance was the most significant factor associated with this decline in number of activities. #

There was great individual variation in activities. Two males and 8 females participated in less than five of these 42 activities, while 14 males and 9 females participated in 25 or more.

#### V. Activity Wishes

It is important to know not only what youth are doing but also what they would like to do. What are their wishes for activity and status? Various means of obtaining data bearing upon this question might be employed. The resources available and the somewhat practical objective of this investigation resulted in a limited excursion into this field. The persons interviewed were asked regarding their vocational plans and preferences, and their interest in certain group facilities, beyond what they then possessed, as means to personal and social improvement. The results are of interest.

The immediate vocational plans of these young people are set forth in detail in Table 10. The general nature of their plans may be indicated by the following tabulation:

# Substantially the same conclusions with respect to activity participation by age and sex were reached some years ago in another study. See Lively, C. E., "Rural Recreation in Two Ohio Counties," Ohio State University Studies, 1927, pp. 73-76.

Plan	Total		In School				Not In School			
			Males		Females		Males		Females	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Total	300	100	94	100	85	100	77	100	44	100
Continue Schooling	85	28	48	51	32	38	4	5	1	2
Farming or Homemaking	117	39	17	18	14	16	54	70	32	73
Miscellaneous Occupations	9	3	2	2	2	2	3	4	2	5
Uncertain	89	30	27	29	37	44	16	21	9	20

Less than half of these persons still attending school expected to continue some sort of schooling. The girls were apparently less certain of the future than the boys. More than 70 per cent of those not attending school expected to be concerned with farming or homemaking. Most of them planned to remain at home.

Table 10.- The Immediate Vocational Plans of 300 Rural Young Men and Women, 16 to 24 Years of Age, by School Attendance and Sex

Plan	Total	In School		Not In School	
		Males	Females	Males	Females
Total	300	94	85	77	44
Continue Schooling	85	48	32	4	1
Finish School	55	34	21	-	-
Go to School	11	4	4	2	1
Go to College	8	4	3	1	-
Finish High School	3	2	1	-	-
Attend Auto School	2	1	-	1	-
Attend Business College	2	-	2	-	-
Attend School of Nursing	1	-	1	-	-
Attend Aviation School	1	1	-	-	-
Study Undertaking	1	1	-	-	-
Study for Civil Service	1	1	-	-	-
Farming and Homemaking	117	17	14	54	32
Farm	25	2	-	23	-
Work on Farm	6	1	-	5	-
Farm at Home	2	1	-	1	-
Stay on Farm	8	2	-	4	2
Stay Home	66	9	12	19	26
Help at Home	5	2	1	2	-
Keep House	3	-	-	-	3
House Work	1	-	1	-	-
Get Married	1	-	-	-	1
Miscellaneous Occupations	9	2	2	3	2
Teach School	1	-	-	-	1
Stenographer	1	-	1	-	-
Organization Work	1	-	1	-	-
Work in Creamery	1	1	-	-	-
Work in Beauty Parlor	1	-	-	-	1
Work in Garage	1	-	-	1	-
Work in Shop	1	-	-	1	-
Work for Neighbors	1	-	-	1	-
Go West for Health	1	1	-	-	-
Uncertain	89	27	37	16	9

Table 11.- The Vocational Choices of 300 Rural Young Men and Women,  
16 to 24 Years of Age Classified by Broad Occupa-  
tional Groups, by School Attendance and Sex

Occupation	Total	In School		Not In School	
		Males	Females	Males	Females
All Occupations	300	94	85	77	44
<u>Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing</u>	45	17	-	28	-
Farmer	38	14	-	24	-
Chicken Farming	1	1	-	-	-
Agriculture	1	1	-	-	-
Milk Business	1	1	-	-	-
Dairy Farming	1	-	-	1	-
Farmer and Miner	1	-	-	1	-
Forest Ranger	2	-	-	2	-
<u>Extraction of Minerals</u>	3	1	-	2	-
Mining	1	1	-	-	-
Mine Coal	1	1	-	-	-
Drill Oil Wells	1	-	-	1	-
<u>Manufacturing and Mechanical Industries</u>	18	6	-	12	-
Mechanic	4	3	-	1	-
Radio Mechanic	1	1	-	-	-
Auto Mechanic	3	1	-	2	-
Aviation Mechanic	1	1	-	-	-
Factory Work	7	-	-	7	-
Carpenter	1	-	-	1	-
Electrical Mechanic	1	-	-	1	-
<u>Transportation and Communication</u>	17	14	-	3	-
Air Pilot	8	7	-	1	-
Mail Clerk	4	3	-	1	-
Mail Carrier	2	2	-	-	-
Mail Service	1	1	-	-	-
Railway Engineer	1	1	-	-	-
Railway Clerk	1	-	-	1	-
<u>Trade</u>	6	3	-	3	-
Business	3	1	-	2	-
Funeral Director	2	2	-	-	-
Salesman	1	-	-	1	-
<u>Public Service (n. e. c.)</u>	1	-	-	1	-
Government Work	1	-	-	1	-
<u>Professional Service</u>	88	22	40	13	13
Teacher	27	6	14	3	4
Teach Music	4	1	1	-	2
Teach Vocational Agriculture	2	2	-	-	-
Teach Science	1	1	-	-	-
Teach Latin or Mathematics	1	1	-	-	-

