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NARRATIVE REPORT

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For

KING AND QUEEN COUNTY

By

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HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT

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III. The County Situation As It Affects the 1953 Program

King and Queen County is located in the Tidewater Area of Virginia. It is a long, narrow county bordered on the southwest by the Mattaponi River, east by Middlesex and Gloucester counties and on the north by Essex and Caroline counties.

There are 318 square miles in the county, but as mentioned above, the county is very long, about 67 miles long and approximately 10 miles wide at the widest point. The land is flat to gently rolling with a sandy clay loam soil. Seventy-two percent of the total land area is in forest. Thus one of the chief sources of the income is from the timber business. About 6% of the income is from forestry products or from the twenty or more sawmill businesses in the county. Other sources of income are derived from crops and dairy production, also a canning factory in Walkerton.

There are 504 white farm families who own their own farms, 100 white tenant farm families and 400 white non-farm families. The total population of the county is less than 7,000 of which a large portion are negroes.

There are two consolidated schools in the county, fourteen churches, which include Baptist, Methodist, Holiness, Christian and Episcopalian. A health unit was set up in October 1952 with a county health nurse and health director, otherwise there is no physician practicing in the county. Banks are located outside of the county and can be reached easily by the citizens.

The people are widely scattered, thus forming small neighborhood groups because of transportation difficulties.

IV. Contribution of the 1953 Program to Better Family Living

The home demonstration and 4-H groups created an opportunity for one another to meet and work together on projects which would enable them to provide more attractive house furnishings, better balanced meals, better recreation and most of all a chance for neighbors to be together to work and play cooperatively. The sense of belonging in a group and each member working towards better homes and better communities has been a great contribution for the Extension Service.

Programs on house furnishings which included: Making Lampshades, Buying Linens, Making Curtains and Draperies, and Refinishing Furniture helped themembers to develop skills which could turn their homes into attractive and comfortable places to live. The home demonstration members seem to come "alive" when they have the opportunity to make something to beautify the home.

IV. Contribution of the 1953 Program to Better Family Living (Cont.)

* Other contributions include the leadership training for 4-H members both in club meetings and 4-H camp. Twenty boys and girls attended camp in 1953 as compared to nine in 1952.

The program on Health, the Federation goal has meant better informed individuals in care of the mind and body. The home demonstration clubs provided first aid supplies for the schools and plan to work with the dental unit in the winter for school children.

Better houses, more attractive furnishings, healthier bodies and recreational opportunities have been brought about through the 1953 program where members exchanged ideas and were able to be together socially. In this the program has meant a great deal to the people of rural King and Queen.

V. Adult Work

A. Project Work

I. House Furnishings

a. Objectives

1. Make the home attractive and more comfortable at little cost

2. Learn skills and methods in order to do the job

3. Families to find satisfaction in family living because of homes' attractiveness and convenience

b. Procedure

Each home demonstration club had demonstrations on making lampshades, buying linens and making curtains and draperies. A workshop on finishing furniture was held in January and a special meeting on Color and House Furnishings was held in a nearby department store which six leaders attended. Other methods used were articles in the newspapers and radio talks on House Furnishings.

House furnishings leaders were trained in giving the demonstration on Making Curtains and Draperies. These same leaders assisted the agent in workshops on refinishing furniture, bottoming chairs and stools and making lampshades.

V. Adult Work (Cont.)

A. Project Work (Cont.)

I. House Furnishings (Cont.)

c. Results

The house furnishing program has been a more satisfying topic to the women than any other topic covered in 1953. The skills and methods they learned for beautifying the home fulfilled a desire to create.

Ninety-three lampshades have been made since the topic was covered in September.

A workshop on refinishing furniture was held in January. Eight pieces of furniture were refinished. Other reports since then show that about fifty pieces have been done as compared to half that number in 1952.

In November two special meetings were held on bottoming chairs and stools. Two chairs and thirteen stools were finished and several more have requested supplies for doing the job.

