



Farm families on the Milk river farm security project
by Lawrence B Lyall

A THESIS Submitted to the Graduate Committee in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
Degree of Master of Science in Agricultural Economics
Montana State University
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Abstract:

This study is primarily a descriptive analysis of the Milk River-Northern Montana Resettlement Project. Special consideration is given to criteria and methods of selecting farm families for relocation purposes, and to a statistical analysis of the characteristics and attributes of the families ultimately selected for this particular project.

Part I of the study entails a description of the Milk River Irrigation Project and the Resettlement Project itself, with a brief history of settlement and the combination of factors that contributed to the need for readjustment in the area. Part II deals with the eligibility requirements of applicants for resettlement on the project, the special qualifications adhered to in order to refine the large group of applicants, and the methods of obtaining the information concerning the individual families. It was believed that this refinement process would yield a more select group and thus give greater assurance for the success of the project. The more important qualification requirements are briefly discussed to give an insight into the traits and characteristics thought to be desirable or requisite in order to rehabilitate such farm families. Part III Involves a statistical analysis of the farm families selected for relocation, A limited comparison is made between this group and the group meeting the eligibility requirements but which were ultimately rejected in the refinement process.

It Is hoped and intended that this study will stimulate an interest in resettlement schemes of the type undertaken in the Milk River Valley whereby a greater number of the destitute and low income dry land farmers may be rehabilitated on irrigated land. There remain many such families which need to be moved onto land that will give them, greater assurance of a livelihood from year to year, restore their purchasing power, relieve tho local, state, and federal governments of their responsibility in caring for many of them, and in general improve the social status of the families and the individuals in the families,, It is likewise hoped that the study will be of some benefit in presenting ideas As to methods and criteria of family selection that may be of some benefit to future projects of this kind®

FARM FAMILIES ON THE MILK RIVER

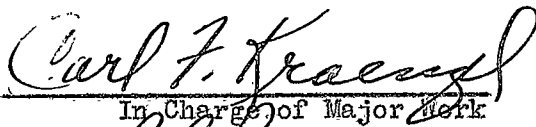
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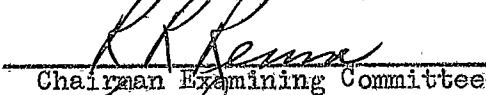
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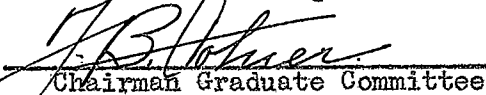
LAWRENCE B. LYALL

A THESIS

Submitted to the Graduate Committee
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Degree of Master of Science
in Agricultural Economics at
Montana State College


In Charge of Major Work


Chairman Examining Committee


Chairman Graduate Committee

Bozeman, Montana
June, 1938

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FARM FAMILIES OF THE MILK RIVER

FARM SECURITY PROJECT

ABSTRACT

This study is primarily a descriptive analysis of the Milk River-Northern Montana Resettlement Project. Special consideration is given to criteria and methods of selecting farm families for relocation purposes, and to a statistical analysis of the characteristics and attributes of the families ultimately selected for this particular project.

Part I of the study entails a description of the Milk River Irrigation Project and the Resettlement Project itself, with a brief history of settlement and the combination of factors that contributed to the need for readjustment in the area. Part II deals with the eligibility requirements of applicants for resettlement on the project, the special qualifications adhered to in order to refine the large group of applicants, and the methods of obtaining the information concerning the individual families. It was believed that this refinement process would yield a more select group and thus give greater assurance for the success of the project. The more important qualification requirements are briefly discussed to give an insight into the traits and characteristics thought to be desirable or requisite in order to rehabilitate such farm families. Part III involves a statistical analysis of the farm families selected for relocation. A limited comparison is made between this group and the group meeting the eligibility requirements but which were ultimately rejected in the refinement process.

It is hoped and intended that this study will stimulate an interest in resettlement schemes of the type undertaken in the Milk River Valley whereby a greater number of the destitute and low income dry land farmers may be rehabilitated on irrigated land. There remain many such families which need to be moved onto land that will give them greater assurance of a livelihood from year to year, restore their purchasing power, relieve the local, state, and federal governments of their responsibility in caring for many of them, and in general improve the social status of the families and the individuals in the families. It is likewise hoped that the study will be of some benefit in presenting ideas as to methods and criteria of family selection that may be of some benefit to future projects of this kind.

INTRODUCTION

The tri-county area of Blaine, Phillips and Valley counties, like the many other counties in northern and eastern Montana, has undergone vast changes since the cattlemen first drove their herds in from the south. The "free homestead" days saw the influx of great numbers of settlers with disastrous exploitation of human efforts and virgin prairie. Bountiful returns from the land because of favorable weather conditions and the new soil in the beginning served to induce more settlers to flock into the area. There followed, however, recurring years of less favorable rainfall with unstable economic conditions at irregular intervals. The incomes of the good years were soon dissipated in the many poor years. The total result was a stranded, destitute population and an unproductive, eroding land.

The Farm Security Administration entered the picture at this point. It undertook to undo the damage done over a 30-year period. Much has been accomplished in the brief two-year period since its inception in bringing about a balanced agriculture and a more economic utilization of resources in the area. New life has been put into the country, but many years will be required to repair the damages of the 30-year period.

This study pertains only to the work so far accomplished. Nearly a million acres of land has been developed and improved by the construction of storage reservoirs, the obliteration of abandoned farmsteads, the reseeding of barren fields and the fencing of pasture lands. The land is now available to the sheepmen and the cattlemen. A large number of stricken

dry-land farmers has been relocated in the Milk River Valley. They are now on good, irrigable land which is being developed to the point where they can sow their crops with reasonable assurance of wages and a living for their families.

The communities of the area, the state, and the country as a whole will benefit from this undertaking. The land resources are being put to their proper use and a more economically and socially secure future is being established for a farm population dependent heretofore upon public aid for a large part of its living.

There is still a large amount of land available in the valley for other farmers who should be moved from their dry lands. Efforts are being put forth by civic organizations, business men, and landowners to bring about a continuance of the work of the Farm Security Administration on an expanded basis.

Purpose of Study

This study is designed:

1. To present a brief description of the resettlement project idea as sponsored by the Federal Government in an effort to rehabilitate a destitute or low income agricultural population. Special attention is to be given to the Milk River Resettlement Project in Montana.
2. To analyze families selected for farm units on the Milk River Project in northern Montana and to describe the characteristics possessed by these families. This would include age and sex distribution, family composition and others.

3. To analyze methods and criteria used in the selection of the families for relocation on farms in the Milk River Valley so as to determine, if possible, the more desirable methods and the most effective criteria to be used in the future. It is a recognized and accepted fact that the success or failure of any colonization or resettlement project is largely dependent upon the families selected. However, little study has been made of selection criteria and methods.

4. To develop suggestions for guidance in facilitating future economic and social planning for families selected for such a resettlement attempt. An insight into the characteristics and qualities of the selected families should reveal the social and economic needs. This will afford a more sound basis for a type of planning that will satisfy the needs and promote greater stability among the families selected.

5. To show the need for further study of this type by way of developing helpful suggestions as to methods and criteria for family selection. It might be added here that insufficient time has elapsed since the establishment of the Milk River Project to note the results in terms of the success or failure of the families selected.

PART I: PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

Location and History of the Resettlement Project with
Description of Milk River Irrigation Project

Location.--The Milk River Farm Security Relocation Project in Montana consists of 132 irrigated farms ranging in size from 40 to 160 acres, in addition to 32 labor units of 3 to 6 acres each. These latter are designed as subsistence home units for laborers on the adjacent farms and in the towns. These farms are scattered throughout the entire Milk River irrigation project, which is located in the north central part of the state, extending into Blaine, Phillips, and Valley counties (see figure 1). The project itself was set up in 1905 by the Reclamation Bureau and extends from Lohman, a short distance east of Havre, to Nashua, east of Glasgow. The total length of the project is about 150 miles and the width ranges from one-half to about three miles.

Climate.--The area included by the Milk River Irrigation Project is typically semi-arid. The climate is characterized by a moderately low precipitation; the summers are hot, the winters are cold, the atmosphere is dry and there is a large proportion of sunny days. The area is subject to the frequent and sudden changes which are characteristic of the northern Great Plains, especially during the winter months. 1/

The average annual precipitation in the Milk River Valley ranges

1/ Gieseker, L. F., "Soils of Blaine County," Mont. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 228, March, 1930, p. 19.

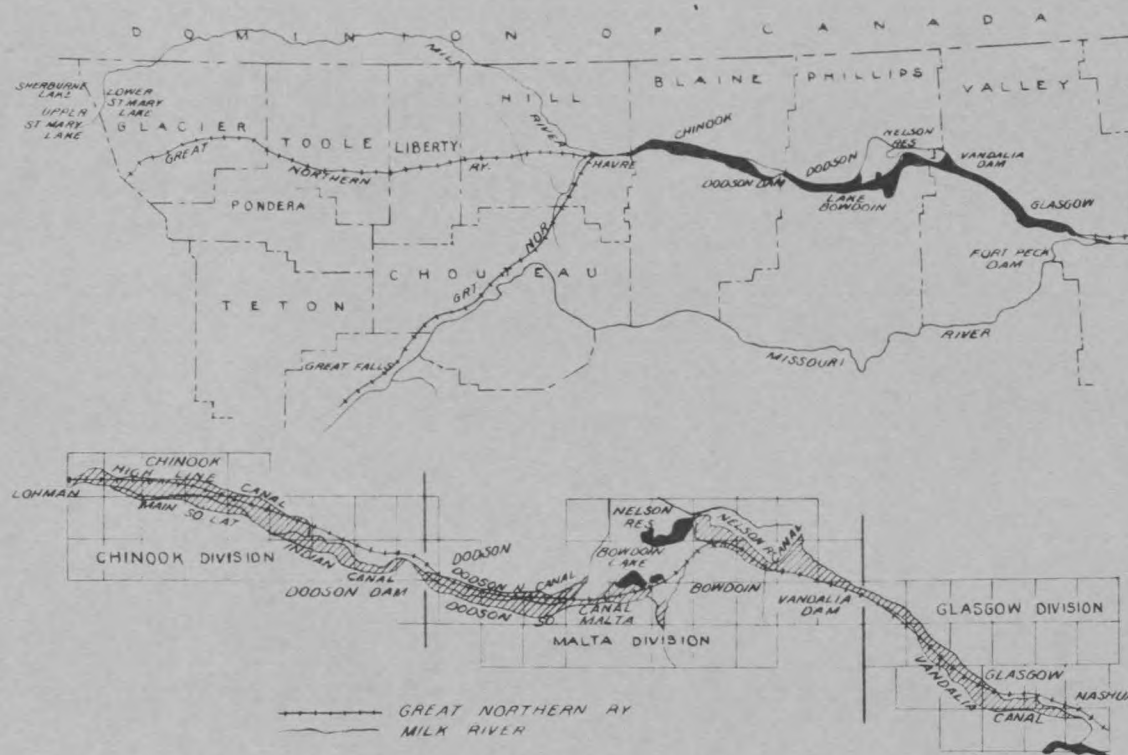


FIGURE 1 - ABOVE - LOCATION OF THE MILK RIVER PROJECT
 BELOW - DETAILED MAP OF THE PROJECT

between 12 and 14 inches. The lowest annual precipitation for the area recorded was about 7 inches and the highest was well over 20 inches. Generally, about 60 per cent of the precipitation comes between April 1 and September 1. 2/

The mean annual temperature ranges from 40.8 F. at Glasgow to 41.6 F. at Chinook. The average frost-free period in the Milk River Valley dates from May 20 to September 18, although temperatures of 32 F. or lower have been recorded in every month of the year except July. 3/

Topography.--In general, the land in the valley is fairly level. In fact, in places it is so level that irrigation is difficult. Throughout the valley there are many topographical irregularities that divide the arable land into very irregular areas and interfere with their use. Geologically, the land along the stream has been built up with alluvium deposited during high water and in some sections it is a foot or more above the lower part of the valley. This factor in itself is conducive to poor drainage. Former channels of the river are now filled with water a larger part of the time.

These topographical features have created serious drainage and irrigation problems. In fact, the success or failure of farmers on the project has and will depend largely upon their ability to cope with these problems. Little provision was made by the Reclamation Service to develop the land properly for successful cultivation. It did provide surface drainage for the better lands on the Malta and Glasgow divisions when the

2/ Slagsvold, P. L., and Bingham, G. H., "An Analysis of Agriculture on the Milk River Irrigation Project," Mont. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 290, June, 1934, p. 10.

3/ Ibid, Bul. 290, p. 11, and Gieseke, op. cit., Bul. 228, p. 21.

distribution system was installed, but no provision was made for it on the Chinook division. It has been necessary for the Farm Security Administration to level, ditch, and drain the land it purchased on the project to put it in suitable condition for farming. 4/

Soil.---The soil types of the area are many and varied. The soils range in texture from a fine sand to a heavy clay or "gumbo" with a high percentage of the latter type in the area. 5/

Water Supply.---Water for irrigation for the Milk River Project is stored in the Sherburne Lakes in Glacier National Park and is diverted through a canal 29 miles in length into the north fork of the Milk River. The Milk River flows through Canada for 216 miles, returning to the United States north of Havre. Then it follows a very meandering course through its pre-glacial valley as far east as Malta. During low water it is a sluggish stream entrenched 10 to 15 feet below its flood plain. The stream drains a very large area in north central Montana, and during floods is likely to overflow its banks and inundate a considerable portion of the valley.

Water is diverted from the river by dams near Lohman and this is for Fort Belknap, Alfalfa Valley, and Zurich irrigation districts, and southeast of Chinook for the Paradise Valley district. The Harlem district has an electric pumping plant east of Zurich. These five districts constitute the Chinook division of the Milk River Project. 6/ The Farm Security

4/ Slagsvold and Bingham, op. cit., p. 12, and Giesecker, op. cit., Bul. 290, p. 62.

5/ Ibid, Bul. 290, pp. 12 to 17, inclusive, also Giesecker, L. F., "Soils of Valley, Phillips, and Blaine Counties," Mont. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul's. 198, 199, and 228.

6/ Slagsvold and Bingham, op. cit., Bul. 228, p. 6.

Administration has 34 farm units in this division; 26 near Zurich and 8 near Harlem.

For the Malta division, water is diverted by means of a dam near Dodson from the Milk River to two canals. The Dodson North Canal irrigates land near Dodson and Malta, and the Dodson South Canal conveys water to land near Wagner, Malta, and Bowdoin, and through the Nelson Reservoir to land near Saco and Hinsdale. There are 6 units located near Dodson. In the Wagner area there are 44 units in addition to the twenty-five Malta original homesteads. Near Hinsdale there are 16 units.

A dam near Vandalia diverts water from the river into the Vandalia division canal for the irrigation of land near Tampico, Glasgow, and Nashua. There are 5 units at Tampico and 2 at Nashua.