Table 11.- The Vocational Choices of 300 Rural Young Men and Women,  
16 to 24 Years of Age Classified by Broad Occupa-  
tional Groups, by School Attendance and Sex (cont'd.)

Occupation	Total	In School		Not In School	
		Males	Females	Males	Females
<u>Professional Service (continued)</u>					
Coach Athletics	4	3	-	1	-
Teach Home Economics	1	-	1	-	-
Teach Social Science	1	-	1	-	-
Teach Kindergarten	2	-	1	-	1
Physical Director	1	-	-	1	-
Pharmacist	1	1	-	-	-
Electrical Engineer	2	2	-	-	-
Mechanical Engineer	1	-	-	1	-
Engineer	1	1	-	-	-
Journalist	2	1	-	1	-
Musician	4	2	-	1	1
Agricultural Specialist	1	1	-	-	-
Nurse	22	-	18	-	4
Dietitian	2	-	2	-	-
Librarian	1	-	1	-	-
Dress Designer	1	-	1	-	-
Doctor	2	-	-	2	-
Professional Ball Player	1	-	-	1	-
Extension Work	1	-	-	1	-
Veterinarian	1	-	-	1	-
Home Demonstration Agent	1	-	-	-	1
<u>Domestic and Personal Service</u>					
Beauty Culture	3	-	2	-	1
Hotel Hostess	1	-	1	-	-
<u>Clerical</u>					
Office Work	4	-	1	1	2
Office Secretary	1	-	1	-	-
Stenographer	3	-	3	-	-
Bookkeeper	2	-	2	-	-
<u>Miscellaneous</u>					
Homemaker	17	-	6	-	11
Travel	2	1	-	1	-
Business Course	1	1	-	-	-
Radio Field	1	1	-	-	-
Oratory	1	-	1	-	-
Work in Town	2	-	-	2	-
Laborer	2	-	-	2	-
<u>Undecided</u>	82	28	28	10	16

Table 11 shows the vocational choices of these 300 young people. Each person interviewed was asked to state what occupation he expected to follow for a life work. Of the total, 82 were undecided and offered no choice. The percentage of females in that group was higher than the percentage of males. Nine gave general answers that could not be accurately classified in the standard list of vocations employed by the U. S. Census Bureau. Seventeen females stated that they expected to become homemakers and, hence, cannot be included in the list of gainful occupations. All others are classified by basic occupational groups, with each specific occupation listed as nearly as possible in the words of the person interviewed.

Table 12.- Percentage Distribution of the Vocational Choices of 126 Males and 66 Females, 16 to 24 Years of Age, Compared with the Distribution of Gainfully Employed Workers, 18 to 24 Years of Age, in Ohio, 1930

Occupation	Males		Females	
	This Survey	U. S. Census 1930	This Survey	U. S. Census 1930
All Occupations	100	100.0	100	100.0
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	36	12.7	-	0.3
Extraction of Minerals	2	1.7	-	#
Manufacturing and Mechanical Industries	14	44.8	-	20.2
Transportation and Communication	13	10.7	-	4.4
Trade	5	12.0	-	10.4
Public Service (n. e. c.)	1	0.7	-	0.1
Professional Service	28	4.2	80	13.7
Domestic and Personal Service	-	3.5	6	19.1
Clerical	1	9.7	14	31.8

# Less than 0.1 per cent.

In Table 12 the choices of the 192 individuals that expressed a definite vocational interest that could be classified are expressed as a percentage distribution. This distribution is compared with the percentage distribution of all persons 18 to 24 years of age in Ohio who were gainfully employed in 1930. The comparison reveals several interesting points. In the first place, the proportion of males preparing to enter farming as a permanent vocation was nearly three times as large as the proportion of youth of similar age in that occupation. This situation was no doubt to be expected in view of the fact that these youth had been brought up in agriculture, or closely associated with it; that they were living in the midst of an economic depression in which the population trend was toward the land, and in which the calls of urban industry were strangely silent.

