Farm Women

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Every woman I met is extraordinary."

Sangrey told the women that traditional "woman's work" is very important, adding, "one could argue that it is the most important work there is."

She stated, "At the heart of it is caring for children who are the future. They are what we will become. The nurturing of a child is an extraordinary privilege and duty." She is the mother of a 14-month-old son.

Another aspect of "woman's work" that is important is feeding people, she said. "We have to eat to hve."

Maintenance is another factor of woman's work which "keeps things going." And keeping the home is important for giving shelter and a place to rest for family members, according to Sangrey.

Sangrey pointed out that "nobody acts as if this work is important, including women who refer to themselves as 'just a housewife'."

In trying to put the finger on why this "extraordinary" work is not valued, Sangrey said some people call it trivial or boring, but pointed out that this is true of some aspects of everybody's work. She acknowledged that both

woman's work as support for what men do, but added, "It's perfectly logical to say it the other way around - that the husbands goes out and earns money so the wife can stay home and do what is really important."

Some people say it's easy, therefore it is unimportant. However, Sangrey exploded that myth by saying that a lot of women's work is not easy at all, but demands a lot of knowledge and selfcontrol.

Another reason women's work is not valued more. according to Sangrey, is that it is not paid work and so it is not considered important since this is a society where we tend to value jobs that produce goods.

However, she concluded, six, 37 percent worked

men and women see "I think the real reason woman's work is not valued is because women are not valued more."

> She said, "I am looking for a time when women's work becomes work for all of us. I think it will be a good time." She said husbands will be sharing more of so-called woman's work in the future because of the expectations of younger people. Furthermore, she predicted that jobs will change, allowing more flexible time and more part time work for both men and women.

She noted that in 1940, 15 percent of married women worked outside the home. In 1980, over 50 percent of the married women worked outside the home. Among mothers of children under

Lancester Earning, Saturday, November 8, 1960



Dawn Sangrey, free-lance writer, told Farm Women members of her findings in interviews with married women to be published in a book.

worse."

outside the home in 1975 contrasted with 23 percent in 1960.

As the number of women working outside the home increases, Sangrey said, "We will be adding paid work to women's work.

One of the biggest changes in the family comes from the availability of safe birth control which allows women to choose when and if they will have children. She pointed out that 87 percent of married women of childbearing years practice some method of birth control.

Birth control combined with longer life expectancy, adds up to a totally different picture of a woman's life in the future. Sangrey pointed out, "There will be a whole period in her life when she doesn't have children at home. There will be a space in her life to be something else."

Extension Home Economist Doris Thomas also pointed out some changes in women's lives, noting that at one point 40 was considered middle age, but that the age has been moved closer to 60. She said there is a population explosion among 80-year-olds.

In people 65 years of age or older, two thirds of the men are married and two thirds of the women are widowed. With mortality figures not changing, Doris predicted, 'This trend is going to get

She said that more and more there will be two generations of older people in a family as well as two generations of grandchildren. She called "unprecedented" the fact that many people can be a grandparent while having living grandparents of their own.

Opal Ruhl gave a report on her activities as county president and Mrs. Roy Sauder, first vice-president, reported on activities of the individual societies.

Attendance awards were won by Society 19 for having the highest percentage of members present. Mrs. Ruhl, county president, is a member of Society 19. Society 2 had the second highest percentage of members present.

Awards were announced for the crotcheting contest which was the state project. Winners are, Nora Herr, Society 14, for a round tablecloth; Abbie Bradley, Society 21, for a matching baby afghan, pillow and toy; and Rhoda Hess, Society 12, for a pillow. The items will be judged in competition at the state level.

A concert was provided by the "Suzuki Strings", a group of young students ranging in age from 6 to 15 under the direction of Carolyn Moyer, Penn Manor teacher.

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