A serious drawback to the present irrigation plan of the Milk River Project is its distance from the water storage source. The project is almost entirely dependent upon stored water, which as already stated, is located in Glacier Park. With the storage supply so far removed, there is a continuous threat of water shortage. Even at full capacity of the present system there have been times during the past few years when the supply has not been adequate. However, construction of the Chain Lakes reservoir between Havre and the Canadian border to supply storage close to the project is now well on the way to completion. It is expected that this additional storage capacity will not only supplement the water storage facilities at St. Mary's Lake in Glacier Park so as to insure more dependable and adequate supply of water for the project at all times, but will also assist in the control of floods, a usual occurrence and threat in the valley. The floods have

occasionally done considerable damage to crops and irrigation ditches and have prevented productive cultivation of much of the farm land.

Public Utilities.--The entire valley is accessible to the main line of the Great Northern Railway which traverses the length of the project and affords good connections with eastern and western markets. Highway No. 2, an improved asphalt road, parallels the railroad. Electricity is supplied by the Montana Power Company and thus far has been made available only to the Malta original homesteads of the Farm Security Administration. It is planned to make it available to all units in the project. Roads in the rural districts are improved and are being maintained.

Towns.--There are a number of important towns in the valley. Chinook, the county seat of Blaine County is the site of a beet-sugar factory operated by the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company. Zurich and Harlem are the other two important towns in this county. Malta, the county seat of Phillips County is near the center of the project. Other towns in this county are Dodson, Wagner, and Saco. Glasgow is the county seat of Valley County, Vandalia, Tampico, and Nashua are the local points in this county.

Settlement History.--The story of the settlement of the dry land area surrounding the Milk River Valley is one common to the entire Great Plains Region. The country was first taken up by the stockmen during the late eighties and nineties. They settled mainly along streams and near waterholes. The possession of the water holes by the large stock companies enabled them to control the grazing of the stock in this area. Between 1908 and 1917 the dry-land farmer came in large numbers, attracted by the free land--the so-called "land of opportunity." The railroads and speculators spurred this settlement forward and in the space of those few years much

of the tillable land was taken up and put under the plow. A claim shack stood on every half section and little inland towns dotted the countryside.

Irrigation in the Milk River Valley owes its initial development to the stockman who saw the need of supplementing his winter ranges with native hay to prevent occasional heavy winter loss of stock. This early development dates from 1890. The Bureau of Reclamation entered the picture in 1905, soon after the passage of the Reclamation Bill by Congress in 1902. The first units of this project were opened for settlement in 1913. The project undertaken embraced a total of 192,000 acres. 7/

Ranchers, business men, and speculators invested heavily in the land along the river. The new settlers, however, preferred the cheaper dry land. The results were that much of the land in the valley was farmed in very large units, often without getting even fair results, and the dry land units were soon found to be too small for economic production and not adaptable to the farming methods to which the people were accustomed. 8/

Plight of Agriculture in Area.---The cattlemen who had been using the public domain, faced by suddenly restricted range and possible bankruptcy as a result of the influx of agriculturists, were forced to retire or operate upon a smaller scale. 9/ The drylanders had a few successful years at first followed by many years with not more than a half a dozen crops to

7/ Gieseke, op. cit., Bul. 198, p. 55; Bul. 199, p. 6; and Bul. 228, p. 56.

8/ Johnson and Saunderson, "Types of Farming in Montana," Mont. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 328, Part I, October, 1936, pp. 32 and 40, and Gieseke, op. cit., Bul. 228, p. 59.

9/ Op. cit., Bul. 328, p. 63.

reward their efforts. 10/ In spite of new dry land farming methods and practices introduced by the extension service the return was small.

Delinquent taxes accumulated and land was reverting to the counties; foreclosures by loan companies and banks were becoming more numerous. In 1917 occurred a severe drought which lasted for two years. There followed an economic depression resulting in many failures and in the concentration of a large acreage of land in the hands of mortgage-holding companies. "Many of the local banks and trust companies, which had loaned heavily on land and livestock during the favorable years, went into the hands of receivers during the deflation period. In 1925, 57.4 per cent of the farms in operation in Blaine County carried a mortgage indebtedness averaging \$5.20 per acre on land valued at \$11.08 per acre." 11/

Some of the farmers left during these unfavorable years, but many remained, unable to leave or still retaining hope for the "next year." The farmsteads, little improved since the day of occupancy, and the equipment, old and unprotected from the elements, were becoming broken down and useless; the farm land was blowing, and the range land was becoming denuded of its native grasses and subject to erosion. The drought and economic depression beginning in 1932 not only added to the hardships of those farmers who remained but accentuated their plight. Seed loans in the spring and feed loans in the fall, together with Red Cross, County and Federal human aid were becoming the usual thing from year to year to maintain

10/ Op. cit., Bul. 228, pp. 22 and 51; Bul. 328, p. 30.

11/ Op. cit., Bul. 228, p. 52.

the farmers, their families, and their livestock. Such was the plight of the farmer in this area in 1935. ^{12/}

Need for Readjustment.--There was a definite agricultural maladjustment in the three counties with which this study is concerned. Not only was submarginal land under cultivation, but irrigated land in the valley was being farmed in large units with only fair results in most cases. The major difficulty lay in the improper adaptation of agriculture to the physical resources.

The drylander realized that an adjustment had to be made if he were to survive and the landowner in the valley arrived at the conclusion that his expensive land must be made to pay. The readjustment of agriculture in this area was a vital problem. The welfare of the dry land farmers and the landowners in the valley and the very existence of the towns, so dependent upon the rural residents, was at stake.

Steps in Adjustment.--In an attempt to cope with the problem, the "Malta plan" was conceived and advocated by a group of Malta citizens. It was sponsored by the county extension agent, the Malta Commercial Club and the Malta Irrigation District. The idea was advanced as far back as 1925 and involved the plan of removing farmers from the dry land to the irrigated valley land. It entailed the cutting up of the large, undeveloped valley tracts into economic units to which the drought stricken drylander could be transferred, and gave the resettled farmers a chance to pay for the farms over a long period of time. This, it was felt, would solve the growing problem of the submarginal farmer who could not make a living on

^{12/} Beck, P. G. and Forster, M. C., "Six Rural Problem Areas, Relief Resources-Rehabilitation," Federal Emergency Relief Administration research monograph, Washington, 1935, pp. 16, 82, and 103.

his shallow, parched acres. It would also rid the land-poor merchant, banker, and stockman of property they would soon have to bring into productivity.

Lack of funds, however, handicapped the plan. Only a few farmers who were able to finance themselves or secure aid from local banks and credit agencies were settled on the irrigated land. The most important point, the development of the land itself through the construction of drains and ditches and the leveling of land, could not be undertaken by any local group. The few farmers who were resettled at that time have been able to little more than keep even with payments, taxes, and water charges.

In 1934, Mr. H. L. Lantz, a member of the Malta Committee and at that time county extension agent in Phillips County, was called into Washington to confer with officials there in regard to the critical situation existing in this area. As a result of the conference a program of retiring submarginal land from production and relocating the dispossessed low income or destitute farmers was undertaken in the area, and when, in 1935, the Resettlement Administration was established, Mr. Lantz was named manager of the Milk River-Northern Montana Project, the largest resettlement unit in the United States.

Aim, Extent, and Organization of the Resettlement Project

With the establishment of the Resettlement Administration (now called the Farm Security Administration) in 1935 a program with the following objectives was undertaken:

1. The retirement of submarginal dry land from cultivation through

outright purchase by the government.

2. The improvement of such land for grazing purposes by the construction of range reservoirs to augment the scattered water holes and creeks; the obliteration of abandoned farmsteads; the construction of dipping vats and corral units; the construction of fences; the graveling of roads; the eradication of rodents; the development of recreation centers; and the organization of grazing associations.
5. The rehabilitation, in place, of farmers who own land that could be irrigated or developed along sound agricultural lines by the granting of loans for the purpose of improving the land, purchasing machinery and livestock, and financing operations.
4. The granting of financial aid to farmers who were temporarily in need of aid for living purposes by giving work on the resettlement work projects or by giving them outright relief on a budget basis through the rehabilitation program.
5. The resettlement of farmers displaced by the land purchase program and other destitute farmers on irrigated land in the Milk River Valley purchased by the Resettlement Administration for the specific purpose.

The first two objectives cited above have been carried out under the supervision of the Land Utilization Division. Much progress has been made by this division toward improvement and development of submarginal land for grazing purposes. Objectives three and four came under the supervision of the Rehabilitation Division. Not only did this division make loans and

grants to destitute farmers (particularly to those who were unable to secure loans from other credit agencies), but six farm families from submarginal areas were located on the so-called Johnson tract north of Malta in the Milk River Valley. This tract has since been turned over to the Resettlement Division. The last objective, and the one with which we are here concerned, is under the direction of the Resettlement Division.

Both the Land Utilization Division and the Resettlement Division have afforded employment to large numbers of farmers in carrying out their objectives. It has been on a work relief basis, the workers being limited to a certain number of hours per month. It has afforded the destitute and low income farmers a livelihood that cultivation of the land would not during this adjustment period.

The Malta original homesteads, or the South Wagner Project, was among the first resettlement projects initiated in the United States. The land, 2342.99 acres, lying south of the Milk River and extending from a point five miles east of Dodson to a point about ten miles west of Malta, was purchased for \$65,060, or an average of \$26.74 per acre.

The development of the South Wagner Project fell into three natural divisions:

1. The improvement of the land itself--that is, the leveling of the land, the construction of ditches, drain ditches and roads, and the clearing of good river bottom lands.
2. The construction of houses and farm buildings. This construction of homes, barns, poultry houses, fences, feed lots and the drilling of wells was done by the Construction Division of the Farm

Security Administration.

3. The selection of families.

The land purchased at South Wagner was first divided into economic farm units. It was broken up into twenty-five units and twenty-five farm families were thus settled on land formerly occupied by a half-dozen land-owners. This division of the land into farm units was followed by a survey of the land as to irrigation and drainage needs. Most of the land had never been leveled for efficient irrigation, and much work was involved to put the land in shape for economic production. The land, much of which had produced only meager crops of wild hay or had never been plowed at all, was put into sugar beets, grains, alfalfa, and gardens, the principal crops of the area.

Additional irrigated land has since been purchased at Zurich, Harlem, Dodson, Wagner, Malta, Hinsdale, Tampico, and Nashua. This land has likewise been divided into economic farm units. There are a total of 107, besides the 25 at South Wagner in the valley.

Of the total 107 units, 70 units were sold in the spring of 1937 to approved clients under a lease and purchase contract. Direct loans were made to these clients for the construction of homes and out buildings, or for remodeling existing structures, for fences or the repair of existing fences, and for wells on the units purchased.

This purchase plan provided that approved clients could purchase farm units on the project on a forty-year amortization plan with interest of three per cent. The lands were sold at a fair appraisal price, including such land leveling or other treatment as was found necessary. The

purchaser, under the plan, is expected to build up an equity in the completed farmstead. In the event he withdraws from the contract before its completion, he will receive the principal amount "paid in" on an equitable basis, the interest for the period of occupancy serving as rent. The first payment on the contract is due in the fall of 1938. Prepayments may be permitted, but the final payment may not be made until the end of the forty-year period without the consent of the government. On the repayment basis as set up, the individual farmer pays a total of \$43.26 per thousand dollars each year. The interest the first year is \$30.00 and the payment on the principal is \$13.26 per thousand. Total payments of each farmer will amount to little more than if the farmer were leasing on a crop share basis.

The homes, not as elaborate or modern in all respects as those first constructed on the South Wagner Project, are very neat and comfortable and quite unlike any that these farmers have been accustomed to. The barns are of a shed type and the chicken houses of the Montana type as advocated by the extension service. Land development and the construction of drains and ditches are being done by the construction division.

The other 37 farm units of the total 107 are leased out on a crop share basis. Twenty-three are at present under lease to approved clients and the remaining 14 were still open for lease as of November 31, 1937. Of the latter 14 units, the titles to five had not been cleared on the above date and two were to be leased to previous clients in order to supplement their original units. The necessary construction work and land development is being done in the same manner as on the purchase units and on the Malta original homesteads.

To take care of living and operating expenses, and to enable the farmers to purchase necessary equipment, operating loans are available. These loans, however, are at a higher rate of interest and cover a short period of time.

In addition to the farm units here described, a total of 32 so-called labor units were set up. These units consist of small tracts of land, three to six acres, set up in groups located near towns in the valley. A small house, barn, and a chicken house were constructed on each. The units were intended for approved clients who anticipate obtaining the major part of their livelihood from work on farms in the vicinity, or from whatever other labor can be had in the nearby towns. These units will enable the clients to raise a garden and maintain a cow and a few chickens which will provide a supplemental means of livelihood. The homes are equipped with running water and electricity. A reasonable rental is charged the occupants.

The total number of units, both labor and farm, are under the direct supervision of a project manager assisted by an assistant project manager and subordinate personnel. The general direction of the project is carried on by the project manager. The assistant project manager works with the individual farmers devising farm plans, directing, advising in the farm operations, and supervising in the making of operating loans and collections.

PART II: FAMILY SELECTION

Eligibility Requirements of Applicants

Since this project was set up for the primary purpose of rehabilitating destitute and low income dry land farmers, there automatically are of

necessity, certain limitations upon the choice of applicants for placement. At the same time, it was realized that there were certain ascertainable qualifications that are conducive generally to the success or failure of an individual enterprise. The following list of the types of families that were considered eligible, the specific qualifications required of these families, 13/ and other qualifications which, though not required, were reasonably thought to play a part in settler success shows the circumscribed limits to which the final selection was confined.

1. Families eligible for resettlement:

- a. Families required to be resettled in connection with land use projects; that is, families displaced by the land purchase program of the government in Blaine, Valley and Phillips counties.
- b. Destitute and low income farm families of the following types:
 - (1) Farm owners, farm tenants, croppers, farm laborers or persons who were recently in any of the foregoing classes.
 - (2) Other persons with farming experience who were recently on relief rolls.
 - (3) Other persons with farming experience who were recently registered as borrowers or receivers of public aid from a state Rural Rehabilitation or from the Resettlement Administration (Farm Security).
 - (4) Other persons with farming experience who were in default in payments to a Federal Land Bank and were

13/ Family Selection, Handbook 8, Administration Order 105, (Revision 3). Farm Security Administration, September 25, 1936.

in danger of foreclosure and eviction.

(5) Other persons with farming experience who were in default to or had been denied credit by the Farm Credit Administration or any agency thereof.

(6) Other persons with farming experience, including ex-service men and young married men just entering upon the enterprise of farming who were found to be similarly in need of public aid.

2. Specific qualifications required of families found eligible:

- a. Each family as a whole had to voluntarily express the desire for the opportunity made available.
- b. They had to evidence an acceptable initiative and resourcefulness.
- c. They had to show promise of ability to enter into community life and profit from instructions and guidance.
- d. They had to give reasonable assurance of attaining economic stability sufficient to enable them to meet the rental and other payments on the farms for which they proposed to obligate themselves.
- e. They had to show sufficient stability of residence.
- f. They had to be free from infectious diseases and disabilities that were likely to obstruct the fulfillment of obligations.
- g. The head of each family had to be at least twenty-one

years of age. Preference was given to heads of families under fifty-five years of age.

- h. The applicants had to be married couples with one or more children or other dependents; in special cases, young married couples without children and families consisting of one spouse and older children or of individuals with other close family members were accepted. A family of such size as to furnish an adequate labor supply without requiring hired labor was preferred.
- i. They had to have farming experience.

