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VIRGINIA

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Chesterfield

COUNTY

1949

Agent Anne R. Confer December 1, 1948 to November 30, 1949

Date worked from to

Esther Foster Dec. 1, 1948 to Dec. 21, 1948

Assistant Agent Macklyn Price Dec. 5, 1948 to Oct. 31, 1949

Margaret Jessup Date worked from to
Oct. 15, 1949 to Nov. 30, 1949

Agent _____

Date worked from to

Assistant Agent _____

Date worked from to

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III Summary of Accomplishments

The planned program of the Chesterfield Home Demonstration Clubs can be divided into three phases: Foods and Nutrition, Clothing, and Rural Arts.

The clothing phase covered a period of four months and included special interest meetings as well as the regular monthly demonstration meetings. The clothing work consisted of the construction of the better cotton dress. In the seventeen communities undertaking this project, the results were outstanding. A total of 1224 garments were constructed with an estimated saving of \$1827.73

The demonstrations were planned and carried out to give the women as much information and instruction as possible in the quickest and best methods of clothing construction. The women cooperated wholeheartedly in the project and numbers adopted the tools and information gladly.

In connection with the clothing work done, a number of special interest groups participated in sewing machine clinics and tailoring schools. Eighty-two machines were cleaned and adjusted. Nine women participated in tailoring schools. Three winter coats and five suits were made and one suit altered.

The work on Foods and Nutrition included three demonstrations: (1) Cheaper Cuts of Meat in the Diet, (2) Meal Planning with Frozen Foods, and (3) New Developments in Canning and Freezing.

The demonstration on Cheaper Cuts of Meat in the Diet was most successful. The material presented was contained in the U. S. D. A. bulletin, "Money Saving Main Dishes." The women used this bulletin extensively and 146 reported that they had made a saving in their food budgets through its use.

Definite progress was made toward the realization of goals which the women had set up for themselves.

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The year 1949 saw a gratifying increase in the number of Home Demonstration Clubs in Chesterfield County. In December 1948, the number of clubs stood at 18 with a membership of 360; by the end of November, 1949, this number had increased to 21 clubs with a total of 477 members.

It is believed that this increase indicated a building up of interest in Home Demonstration work in communities in the county. Returns from the yearly questionnaire sent to club members show that 248 women carried information to non-club members, 1567 times during the year. This dissemination of information by club members is a potent factor in interesting people in the work.

The library goal made progress during 1949. About half of the clubs in the county sent for and thoroughly enjoyed the kits of books made up by the Virginia State Library in Richmond. Seven new books were added to the County Home Demonstration Library and it was voted in the May County Committee meeting to increase the library dues per club from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per year, so that more books might be purchased.

In regard to the Health Goal, contributions were made to the Chesterfield County Health Clinic under the direction of Dr. E. C. Gates. Fifteen women reported going through the Cancer Clinic as compared to twelve in 1948.

The County Federation Goal, Rural Arts, was tremendously successful. Three months--September, October, and November--were devoted to metal work. This included the etching of aluminum and copper trays. The women found the metal work relatively inexpensive, interesting to do. And the results are spectacular. The fact that 765 trays were made by the 248 women reporting attests to the popularity and success of the project. It gave people who do not possess much artistic ability a chance to do beautiful work--in this lies its appeal.

IV Adult Program

A. Project Work

Clothing-Constructing the Better Cotton Dress.(a)

Four months devoted to this work. The demonstrations included:

1. Discussion of line and design (choosing pattern and material)
2. Cutting out the cotton dress
3. Fitting
4. Finishes

Objectives:

1. Being able to make their own clothing and clothing for family members to conserve family income.
2. To learn time savers in clothing construction in order to be able to devote more time to other activities.
3. To construct clothing that does not have the "homemade look", so that more women will be encouraged to try more in the way of clothing construction and will be more satisfied with clothing problems undertaken.
4. To learn to apply design principles to clothing selection in order to develop better taste in clothing selection.

The agent attended a 2-day training meeting with Miss Johnson.

