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BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

RECORD BOOK 80 Unit II

Virginia 4-H Community Improvement

Your Name _____ County _____ Age _____

Address _____

Club Name _____ Club Year _____

Years in Club Work _____

Adult Leader's Name _____

Extension Agent's Name _____

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Virginia 4-H Community Improvement (Including the Home Grounds)

J C Garrett

To the 4-H Club Member:

This program area of nationwide concern is planned to encourage you to do a better job of improving your home grounds, your community, and your appreciation for better surroundings in general. While being a part of such worthwhile interests, you have the opportunity to achieve much through your individual efforts and as a member of a group of interested young citizens.

Seek the advice and guidance of others such as your parents, your 4-H leaders, your extension agents, and the many other people who are anxious to be helpful. Make the most of your opportunities to grow individually while developing into a better citizen for serving your community.

Your Name _____ County _____ Age _____

Address _____

Club Name _____ Club Year _____

Years in Club Work _____

Adult Leaders' Name _____

Extension Agents' Name _____

Objectives:

1. To respond to the national challenge for each community throughout the State and Nation to remove ugliness from the countryside by:
 - a. Controlling litter and combating vandalism
 - b. Encouraging individuals, organizations, public officials, industrial leaders, and others to remove or conceal ugly objects or places under their supervision.
2. To add beauty to our surroundings by:
 - a. Making all community surroundings more attractive
 - b. Improving each members' home grounds
 - c. Gaining a fuller knowledge and appreciation for plants, their habitat, their effective uses, and their general maintenance
 - d. Encouraging preservation of our national surroundings.
3. To develop better citizens through:
 - a. Development of leadership talents and good character
 - b. Development of family and group relationships by working with others on a program of nationwide concern and importance.
4. To explore career opportunities in the related fields of land use planning, creative design, and conservation of natural resources.

Your 4-H Club can take the lead in making other local young people interested in improving the appearance of the community. Ask your parents, adult leaders, professional workers in community beautification, leaders of organizations, and others for ideas and guidance for worthwhile activities.

Note: At the beginning and during the progress of projects or activities, 4-H Club members are urged to make good photographs for publicity and promotion, records, and other uses.

Individual and Group Activities:

Project requirements are in 2 parts:

- a. Home Grounds Beautification (individual activities)
- b. Community Beautification (individual and group activities)

A. HOME GROUNDS IMPROVEMENT

Complete at least 1 of the 3 activities listed under Required and at least 4 of the activities listed under Optional Activities for each year of work in Unit II. To the left of the activity number, write the project year (example 1967 - 1, 1968 - 2, etc.) in which you are doing the work. Practice neatness, imagination, accuracy, and thoroughness.

Required:

1. Map Your Home Grounds to Scale.

Instructions: a. Use a scale such as 1" = 10'; 1" = 8'; or 1" = 20'

- b. Use a sheet of paper large enough for the map plus a border area of three to four inches.
- c. Following the mapping instructions in Extension Bulletin 217, "Design of Home Grounds" and/or 4-H Teaching Aid, "Mapping to Scale".
- d. Fold the map so it can be fastened within the covers of the Record Book.
- e. Complete the following information in addition to the map:

(1) General information:

Define scale: _____

Which scale did you use? _____ inch _____ feet.

Distance to nearest neighbor's house _____
(from your house)

Describe the setting for your house: (wooded, hilly, etc.) _____

(2) The yard (site): _____

Shape of your yard (square, rectangle, etc.) _____

Size: Length _____ ft.; width _____ ft.

Slope: (Check level _____, steep _____,

rolling _____, other (describe) _____

(3) The soil: (See Extension Bulletin 253,

"Soil", for more soil information)

General quality: good ____, fair ____, poor ____

Topsoil depth (to rock, tight clay, etc.)

_____ inches.

Type: Sandy loam _____, heavy clay _____,

deep sand _____, other (describe) _____

Drainage (rate of water movement down through

soil) good ____, fair ____, poor ____

(4) The house:

Style (Early American, Ranch, etc.) _____

Walls or siding material (brick, wood, etc.)