3. General qualifications not required of applicants but considered:

- a. A rudimentary education and as much additional education as is in harmony with a favorable attitude toward life.
- b. Cooperative and harmonious family life; that is, a wife and children familiar with farm life and willing to contribute to its success.
- c. A size and age-sex composition of the family that would provide family labor and contribute to the general work of the farm, as well as adjusted to the size and type of farm.
- d. Character, stability, reliability, and a sense of responsibility.
- e. Intelligence, alertness, resourcefulness, and judgment.
- f. Religiosity or loyalty to an idealistic group.

The families who sold land to the government or were in any way

displaced by the land purchase program received first consideration and were designated as the "A" class cases. When these cases were exhausted, those cases not displaced but meeting eligibility requirements were next considered. These were designated as the "B" cases.

The majority of the farmers selected had no previous experience with irrigation farming. Inasmuch as these individuals have lived adjacent to the Milk River Valley and are thoroughly familiar with Montana conditions, it is firmly believed that with supervision and instruction they will succeed. At least, they have a much better chance than if they were brought from some other area. Such removal and relocation of the families in this particular area are at the same time the means of satisfying economic and social needs that have been requiring adjustment for some years. This project may point the way to further work along the same line to further relieve the maladjustment existing in similar areas.

The main concern in family selection was directed not so much at the farm laborer or those farmers living in town, but toward the destitute or low income farmer still residing on the land but unable to make any move or adjustment of his own accord. These were the farm owners and farm tenants. Of course, there was the necessity to make provisions for those farmers who were displaced; but in many cases such a move was not advisable.

It was of primary importance that a prospective family express a desire for placement on an irrigated farm. The next important qualification was that of farming experience, not necessarily in irrigation farming. The fact that better than 61 per cent of the cases selected had homesteaded and that the majority of those homesteading did so in the period from 1910

to 1917 is sufficient evidence to indicate that these families are experienced hands. ^{14/} The manner in which they have managed to weather the drought years, the amount of relief received, and the effort expended trying to overcome their obstacles is evidence of initiative and resourcefulness. Because of the scattered distribution of the farmers in this area and the isolation of many of the families, little opportunity was offered for most of them to take part in community life. However, they were gauged in this respect by the reactions of their neighbors, or, in some instances, by their membership and leadership of organizations requiring cooperation. The prospective client's attitude toward farm life, a wish to farm and a willingness to sacrifice comforts and other values when necessary, a willingness to work, judgment and character are general indications of the probability of attaining economic stability sufficient to enable them to meet the rental and other payments on the farm for which they proposed to obligate themselves. Stability of residence is indicated by their movement within the area, within the state, and from state to state over a period of years. Farming as an occupation requires good health. Since the work is grueling and requires endurance, general good health on the part of all family members is necessary. A complete physical examination was required for each member of each family by a competent and approved doctor.

The size and age-sex composition of the families along with the general qualifications not required of applicants but which received due consideration, are discussed in detail in Part IV of this thesis in the study

^{14/} With few exceptions farm families who had farmed up to the last year or so were chosen and in the great majority of these cases they were still residing on their original homesteads.

of families approved for relocation.

The mere enumeration of all the qualifications considered in this section does not signify that they were strictly adhered to. They formed only a basis by which comparisons could be made in order to secure the better farmers from a large group of applicants.

It may be noted here that inasmuch as the project served the purpose of rehabilitating destitute and low income farmers, capital was not a requirement. In fact, farmers with sufficient capital to make their own adjustments were not considered. A succession of drought years had left the farmers in this area in debt in most instances. A debt adjustment committee was set up for the purpose of adjusting debts for these farmers, and wherever a farmer selected for placement had outstanding indebtedness, arrangements were made whereby the administration would take over and carry such debts at an adjusted amount.

Collection of Data Concerning the Qualifications of the Prospective Settlers

With the opening of the Milk River Project for the resettlement of dry land farmers on irrigated, economic farm units, large numbers of such farmers began to signify their desire to obtain such units. As described in the previous section, the land purchase program was in full swing at this time and those farm families so displaced by the sale of their land, or the land which they were leasing, to the government were given first consideration in the selection of farm families for placement. The eligibility requirements and the qualifications were imposed to eliminate the unneedy and less successful prospective applicants and to insure, in the

greatest possible degree, the success of each farm venture.

Attached to the project, was a Family Selection Specialist who received applications, interviewed and investigated families, advised as to the action taken on applications, arranged for medical examinations, maintained necessary records, prepared reports concerning the progress of family selection, and advised the regional chief of family selection section on problems of occupant families. Applications were received directly by him or the project manager, as well as the regional chief of Family Selection Section, from interested families or approved referral agencies. To facilitate and hasten the work, family selection committees were appointed in the various districts of the three counties. Lists of applicants were submitted to these committees for review and comment. Inasmuch as the committee members were familiar with most of the farmers in their districts, it was hoped that in this way the less likely prospects and those with the least possible chance for success on an irrigated unit could be eliminated, thus reducing the list of applicants to a more workable group. It was also necessary to hold personal family interviews to a minimum in order to not raise unnecessarily the hopes of families who could not be provided for in the program since the farm opportunities that could be offered were limited.

The applicants not eliminated by the committees were studied by means of one or more personal interviews. Data obtainable through these interviews were limited usually to ascertainable facts with which the applicant was familiar. The data were as objective and conclusive as possible. The

interviews provided opportunity for the applicant to indicate his place of residence, length of residence at his last location, in the county, in the state, and in the country; marital status; birthplace; the size and age-sex composition of the family; education; extent of farm experience; other experience; financial standing; participation in community activity; and general health of family. In addition, narrative reports were made on each family and attached to each report, tracing the family history in logical order and generally expanding information included in the family history sheets. Also, the interviewer's reaction as to the attitude, character, resourcefulness, judgment, and stability was usually noted, as were the reactions and opinions of references. With additional investigation, the total information was synthesized and recommendations made therefrom by the Family Selection Specialist. The regional chief of the Family Selection Section represented the regional director in determining jointly with the community manager the families who were finally selected for the project.

The use of references, a procedure under which persons familiar with the applicants were contacted for suggestions and recommendations, aided materially the selection of families for placement. Not only was information at hand verified by this method, but it enabled the investigator to obtain a more accurate and complete picture of the applicant and his family in their natural environs and in relation to their community. Usual references included:

1. Merchants
2. Bankers

3. Credit agencies, both government and private (other than banks).
4. Agricultural specialists.
5. Medical authorities.
6. County and city officers, and leaders in community cooperative agencies.
7. Neighbors.

These sources were particularly valuable in furnishing information on the following:

1. The family as a unit--its stability and the cooperation and harmony of its members.
2. Farming experience and ability, and the ability and willingness to meet the adjustment from dry land farming to irrigated farming.
3. Reliability as a credit risk.
4. Financial standing.
5. General character, stability, intelligence, and judgment.
6. Family health.

Approximately a thousand persons made application. In many instances these persons were from out of this area. This number was greatly reduced by the committees to a more workable quota. The final selection represents those farmers and their families who have met all eligibility requirements and have displayed those particular qualities so necessary in any successful farming enterprise.

PART III.--STUDY OF FAMILIES APPROVED FOR RELOCATION

Family Composition

As age and marital status were among the qualifications determining

the acceptability of a farm family for relocation, the composition of the households of those selected was definitely limited to particular types of households. Preference in selection was given the younger households; that is, to the young and middle-age couples with children under 16 years of age. The second preferential group was the middle-aged and older couples with children over and under 16 years of age. It was believed that households of these types would display the greatest stability, as well as demonstrate greater ability to cope with the social and economic problems arising out of a new start in a totally different farming environment than that to which they had been accustomed. Table 1 clearly shows this tendency in the selection of households with children under 16 and with children over and under 16, there being 56.4 per cent and 29.1 per cent respectively of the total households in these groups. Consideration was given to single persons with dependents, there being no single persons without dependents selected. Broken households 15/ with children were not selected.

There is a similar predominance of households with children under 16 and with children over and under 16 in the cases not selected. This arises out of the fact that the majority of these cases received consideration during the period of application but were ultimately eliminated for reasons other than age or marital status.

Family and Household Size

The lives and activities of rural people center about the home. Thus, the composition of the home and its size are important factors in

15/ A broken household here refers to one in which there was a male head only with children, the female head (or wife) being divorced or separated from her husband, or dead.

TABLE I.--COMPOSITION OF HOUSEHOLDS SELECTED
AND NOT SELECTED FOR RELOCATION ON THE MILK
RIVER RESETTLEMENT PROJECT

Composition of Household	Cases Selected		Cases not Selected	
	No. of house- holds	Per cent of total	No. of house- holds	Per cent of total
Total	117	100.0	118	100.0
Single Persons	0	0	7	5.9
Single persons with others	4	3.4	3	2.5
Husband and wife only	4	3.4	15	12.7
Husband and wife with others	1	.9	0	0
Unbroken household with children under 16 years only	66	56.4	47	39.8
Unbroken household with children over 16 only	8	6.8	6	5.1
Unbroken household with children both over and under 16	34	29.1	37	31.4
Men with children under 16 only	0	0	0	0
Men with children over 16 only	0	0	1	.8
Men with children both over and under 16	0	0	2	1.7

contributing to the success of a farm enterprise. The farm family is an economic unit in that every member of the household assists in the farm operations as long as he is a member. It is a social unit as well. The close associations of the family is conducive to cohesion and solidarity which results in greater stability. The Farm Security Administration is definitely concerned with the success of each farm enterprise, because the success of the project as a whole is dependent on the success of its individual units. Since the family or household is the basic factor behind the success of each unit, great care must be exercised in the choice of families to be relocated.

The optimum size of the family can not be prescribed as the capabilities of the individuals, the level of living with which the family will be content, the size of the farm unit, and the types of farming to which the units are adapted vary greatly. However, families with one or more children were given preference. There were more families selected with four members, that is, families with two children (see figures 2 and 3 and appendix tables I, II, and III).

Three classifications were set up to facilitate analysis:

1. Size of family at home, by which is meant the size of the family residing at home excluding members married, attending school or college elsewhere, and those working out temporarily or permanently.
2. The total size of the family; that is, the total members at home and away from home.
3. The size of the household which includes the family and relatives or other individuals living in the household.

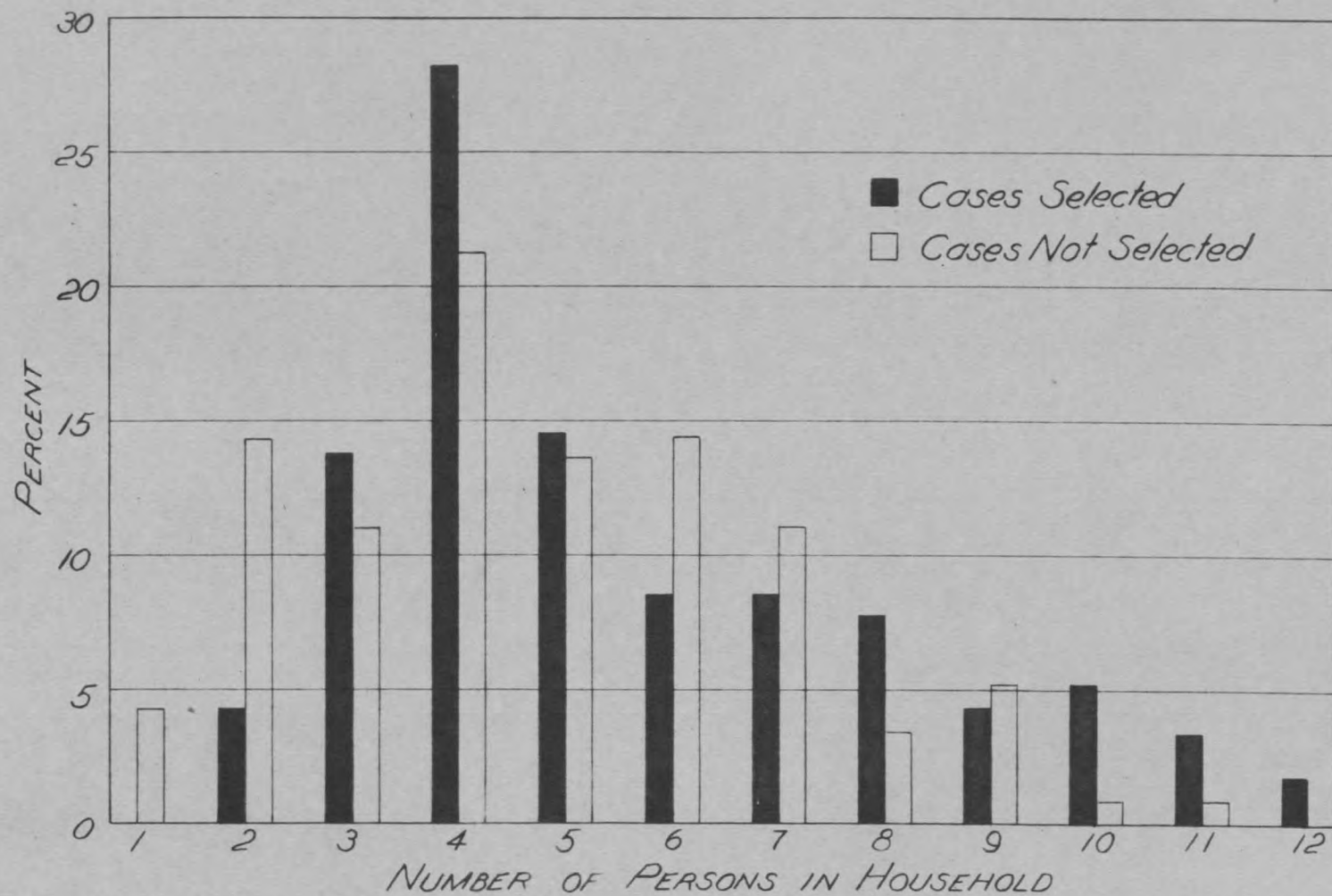


FIGURE 2 - COMPARISON BY SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD OF CASES
SELECTED AND CASES NOT SELECTED