The agent conducted leaders' training meetings on clothing selection and clothing construction problems. The communities taking part in this project were Kingsland, Bellwood-Manor, Broad Rock, Bethlehem, Beach, Hickory Road, Tomahawk, Mount Herman, Drevry's Bluff, Elkhardt, Southampton, Bethel-Middlethian, Woodpecker Road, Beulah, Ettrick, Kingsland Heights, and Chester. Thirty-five leaders attended this training meeting. During these four months 6 leader demonstrations on clothing construction were given, 2 in the community of Broad Rock, 1 in the community of Kingsland,

1 in Bellwood-Manor, 1 in Beulah, and 1 in the community of Chester. A total of 134 women attended. The Home Agent presented 43 demonstrations during these months. Total attendance at these meetings was 402. (Seventeen clubs out of the twenty-two clubs in the county participated in this project.) The U. S. D. A. bulletin "Pattern Alteration, Fitting Dresses, Making a Dress at Home and Dresses and Aprons for Work in the Home" were used. The last named bulletin was used to encourage women with very limited sewing experience to make an attractive house dress rather than a more expensive cotton dress. Also, the circular "Clothing Construction" published by J. C. Penny Co., was distributed to the leaders. A total of 552 bulletins were distributed. The work at first meeting on line and design (choosing pattern and material) was presented as a discussion on suitable fabrics and patterns that the women might select. Selection of pattern to minimize figure defects was stressed and current styles discussed. The importance of accurate measurements was pointed out and demonstrated. Measurements were made and recorded and size pattern to select determined.

The second meeting included a demonstration on pattern alteration, laying the pattern on fabric, cutting and marking, using the tracing wheel and tracing paper. Machine basting and stay lining were also explained and demonstrated.

The third meeting included demonstration on fitting and short cuts in construction such as pin basting and use of the cloth guide when stitching by machine.

The fourth meeting on finishes included suggestions for simplified cuff for short sleeves, finishing collars, buttonholes, plackets, and heming.

The clubs that participated in this project were enthusiastic about the construction information they received. They stated that it did help to cut down on the time required to make a garment. They also felt these methods helped to eliminate the "homemade" look. A total of 1224 garments were made by the women during this past summer and the estimated saving on this many articles was figured at \$1827.73.

One group held a fashion review at the end of their project and nine women participated. The garments were judged and the winner was awarded a pair of shears as a prize donated by the club.

b. Machine Cleaning and Adjusting

In order to facilitate the project on clothing construction a leaders meeting on machine cleaning and adjusting was decided upon at the August planning meeting of the county Home Demonstration Committee. This leaders training meeting was held at the Red Cross Chapter House, Chester, on February 16. Twenty-two leaders attended this meeting which was held under the direction of Mr. Jack Waller, of the V. P. I. Extension Service.

During the ensuing months a total of 3 meetings on sewing machine cleaning and adjusting were held throughout the county. Five of these meetings were held under the direction of leaders with a total attendance of 61 women. Twenty-two machines were cleaned and adjusted. Three of the meetings were under the direction of the home agent. Twenty-three women attended and nine machines were cleaned and adjusted. A total of 65 bulletins were distributed. The bulletin used was "Machine Cleaning and Adjusting", Farmer's Bulletin No. 1944. The women found it most helpful, especially the material contained under the heading "Machine Troubles."

c. Tailoring School

Because of a large number of requests coming in for tailoring schools, a series of leader training meetings in tailoring was held in July and August. Arrangements were made for the leaders to meet at the Singer Sewing Center, 211 E. Broad Street, Richmond, July 25, August 10, 15, and 18. The first meeting, under the direction of the home agent consisted of discussion on current styles and fabrics, selection of pattern, and fabrics, pressing equipment, taking accurate measurements, and list of supplies needed for coat and suit making. The home agent also made arrangements with Thalhimers Department Store, Richmond, to show new fabrics and patterns to the leader group. This helped them with both pattern and fabrics selection. The remaining three meetings on tailoring were held under the direction of Miss Iva Byrd Johnson, Clothing Specialist of V. P. I. Extension Services. Nine leaders took this training. During the training period 1 coat and 8 suits were completed. In November, three tailoring schools were planned in the Drewry's Bluff, Ettrick, and Bethlehem areas. The Drewry's Bluff area included the communities of Drewry's Bluff, Kingsland Heights, Kingsland, Beulah, and Bermuda Hundred. The Ettrick area included Ettrick, Hickory Road, and Woodpecker Road. The Bethlehem area included Bethel-Middlethian, Halleboro, Mount Herman, Bethlehem, and Tomahawk communities. A total of 3 winter coats 5 winter suits were made and 1 suit altered. Nine women attended these schools. Other areas when contacted regarding a tailoring school said they would rather wait until spring coat and suit making time came along. Though not a great many women made coats or suits at the fall tailoring school, the success of the school is unquestionable. The women were greatly pleased with the success of the projects they undertook and the advertisement these satisfied

people will give to a spring school should boost enrollment greatly.

d. Study of Machine Attachments

One group held a meeting on machine attachments during the year. The demonstrations came from the Singer Center in Richmond. The demonstrator showed the various uses for which the attachments are designed and showed the group members many little tricks that go to make construction a little easier and quicker. Eight women attended this meeting.

