

*Five Thousand American Families - Patterns of Economic Progress*, Volumes I, II, and III, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 1974 (I,II) 1975 (III.) Price for three volumes, \$14.50. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48106.

These volumes contain many interesting and important findings from a massive panel survey study started in 1968 and continuing today. Many of the chapters relate directly to housing. Volume II has chapters titled "Housing and Homeownership," "Residential Mobility," "Local Residential Mobility and Family Housing Adjustments," and "Modes of Travel to Work." Volume III has chapters titled "Residential Mobility: Planners, Movers, and Multiple Movers," and "People as Planners: The Fulfillment of Residential Mobility Expectations." Many of the other chapters are indirectly related to housing. For instance, the chapter "Income Instability" in Volume I, and the chapter "Aspects of the Variability of Family Income" in Volume II report findings on an important part of any family's ability to acquire and stay in good housing - the stability of income.

The analyses in these volumes often use definitions and techniques which may not be clear without reading a number of appendices, but the effort would be rewarding for the serious researcher. Skillful multivariate analysis of the longitudinal data has resulted in some interpretations of how and why families change over time—a subject which can only be speculated upon using cross-sectional data. In addition to the many studies in these volumes, abstracts of numerous other studies (including one by this reviewer) based on the data obtained in the longitudinal study are given at the end of Volume III.

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*How Things Work in Your Home (And What To Do When They Don't)*. (New York: Time-Life Books) 1975. 368 pp. Hardbound.

The purpose of this book is to help the consumer achieve more comfort and convenience, at less cost, by taking over household maintenance and repair jobs that anyone can do safely and efficiently. On the premise that an understanding of how things work is fundamental to being able to fix them, every article begins with word descriptions, pictures, and drawings that not only describe the "inner workings", but how to disassemble things, replace parts and make adjustments. Historic notes add interest, and often point up differences between older and current models of various pieces of home equipment. Troubleshooting charts list symptoms, causes, and solutions of likely problems.

Following an introductory chapter on understanding and keeping the machines in the home "going," which includes buying, using, and maintaining a basic tool kit, the areas covered are: plumbing (including "why plumbers cost so much"); electricity (learn how to "ring your [door] chime"); small appliances (appliances with motors and appliances that heat); large appliances (microwave ovens too); heating and cooling systems (find out how to have "bargain basement air cooling"); and yard and garden equipment.

A recent bibliography of books, periodicals, and other publications, plus an excellent index is included. Perhaps one of the two best features of this volume is that in every case, it tells the consumer what he or she can do, but also what they should NOT do. Its other advantage is its "specially commissioned drawings" which are highlighted with color to differentiate parts of systems, etc. The large, diagrammatic drawings and the accompanying prose are very easy to understand, making this a good resource particularly for extension use with adults and/or youth.

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