Color: roof _____, siding _____, trim _____

How many outside doors _____

How many first floor windows _____

How many basement windows _____

(5) List of other buildings within 100' of

the house: _____

(6) Plants in your yard:

How many trees _____. Names: _____,

_____, _____, _____,

_____, _____, _____.

How many evergreens _____. Names _____,

_____, _____, _____.

How many flowering shrubs and vines _____.

Names: _____, _____, _____.

(7) List special interest natural areas or features:(rock outcroppings, good views, brook and
others)

List and briefly describe _____

2. Survey and make an organized check list of needs for your home grounds. Consider usefulness, attractiveness, and problems. Check each need in the order of importance such as 1st, 2nd, etc., regardless of the order of the record book check sheet listing. Also, add other items if needed.

_____ General clean-up

_____ Improved entrance-way

_____ Better drive

_____ Parking and turning area

- _____ Build or improve walk
 - _____ Yard fence, build or repair
 - _____ Painting, house and other buildings
 - _____ Remove worthless plants
 - _____ Grade for better drainage
 - _____ Establish a vegetable garden location
 - _____ Level the soil surface
 - _____ Build a retaining wall
 - _____ Make a better lawn
 - _____ Plant trees
 - _____ Screen unsightly views
 - _____ Provide outdoor lighting
 - _____ Develop an outdoor living area
 - _____ Plant flowers
- List other needs _____
-

Read: Extension Bulletin 217, "Design of the Home Grounds", Extension Circular 824, "Attractive Driveway Entrances", and Circular 622, "Landscape Slopes".

3. Know more about the State Flower (tree).

Common Name _____

Scientific Name _____

Size: Average height _____ feet Spread _____ feet

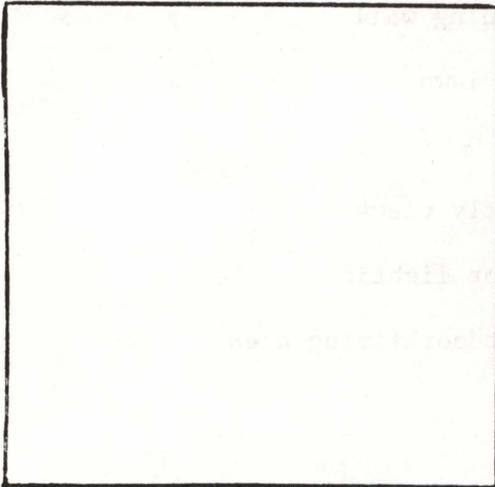
Type of branching habit _____

Flowers:

Color or colors _____

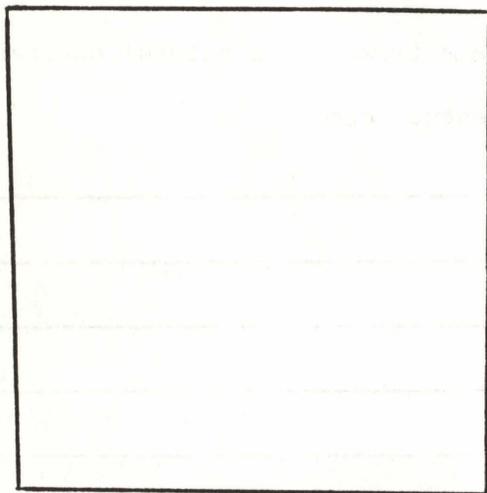
Season of flowering _____

Draw the following sketches in the blocks and draw lines connecting the flower parts listed:



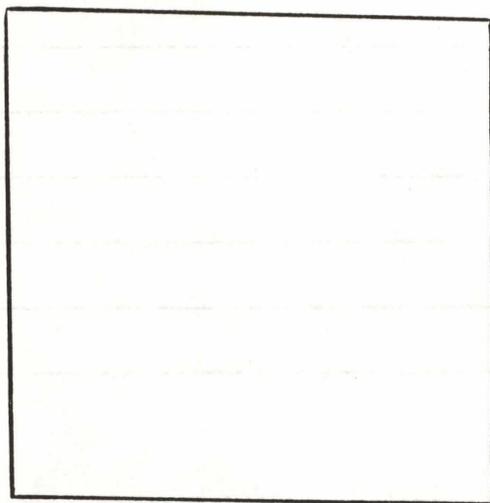
Petal
Stamen
Pistil
Stem

Flower



tip bud
side bud
side branch or twig
main stem

Stem and side branches



margin of leaf
mid-rib of leaf
petiole
bud
stem

Leaf with stem section

Fruit:

