

Home Management *By Ruth Moyle*

THE IN YOUR OR OR KITCHEN

THE TITLE may remind you of Egyptian Hieroglyphics. Translated, however, it simply means the work triangle in your kitchen that is, the route you take from sink, to stove, to refrigerator, as you prepare your family's meals, three times each day. Whether it's in an L, or U, or Corridor-shaped kitchen, or even one of the newer Peninsula types, it's the length of the three sides of that triangle that counts and the number of times you walk it in the course of one meal's preparation.

For any who think these meal-time triangle tours aren't too import, a study of some 55 farm women in the States has come up with some interesting information. In almost 90% of these kitchens it was found the housewife walked approximately 43 miles a year during the preparation of only two of the three days' meals.

The solution of mileage such as this sounds very simple. Just see to it that the sides of the triangle are shortened to make a step-saving route between sink, stove and food storage area.

Sad to say, as many of us know, that isn't as simple as it sounds. In the past, unfortunately, architects haven't always thought about this angle of kitchen planning. Too often doors and windows were put in just anywhere at all, leaving only a minimum amount of wall space against which the equipment has to be placed. Our kitchen at home is an example of that. A small room to begin with, it has five doors and two windows! This means you can change the work triangle very

little, if at all—there's no place left to which you can switch the equipment.

Fortunately, however, shifting is quite often possible. For example, unless the door is opening to the wrong side, the refrigerator can often be moved closer to the sink. And if the stove can be edged even a few steps closer, then the walk from refrigerator to sink to stove becomes a short jaunt rather than a small day's journey.

As you go about shortening the work triangle there are other problems to keep in mind. Can you keep it out of the way of the family traffic lanes? And can you plan adequate counter space about each of the three work areas? Does the new arrangement allow for counter or table space near the refrigerator where you can load and unload food supplies? Do you have adequate space, convenient to both sink and refrigerator, for a mixing area? And does it give you ample work space near the stove for serving food?

This is where a small, easy-moving table on casters comes in handy. It can double for many uses—at the stove for serving food, at the refrigerator for loading and unloading. By the sink it holds the stacked dishes from the dining table or carries the clean dishes back to the cupboard.

The shape and dimensions of a poorly designed kitchen can't always be changed. But it's worth a try to rearrange equipment for shorter mileage each day.

Farm Daughters - An Occupational Survey

By Helen C. Abell, Ph.D.

IN JULY 1959 when 352 Ontario farm homemakers were interviewed by staff of the Home Economics Services, a total of 1,065 living children had been born to these farm women.

Although about three-fourths of these children were attending school or were of pre-school age, there were 365 who had completed school (183 boys and 182 girls) and had entered the adult phase of their lives.

A continuously decreasing number of today's adult farm-born children are following the occupational paths of their parents.

Only 4 of each 10 of these adult sons were engaged in farming. A much lower proportion (2 of each 10) adult daughters had followed their mother's life pattern of becoming farm homemakers.

Although 53 of these daughters were unmarried at the time of the survey 129 were married and of these only 34 were living on a farm with their husbands.

Profound changes in Canadian rural life are also reflected by the findings that among the unmarried adult daughters practically all were in some type of paid employment. The most frequent types being clerical or professional work. About half of these single girls had moved to a city or town where they were employed and about half were living with their parents on a farm and commuting daily to their place of employment.

Among the 129 married daughters about one in every four (26 per cent) had some type of paid employment in addition to homemaking responsibilities. This factor was most in evidence among those married daughters who were living in a city or town in Ontario (31 of 100 were in a paid job). It was in the proportion of 23 of 100 among those married daughters who were living with their husbands on a farm on their own. It was considerably lower (8 of 100) among those at an urban address outside of the Province of