In the second place, the males showed a decided preference for the professional occupations and a pronounced neglect of the manufacturing and mechanical industries, the clerical trades and commercial trade. To some extent this may also be attributed to the lack of opportunity in these fields resulting from the depression.

In the third place, the females showed no preferences outside of professional service, clerical and domestic and personal service. The concentration

of their choices in the professional group was even more pronounced than that of the males. Of course, many would choose farming by way of marriage but such a choice could not be classified as a "gainful occupation."

The question, "What type of organization would you like to see formed in your community?" brought the following replies:

	Number	Per Cent
Don't know - Never thought about it	125	43
Boy or Girl Scout - Reserves	50	17
Senior Boy and Girl Organization	22	8
None - not interested	22	8
Social Organization	20	7
Recreation Club	10	3
County Organization	9	3
Agriculture Club of some kind	9	3
Religious Organization	7	2
Grange	4	1
Hiking Club	4	1
Reading Club	4	1
Music Club	3	1
Dramatic Club	3	1
Miscellaneous	8	2
Total	300	100

The results indicate that 43 per cent of the people interviewed had no suggestion to offer regarding new types of organization in the community. This proportion may not be unusually high. Indeed, if the general run of the adult rural population were interviewed with the same question, the proportion failing to answer would probably be higher.<sup>#</sup> It appears to be clear that large numbers of rural people are still unaware of the benefits to be derived through a planned community organization. The young people in question have grown up in a more or less established rural community. They have taken these communities for granted as they are. So far, life for them has been regarded as largely an individual process. The process of social organization and social change in response to the collective needs and wants of individuals is not yet clear to them. The benefits to be derived from a planned and controlled community organization are still vague to them. Perhaps it is now time to place as much emphasis upon the nature of the social process and the means of its improvement as in the past has been placed upon the formulae for individual success.

The investigator found these young people very susceptible to suggestions regarding what might interest them. It was evident that they desired to meet with other youth of their own age, to make new acquaintances and to have a good time. They desired new experience and much freedom. Many stated that they would like

<sup>#</sup> Compare Lively, C. E., "Rural Recreation in Two Ohio Counties," Ohio State University Studies, 1927, pp. 88ff. In answer to the question, "What is the greatest recreational need of the community?" 70 per cent of the people interviewed offered no answer.

to leave home to work but were unable to find employment. It would appear that organized effort to interest and aid these youth should be guided by these principles.

The investigator inquired of these young people whether they would like to attend meetings at the county seat with other young persons of their own age, and if so what they would like to do at such meetings. Of the 295 persons answering this question, 198 (66%) answered in the affirmative. There was a higher percentage of uncertainty in the Medina and Muskingum county areas than in any of the others. Table 13 shows the distribution of answers. There were no marked differences between the groups in school and those not in school.

Table 13.- Answers to the Question "Would you like to attend meetings at the County Seat with young people of your age for work and discussion?"

	Totals	In School				Not In School			
		Morgan	Logan	Mus- kingum	Me- dina	Morgan	Logan	Mus- kingum	Me- dina
Yes	198	40	27	22	26	20	22	19	22
No	43	7	1	0	6	7	3	8	11
Don't Know	54	7	1	25	16	1	0	2	2
No Information	5	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Total	300	55	29	47	48	28	27	29	37
Per cent Affirmative	66	73	93	47	54	71	81	65	59

Answers to the question, "What would you like to do at such meetings?" showed little uniformity of desires, except for recreation. The largest number of cases (171) fell in this general class when broadly interpreted to include sociability also. Getting acquainted, singing, games, sports, dancing, and dramatics were most prominent. Fourteen persons desired to study some phase of farming, and 6 some phase of home economics. Six wanted to study music, and 5 were interested in social problems. Other suggestions were for reading, crafts, art, youth problems, vocations, public speaking and club work. There were many other miscellaneous suggestions of a diverse and vague sort, such as "varied program," and "take an active part." Thus it is clear that the predominant interest was in recreation and sociability.

Answers to the question, "Would you attend a night school once a week if one were held at the county seat of your county during the winter months?" showed less interest than was manifested in group meetings. Only one-third of the 300 persons gave affirmative answers. Logan County showed the greatest interest and Medina and Muskingum the least. There was no significant difference between the group attending school and the group not in school. See Table 14.