Color: Summer _____ Fall _____

Brief description of fruit _____

Include: Cover for 8½" x 11" sheets or regular scrapbook sheets. Attach the sheets in the cover. Use the cover title: "Home Grounds Beautification Ideas". In the lower right corner of the cover have your name, county, address, age, name of your 4-H Club, years of club work.

Prepare an index of subjects: Include 1 to 3 pictures of your home grounds.

Write a one-page summary of your home grounds experiences and views (what was done, cooperation, future plans, what you learned, etc.)

5. Plan, plant, and care for a flower bed or border. Use at least 3 different annuals, or 3 perennials, or 3 bulb plants, or a combination.

Make a sketch of your flower bed or border:

Show: Length and width; arrangement of flowers by names; colors; height. (Attach the sketch to this report and label Flower Border).

When were flowers planted? _____

Date of first flowers: _____

Special uses of flowers: _____

Pest problems: _____

Controls used for pests: _____

Number of times cultivated or hoed: _____

6. Explore a career. Write to 3 universities or colleges, in or out of the state; and ask for descriptive outlines of courses and career opportunities in 3 of the following:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. Landscape design | d. City planning |
| b. Horticulture | e. Outdoor recreation |
| c. Sociology and land use | f. Conservation and natural resources |

List the schools contacted: _____

How many schools sent materials? _____

Write a paragraph about each of the 3 fields for which you requested information. (Attach to this sheet.)

7. Visit a plant nursery, florist shop, or arboretum. Write a brief account of what you saw and learned.

Include: Name and location of place or places visited _____

Type of Establishment: _____

Type of training needed to manage the establishment:

Your impressions: _____

8. Prune a flowering or evergreen shrub, using recommended methods.

Name of plant or plants: _____

When did you prune it? _____

Why did you prune it? _____

Where did you get pruning information? _____

What did you learn? _____

9. Help groom the home grounds.

List the things done during the year: _____

What did you learn? _____

10. Prepare a photographic story of home grounds beautification accomplishments.

You may use the entire yard area for the story or parts of the yard. Make each pair of "before" and "after" pictures from the same location. Use not more than 8 pictures mounted on heavy weight paper and fastened in the record book. Carefully plan the photographs so that a minimum of words are needed to help tell the story. Use a descriptive title for the picture story.

11. Plant or transplant trees and/or shrubs.

How many plants were planted? _____

How many plants were transplanted? _____

Name the plants _____

When was the planting done? _____

Describe briefly the method used and what you learned:

_____12. Make a pressed leaf and/or flower collection. Review Extension Circular 795, "Pressing Leaves and Flowers."

After the plant specimens are prepared, fasten them in a folder or scrapbook. On the front cover, use a descriptive title. In the lower right corner of the cover include: your name, county, address, age, name of your 4-H Club, and years of 4-H Club work. Prepare and include an index page. Include a minimum of 10 plants. For each plant, prepare the following information:

Common name _____

Where collected _____

Date collected _____

Is it a native plant? _____

Landscape use _____

Brief description of natural growing conditions: _____

13. Give a demonstration or make a talk on some phase of home grounds beautification or ornamental horticulture.

Some suggested topics are: (Imaginative titles are encouraged.)

Making a Home Grounds Map to Scale

Pruning Plants with a Purpose

Developing a Landscape Plan

Transplanting Trees and Shrubs

Care of Landscape Plantings

Planning the Flower Border

Growing House Plants

And you can think of additional topics.

B. COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION

Participate in one or more of the following activities each year. (Credit can be given for a project lasting more than one year.)