Source of Data - Table I, Appendix B

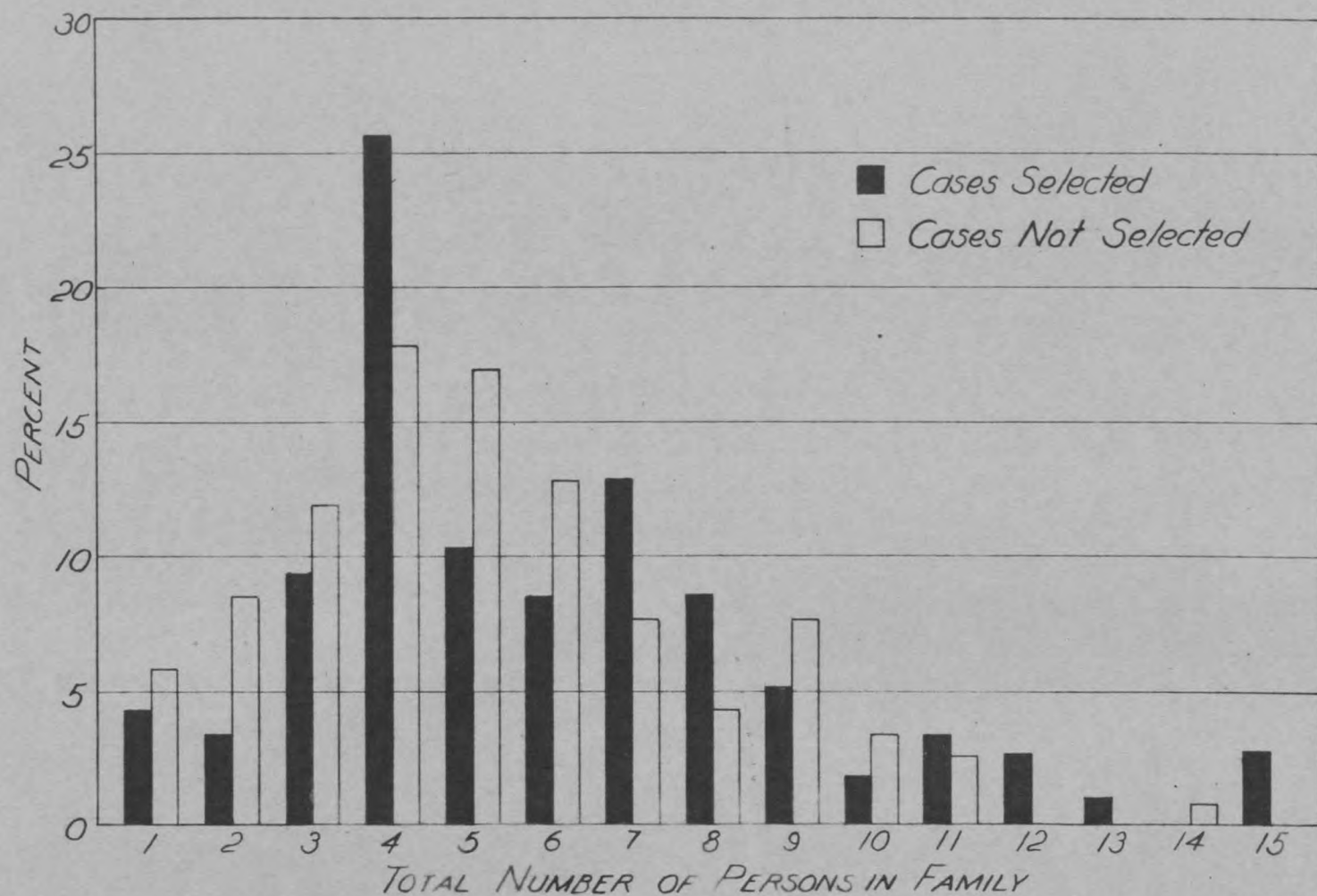


FIGURE 3 - COMPARISON OF TOTAL SIZE OF FAMILIES
OF CASES SELECTED AND CASES NOT SELECTED
Source of Data - Table II, Appendix B

These classifications reveal the fact that of the cases selected over 50 per cent of them have five or more members. The median size of the families at home group which were selected is 5.77 persons and 5.16 persons for those not selected. The median size of the total family group of cases selected is 6.19 persons and 5.5 persons for cases not selected. The median size of the households of cases selected is 5.85 persons and 5.24 persons for those not selected. No single persons were selected for placement and this tends to make the median size slightly larger in each case.

In the choice of families for the farm units, it was assumed that children would not only be an economic advantage in that they are labor assets, but sociologically they tend to bind a family together, increasing the stability of the family as already described, and they tend to influence it in its relation to the community.

Farming is a family affair. Therefore, cooperation of both wife and children with the head and with each other is highly important. Cooperation of the wife is particularly important in the success of a farm. "Farm management has been stressed and home management has been emphasized, but over both and encompassing the two, is family management. A peculiar role of the family is that of helping to work out some semblance of consensus and some harmony of such relationships." 16/

Sex and Age Distribution

The wife of a farmer plays a vital part in the success of a farming enterprise through her contribution in the home and in family management,

^{16/} Kolb, J. H., and Brunner, Edmund deS., "A Study of Rural Society," pp. 37, 38.

but girls, except insofar as they aid in the household activity, are of limited importance to farming activity. "Except in families of recent European extraction, both the women and girls are not regarded as profitable crop and dairy hands. ^{17/} For this reason, the sex distribution in consideration of farm cases for relocation deserves some thought. A male child is a labor asset, he will or does take the place of a farm hand that would otherwise have to be hired. Hence, a choice of a farm family should be influenced to some extent by the possibilities there are of male members assisting in the farm work, particularly where the age of the parents is decreasing their farming activity, or of eventually taking over the complete management and operation of the farming enterprise. When the age of the head of a farm household exceeds the limit designated to qualify for relocation, the prospects of farm repayment before the death of the individual begin to decline unless there is a son to carry on the farm operations. Likewise, there is a financial risk in youthfulness, unless there is an older head to direct, as the former involves inexperience and a deficiency of farming judgment. Both angles have to be observed and studied.

Of equal importance is the age distribution, particularly of the males. It indicates the number of persons available to do the farm work at the present and the number that are potentially available. However, it must be kept in mind that a farmer may derive more income from the children than they cost him, but as they grow older and more demanding

^{17/} Holt, John B., "An Analysis of Methods and Criteria Used in Selecting Families for Colonization Projects," Social Research Report, No. 1, Washington, D. C., September, 1937, p. 8.

they may become less and less of an economic advantage, constituting a greater total cost than hired help, particularly when the work is narrowly seasonal. This, of course, would not be true in all families, but a careful study of each family would be advisable to determine the initiative, resourcefulness, enthusiasm, and capability of the members who are to do the farm work. 18/

Definite age limits for the head of the family were set up as an eligibility requirement in order to exclude youthfulness, which involves inexperience and deficiency of farming judgment as already described, and old age, which increases the hazards for farm repayment. The upper age limit was not adhered to strictly as consideration was given older farmers with sons willing to carry on the farm enterprise and assume the obligations involved. In this case, all agreements were made in the name of the parent rather than in the name of a son to insure the parents a home as long as they live.

From studies made as to the relation between age and earning power it was found that the ages from 35 to 45 years are apparently the prime of life and that the average age of greatest earning power of the farmer closely corresponds to that of all men. 19/

As stated, youthfulness involves inexperience, but this fact may be offset by a greater initiative and enthusiasm and a resulting greater application to attain farm ownership and economic stability.

An age and sex distribution analysis of the data compiled on the

18/ Holt, op. cit., p. 7.

19/ Ibid, p. 9.

families considered for placement on the Milk River Project reveals the tendencies described. That is to say, farm family heads between the ages of 30 and 49 years received greater consideration than any other group (see figure 4). The median ages of farmers selected and not selected was 43.72 years and 44.18 years respectively. A little over 62 per cent of the farmers selected fell in the age group 30 to 49 years, whereas, only 10 per cent were below and 27 per cent were above. Of the 27 per cent above 49 years, 22 per cent were between 50 and 59 years of age (see table II). There were none below 20 years of age. This serves to demonstrate that greater reliance as a financial risk and as a prospect for the successful operation of a farm enterprise was placed in the farmer whose age was near forty. However, some influence was exerted in the direction of a choice of an individual near forty in the fact that a greater proportion of the rural farmers of the three counties, to which the selection of eligible cases for placement was confined, fell in the age group 30 to 49 years (see census population, figure 5). Nevertheless, it was felt that the farmers of this age group would give more assurance of attaining economic stability sufficient to enable them to meet the rental and other payments on farms for which they proposed to obligate themselves. In the age group 50 and over, there were, in the great majority of cases, sons available to assist or carry on the farm work.

The wives of the farmers who received consideration show a tendency to be younger than their husbands, as is indicated by the median age which is 38.25 years for cases selected and 37.6 years for cases not selected. Of the cases selected, 20 per cent of the women are under thirty as against

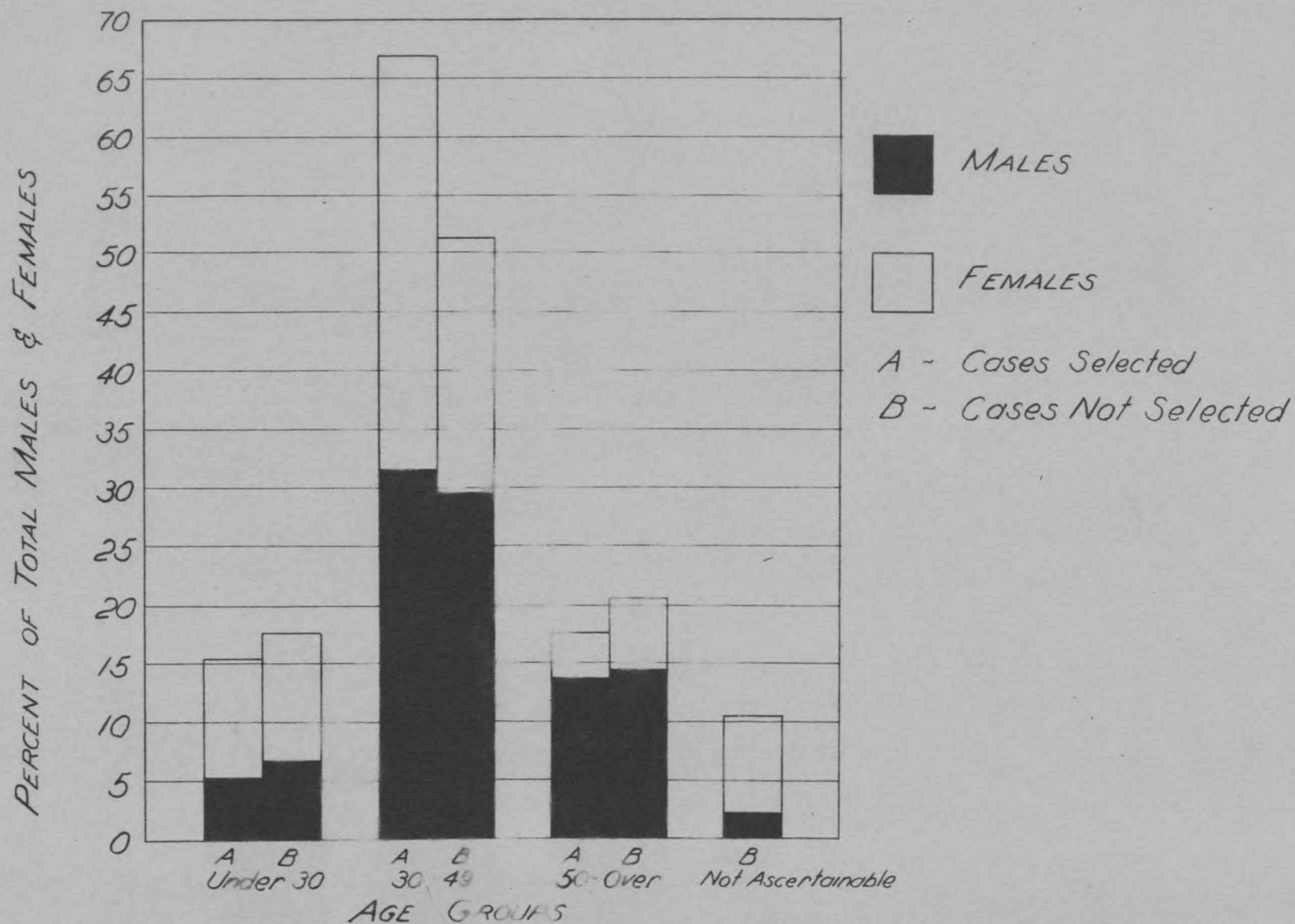


FIGURE 4 - AGE & SEX DISTRIBUTION OF HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS
Source of Data - Tables IV & V, Appendix B.

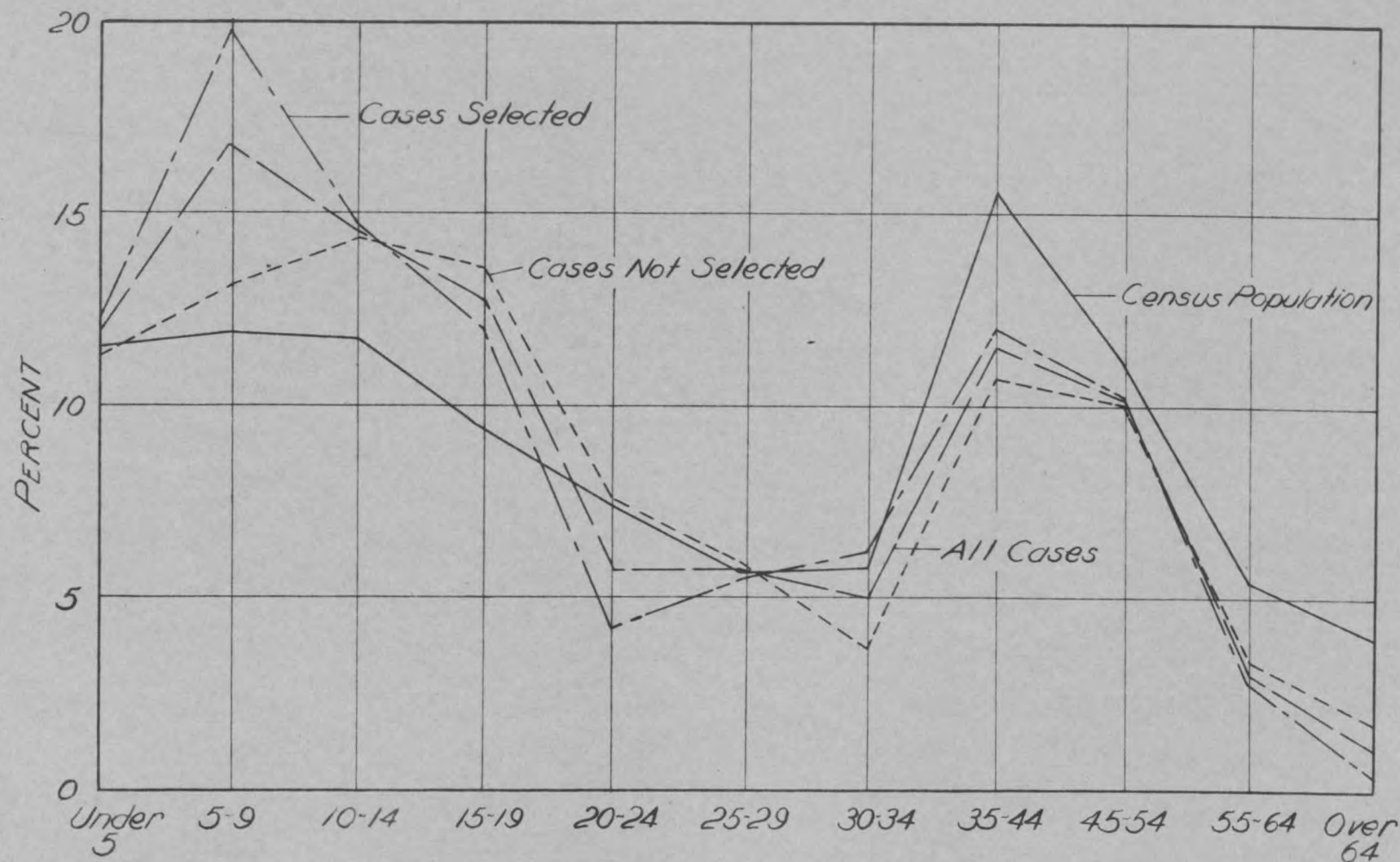


FIG. 5 - AGE DISTRIBUTION ON PERCENTAGE BASIS OF CENSUS POPULATION OF THE THREE COUNTIES AND OF CASES SELECTED AND CASES NOT SELECTED

Source - Table VII, Appendix B

only 10 per cent of the men. Thirty-five per cent are between the ages of 30 and 39 as against 25 per cent of the men. There is about an equal percentage in the 40 to 49 year group and only 8 per cent 50 years and above as against 27 per cent for the men (see table II). There is a similar tendency in the cases not selected. This is due, in part, to the early pioneer settlement in which large numbers of single men settled in the area and the scarcity of eligible women.