Statements indicating what these young people would like to study at such a school were widely divergent. Only three topics received as many as 10 expressions of interest. Twenty-six persons would like to study some phase of farming, 14 some phase of business and commercial work, and 10 were interested in studying some aspect of home economics. Others were scattered over a wide range of subjects. Those receiving more than one expression of interest were music, languages and literature, mechanics, mathematics, dramatics, social problems, public speaking and art. A still greater variety of subjects was suggested by single individuals.



Table 14.- Answers to the Question, "Would you attend a night school once a week if one were held at the County Seat of your county during the winter months?"

	Totals	In School				Not In School			
		Mor- gan	Lo- gan	Mus- kingum	Me- dina	Mor- gan	Lo- gan	Mus- kingum	Me- dina
Yes	98	18	22	6	11	13	10	12	6
No	119	22	7	19	15	10	10	12	24
Uncertain	65	14		20	21	5		3	2
No Information	<u>18</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>
Total	300	55	29	47	48	28	27	29	37
Per cent Affirmative	33	33	76	13	23	46	37	41	16

### VI. Brief Case Studies

After depicting the activities of these rural youth in a somewhat piecemeal manner, it seems desirable, if not necessary, to present some synthesis of the data in the form of typical case studies. The objective of this investigation is that of portraying the status, activities and interests of individuals. This can scarcely be done with accuracy and completeness without depicting the status, activities and interests of typical individuals.

The following case studies are offered merely as suggestive samples. The chief principle of selection employed was that each must be markedly different from the others. With deliberate intent, however, the number of cases of youth not attending school was made greater than their relative importance in the sample. This was done on the assumption that the youth not attending school represent more nearly a neglected group than those still attending school, and consequently merit closer attention.

#### Males

Case 1. Willard was 19 and lived with his parents on a 240 acre farm. His parents were renters but had purchased a farm and planned to move to it the following year. He had one brother and one sister younger than himself, and two brothers and two sisters older. He had dropped out of school after completing the 9th. grade. He did not like school and preferred to work. At the time of the interview he was working for the landlord for monthly wages. He planned to continue his job until his father moved to his new farm and then help him. He preferred to obtain some sort of work in town, but as a second choice would help his father. He was a member of the Methodist church. He attended about 22 times per year and contributed about \$1.00. He attended Sunday School 30 times per year and contributed \$1.50. He though he read about one hour per day, but had read no books during the previous six months and would name no magazines which he read frequently. He spent about 50 hours per month auto driving, and averaged about one square dance, one movie, one party and one card game per month. He went hunting about 24 times a year and swimming about 15 times. He also saw about five baseball games per year. All of the activities, with the exception of the movie occurred in the neighborhood. He desired to belong to some social group for a good time. He would be interested in attending meetings of young people of his own age at the

county seat. His chief interest at such meetings would be play and recreation. He was interested in learning more about farming.

Case 2. Paul was 18 and lived with his parents on a 160-acre farm. He had a brother older and a sister younger than himself. He completed high school and went one year to college, but quit for financial reasons. At the time of the interview he was working at home with no arrangement for economic return. His parents owned the farm, and he planned to take charge of it some time. He expected to continue working at home for two years and then return to school. He did not know what he wanted to select as a life work. Paul did not belong to any organizations except the church and he did not attend that. He used to attend regularly, he said, but conflict over dancing arose and he quit. Said he, "I dance and I don't care who knows it."

For leisure-time activities, Paul read magazines about half an hour a day. He had read no books during the previous six months, and his favorite magazines were the American and Successful Farming. He listened to the radio about an hour a day, spent 2 hours a day auto driving and an hour and a half loafing about home or at the neighborhood store. He went to dances five times per month and shows or movies five times, played cards four times per month and attended one party. He went hunting about 10 times a year and swimming 25 times. He also visited the county fair every year. He was interested in basket ball, and played in the neighborhood about 7 times per year and was a spectator at about 5 other games. He also attended city baseball games about twice a year.

This boy had never thought much about forming useful organizations in the community. He was interested, however, when asked if he would like to attend county-wide meetings of young people of his own age. He had no suggestion regarding the program of such meetings.

Case 3. Chester lived with his family on a 250-acre farm owned by his father. His mother is dead. He was 20 years of age at the time of the interview, and had one brother aged 7 and two sisters aged 11 and 18 respectively. He had completed 8 grades of schooling, and didn't care to go further. He had been out of school four years at the time of the interview and was working at home and raising some hogs for himself. He did not know how long he might continue that arrangement, but was certain that he wanted to become a farmer and was planning to take charge of the home farm some day. He would like to be able to travel.

