

Statistics Show Woman's Place No Longer in Home

By G. K. HODENFIELD
 WASHINGTON, April 20 (AP)—The old saw that says "woman's place is in the home" is as dead as the dodo bird, American women, at least, ignore it like a birthday. That's the almost inescapable conclusion from a detailed Census Bureau survey of the nation's labor force, released today. To quote a few statistics: Three of every 10 American wives and almost 50 per cent of the single women are working outside the home. Altogether, women make up about a third of the nation's total labor force and more than half of these women are married. The number of working wives has risen by five million, or nearly 65 per cent, in 10 years. Last year there were 12,700,000 in the labor force, compared to 7 1/2 million in 1947. There has been a decline in the number of working single girls. But the Census Bureau found nothing alarming—it seems there are fewer young single women now because more of them are getting married, and earlier. Women between the ages of 45 and 64 are playing an increasingly significant role in the postwar labor force. Since 1947 the number of working wives in that age group has doubled, from nearly two million to nearly four million. Moreover, about one-third of all middle-aged wives were working last year, as compared to one-fifth right after World War II and only one-tenth in 1940. Middle-aged women who are widowed, divorced or separated from their husbands also have been joining the labor force in steadily increasing numbers. For most working wives and mothers it isn't a case of earning a little pin money. The bureau found that of the two million working mothers of young children last year, about two-thirds were working full time. The bureau reported a growing tendency in American homes for both husband and wife to hold down jobs. Last year 16 1/2 million of the 38 1/2 million married couples in this country had two paychecks to live on.

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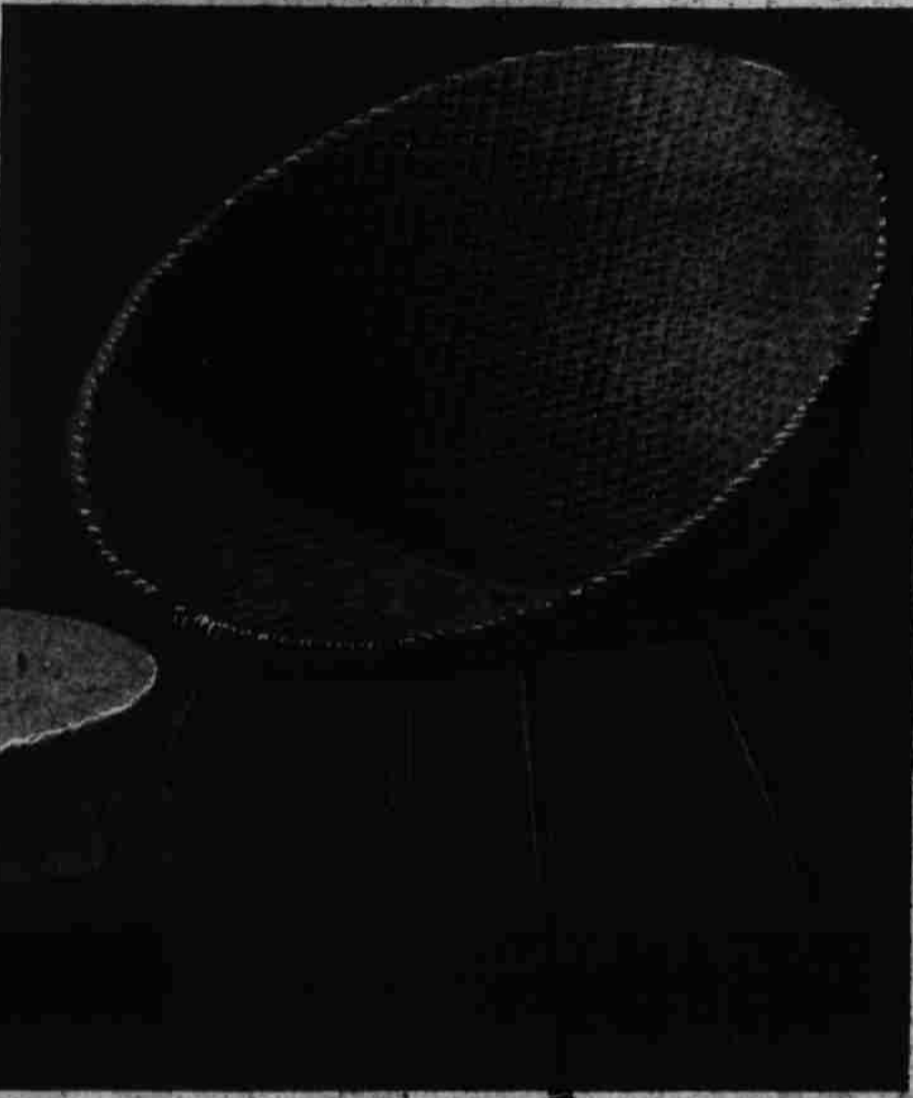
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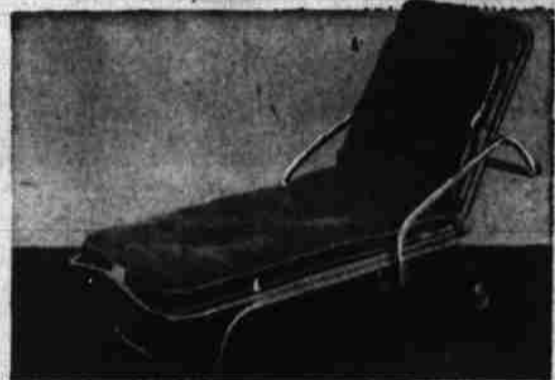
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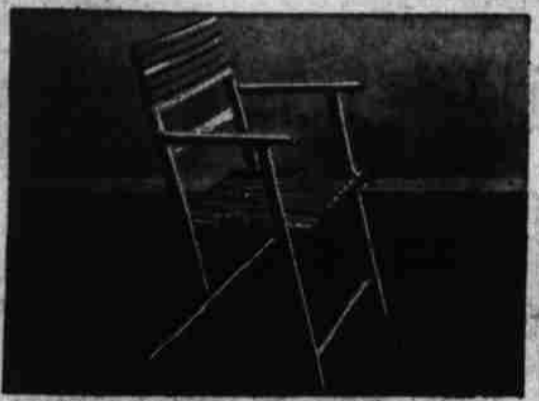
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