A comparison of the total male and the total female population of the cases selected and not selected with the total male and female population of the three counties reveals similar trends (see figures 6 and 7). There is a predominance of children in the 5 to 14 age group. This is likewise shown in figure 8, which gives a direct comparison of the males and females of cases selected and not selected. This predominance of children in this age group may be attributed to the predominance of parents in the age group 30 to 49 years. The selected cases show a greater number of children in this age group than do the cases not selected or the total census population of the three counties.

School facilities have had to be created or expanded to accommodate the increase in number of children in the various districts in the valley as a result of the resettlement program. On the other hand, school problems of many families which were isolated before removal to the valley have been alleviated. Increased transportation requirements have also resulted from the increase in high school students. The age group 15 to 24 years provides the youth to assist in the farm work at the present.

TABLE II.--HEADS* OF THE HOUSEHOLDS SELECTED AND
NOT SELECTED FOR RELOCATION ON THE MILK RIVER
RESETTLEMENT PROJECT CLASSIFIED BY AGE AND SEX

Age Groups of Heads of House- holds	Cases Selected		Cases Not Selected	
	Per cent of total males	Per cent of total females	Per cent of total males	Per cent of total females
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years	0	0	0	1.0
20 - 29	10.2	20.4	12.7	21.9
30 - 39	25.7	35.4	19.5	23.8
40 - 49	36.8	36.3	36.4	22.9
50 - 59	22.2	7.1	20.3	9.5
60 and over	5.1	.9	6.8	3.8
Not ascertainable	0	0	4.2	17.1
Median Age	43.72 yrs.	38.25 yrs.	44.18 yrs.	37.6 yrs.

*Refers to the husband and wife in each household.

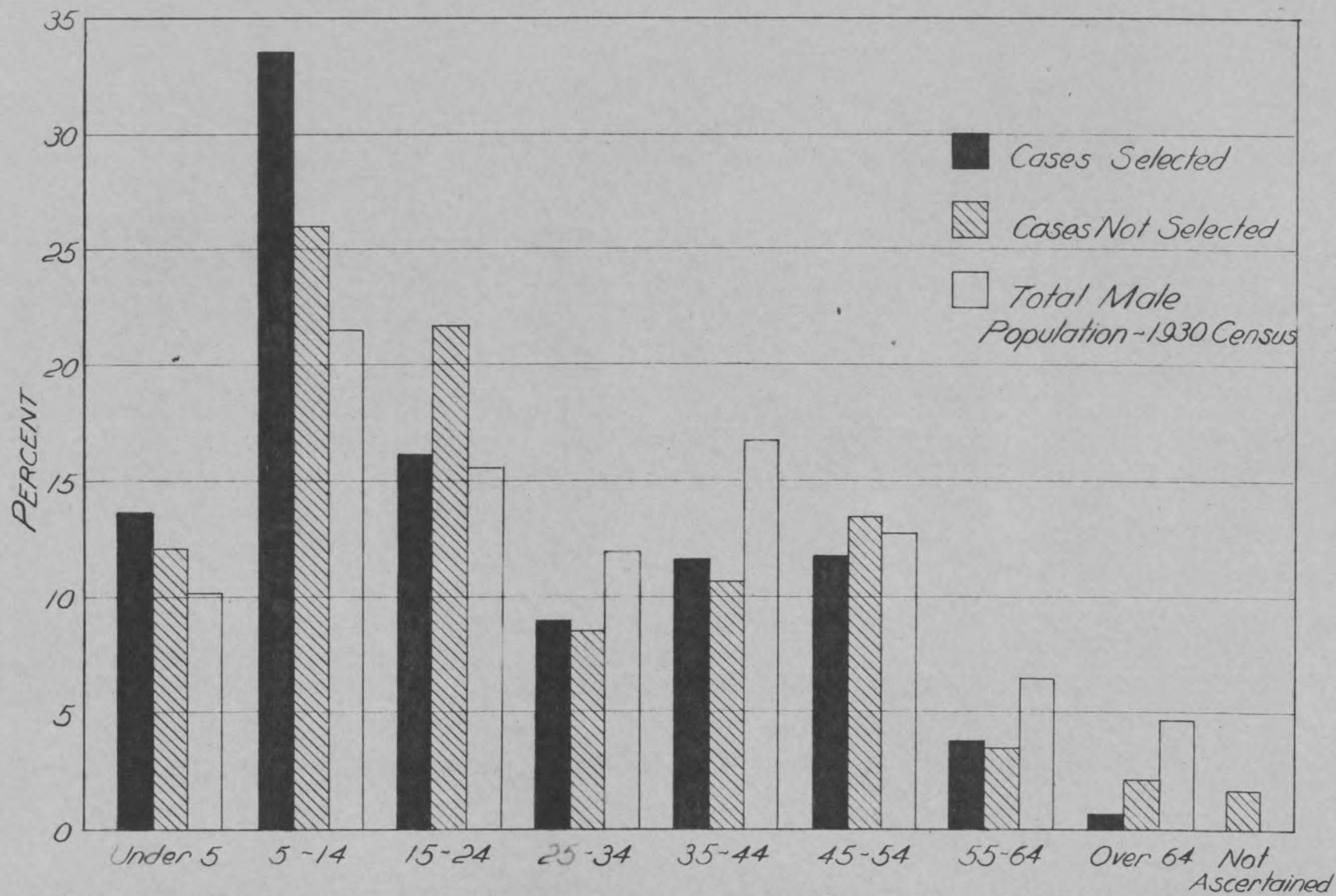


FIGURE 6- COMPARATIVE AGE DISTRIBUTION OF ALL MALES OF THE THREE COUNTIES,
 AND OF CASES SELECTED AND CASES NOT SELECTED
 Source - Table VII, Appendix B

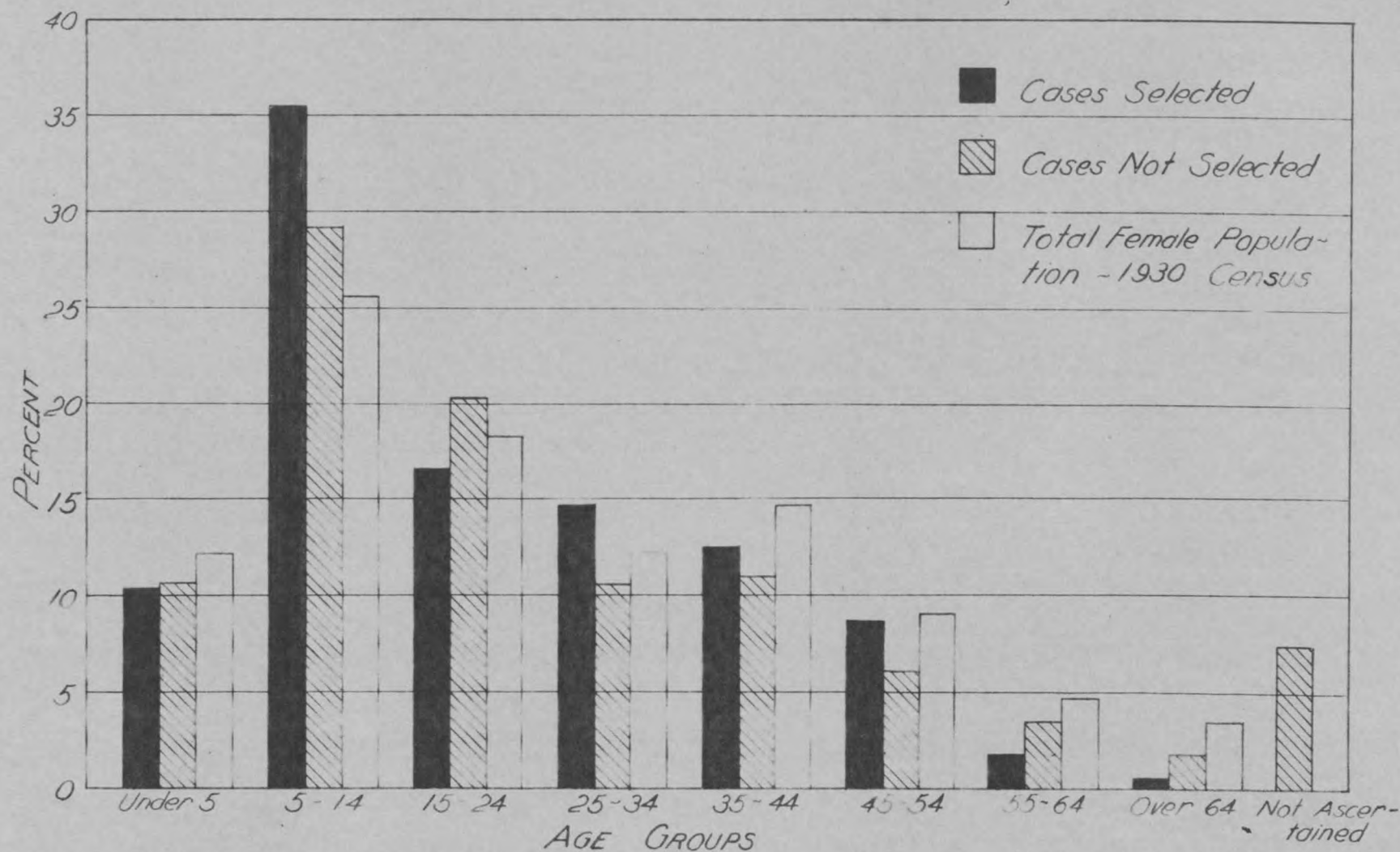


FIG. 7 - COMPARATIVE AGE DISTRIBUTION OF ALL FEMALES OF THE THREE COUNTIES
AND OF CASES SELECTED AND CASES NOT SELECTED
Source - Table VIII, Appendix B

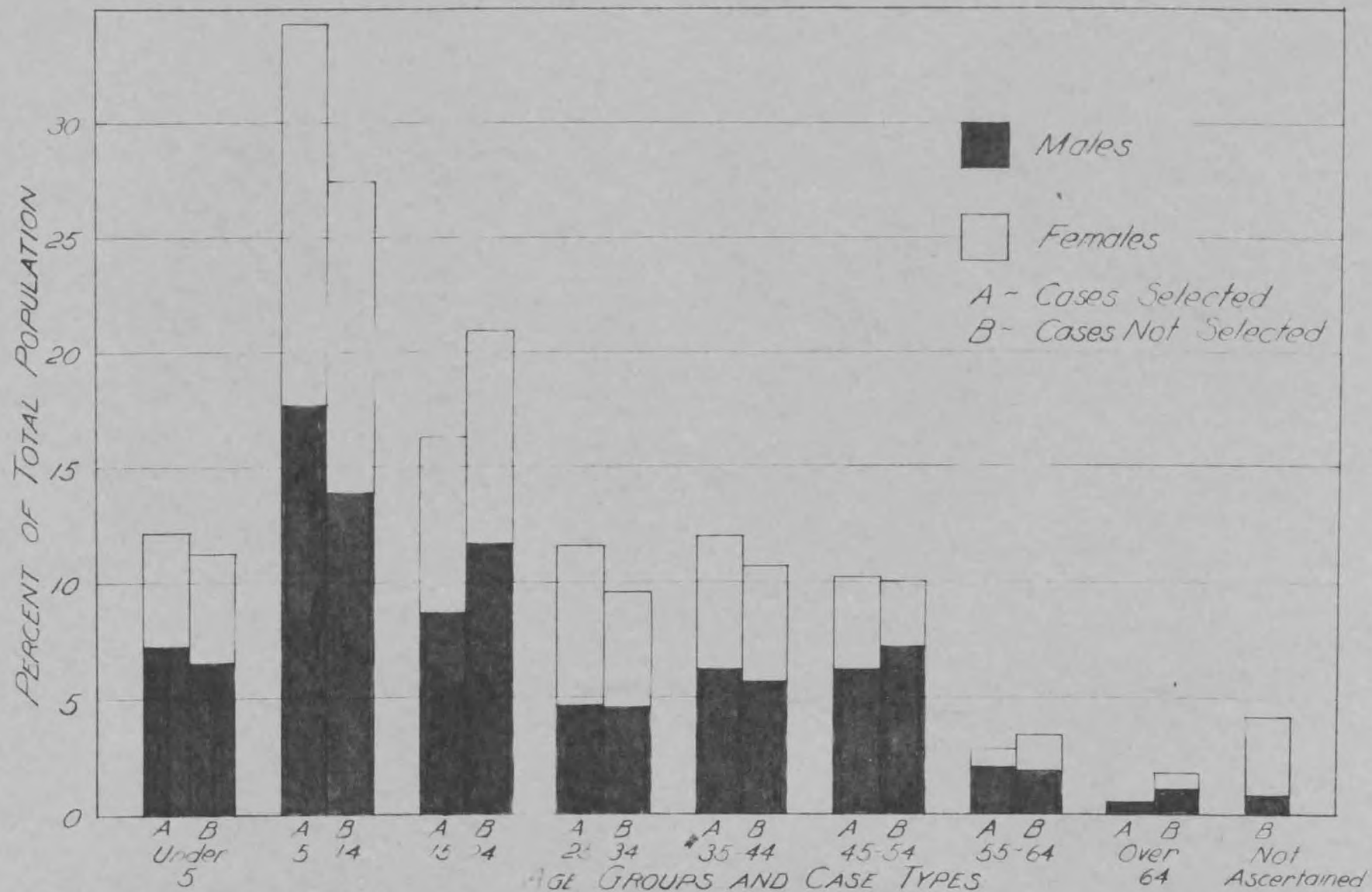


FIGURE 8 - DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL POPULATION OF CASES SELECTED AND CASES NOT SELECTED BY AGE AND SEX

Source of Data - Table IX, Appendix B

Figure 8 shows an almost equal distribution of males and females in the age groups up to 44 years, excepting the age group under five years of age. Beginning at 45 years and above there is a predominance of males in each of the age groups. This is due, as already stated, to the fact that wives of the farmers considered were generally younger than their husbands.

In general, the cases selected, as well as the cases not selected, might be said to be a fairly representative sample of the total rural farm population of the three counties (see figure 5).