All of the members reported that they gained a good deal from the program on Buying Linens. Contrary to their first impression they soon sawthe need for wise buying and the agent feels they know better the need to study labels before purchasing goods.

One of the interesting developments in the program has been that of one member helping another. Half of the members reported they helped someone else to select furnishings, refinish furniture and make lampshades as a follow-up of the demonstrations.

2. Foods

a. Objectives

1. Homemakers improve quality of homemade soups and one-dish meals to appeal to the appetite

2. Use home grown products to stretch the food dollar

3. Prepare homemade fruit and milk drinks for a good supply of vitamins and minerals

V. Adult Work (Cont.)

A. Project Work (Cont.)

2. Foods (Cont.)

b. Procedure

The agent gave three foods demonstrations on Refreshments, Soups and One-Dish Meals.

In March the foods leaders were trained by Mrs. Mary Thompson, Food and Nutrition Specialist. These leaders gave demonstrations on Milk Drinks in their clubs in May. In July the leaders assisted the agent in the demonstration Pickles, Preserves and Jellies.

c. Results

More than half of the members have reported on how the program on soups and one-dish meals has helped in their food planning and stretching the food dollar. They also comment on how they have used the milk drinks to advantage by each member of the family getting the amount required daily in a pleasant way.

The agent feels, however, that the foods program could have been stronger. Although most of the members are good cooks and some will practice new ideas, many continue in their own methods.

The drought affected seriously the amount of home produced food in 1953. Many homemakers did not have gardens of any kind, but depended altogether on the local stores. However, thirty reported that they had preserved food from the home garden. The amount of the following foods was canned, frozen or preserved:

Tomatoes:	624 quarts	
Vegetables:	canned 930 quarts;	frozen 420 pounds
Fruits:	canned 750 quarts;	frozen 461 pounds
Meats:	canned 59 quarts;	frozen 1579 pounds

Pickle, preserves, jellies 957 quarts.

The agent feels that more can be done to improve the nutrition of families. Members report that they "enjoy" the foods meetings but many have yet to practice good nutrition. The foods they prepare are excellent but they need further advice in wise planning.

V. Adult Work (Cont.)

A. Project Work (Cont.)

3. Home Management

a. Objectives

1. Homemakers know and understand the importance of wills and deeds

2. Learn and put into practice methods of housekeeping to save both time and energy in the kitchen

3. Try to have homemakers keep records and plan the family spending

b. Procedure

After an agent training meeting by Miss Helen Alverson, the agent led discussions and held demonstrations in all of the clubs in January on Wills and Deeds. Material was secured from the Clerk's office to aid in the program, and members contacted lawyers to be further advised on the topic. Bulletins on Wills were distributed to the members for reference.

About 95% of the members have stated that they looked into the family affairs after the meeting was held. They reported that they now realize how important such a program is to rural women.

The program on Saving Time and Energy in the Kitchen was presented through demonstrations, flannelgraphs and pictures in June. The attendance was low in June, but all in attendance expressed their feeling that such a program was quite helpful.

The agent had each member make a sketch of her kitchen with basic equipment. Then the homemaker estimated the steps she had to take in doing a job. About half of the members have since made some arrangements in the kitchen for more efficiency.

c. Results

Although the program was quite helpful to those who attended the agent feels it could have been better.

V. Adult Work (Cont.)

A. Project Work (Cont.)

3. Home Management (Cont.)

c. Results (Cont.)

Members stayed away in many cases because they were not interested. This often happens in the meetings if the members think they will not "do" or "make" something. More emphasis will have to be placed on attending the meetings and making each meeting meet a need of those present.

4. Housing

a. Objectives

1. Plan for more storage space and put into practice knowledge gained

b. Procedure

The agent held meetings in each club in April using slides and pictures to illustrate various types of storage space. Agent was trained by the specialist in an agent workshop meeting.

c. Results

Following the meeting on Storage Space four requests came in for assistance in remodeling to provide storage space and other facilities. Other members reported they have rearranged equipment in the present space to make for more efficiency in housekeeping. Fifty percent of the members stated that they do not have sufficient storage, especially in kitchen, bathroom and linen storage.