Beulah Home Demonstration held a meeting on hat remodeling. 12 women attended this meeting. 9 hats were remodeled.

2. Foods and Nutrition

During the months of December, January, and February the foods and nutrition phase of the year's program was taken up. This phase included demonstrations on: Cheaper Cuts of Meat in the Diet, Meal Planning with Frozen Foods, and New Developments in Canning and Freezing. The objective in presenting these discussions and demonstrations was to help the women to conserve the family income by learning to prepare economical meals for their families while still supplying the Basic Seven in proper amounts.

A leader training meeting was held in October, 1948, under the direction of Miss Janet Cameron, Food and Nutrition Specialist of V. P. I. Extension Service. Twenty leaders attended the meeting.

During the first two months of 1949, and in later months, eleven leader demonstrations (attendance 154) and nine agent demonstrations (attendance 141) were given on "Cheaper Cuts of Meat in the Diet". The U. S. D. A. bulletin "Money Saving Main Dishes" was used as the basis of the discussions preceding the demonstrations, and the recipes contained in it were used in the demonstrations. This bulletin was accepted with enthusiasm by the women and they used it extensively.

They liked especially the suggestions of other foods to serve with the main dishes featured. Many more than the 235 bulletins given out to the club members have been distributed. Club members have stated in their reports that they have carried information to non-club members about 1500 times. The Home Demonstration Agent is quite sure that at least one third of the total concerned information regarding this demonstration. The home agent has also used this demonstration with success in introducing Home Demonstration work to groups interested in organizing and to new groups just organized. The demonstrations "Meal Planning with Frozen Foods", and "New Developments in Canning and Freezing", were combined.

Two leader demonstrations were conducted. The attendance at these two meetings numbered thirty women. Twelve demonstrations were presented by the home agent to a total of 161 women. The bulletin used as a basis for the discussion was circular 399, "Time Savers in Meal Planning and Preparation". The women were interested in learning of new uses for their zero boxes such as freezing bread to keep the whole baking fresh; freezing baked or unbaked pies to provide for unexpected guests or to save extra work on busy days, and the freezing proved helpful to those who have zero boxes or locker drawers and to those who do a great deal of canning because it brought them up to date on the latest and most effective methods of preserving. The home agent gave a talk before the Beulah P. T. A. on meal planning and child feeding.

3. Rural Arts

In order to prepare the women for metal tray etching by giving them some training in art principles and design selection, the home agent worked out a series of short articles presenting the art principles in

simple terms. These articles were worked out under the direction Miss Margaret Snyder, instructor at the University of Virginia. This series was presented to each of the rural arts chairmen at a training meeting held under the direction of Miss Catherine Peery, Rural Arts Specialist, V. P. I. Extension Service. At this training meeting on metal etching, Miss Peery outlined the duties of the chairmen. In June, Miss Peery conducted a training meeting on actual metal etching. She taught the 26 leaders who attended this meeting how to etch and shape aluminum and copper trays.

The months of September, October, and November were given to metal work. A total of 42 leader demonstrations were carried on in the county. A total of 413 women attended these meetings. The home agent carried on 4 demonstrations with an attendance of 65 women.

This project was greatly enjoyed by the women. The 248 women reporting have made a total of 765 trays. It is safe to assume that many more than this number were made. Many women found this a pleasant and inexpensive way to make Christmas gifts. The work is not difficult, is relatively inexpensive and the results are gratifying, which appealed to the club members.

4. Special Interest Meetings

a. Furniture Care and Repair.

1. Slipcovering and reupholstering

Special interest meetings were held in the communities of Beulah, Southampton, Elkhardt and Hickory Road. A total of ten meetings were held in these communities. A total of 70 women attended. The home agent demonstrated tacking, webbing, sewing springs, to webbing, tying rings, padding with moss and cotton, putting on the muslin cover and putting on the new upholstery fabric; also making spring pockets and making slipcovers. The results

obtained at these meetings are as follows:

3 spring cushions repaired in davenport

1 studio couch slipcovered

6 chairs reupholstered

2 from new webbing to new upholstery

2 from spring tying to new upholstery

3 chairs slipcovered

1 stool slipcovered

3 pairs drapes made

1 chair, springs retied

1 sofa slipcovered

1 chair slipcovered

One of these special interests projects in reupholstery and slip-covering was carried on by the Beulah Community P. T. A. Discarded, but not too badly worn pieces of furniture were donated to the group by members for the purpose of furnishing a teachers lounge. The pieces included a sofa, a studio couch, and two chairs. The home agent was asked to help with planning color scheme, selection of fabrics and with instruction in slipcovering, etc. Upon examination of the furniture some repairing was found to be necessary for the davenport. The spring cushions were repaired. Slip covers were made for the studio couch and chair and stool. The remaining chair was reupholstered; that is the new fabric was applied over the old. Due to lack of funds it was decided to use the slipcovers on the davenport for another year. This group also made three pairs of drapes. The room was repainted and the project resulted in a pleasant, attractive room which had formerly looked dull and dingy.