Nationality

In the consideration of clients for resettlement farm units, no discrimination based on nationality, race or creed was made unless there was an extreme tendency in any direction. However, homogeneity in the families selected is desirable to promote community life. This factor played little part in the selection of families for the Milk River Project. In the early settlement of the area from which the families were chosen, nationalities were fairly well distributed with the result there are few distinct nationality groupings. Furthermore, the foreign born are Americanized in most respects and are able to take part in community affairs. Their children too, serve to promote their community activity.

Of the cases selected, only 25 males or 21 per cent and 25 females or 22 per cent were foreign born. Of the native born, many were second generation Americans. No data as to nationality were obtained for this group. The cases not selected show a similar proportion of foreign born,

there being 25 or 21 per cent of the males and 18 or 17 per cent of the females born out of this country (see table III).

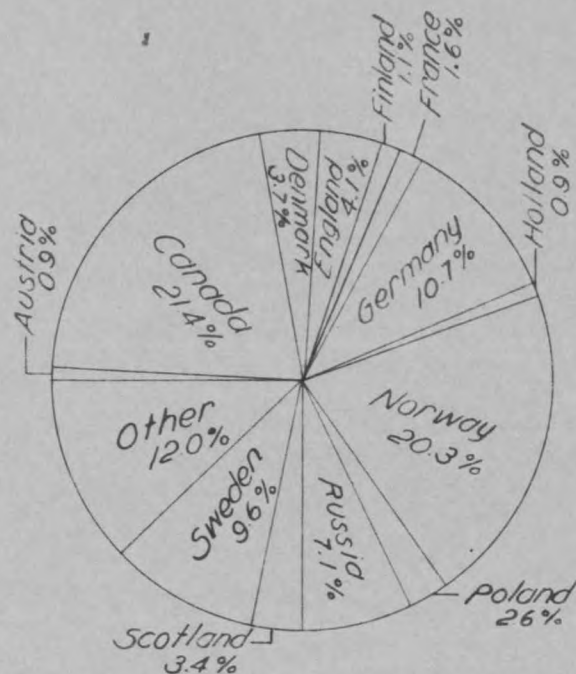
A comparison of the foreign born as to country of origin shows that the greatest number had come from Russia in both cases selected and cases not selected, with Canada and Norway ranking second and third (see figure 9, charts 2 and 3). The charts likewise show that the countries represented by the greatest number in the cases selected and the cases not selected correspond closely to the countries represented by the greatest number in chart 1, which gives the proportion by which the various countries are represented in the total foreign born population of the three counties. The chance selection of the individuals of foreign birth yielded a group that is fairly representative of the total population of foreign born persons of the three counties. The points of difference lie in the fact that Russia ranks fifth in the total population of the counties, with Canada first and Norway second. There is also a greater proportion of Germans. The nearness of Canada to this area accounts for the predominance of Canadian born persons. However, the Canadian born persons are in most instances children of foreign born parents.

Figure 10 shows the distribution by states of birth of the native born heads of households and their wives (these are the cases selected for placement). The majority of the individuals came from states immediately to the east and southeast, the so-called west northcentral states. The east north central states produced the next largest number of individuals. Only one state in the Pacific Coast region and three states in the Mountain region, including Montana, were represented. The movement in the settlement

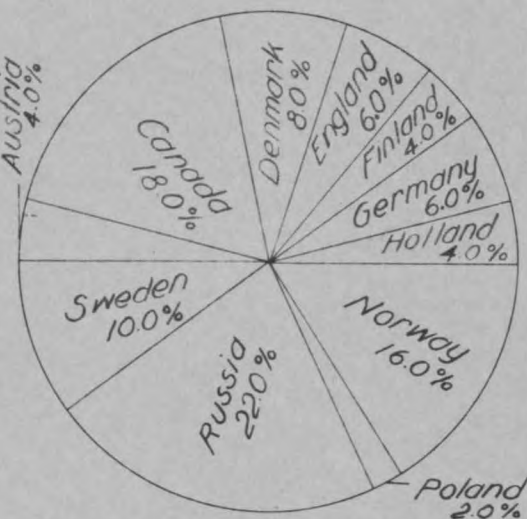
TABLE III.--HEADS* OF THE HOUSEHOLDS SELECTED
AND NOT SELECTED FOR RELOCATION ON THE MILK
RIVER RESETTLEMENT PROJECT, CLASSIFIED BY
NATIVITY AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Place of Birth	Cases Selected		Cases Not Selected	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total Reported	117	113	118	105
Native Born	92	88	92	82
Not Ascertainable	0	0	1	5
Foreign Born	25	25	25	18
Austria	1	1	1	0
Bohemia	0	0	1	1
Belgium	0	0	1	0
Canada	2	7	3	5
Denmark	4	0	1	2
England	3	0	2	1
Finland	1	1	0	0
France	0	0	1	0
Germany	2	1	1	1
Holland	1	1	1	0
Mexico	0	0	1	1
Norway	4	4	4	1
Poland	0	1	0	0
Russia	5	6	6	4
Scotland	0	0	1	0
South America	0	0	1	0
Sweden	2	3	0	2

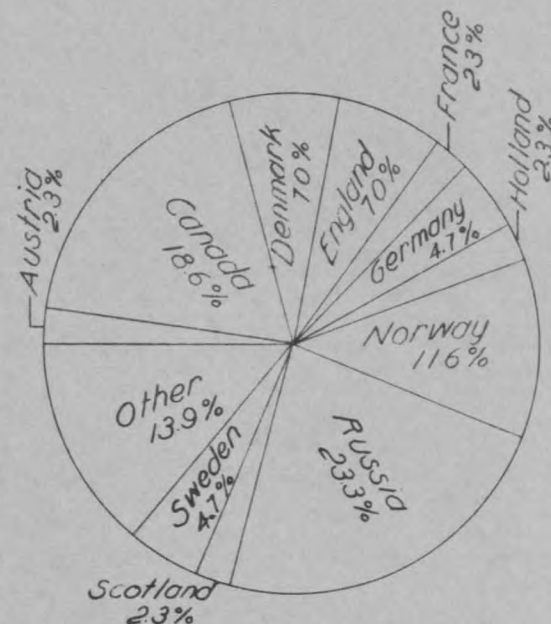
*Refers to the husband and wife in each household.



CENSUS POPULATION OF
THE THREE COUNTIES



CASES SELECTED



CASES NOT SELECTED

FIGURE 9 - COMPARISON OF FOREIGN BORN IN CENSUS POPULATION OF THE THREE COUNTIES AND IN CASES SELECTED AND CASES NOT SELECTED BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

Source - Table X, Appendix B

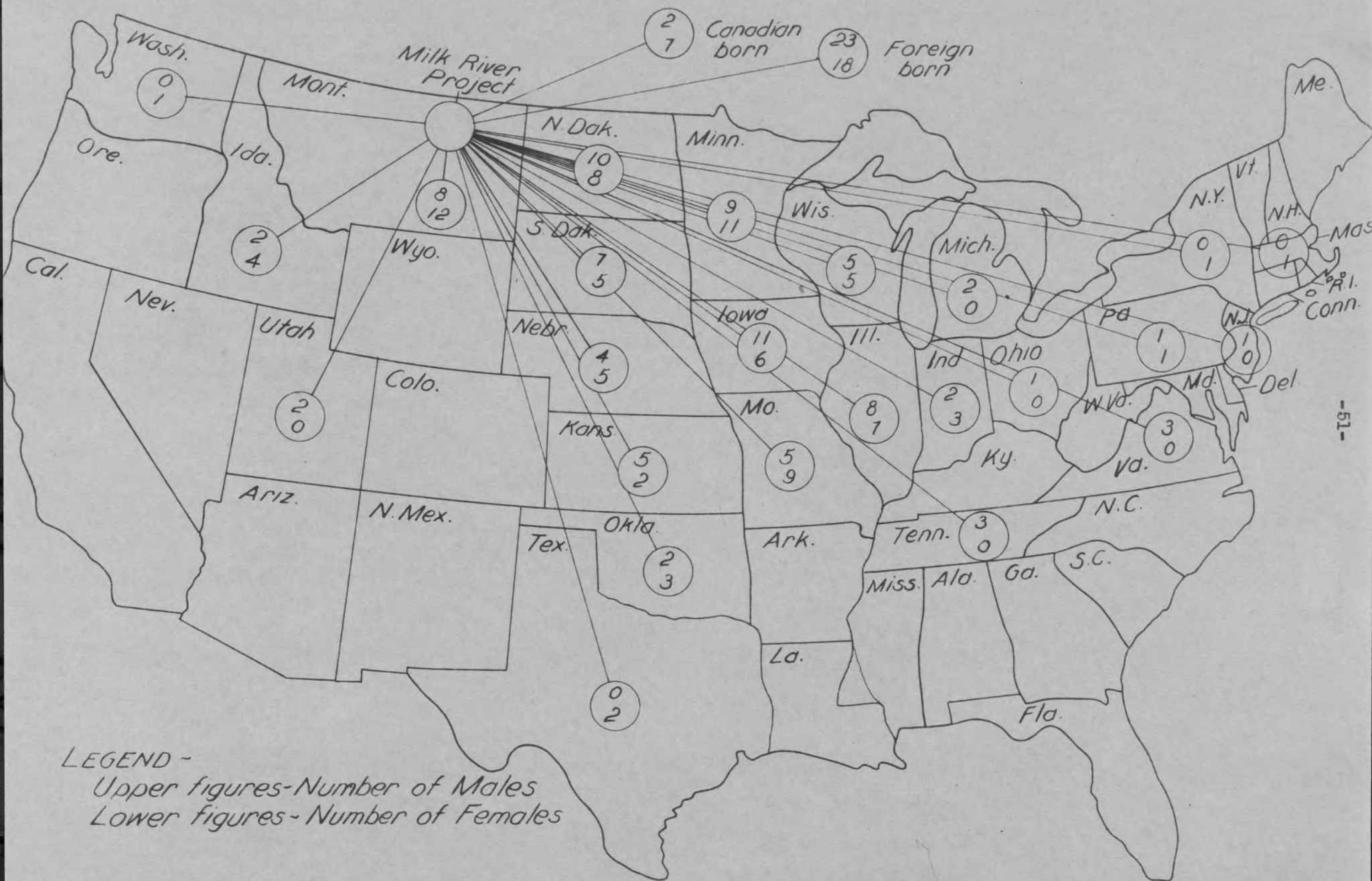


FIG. 10 - MAP SHOWING BIRTHPLACES OF HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS IN CASES SELECTED
 Source - Table XI - Appendix B

of this area was from the northern states and from the east to the west, which accounts for so few having been born in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast regions. Montana and Minnesota rank first in number represented, with North Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Kansas ranking in the order named. The remainder of the states are represented by only a small number of individuals.

Nationality as a factor in selection and location was not emphasized because background of nationality mixture had not built up nationality consciousness.

Religion

No emphasis was placed upon membership in religious, idealistic, or cultural groups as a qualification for placement. It can be understood, however, that membership in a religious organization or religiosity would foster cooperation, harmonious family life, character and other desirable qualities which contribute greatly to the success of a farming adventure. Community government, education, social service, and economic enterprise are generally promoted by religious sects. "The general conclusion is that religion creates group unity and morale, a common purpose and a common code." 20/

Among the families selected are represented a great many of the more important religious denominations. Faith in the Lutheran Church predominates. This is very likely attributable to the predominance of Scandinavians and northern Europeans in this group. The Methodists and Catholics rank next

20/ Holt, op. cit., p. 15.

(see table IV). The degree of religiosity was not measured. It is not known what church facilities the various denominational groups in the counties of study had, but it can be generally concluded that church attendance was low because of the remoteness of the majority of the cases selected from towns or communities where there are churches. Relocation of the families in the valley near towns will undoubtedly increase the church attendance of this group. No data were secured on cases not selected.

Education

At least a rudimentary education should be required of applicants for resettlement. Higher education is not a necessary requisite for successful farming. John B. Holt in his report draws the tentative conclusion that "up to a point which varies with individuals, general education is likely to be valuable to the settler. Beyond this minimum, increased years of general education do not appear to be correlated with success. It is important, however, not to confuse general education with technical knowledge of agriculture." 21/

A study of the cases considered for relocation shows that the median grade completed in school is 7.6 for cases selected and 8.1 for cases not selected. Of the cases selected, 90.6 per cent of the male heads of the households had above a fourth grade education. The females of this group (that is, the wives of males who are classified as heads of the households and to whom the farm units were assigned) show a greater percentage, 94.7

21/ Holt, op. cit., p. 7.

TABLE IV.--CHURCH PREFERENCE OF HEADS* OF HOUSE-
HOLDS SELECTED FOR RELOCATION ON THE MILK RIVER
RESETTLEMENT PROJECT

Church	Male	Female
Lutheran	31	31
Methodist	16	15
Catholic	15	16
Baptist	7	4
Later Day Saints	4	4
Christian	2	3
Seventh Day Adventist	2	2
United Bretheran	2	2
Episcopal	2	1
Other	6	7
None	8	5
Not Ascertainable	22	23

*Refers to the husband and wife in each household.

per cent, with a fifth grade or better education (see table V). There is likewise a greater percentage with higher education among the females. This may be accounted for in the fact that the males do or are forced to go to work at an earlier age. Of the males, 65.8 per cent have between a fifth and an eighth grade education, and 60.2 per cent of the females have a similar education (see table XII in appendix).

A like tendency is displayed by the cases not selected. However, the median grade of this group is slightly higher. This lies in the fact that there are a greater number with higher education. Though education is an important consideration, other factors more related to the success of an individual on a resettlement farm served to disqualify this group.

Since those cases that received consideration, both those selected and those not selected, are on the whole fairly representative of the whole population of the three counties, it can be safely assumed that a corresponding percentage of the total population of the three counties received better than a fourth grade education. Therefore, persons applying for relocation had at least a rudimentary education. In fact, no cases were actually disqualified for lack of education.

Table VI and VII have been inserted here to show the number and percentage of the children at home and not at home of both cases selected and cases not selected, as well as to show the school attendance of the children at home by number and percentage. The latter table bears out the need for increased school facilities created by the removal of the families selected from their dry land farms to farms in the valley. Likewise, the table shows the family labor available now and available for part time

TABLE V.--HEADS* OF HOUSEHOLDS SELECTED
FOR RELOCATION ON THE MILK RIVER RE-
SETTLEMENT PROJECT CLASSIFIED BY
AMOUNT OF FORMAL SCHOOLING

Amount of Formal Schooling Grades	Male		Female	
	Number	Per Cent of Total	Number	Per Cent of Total
Total	117	100.0	113	100.0
None	0	0	1	.9
1 - 4	11	9.4	5	4.4
5 - 8	77	65.8	68	60.2
9 - 12	22	18.8	28	24.8
Over 12	5	4.3	10	8.8
Not Ascertainable	2	1.7	1	.9

*Refers to the husband and wife in each household.