The requests on remodeling have been met in part by the agent and Mr. C. D. Wheary, Home Improvement specialist.

The agent attended two workshops in 1953 on Housing given by Miss Mary B. Settle and Mr. C. D. Wheary which were of great help in working with the families on their housing problems.

V. Adult Work (Cont.)

A. Project Work (Cont.)

4. Housing (Cont.)

c. Results (Cont.)

Plans have been made for remodeling, and three of the four families are now working on the remodeling. In one home a bathroom and closets are being installed. The others are making improvements in kitchen and bathroom.

The agent feels that this has been one of the most successful programs in the county. However, this type of program has to be conducted for the most part as a personal service to families. Yet in this way others see the benefits and will strive to make their home more attractive and comfortable.

B. Other Activities

The Federation goal on Health and the result demonstration on Housing are two of the important activities conducted in 1953 outside of the regular program.

The County Health chairman made a schedule of activities to be carried out during the year. One meeting was held in June on cancer. A film and a display of dressings were shown. About 65 people attended this meeting.

Each of the home demonstration clubs are providing funds and supplies for first aid kits in the schools. The club members also made garments and supplies for the health department when clinics were held. About 15% or more of the members have had physical examinations this year as a result of the discussions on health in the clubs.

Three result demonstrations on Housing were conducted. These homes are remodeling, adding rooms and kitchen and bathroom facilities. Other families are asking for more assistance in planning since they have seen what has been done. Meetings have been held at these homes and greater interest among more people has been noted. Of course, this work is not completed and will continue. It is hoped that in another year more families can do more to make their homes convenient and comfortable.

VI. 4-H Club Work

1. Clothing

Twenty-nine girls enrolled in the clothing projects: Looking Your Best, Make or Remake, and So You'd Like to Sew.

a. Objectives

1. Teach the girls to plan for their clothing needs

2. Learn to choose becoming outfits and accessories

3. Learn to construct a garment

4. Learn to care for clothes and personal appearance

b. Procedure

The agent and leader gave project instruction each month followed by some members in each group giving demonstrations. The major part of the work was done in the homes. The girls met in the afternoons in their homes for project instructions. Following these meetings each member did a certain amount of work from that date to the next meeting.

Contests were held in each club to select the girl doing the best work. Then the county winner was selected to participate in the District contest.

c. Results

Twenty-five of the twenty-nine girls completed the project. Others not competing dropped out soon after joining the group.

One girl entered the District contest in March and received a blue award rating in the Dress Revue contest.

Six girls entered garments in the Tidewater Fair and all except one received blue ribbons and she received a red ribbon.

All the girls showed interest in the Looking Your Best project. They liked the meetings, especially on care of hair, laundering sweaters and care of hands and skin. In each group the members worked in pairs and took turns practicing good grooming procedures.

VI. 4-H Club Work (Cont.)

2. Foods

Two project groups, Mattaponi and Owenton, carried the Food Preparation project with 16 enrolled.

a. Objectives

1. To learn, practice and demonstrate better methods in meal planning and preparation of food.

b. Procedure

A demonstration was held each month by the agent and leaders with members participating in various phases of the project. Each group also planned and prepared a club meal during the year.

In the summer the groups invited other 4-H club members to join in an outing at which time the girls prepared and served club refreshments.

c. Results

A good deal of interest was shown in this project and five groups have started the project for 1954.

Twelve of the sixteen girls enrolled completed the project. Those not completing were very young members who did not begin the project on time and also were not able to attend all of the meetings.

One girl entered the Junior Division of the District contest. It was her first contest and she was rated third. All members in the project gave demonstrations at least once during the year on making milk drinks, setting the table, making cookies and salads.