Two organized agencies touched Chester directly. He was a member of the Methodist church and attended about three times a year. He did not contribute to its financial support. He was also a member of the Grange, paid his dues and attended about six times a year.

For leisure-time activities, Chester spent about 40 hours per month reading. His favorite magazines were the Saturday Evening Post, the Ohio Farmer and the Farmer's Wife. During the previous six months he had also read "Riders of the Purple Sage," "Betty Zane," and "When a Man's a Man."

In addition to reading, this youth went to six dances a month at a distance of 12 miles, played cards and other similar games 6 times a month, visited about the community about once a week, went to four picnics a year, went fishing 6 times, hunting 24 times and swimming 20 times a year. He also attended the county and state fairs. He occasionally observed a football, basket ball or baseball game at the nearest village.

Chester thought a young people's group in his community would be a good thing. He was interested in the idea of a county-wide group of youth of his own age and said such a group would be useful for making new friends, having a good time and talking over common problems.

### Females

Case 1. Lucy was 17 at the time of the interview. She had 2 brothers and 2 sisters and lived with her parents on a general farm of 103 acres. Her parents owned the farm. She was attending school at the time of the interview and was in the 11th grade. She was taking a commercial course. She belonged to the Grango and attended four times a year. She was a member of the Methodist church, attended 25 times a year and contributed \$2.00. She attended Sunday School 40 times a year and contributed \$2.00. She was a 4-H Club member, attended 8 times a year, and was also recreation leader of the club. She belonged to a young people's club of which she was secretary; she attended 11 times a year and paid \$1.75 in dues. Her other leisure-time activities were as follows: reading 30 hours a month, listening to the radio 60 hours a month, playing musical instruments about 15 hours per month, playing cards 4 times per month, going to parties and shows twice per month, going visiting 4 times a month and attending farmers' institute 4 times a year. She also managed to attend three picnics and go fishing about three times per year. She liked to play with football, basket ball and baseball and played croquet about 70 times a season.

Her favorite magazines were National Geographic, Epworth Herald and American. She had read "Coming Through the Rye" during the previous six months. She wanted to see a Girl Scout organization formed in the community. She wished also to attend county meetings of young people of her own age in order to make new friends.

Case 2. Mabel was the eldest of three sisters. She was 20 and they were 17 and 11 respectively. She lived with them and her father in a rented place in the open country. Her father was a carpenter. Her mother was dead and being the oldest she was the homemaker. She had completed 10 grades in school and had been out one year at the time of the interview. She had assumed the duties of homemaker with no arrangement for economic return, and expected to continue as such for some time. She regarded homemaking as her probable life work, but stated that she desired to go to school and would do so if she had the opportunity.

Mabel was not a church member but she attended both church and Sunday School about a third of the time and contributed about one dollar a year to each. She belonged to no organizations. Her two leisure-time activities were fancy work and listening to the Victrola. She had done no reading during the six months prior to the interview. She could think of no organization that she would like to see established in her community, but thought she would be interested in meeting with young people of her own age at the county seat. She would be interested in studying homemaking at such meetings.

Case 3. Virginia was 19 and lived with her parents on a 43-acre general farm. Her father operated the farm, which was owned by her grandparents, and her mother worked in a restaurant. She had one brother, aged 16. She had completed 11 grades in school, taking a general course, and had been out of school two years at the time of the interview. She did not like the school she was required to attend. She preferred another but tuition charges prevented her attendance there.

At the time of the interview Virginia was living and working at home with no arrangement for economic return. She expected to stay at home for some time, and did not know what her future was likely to be. She did not belong to any church but attended both church and Sunday School occasionally, and contributed a little to their support. She had previously been a member of the Grango. She was a member of a local 4-H Club and attended 12 times per year. Her chief leisure-time interests were reading and fancy work. She read about 18 hours per month, chiefly magazines. She complained of the scarcity of books. Her favorite magazines were McCalls and Ladies Home Journal. She did fancy work about 44 hours per month, played musical instruments 5 hours, and spent 12 hours auto driving. She attended 3 shows, one party and one dance a month; played cards about twice and went visiting once per month; saw an occasional baseball game, and attended the county fair.

Virginia thought there should be an organization in the community just for young people of about her own age. She thought county meetings for young people of her age would be interesting and expressed a desire to get acquainted and play games at such meetings. She enquired about advanced projects in 4-H Club work.