TABLE VI.--CHILDREN OF HOUSEHOLDS SELECTED
AND NOT SELECTED FOR RELOCATION ON THE
MILK RIVER RESETTLEMENT PROJECT CLASSIFIED
ACCORDING TO NUMBER AT HOME AND NOT HOME

Status of Children	Cases Selected		Cases Not Selected	
	Total	Per Cent of Total	Total	Per Cent of Total
Total	469	100.0	401	100.0
Not Home	61	13.0	72	18.0
At Home	408	87.0	329	82.0

TABLE VII.--CHILDREN OF HOUSEHOLDS SELECTED
AND NOT SELECTED CLASSIFIED ACCORD-
ING TO THE NUMBERS IN
AND OUT OF SCHOOL

School Status	Cases Selected		Cases Not Selected	
	Total	Per Cent of Total	Total	Per Cent of Total
Total	408	100.0	329	100.0
Under School Age	99	24.3	72	21.9
Out of School or Over School Age	56	13.7	53	16.1
In Grade School	199	48.8	145	44.1
In High School	46	11.3	59	17.9
Not Ascertainable	8	2.0	0	0

now. There is a greater percentage of children in high school and out of school or over school age in the cases not selected. This reflects the higher median age of the heads of the household of this group.

Adult education and farm management control by the administration will be important factors in influencing the general and technical knowledge of the relocated families. This will enable the families to better adjust themselves to the requirements of irrigation farming.

Residence in State

Residence in one of the three counties, Blaine, Phillips, or Valley was an eligibility requirement of applicants for resettlement on the Milk River Project. Length of county residence data were not available, but information for length of residence in the state was obtained. A majority of the cases are "old timers" to this area; that is, they homesteaded here, or their parents homesteaded here. Of the cases selected 59.8 per cent of the farmers and 46.9 per cent of their wives had been in the state between 20 and 29 years (see table VIII). This goes back to when homesteading was at its height. Likewise, 50.8 per cent of the farmers not selected and 41.5 per cent of their wives had been in the state between 20 and 29 years. Only a very small percentage of the individuals in either group had been in the state less than 10 years. Of the 117 cases selected 72 had homesteaded. The greatest homesteading activity for the group occurred in the years from 1910 through 1917 (see table IX).

Inasmuch as most of the farmers had been in the state for more than 10 years, they are well acquainted with the Montana conditions and the conditions of the area as well. Less adjustment should be required of these

TABLE VIII.--HEADS* OF THE HOUSEHOLDS SELECTED
AND NOT SELECTED FOR RELOCATION ON THE
MILK RIVER RESETTLEMENT PROJECT CLASSIFIED
BY YEARS RESIDENCE IN MONTANA

Years in State	Cases Selected				Cases Not Selected			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	Number	Per Cent of Total	Number	Per Cent of Total	Number	Per Cent of Total	Number	Per Cent of Total
Total	117	100.0	113	100.0	118	100.0	106	100.0
1 - 9 yrs.	3	2.6	8	7.1	8	6.8	6	5.7
10 - 19 "	21	17.9	20	17.7	16	13.6	12	11.3
20 - 29 "	70	59.8	53	46.9	60	50.8	44	41.5
30 - 39 "	8	6.8	6	5.3	5	4.2	5	4.7
40 or more	2	1.7	0	0	3	2.5	2	1.9
Not Ascertainable	13	11.1	26	23.0	26	22.0	37	34.9

*Refers to the husband and wife in each household.

TABLE IX.--MALE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD SELECTED AND
NOT SELECTED FOR RELOCATION ON THE MILK RIVER RE-
SETTLEMENT PROJECT CLASSIFIED BY YEAR OF MAKING
HOMESTEAD ENTRY

Year Homesteaded	Total All Cases	Cases Selected	Cases Not Selected
Total All Cases	235	117	118
Cases Not Ascertainable	21	6	15
Cases Did Not Homestead	92	39	53
Total Cases Homesteaded	122	72	50
1902	1	1	0
1908	1	1	0
1909	1	0	1
1910	9	5	4
1911	6	1	5
1912	5	2	3
1913	12	8	4
1914	18	12	6
1915	11	6	5
1916	16	11	5
1917	16	9	7
1918	3	2	1
1919	7	6	1
1921	1	0	1
1922	2	1	1
1923	1	1	0
1924	1	0	1
1925	2	1	1
1926	2	1	1
1927	1	0	1
1928	1	1	0
1929	1	1	0
1930	1	0	1
1931	2	1	1
1932	1	1	0

settlers than if they were brought from out of the state or from some other district in the state where conditions are not in all respects similar.

SUMMARY

The status of agriculture in the more arid portions of the United States can best be described thus: "The continual impact of the physical environment with moisture the chief limiting factor, is gradually compelling adjustment to the proper land use." 22/ This fact is especially applicable to the three-county area with which this study is concerned, and it explains, in part, the reason for the development of the resettlement project in the Milk River Valley in northern Montana.

The resettlement project was designed to meet a threefold need:

- (1) The removal of dry land farmers from submarginal land suitable only for grazing and relocating the families on the adjacent irrigable land.
- (2) The return of the dry land to range use, looking to the better adjustment between this land and the irrigated land in the adjacent valley.
- (3) The more economical utilization of the irrigated land in the Milk River Valley. This land had been farmed in units too large to produce the best results.

The relocation of dry land farmers onto irrigated land was, in the main, confined to two distinct groups:

- (1) Destitute and low income farm families who were unable to make any adjustment of their own accord.
- (2) Farm families displaced through the purchase of their land by

22/ Johnson and Saunderson, op. cit., Bul. 328, pp. 32 and 40.

the government.

The economical status of both groups was very much the same.

The available farms on which to relocate these families were limited in number. Therefore, every effort was made to select those families who not only displayed a distinct desire for the opportunity made available, but also possessed other desirable characteristics thought necessary in a successful farmer and farm family. Inasmuch as the two above groups, those who were destitute and those who were displaced by the federal purchase program, were of uniform status with respect to finances, and since this could not be specifically attributed to mismanagement or poor farming ability because of the series of adverse years, the problem of choosing those who seemed to offer the best chances for success on the resettlement farms was a difficult one.

It was necessary, therefore, to adhere to special criteria based on characteristics that were thought to be conducive to the successful operation of a farming enterprise. These criteria were of two types, namely, specific and general. The former was required of all the families falling in the two groups described above in order to qualify. The latter was used to further refine the qualifying families.

The specific criteria may be summarized briefly as follows:

- (1) The applicant must have expressed a desire for the opportunity.
- (2) He must have displayed initiative and resourcefulness.
- (3) He must have displayed ability to enter into community life and profit from instruction and guidance.
- (4) He must have shown stability of residence.

- (5) It was necessary that he and his dependents be free from infectious diseases and disabilities that would likely obstruct the fulfillment of obligations.
- (6) It was considered necessary that the family head be within the ages of 21 and 55 (there were a few exceptions).
- (7) He was to be married and have one or more dependents (exceptions were made where the applicant, though single, had dependent members).
- (8) It was essential that the prospective family reside on a farm at the time of application or that it had left the farm only recently.

The general criteria included:

- (1) A rudimentary education.
- (2) Evidence of cooperative and harmonious family life.
- (3) Family of such size and age-sex composition that this family would contribute to the farm enterprise in the way of labor and increased family stability.
- (4) The less measurable characteristics such as character, stability, reliability, intelligence, alertness, resourcefulness, religiosity, and judgment. It is impossible to establish any index by which to evaluate these latter characteristics, but an investigator can be reasonably certain, after due investigation and observation, as to whether an applicant possesses a satisfactory degree of any one of them.

Due consideration was given to the fact that many of the above characteristics are readily susceptible to the influence of education or supervision. For instance, character may be built up through responsibility developed out of farm ownership and the trust imposed in the client by the administration; cooperative ability may be developed by community interest and participation in community affairs. Also, supervisory assistance by a county extension agent or a project farm manager, training courses, and adult education projects can be used to build up certain characteristics that make for successful farming.

The success of the selection of farm families for relocation depends very much upon the number and kind of qualities required of the applicant, the accuracy of their determination, and the efficiency and completeness of the investigations.

No conclusive statistical studies are available to show the relative influence of various qualifications in accounting for the success of land settlers. As a result, the qualifications established for the project were, for the most part, those which were thought to be most significant. The "desirable" traits in settlers were pointed out in this thesis and the best methods of determining the presence of these traits were reviewed. The results of the selection procedure used will be revealed only later after a period of years. So no definite conclusions in this respect can be made at this time.

A statistical review of the families or households selected for relocation reveals the following facts:

- (1) Fifty-six and four-tenths per cent of the households had children under 16 years of age, indicating a group in the

prime of life where earning power is greatest.

- (2) Another 29.1 per cent of the households had children over and under 16 years of age. The ages of the family heads of this group were a little higher than the ages of the former group.
- (3) No single persons without dependents, or broken households with children were selected.
- (4) Families with one or more children were given preference. There were more families selected with four members than any other size.
- (5) The median size of the households selected was 5.85 persons.
- (6) Farm family heads between the ages of 30 and 49 years were far more prevalent than any other age group. It was felt that the prospects of repayment ability would be greatest in this age group.
- (7) The wives of the farmers selected show a tendency to be considerably younger as indicated by a median age of 38.25 years for the wives and 43.72 years for the farmers.
- (8) Of the cases selected, only 21 per cent of the males and 22 per cent of the females were foreign born. Of these foreign born, the greatest number came from Russia, with Canada and Norway ranking second and third respectively. Nationality as a factor in selection and relocation was not emphasized because background of nationality mixture had not built up nationality consciousness.

- (9) Faith in the Lutheran church predominates. This is very likely attributable to the predominance of Scandinavians and northern Europeans in the group selected. Faith in the Methodist and Catholic churches rank next in order. No emphasis was placed upon membership in religious, idealistic, or cultural groups as a qualification for placement.
- (10) Ninety and six-tenths per cent of the male heads of households and 94.7 per cent of the female heads had a fifth grade or better education. The median grade completed in school for both was 7.6. This bears out the general qualification of requiring at least a rudimentary education in settlers selected.
- (11) Ninety-seven and three-tenths per cent of the male heads of cases selected and 92.9 per cent of the female heads had been residents of the State of Montana 10 or more years. Of the 117 cases 72 had homesteaded. The greatest homesteading activity for the group occurred in the years from 1910 through 1917.

A similar statistical analysis was made of those cases considered but ultimately rejected. The results were much the same in all respects. Inasmuch as these latter cases met all the specific qualifications, the importance of the general qualifications for further refining the selection is revealed.

In selecting families for resettlement the names of such prospects were submitted to "committees" of four or five members each from the various districts in the area. The object was to get a character rating of the individual applicant for the purpose of eliminating the least successful or

more undesirable farmers. This method is deserving of some criticism. Though the committees were made up of several members, many applicants were known to only one or two members. Bias or personal prejudice might have entered into the recommendations of these particular members. The entire committee group may have thus been influenced by one or two members, resulting in the elimination of many worthy applicants who might have merited greater consideration than some of the farmers actually selected.

It must be admitted, however, that the committees did assist very materially in the selection process. The large list of applications was reduced to a more workable one, eliminating in this way many excessive interviews and needless investigation. It must be remembered too, that from the standpoint of project success, such severe selection is favorable, providing the group from which to select is large enough. From the standpoint of the individual families, however, such selection may be too severe.

The investigator was able to make his personal estimation of the applicants during the time of the interview. At this time a complete family history was obtained on each family. The information as to the characteristics and personal attributes of the families thus obtained was, for the most part, subjective. Among the desirable qualifications required by the family selection program were items that an applicant was in a relatively good position to know. For example, he was able to give the extent of his farm experience, the education of himself and family, the size and age-sex composition of the family, the general health of the family, and his financial standing. In addition, the interviewer was able to ascertain, to a very marked degree, such other desirable characteristics

as character, intelligence, the desire for relocation and for farm life, the harmony within the family and their willingness to cooperate, and the religiosity of the family.

Since the investigator was thoroughly familiar with the opportunities available for the prospective settlers and the type of families desired, the information obtainable through the personal interview was invaluable. However, the value of such information is limited to a great extent to the efficiency and the ability of the investigator.

The interview was the basis for selection. It revealed the fundamental qualities of the applicants and enabled the investigator to concentrate his efforts on the better qualified families. Further investigation through the contacting of references and persons who had done business with the applicants or those who were in some way familiar with the past record and history of the individual families served to verify information at hand and to prove or disprove conclusions already arrived at. The applicant's farming ability, judged from his past farm record, his family life, his willingness to work, his character, attitude, stability, reliability and sense of responsibility, his intelligence, resourcefulness and judgment, his cooperative ability, his aspirations and many other characteristics and qualities that serve to indicate him as a good or poor prospect could be ascertained and verified with a fair amount of accuracy.

The worth of the information obtained through references or other contacts depends largely upon the impartialness of such persons. Personal considerations, interests, biases, or prejudices may be involved, in which case, if recognized, it should be discounted or rejected. On

the whole, reliable and established firms, business men, agricultural technicians, and dependable farmers can be relied upon for accurate and unprejudiced information.

The data obtained through the interview and from all other sources possible was compared, weighed for validity, and summarized. On this basis, it was believed that a fairly accurate recommendation could be made as to the disposition of each applicant.

It is very likely that it will be necessary to cull out certain farmers on the Milk River Project whose deficiencies escaped the investigator in the course of selection. This process can be resorted to in the cases of those clients who have places under lease. The obligation on the part of the purchase clients and the administration is more permanent, and removal can be resorted to only when the client fails to meet payments on his farm and when this inability to meet the obligations is due to factors under his control. This culling process should not be prevalent if the investigations were based upon adequate qualifications and efficient methods.

Criticism should be made of the haste with which many of the lease clients and almost all of the purchase clients were chosen and the delay in getting them underway. Money was made available for a designated time for construction and developing purposes on farms sold, after which the money was to revert back to the treasury of the United States. To fully utilize the money within the allotted time it was necessary to review the qualifications of the applicants with haste which resulted in inefficiency and inaccuracy in selection. The delay in getting the clients started after they were selected was perhaps in many cases unavoidable due

to necessary governmental red tape. It nevertheless served to breed discontent and dissatisfaction among the settlers.

The qualifications reviewed here are believed to be necessary to insure selection of settlers who will be successful on a relocation project of such a type as the Milk River Project. For the most part, they are the qualifications required in other types of colonization projects. Most of them were discussed in some detail in Mr. Holt's report and this thesis serves to bear him out and to make additions where possible.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author would like to express his appreciation and thanks to Dr. C. F. Kraenzel for his valuable suggestions and criticisms throughout the study. Special recognition is to be given to the Family Selection Division of the Farm Security Administration (Resettlement) for their cooperation, and to those who are closely connected with the administration of the Malta Project.

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APPENDIX A

Source of Information

As the Resettlement program on the Malta Project got underway, a case history was obtained on each family considered for relocation. The histories were obtained by personal interview (almost entirely by office interview) by the writer, who served in the capacity of Family Selection Specialist on the project, and by other employees on the project. Copies of the case histories of those applicants selected for relocation and those applicants who received consideration but were ultimately rejected were abstracted from the original case histories now on file in the Malta office of the Farm Security Administration. This was done after the consent of the Family Selection Section of the Administration at the Regional Office in Denver, Colorado and of Mr. H. L. Lantz, project manager of the Milk River Northern Montana Resettlement Project, had been obtained.