Several of the girls took over nearly all of the family cooking during the summer. One girl is still doing the cooking for a family of five. She states that she has learned more about foods in 4-H than in any other way.

3. Electricity

Two groups in the county carried the Farm and Home Electric project, Marriott and Pleasant Hill. The Marriott Club carried instruction in their meetings each month. The Pleasant Hill Club had five workship meetings in which instructions were given.

VI. 4-H Club Work (Cont.)

3. Electricity (Cont.)

a. Objectives

1. To learn more about electricity and its uses

2. To care for electrical equipment

3. To help others acquire knowledge and skill in improving the home through electricity

b. Procedure and Results

As stated previously, two groups including boys and girls carried the project. At the Marriott Club demonstrations were given monthly by the agent and members. In the Pleasant Hill Club the Virginia Electric Cooperative conducted the electric school which consists of five workshop meetings held at the school after school hours.

Topics covered included: Use of electricity, care of appliances, making and repairing extension cords and making lamps. At the final meeting of both groups each member gave a talk or demonstration on the project. Many had not given a demonstration before.

One boy and one girl from the county attended the Farm and Home Electric Congress in Richmond in September. Four other members received county medals.

4. Home Management

Two groups, Cumnor and Plain View, carried the unit Your Room Pep it Up

a. Objectives

1. Each girl to have an attractive and comfortable room

2. Learn to care for room daily for comfort and convenience

3. Make accessories for room

b. Procedure and Results

Club meetings were held in the homes of the girls each month. They had practice in arranging furniture, making beds and arranging flowers.

VI. 4-H Club Work (Cont.)

4. Home Management (Cont.)

b. Procedure and Results (Cont.)

The Plain View Club did more in the project than Cumnor. They made trash cans from ice cream cartons, lamps and lamp shades. It was very difficult to get the group at Cumnor to participate in making things for their rooms. They come from a rather low income group and need this project more than others. However, because of lack of money and initiative it was very hard to get any real improvement made in their rooms. All girls did improve their rooms through better arrangement, cleaning and keeping the room orderly.

B. Other Activities

1. Community Activities

The two community clubs in the county carried the Recreation andRural Arts activity. Monthly meetings were held and topics on homemade games, plastic weaving, music appreciation and the study of historic places in Virginia were given.

The activity was selected by the groups because of the boys and girls meeting together and they felt a need for more recreational facilities.

The club members helped to construct four or five home-made games then practiced playing with them. They made bracelets, lanyards, key rings from plastic lacing. Each club had two meetings on 4-H songs and their orgin, after which they sang the songs.

The Marriott Club presented a talent show on radio station WLEE, Richmond, in the Spring. A chorus from the club sang several songs and individual members performed.

This same group has begun a new project on Home Grounds Beautification. Three trash cans were placed at the school by the club. Other activities to improve the home and community are planned for 1954.

2. 4-H Camp

Twenty boys and girls attended Jamestown Camp August 10-15. Prior to the regular camp a week-end camp was

VI. 4-H Club Work (Cont.)

B. Other Activities (Cont.)

2. 4-H Camp (Cont.)

held to make preparation for the regular camp and to train junior leaders in handicraft and other classes.

The home demonstration clubs paid the expenses of two girls and 1 boy at week-end camp. The Marriott Club paid a portion of the expenses of each of their eight members attending.

Classes were held in Swimming, Living With Others, Forestry, Photography, and Handicraft. Stools, billfolds, change purses, belts and bird houses were made in the handicraft classes.

The week-end camp group conducted a Gypsy Carnival one evening which was a great success.

All those attending have said that it was a wonderful opportunity and how much it helped them socially.

3. 4-H Club Week

During 4-H Club Week the club members who were up to date on all projects and had attended all 4-H Club meetings during the year were awarded the National 4-H News Magazine and gate sign. Twenty-three members received the subscription to the magazine and the gate sign. These awards were made by the clubs.