Further results of these demonstrations and work meetings are evidenced by the reports received, from members of the clubs which participated in them: Southampton members report that in the past year they have made 22 slipcovers and estimate the saving at \$77.00. Six women report tying springs; one report reupholstering 1 chair.

Members of the Hickory Road Club report making two slipcovers.

One reports tying springs.

Three members of the Beulah club report making three slipcovers with an estimated saving of \$15.00. One member reported tying springs.

2. Refinishing Furniture

Special interest meetings were held in the communities of Woodpecker Road, Hallsboro, Jahnke Road, and Beach on furniture refinishing. Two meetings were held in Woodpecker Road. Seven women attended. One bed was refinished. The Hallsboro group held five meetings on this project. This group refinished a total of 24 stools, which were also bottomed, 6 chairs refinished and bottomed.

The material used were fibre splint, Hong King grass and cane.

The Jahnke Road club held one meeting on caneing. The demonstration given by the home agent, to the nine women present, included the steps in caneing and the method used in replacing pressed cane seats. Two chairs were caned as far as the fourth step and finished at home. Two pressed cane seats were replaced. In Beach community the home agent held three demonstration meeting on caneing. A total of 20 women attended these meetings. Results: 1 chair caned.

A clinic (county-wide) had been requested at the program planning meeting in August for the purpose of teaching the county women how to reupholster in leather and plastic.

Accordingly a leader training meeting was arranged for, under the direction of Miss Jamison, house furnishings specialist of V. P. I. This meeting was held in Sussex County. The agent, assistant agent and one leader attended this meeting. The leader took to the meeting an old-fashioned rocker which she intended covering with plastic. Miss Jamison persuaded her to use a cover more in keeping with the period of the chair and no reupholstery in plastics was done at this meeting.

People contacted in regard to the clinic had either lost interest in the project, were too busy, or did not see the use in spending so much on a project or felt they could not afford it. The project was abandoned.

b. Rug Making

Agent demonstration meetings were held in the communities of Beulah and Kingsland Heights. The demonstrations included steps in making braided and crocheted rugs. A total of 19 women attended the meetings. Three women in Kingsland Heights started rugs and two rugs were started in Beulah community. Since these meetings seven rugs have been finished in these clubs.

One leader demonstration was held in the Kingsland Heights club on making rugs of cotton strips with a tooth brush handle. This method makes a heavy rug with an attractive herring bone design. As a result of this meeting, four rugs were started and finished during the course of the year. One advantage which pleased the women who made rugs, was the fact that strips only three inches long can be used in making these rugs. Also the exceedingly simple and quick method of joining the strips appealed to them.

B. Other Activities

1. Federation Goal

The Education Goal for the year 1949 was Rural Arts. Since this work included the making of etched trays and was considered under projects undertaken as part of the year's program, no further report is made here.

2. Club Activities at Christmas Time:

Most of the Chesterfield County's Home Demonstration Clubs plan some charitable contribution at Christmas. A number gave boxes of food and toys to Sheltering Arms Hospital. Two clubs selected, with the aid of the pastor, a needy family in the community and supplied the Christmas dinner and gave toys to the children. Other groups made cash contributions to the Welfare Department of the county. These contributions to the Welfare Department were used to purchase gifts for foster children in Chesterfield County.

3. Sheltering Arms Hospital:

All clubs contribute yearly to Sheltering Arms Hospital. During the summer many send in fresh fruits and vegetables; and always, before Thanksgiving, donations of canned foods are sent to the hospital.

4. Cancer Foundation:

Fifty-one women reported giving voluntary service to the Cancer Foundation. This consists of making bandages and pads which are distributed free of charge to cancer patients.

5. Red Cross:

Forty-four women reported giving voluntary service to this organization.

6. Tours:

A garden tour was undertaken this past spring. Twenty women attended. The itinerary included visits to Virginia House and Milton.

7. District Federation Meeting, Oceana

Nineteen women, including the home agent and assistant home agent attended the District Federation Meeting at Oceana, May 6.

