Mom works--who'll tend the home fires?

By JEANNE WHITTAKER

In the future, sociologists will say that in 1979, there were almost as many children welcoming mothers home from work as there were mothers standing at the door to greet children home from school.

There won't be any irrefutable statistics to serve as proof.

They will probably base their conclusions on such interesting bits of evidence as telephone numbers and the number of students whose parents routinely left their Blue Cross



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— Sandra Hofferth, Kristin Moore

sand Buse Shield numbers with the schools. During The Year of the Child, a great deal of attention is being focused on two-income families and focused on two-income families and single-parent households headed by working mothers. However, the two groups are already familiar to area schools, say Yome of the leading deuclators in the Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills school districts. John Molloy 3r., director of pupil placement for the Bloomfield Hills school schools, explained that the actual number of such families in his districts of the schools, explained that the actual number of such families in his districts of the schools o

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conomic status doubt however," he said, "that the number of two-income and single-parent families has increased. When I came in the mid-sixties, the working mother was the exception. It is very common today for a mother to give us a business phone."

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Herbert Baker, director of guidance and pupil placement for the Birmingham schools, said that he has noticed a sharp increase in the number of single-parent households.

"You've got to remember that we are a declining-enrollment district," he said. "Our families tend to be old-er. They are less likely to fall into the two-income category. However, the increase in the number of single-parent households suprises me."

On the national scene, there has been a dramatic increase in the

number of women who have either returned to work or begun career's while their children are young. Labor Department figures show that as of March 1978 almost 42 percent of the wives of the nation's 11.1 million families with children under six were either working or seeking matte increase from the 30 por drain 1970 and 19 percent in 1980 who were employed outside the home. The status of the American family received widespread attention in April when advance information from a forthcoming publication, "The Subtle Revolution Women At Work," revealed that modern research indicates that the children of working women will probably grow up to be emotionally stable adults. In the private, non-profit Urban Institute publication, researchers Sandra Hofferth and Kristin Moore state "We can report that the overwhelming concessus of different studies is that most children of working mothers seem to develop normally and well."
Neither Molloy or Baker were suprised by the statement, although acch had his own reasons for accepting the conclusion.
"Given a relatively stable family unit, it would not necessarily create traumatic situation for kids," said Molloy."
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Stability, he added, ingredient.

"It is either there or it isn't. Whether a mother goes back to a career or goes into business for the first time doesn't make a difference.

""The success is based on the qual-ity of exchange between the parent and child," said Baker. "The quality of the relationship between the par-ent and child is not necessarily af-fected by the amount of time they spend together. If they spent many

MOLLOY DOES NOT see the increase in the number of working mothers as a trend that will be reversed in the forseable future.

"Looking at the kids I don't see its reversal.." he said.

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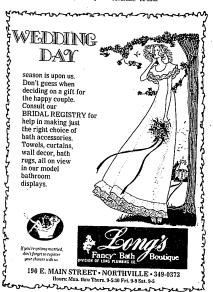
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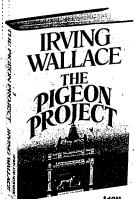
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