Programs on 4-H work were also held in each club and a radio program was given by the Marriott Club during 4-H Club Week.

VII. Young Men and Women's Work

There is no Extension organized group of young people in the county. However, the agent works with the Junior Woman's Club in all their projects to promote better communities and better living.

VIII. Scope of Work

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
No. H. D. Clubs	9	8	8	8	8
Membership	183	134	138	139	130
No. 4-H Clubs	10	8	9	9	9
Membership	65	58	61	62	52
No. YMW Groups	0	1	1	0	0
Membership		150	127		
No. Other Families Reached	14	22	11	15	36
No. Different Families	238	323	357	326	340
No. Community Clubs	0	0	0	0	0

IX. How Organizations Functioned in the 1953 Program

A. County Home Demonstration Committee

The County Home Demonstration Committee is composed of the officers of the Home Demonstration Clubs. They meet at least twice a year in the spring and fall. In the spring committee meeting they plan the years activities to be covered by the clubs. They also appoint committees to be responsible for the county budget, plans for Achievement Day, delegates to the State Federation meeting and special events.

At the fall meeting the committee presents and works out the yearly program for all the clubs. This includes the demonstrations to be held, special meetings, county goals and objectives. The committee also sees to the make-up of the year book.

B. County 4-H Project Planning Committee

Each of the seven project groups met in May and presented their suggestions for projects to be carried. Then two members from each group formed a committee and planned in June the projects to be conducted by all the groups. This committee has been of help to the agent in getting her materials ready to begin projects in time in the fall.

C. Special Committees

The county farm andhome agent selected a representative group of men and women of the county to help plan for a stronger and better Extension program in the county. This committee met on October 19, at which time the present situation of Extension work was presented and needs in the future for a better program. At this committee meeting plans were discussed for Community Improvement Clubs. Representatives from two groups in Richmond County assisted in this discussion.

IX. How Organizations Functioned in the 1953 Program (Cont.)

C. Special Committees (Cont.)

To date no definite work has been done, but the agent feels that such a committee will be of help in carrying out a better county program.

However, as a follow-up of this committee plans were then made to hold a Rural Life Institute November 30th of Professional Workers and Ministers of the county. If this works out successfully then it is hoped that more definite work can be done towards organizing Community Improvement Clubs which will strengthen all existing groups in the county.

X. Leadership

A. Contribution of Volunteer Leaders

1. Organizational

The officers of each group serve as organizational leaders. They serve on committees to aid in county events, transportation of members to meetings and increasing attendance at meetings.

Some of these leaders are much stronger in their work than others, thus making a better group entirely. However, others are progressing as they are conducting better meetings and participating in more activities.

2. Program Development

In most of the clubs the vice-president serves as the program development leader. These leaders hold discussion frequently in their groups on the program. Then, during the early summer a club meeting is devoted to discussing and planning the year's program which is carried on by the Program Development leaders. At the fall meeting of the County Home Demonstration Committee the Program Development leaders take an active part in planning the county program as directed by their clubs.

3. Subject Matter

The subject matter leaders included those in Foods, House Furnishings, Poultry and Garden. There were 48 adult subject matter leaders and they held 18 home demonstration meetings without agent and assisted in 24 home demonstration meetings.

X. Leadership (Cont.)

A. Contribution of Volunteer Leaders (Cont.)

3. Subject Matter (Cont.)

The foods leaders were trained by Mrs. Mary Thompson on Homemade Drinks. These leaders conducted this meeting in May without the agent. Housefurnishings leaders held the November meeting on Curtains and Draperies. Five training meetings were held by the agent and specialist for home demonstration leaders and five training meetings by the agent for 4-H adult leaders.

The 4-H adult and junior project leaders held 12 meetings without the agent and assisted in 35. These adult leaders gave 12 demonstrations and the junior leaders 32 demonstrations.

All of the leaders helped to carry out better adult and 4-H meetings by providing comfortable meeting places, transporting members and furnishing certain supplies for demonstrations.

