



Development and use of an objective rating scale to evaluate the extent of home sewing  
by Mary McCoy Wetzsteon

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

An objective rating scale was developed to evaluate the extent of sewing done by homemakers of Boseman, Montana. With the aid of committees of homemakers and professional home economists, rating scales were formulated to measure three major aspects of sewing and from them a score was derived for 47 articles of sewing. These values were then applied to the sewing reports of 276 homemakers. The resultant scores were used as a basis for the study of factors thought to influence the amount and kind of home seeing.

Lower cost, satisfaction and enjoyment were the chief reasons for home sewing given by the homemakers. The greatest difficulties reported were in pattern alterations, and the construction, fitting and styling of garments. These homemakers devoted an average of four hours per week to their sewing activities.

Eighty-two percent of the homemakers were doing some sewing and had increased the total amount done during the two war years. Garments most frequently made were house dresses, aprons, and skirts for girls and women and pajamas for all family members. Many more articles were renovated during the two-year-war-time period than for the corresponding pre-war period.

The data were secured by questionnaires in which homemakers gave information concerning their family status and their sewing activities and problems. They were requested to estimate the amount of sewing done during the past four years, 1940 through 1943 to allow a comparison of the amount of sewing done in two years of war time with that done during the two pre-war years.

The development of the rating scales which make possible a quantitative evaluation of home sewing is considered the most valuable contribution of this thesis. This device should prove of value to those responsible for clothing curricula, to students as a means of judging their progress, to homemakers desiring an evaluation of their work and to those people interested in making studies relative to home sewing practices.

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TO EVALUATE THE EXTENT OF HOME SEWING

BY

MARY MCCOY WETZSTEON

A THESIS

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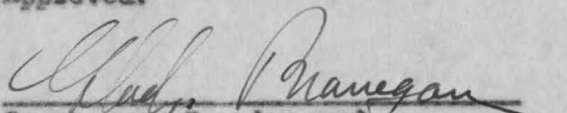
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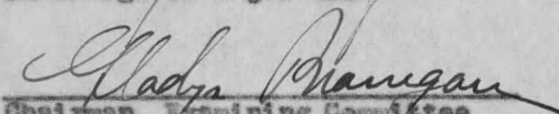
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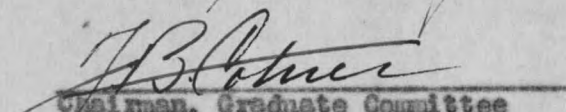
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ABSTRACT

An objective rating scale was developed to evaluate the extent of sewing done by homemakers of Bozeman, Montana. With the aid of committees of homemakers and professional home economists, rating scales were formulated to measure three major aspects of sewing and from them a score was derived for 47 articles of sewing. These values were then applied to the sewing reports of 276 homemakers. The resultant scores were used as a basis for the study of factors thought to influence the amount and kind of home sewing.

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### INTRODUCTION

Sewing has been recognized for many centuries as an important activity of the household. Originally, all sewing was done by hand and women had to devote considerable time to the making of garments and household textile articles. Learning to sew was one of the essential parts of the education of every young girl as many hands were required to supply the needs of a family. With the invention of the sewing machine, there came an increase in the amount of sewing one woman could accomplish which usually resulted in the production of a greater number of items. Later, when the power sewing machine was developed, ready-made articles began to appear on the market and homemakers were given a chance to choose whether they should make all of their garments and household textile furnishings or buy them in the finished form. There are indications that, for various reasons, most homemakers have found it desirable to continue to do some home sewing, although little is known about the actual amount being done. Only a few studies have been made which furnish information concerning the sewing activities of homemakers and they are not of recent date.

In The Household Budget published in 1917, Leeds (24) reported on the extent of clothing construction in 60 Pennsylvania homes. He found that 75 percent of the women were making at least a part of their clothing and were devoting an average of 5 3/4 hours weekly to sewing.

Sewing was one of the many household activities that were studied by Ward in 1920 (35) but her investigation was on a much larger scale than the one by Leeds, as she questioned 9724 women living in 33 of the northern and western states. Ward did not report whether all of a part of the

































































































































