1. Clean-up and/or litter control activity or campaign for a public or special area. Special Note: Be sure, if possible, that action photographs are made during the planning and action phases of the program. Also, be sure that accurate records are kept of meeting dates, number of participants, etc.

Describe the area dealt with _____

Clean up _____, litter control _____, both _____

Number of 4-H Club members involved _____

Number of other youth organizations represented _____

Number of members _____

How many 4-H adult leaders were involved _____

Other leaders _____

Date of first planning meeting _____

Briefly, what happened? _____

Date of first action meeting _____

Briefly, what happened? _____

Do you think the activity was successful and worthwhile?

_____ Why? _____

Is the activity to be continued or repeated? _____

Discuss briefly _____

2. Help survey your neighborhood or community (or other selected area) for general appearance. Note: Mark the outline on a map or make a sketch of the area viewed.

Name and general location of the area _____.

| | Good | Fair | Poor |
|--|------|------|------|
| General impressions (entire area)..... | | | |
| Appearance of buildings (public and private-including homes) | | | |
| Appearance of grounds | | | |
| Absence of dangerous intersections..... | | | |
| Street markers (in towns)..... | | | |
| Mailbox appearance and names..... (rural mail delivery) | | | |
| Condition of vacant lots | | | |
| Roadside appearances | | | |
| Control of trash & litter | | | |
| Other | | | |
| Individual Total | | | |
| Team or group total | | | |

What are your conclusions? _____

What does your group recommend? _____

3. Give a demonstration or talk on community beautification to an organized group or for a special occasion.

Some suggested topics:

Remove Ugliness from Your Community

Add Beauty to Your Community

Are Adults Setting Good Community Examples?

How Tourists View the Community

Beauty and Economic Values

Restoring and Preserving Historic Sites and Places

How to Organize and Conduct a Clean-Up Campaign

Community pollution Problems

Litter Control Costs

Vandalism and the Community

The Natural Beauty Program

You can think of many other worthwhile topics for demonstrations or illustrated lectures. Emphasis should be placed on such important factors as conditions for more enjoyable living, economic values, citizenship, careers, and others. Employ the use of such tools or visuals as maps, charts, photographs, models, drawings, samples, and other aids.

4. Help develop a program for restoring a historical place of interest in your area or community.

Virginia has a rich background of historical interest to be found in every community. If all areas are not of a state or national acclaim type, they can have a local historical importance. Such interests might include: churches, cemeteries, public or semi-public buildings, special trees or plants, old mills and mill ponds, waterways, war relics or areas, covered bridges, and many others.

Included in the organized information:

Name of the site, place, or article _____

Dates of importance _____

Why is it considered to be of special interest? _____

What was the source of information? _____

How are you impressed by the place, site, or article of interest? _____

Note: Some good sources of background information are elderly residents of an area. Some direct comments or quotations should be used, when possible, in the report.

Selected photographs (copies of prints) or original pictures of places and articles should be used when possible.

4-H youth interests could result in the preservation or restoration of worthwhile historic areas, places, or things.

- 5. Involve an organized youth group (other than 4-H) in a cooperative community improvement project with your 4-H group.

Name of the group or groups involved _____

How many individuals were involved? _____

What was the special activity? _____

How did the combination of efforts come about? _____

How many adult leaders were involved? _____

Do you consider the cooperative efforts satisfactory? _____
or unsatisfactory _____?

Are the cooperative efforts or similar ones to be continued? _____

How many organized youth groups are there in your community? _____

Do you belong to others than 4-H? _____

What are your views about cooperative efforts by different youth groups on Community Beautification activities? _____

6. Visit, with a group, a place of recognized historical interest, Natural Beauty, or landscape design. Write a brief report (250 to 500 words) about your observations and what you learned. Include:

Why the particular site was visited _____

Why is it considered outstanding? _____

What are the high points of interest? _____

Who of importance was involved? _____

How did it affect you as to outlook, appreciation,
changing of opinions? _____

7. Make a list of state and/or national parks, historic places, or forest recreation areas in your county or city. For each listing, give the source of information and write a paragraph statement describing the area, its use, and importance.