X. Leadership (Cont.)

B. Growth of Leadership

H. D. Club Project Leadership	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
No. project leaders (subject matter)	32	32	32	41	48
No. goal chairmen	8	8	8	8	8
No. training meetings held by Specialist	3	4	5	2	2
by Agent	0	0	0	2	3
Attendance at all training meetings	24	44	61	48	48
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present	24	17	13	24	18
No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	44	21	12	15	24
Growth of 4-H Club Project Leadership					
No. adult project leaders	7	7	7	8	8
No. junior project leaders	0	0	0	8	8
No. training meetings held by specialist	0	4	2	1	0
by agent	7	11	7	4	5
Attendance at leader training meetings	No Record	22	7	16	15
No. 4-H leaders trained individually	7	11	7	3	4
No. club meetings held by leader without agent present	21	18	10	17	12
No. of additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	13	4	16	27	35
No. demonstrations given by leaders					
by adults	13	11	23	15	12
by juniors	0	0	0	5	32

X. Leadership (Cont.)

C. Activities and Accomplishments of Outstanding Leader

There are two leaders in the county who have done excellent work with both the 4-H and home demonstration program. They are both county officers, members of the same club and active in all community affairs. They are Mrs. Howard Schools and Mrs. W. G. Turpin of Newtown.

Mrs. Schools is vice-chairman of the County Committee, 4-H leader, housefurnishings leader and an officer in the local Home Demonstration Club. Mrs. Turpin is County Chairman, 4-H leader and president of her Home Demonstration Club.

They make an effort to attend all county and district meetings, andhelp the agent in her demonstrations and meetings.

Mrs. Turpin attended the Institute of Rural Affairs and 4-H Camp. She goes around to the homes to help 4-H members in their projects and also carries them t o all the meetings. She has been responsible for nearly all the special events as radio programs, trips, etc., put on by the Marriott 4-H Club.

Mrs. Schools is an excellent subject matter leader in any project she undertakes. She has conducted workshops in her club on refinishing furniture, makingschools and caning chairs.

The agent feels that these two members and leaders can always carry on a successful Extension program in the county and their own community.

XI. Work in Cooperation with Other Agencies

The agent worked with the schools, Ruritan Clubs, Woman's Club and Churches by giving of her time and information to help them when needed.

A talk was given in March to the FHA group on Home Economic careers.

The agent and home demonstration members helped the health department in their chest X-Ray survey and scheduled clinics. The Home Demonstration members served as secretaries, made supplies for the health clinics and had transportation committees for the Bloodmobile and X-Ray units.

The agent and some members also helped to prepare TB envelopes for mailing in November.

XI. Work in Cooperation with Other Agencies (Cont.)

The Cancer Society presented a film to a group in the summer. Also, each of the home demonstration clubs contributed to aid the fund drives such as Cancer, TB and Polio.

News articles were presented each week in two local papers, and the agent gave a radio talk each month.

XII. Appraisal of Year's Work

The value of the home demonstration program has been the working together of members of a community. More interest in the surroundings, such as the homes, schools, churches and the people has been noted this year. The clubs and members have cooperated to improve each of these phases.

The program has furnished new ideas and information to do various projects and more has been done by a majority of women in improving the home.

Many more 4-H members and adults should have been reached in 1953. The home demonstration membership does not show an increase in enrollment, but each club has at least one new member. At the beginning of the 1953 year the agent and club presidents got an accurate roll of home demonstration members. There are 130 enrolled with 100 active members. By active, I mean they attend the majority of meetings each year.

4-H Club work has not progressed in membership as was hoped, but those in the club have, for the most part, high interest in the work. Much better project work was done in 1953 as compared to 1952. The quality and quantity improved. More participation was achieved in 4-H Camp, contest and the fair.

One of the greatest benefits of the year's program in youth and adult work has been the working together in the schools, churches, clubs, etc., to make a better home life and an improved community in spirit and beauty of surroundings.