Four factors render a thorough and comprehensive analysis of the farm families an impossibility:

1. In many instances the person interviewed was unable to supply the information desired in the case histories at the time of interview.
2. Undue haste was required in the selection of those applicants to whom farms were sold, as money for constructing or repairing homes, barns, and other buildings on the farmsteads was available for only a limited time.
3. More than one type of information blank was used.
4. More than one person did the interviewing.

The writer, having worked as Family Selection Specialist on the project, is personally familiar with qualification requirements set up by the Farm Security Administration and the methods and criteria used in selection. The early history of the project was obtained from the project historian. Additional information on the project history, together with information as to the description of the Milk River Irrigation Project, was obtained from a series of bulletins dealing with the soils and the irrigation development of the Milk River Valley. The description of the Milk River resettlement project itself was made from statistics and records obtained in the Malta office of the Farm Security Administration and from personal knowledge as well.

Procedure

All pertinent information contained in the case histories of the families finally selected for relocation and of the families considered for relocation but ultimately rejected was tabulated. The figures as to the outstanding characteristics and qualities were then assembled and condensed into tables to facilitate the development and discussion of such characteristics and qualities that lend themselves to the selection of the better qualified farm families.

As the number of the cases considered but ultimately rejected greatly exceeded the number actually selected for relocation, it was thought desirable to eliminate every third case history of the former group so as to obtain a comparable number of cases. The sample, consisting of every third case, insures a representative group.

A thorough comparison of the cases selected and those not selected could not be made, however, as the rejected cases in most instances, were eliminated before complete histories were obtained. These cases were eliminated on the basis of the very qualities (marital status, family composition, age, health, farm experience, etc.) we wished to compare, whereas those cases considered further, but in the final analysis rejected, were so rejected because of the less measurable qualities such as character, sense of responsibility, resourcefulness, and judgment. These latter characteristics were obtained by contacting references such as business men, merchants, bankers, neighbors, and acquaintances. As a result, the comparison between the actual cases selected and those not selected could be made at only a few points, and definite conclusions are not warranted in instances where such conclusions would be desirable. The families intended for residence on the small three to six acre labor unit tracts were not studied.

APPENDIX B

TABLE I.--HOUSEHOLDS SELECTED AND NOT SELECTED
FOR RELOCATION ON THE MILK RIVER RESETTLEMENT
PROJECT CLASSIFIED BY SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD

Size of Household	Cases Selected		Cases Not Selected	
	Number	Per Cent of Total	Number	Per Cent of Total
Total	177	100.0	118	100.0
1	0	0	5	4.3
2	5	4.3	17	14.4
3	16	13.7	13	11.0
4	33	28.2	25	21.2
5	17	14.5	16	13.6
6	10	8.5	17	14.4
7	10	8.5	13	11.0
8	9	7.7	4	3.4
9	5	4.3	6	5.1
10	6	5.1	1	.8
11	4	3.4	1	.8
12	2	1.7	0	0

TABLE II.--FAMILIES SELECTED AND NOT SELECTED
FOR RELOCATION ON THE MILK RIVER RESETTLEMENT
PROJECT CLASSIFIED BY TOTAL SIZE OF FAMILY

Total Size of Family	Cases Selected		Cases Not Selected	
	Number	Per Cent of Total	Number	Per Cent of Total
Total	117	100.0	118	100.0
1	5	4.3	7	5.9
2	4	3.4	10	8.5
3	11	9.4	14	11.9
4	30	25.6	21	17.8
5	12	10.3	20	16.9
6	10	8.5	15	12.7
7	15	12.8	9	7.6
8	10	8.5	5	4.3
9	6	5.1	9	7.6
10	2	1.7	4	3.4
11	4	3.4	3	2.5
12	3	2.6	0	0
13	1	.9	0	0
14	0	0	1	.8
15	3	2.6	0	0
Not Ascertainable	1	.9	0	0

TABLE III.--FAMILIES SELECTED AND NOT SELECTED
FOR RELOCATION ON THE MILK RIVER RESETTLEMENT
PROJECT CLASSIFIED BY SIZE OF THE
FAMILY AT HOME

Size of Family at Home	Cases Selected		Cases Not Selected	
	Number	Per Cent of Total	Number	Per Cent of Total
Total	117	100.0	118	100.0
1	4	3.4	7	5.9
2	5	4.3	16	13.6
3	16	13.7	14	11.9
4	29	24.9	24	20.3
5	17	14.5	18	15.3
6	10	8.5	15	12.7
7	11	9.4	12	10.2
8	9	7.7	3	2.5
9	4	3.4	7	5.9
10	6	5.1	1	.8
11	4	3.4	1	.8
12	2	1.7	0	0

TABLE IV.--HEADS* OF THE HOUSEHOLDS
SELECTED FOR RELOCATION ON THE
MILK RIVER RESETTLEMENT PROJECT
CLASSIFIED BY AGE AND SEX

Age Groups of Heads of Households	Total		Males		Females	
	Number	Per Cent of Total Heads	Number	Per Cent of Total Heads	Number	Per Cent of Total Heads
Total	230	100.0	117	50.9	113	49.1
Under 20 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 - 29 "	35	15.2	12	5.2	23	10.0
30 - 39 "	70	30.4	30	13.0	40	17.4
40 - 49 "	84	36.5	43	18.7	41	17.8
50 - 59 "	34	14.8	26	11.3	8	3.5
60 and over	7	3.0	6	2.6	1	.4
Not Ascertainable	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Refers to the husband and wife in each household.

TABLE V.--HEADS* OF THE HOUSEHOLDS NOT SELECTED
FOR RELOCATION ON THE MILK RIVER
RESETTLEMENT PROJECT CLASSIFIED
BY AGE AND SEX

Age Groups of Heads of Households	Total		Males		Females	
	Number	Per Cent of Total Heads	Number	Per Cent of Total Heads	Number	Per Cent of Total Heads
Total	223	100.0	118	52.9	105	47.1
Under 20 yrs.	1	.5	0	0	1	.4
20 - 29 "	38	17.0	15	6.7	23	10.3
30 - 39 "	48	21.5	23	10.3	25	11.2
40 - 49 "	67	30.0	43	19.3	24	10.7
50 - 59 "	34	15.3	24	10.8	10	4.5
60 and over	12	5.4	8	3.6	4	1.8
Not Ascertain- able	23	10.3	5	2.2	18	8.1

*Refers to the husband and wife in each household.

TABLE VI.--AGE GROUP COMPARISON OF THE POPULATION
OF CASES SELECTED AND CASES NOT SELECTED FOR
RELOCATION ON THE MILK RIVER RESETTLEMENT
PROJECT WITH THE TOTAL RURAL-FARM
POPULATION* OF THE THREE COUNTIES
INCLUDED IN THE STUDY

Age	Total Rural-Farm Population Per Cent	Total All Cases Per Cent	Cases Selected Per Cent	Cases Not Selected Per Cent
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years	11.6	11.8	12.2	11.4
5 - 9 "	11.9	16.7	19.7	13.1
10 - 14 "	11.7	14.6	14.8	14.4
15 - 19 "	9.4	12.7	12.0	13.6
20 - 24 "	7.4	5.7	4.3	7.5
25 - 29 "	5.7	5.7	5.4	6.0
30 - 34 "	5.8	5.0	6.2	3.6
35 - 44 "	15.6	11.5	12.0	10.8
45 - 54 "	11.2	10.2	10.3	10.1
55 - 64	5.5	3.0	2.8	3.4
Over 64	4.0	1.1	.4	1.9
Not Ascertain- able	0	1.9	0	4.3

*Source: Montana Population Census, 1930, Second Series,
Table 14.

TABLE VII.--AGE GROUP COMPARISON OF THE MALE POPULATION OF CASES
SELECTED AND NOT SELECTED FOR RELOCATION ON THE
MILK RIVER RESETTLEMENT PROJECT WITH THE TOTAL
MALE POPULATION* OF THE THREE COUNTIES IN-
CLUDED IN THE STUDY

Age	Total Male Population Per Cent	Total All Cases Per Cent	Cases Selected Per Cent	Cases Not Selected Per Cent
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 yrs.	10.1	12.9	13.6	12.1
5 - 9 "	10.8	15.6	18.2	12.5
10 - 14 "	10.7	14.5	15.3	13.5
15 - 19 "	8.3	13.4	12.1	14.9
20 - 24 "	7.3	5.3	4.0	6.9
25 - 29 "	6.2	5.2	4.9	5.5
30 - 34 "	5.8	3.6	4.0	3.1
35 - 44 "	16.9	11.2	11.6	10.7
45 - 54 "	12.8	12.6	11.8	13.5
55 - 64 "	6.5	3.6	3.8	3.5
Over 64	4.7	1.2	.6	2.1
Not Ascertainable	0	.8	0	1.7

*Source: Montana Population Census, 1930, Second Series, Table 11.

TABLE VIII.--AGE GROUP COMPARISON OF THE FEMALE POPULATION OF CASES
SELECTED AND CASES NOT SELECTED FOR RELOCATION ON THE
MILK RIVER RESETTLEMENT PROJECT WITH THE
TOTAL FEMALE POPULATION* OF THE THREE
COUNTIES INCLUDED IN THE STUDY

Age	Total Female Population Per Cent	Total All cases Per Cent	Cases Selected Per Cent	Cases Not Selected Per Cent
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 yrs.	12.3	10.5	10.5	10.6
5 - 9 "	12.7	18.0	21.4	13.8
10 - 14 "	12.9	14.7	14.1	15.4
15 - 19 "	10.3	12.0	11.8	12.2
20 - 24 "	8.0	6.2	4.6	8.1
25 - 29 "	6.3	6.2	5.9	6.5
30 - 34 "	6.0	6.5	8.6	4.1
35 - 44 "	14.6	11.8	12.5	11.0
45 - 54 "	9.0	7.5	8.6	6.1
55 - 64 "	4.5	2.4	1.6	3.3
Over 64	3.3	.9	.3	1.6
Not Ascertainable	0	3.3	0	7.3

*Source: Montana Population Census, 1930, Second Series, Table 11.

TABLE IX.--SEX AND AGE CLASSIFICATION OF ALL PERSONS
IN THE HOUSEHOLDS OF CASES SELECTED AND CASES NOT
SELECTED FOR RELOCATION ON THE MILK RIVER
RESETTLEMENT PROJECT

Age	Cases Selected					Cases Not Selected				
	Total	Male	Per Cent of Total	Female	Per Cent of Total	Total	Male	Per Cent of Total	Female	Per Cent of Total
Total	650	346	53.2	304	46.8	535	289	54.0	246	46.0
Under 5 years	79	47	7.2	32	4.9	61	35	6.5	26	4.9
5 - 9 "	128	63	9.6	65	10.0	70	36	6.7	34	6.4
10 - 14 "	96	53	8.2	43	6.6	77	39	7.3	38	7.1
15 - 19 "	78	42	6.5	36	5.5	73	43	8.0	30	5.6
20 - 24 "	28	14	2.2	14	2.2	40	20	3.7	20	3.7
25 - 29 "	35	17	2.6	18	2.8	32	16	3.0	16	3.0
30 - 34 "	40	14	2.2	26	4.0	19	9	1.7	10	1.9
35 - 44 "	78	40	6.2	38	5.8	58	31	5.8	27	5.0
45 - 54 "	67	41	6.3	26	4.0	54	39	7.3	15	2.8
55 - 64 "	18	13	2.0	5	.8	18	10	1.9	8	1.5
Over 64	3	2	.3	1	.2	10	6	1.1	4	.7
Not Ascertainable	0	0	0	0	0	23	5	.9	18	3.4

TABLE X.--COMPARISON BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF THE FOREIGN BORN HEADS* OF THE HOUSEHOLDS SELECTED AND NOT SELECTED FOR RELOCATION ON THE MILK RIVER RESETTLEMENT PROJECT WITH THE TOTAL FOREIGN BORN OF THE THREE COUNTIES INCLUDED IN THE STUDY

Country of Origin	Total Population		Cases Selected		Cases Not Selected	
	Number	Per Cent of Total	Number	Per Cent of Total	Number	Per Cent of Total
Total	3582	100.0	50	100.0	43	100.0
Austria	33	.9	2	4.0	1	2.3
Canada	766	21.4	9	18.0	8	18.6
Denmark	132	3.7	4	8.0	3	7.0
England	146	4.1	3	6.0	3	7.0
Finland	41	1.1	2	4.0	0	0
France	57	1.6	0	0	1	2.3
Germany	382	10.7	3	6.0	2	4.7
Holland	33	.9	2	4.0	1	2.3
Norway	746	20.8	8	16.0	5	11.6
Poland	94	2.6	1	2.0	0	0
Russia	255	7.1	11	22.0	10	23.3
Scotland	123	3.4	0	0	1	2.3
Sweden	343	9.6	5	10.0	2	4.7
Other	431	12.0	0	0	6	13.9

*Source: Montana Population Census, 1930, Second Series, Table 18.

TABLE XI.--HEADS* OF HOUSEHOLDS SELECTED
AND NOT SELECTED FOR RELOCATION
ON THE MILK RIVER RESETTLEMENT
PROJECT CLASSIFIED BY
STATE OF BIRTH

State of Birth	Cases Selected		Cases Not Selected	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Arkansas	1	1	1	0
Colorado	0	1	0	1
Idaho	2	4	3	0
Illinois	8	7	5	3
Indiana	2	3	0	1
Iowa	11	6	11	8
Kansas	5	2	1	2
Kentucky	0	0	3	0
Massachusetts	0	1	0	0
Michigan	2	0	2	2
Minnesota	9	11	20	19
Missouri	5	9	4	6
Montana	8	12	11	13
Nebraska	4	5	6	1
North Dakota	10	8	13	11
New Jersey	1	0	0	0
New York	0	1	0	0
Ohio	1	0	1	0
Oklahoma	2	3	0	1
Pennsylvania	1	1	0	3
Rhode Island	0	0	0	1
South Dakota	7	5	0	0
Tennessee	3	0	1	1
Texas	0	2	0	0
Utah	2	0	0	1
Virginia	3	0	1	0
Washington	0	1	0	0
Wisconsin	5	5	8	6
Wyoming	0	0	1	1
Not Ascertainable	0	0	1	6
Canadian Born	2	7	3	5
Foreign Born	23	18	22	13

*Refers to the husband and wife in each household.

TABLE XII.---HEADS* OF HOUSEHOLDS SELECTED AND NOT
SELECTED FOR RELOCATION ON THE MILK RIVER RE-
SETTLEMENT PROJECT CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO
THE AMOUNT OF FORMAL SCHOOLING

Amount of Formal Schooling Grades	Total All			Cases Selected			Cases Not Selected		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	453	235	218	230	117	113	223	118	105
None	2	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1
1 - 4	22	17	5	16	11	5	6	6	0
5 - 8	256	140	116	145	77	68	111	63	48
9 - 12	105	47	58	50	22	28	55	25	30
Over 12	28	9	19	15	5	10	13	4	9
Not Ascertainable	40	22	18	3	2	1	37	20	17
Median Grade Completed	7.8	7.5	8.2	7.6	7.4	7.9	8.1	7.7	8.6

*Refers to the husband and wife in each household.