8. Home Demonstration Club Achievement Day:

Achievement Day for Chesterfield County Home Demonstration Clubs was held October 11 at Branch's Church, Broad Rock. 115 women attended this meeting. The program included a talk by Mrs. Beatrice O. Marion, Director of the Marriage and Pre-marriage Counseling Service of Richmond. Miss Sallie Russell, Chairman of the County Committee, gave a report of the clubs' achievements during the year. Exhibits were set up in the anteroom of the church and included exhibits of etched trays, clothing construction (The Better Cotton Dress), and hat remodeling. Lunch was served and after a social hour the meeting was adjourned.

9. Institute of Rural Affairs

Fourteen Chesterfield County women attended the Institute of Rural Affairs in Blacksburg, August 3-4-5.

10. Participation in Chesterfield County Fair:

Eleven Home Demonstration Clubs of the county elected to set up booths at the county fair. These booths represent the year's work of the clubs. In order to present the year's program as fully as possible, the projects were broken down and a phase taken as the subject to be illustrated. The titles of the demonstrations and the names of the clubs participating are as follows:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Sewing Machine Cleaning and Adjusting | Drewry's Bluff |
| 2. Footstools- Finishing and Seating | Hallsboro |
| 3. Reupholstering | Elkharit |
| 4. New Developments in Freezing | Chester |
| 5. New Developments in Canning | Hickory Road |
| 6. Metal Trays | Southampton |
| 7. The Better Cotton Dress | Baulah |
| 8. Pattern Alteration | Kingsland |
| 9. Laying Pattern on Material, Pinning,
Cutting, Marking | Broad Rock |

10. Construction Hints Bellwood-Manor

11. Dress Finishes Jahnke Road

The booths were interesting and informative and people commented very favorably concerning them. Blue ribbons were awarded to four clubs. Red ribbons were awarded to three clubs and white to four clubs. The County Committee also set up a booth illustrating the coming year's program.

The following extension people were secured as judges for the fair: Miss Sylvia Slöcum, District Agent (retired); Mrs. Katherine Brent, Home Agent, Powhatan; Mrs. Eva Foster, home agent, Goochland; Miss Elva Tate, agent-in-training, Powhatan; Mrs. Mattie Thompson, home agent, Mecklenburg; Mrs. Lillian R. Livesay, Hansemond; Miss Chilton Ryburn, home agent, Prince George; Mrs. Betty Kyle, home agent, Hanover.

11. Contributions to CROP:

According to figures last received, six Home Demonstration Clubs in Chesterfield County had contributed \$35.00 to this cause.

V. -H Club Program

A. Project Work

1. Clothing- Make or Remake

- a. In the make or remake project, we have attempted to show the girls how to plan their wardrobes on a long-time basis, the newer, easier methods of clothing construction and fabric and pattern selection. There has been much interest shown throughout the county in the clothing field. The older girls, particularly, are becoming more and more clothing conscious. They asked for help in selection of summer clothes and are now interested in fall and winter garments.
- b. The new sewing methods developed by Edna Bryte Bishop have been

incorporated in the teaching methods used. This has been a popular method accepted and used by these 4-H'ers. There has been a little difficulty in getting the members to do their sewing at the meetings. They are anxious to complete their garments and sew on them at home without instructions from the agent. Many times their over-anxiousness has caused the garment seams to be ripped out to get them correct.

c. Forty-five girls completed the Make or Remake Clothing project. 86 articles were made. Three girls entered the county clothing contest--two from Beulah--Clementine Sadler and Joan Dunnivant and one from Chester--Joan Wyman. The county award went to Joan Dunnivant. Joan Wyman entered the district clothing contest and won second place honors.

Housekeeping and Storage

a. Objectives or work planned--The work outlined for the housekeeping project for the year included--making a dustless dustcloth, place mats, shoe bags, laundry bags, learning to set the table properly, taking care of a room, providing tool and equipment boxes and arranging furniture and equipment for easier care and use. It was hoped, by doing these particular things for a short time, for example, setting the table for two months, would instill the habit in the child of doing things correctly and doing them well; and accept this or that job as her definite responsibility. Then, too, it was thought these things, simple though they were, could be taken back home to the mothers, to make her housekeeping easier. The matter of keeping records helped the child see what she had accomplished over a short period of time.

b. Methods used- At each monthly meeting, demonstrations were given on some phase of housekeeping or directions given on making place mats or shoe bags. After directions were given the children started their work. From the requirements listed in the housekeeping manual,

the members selected those things they wanted to do and fulfilled those.

c. Results obtained-Fifty-six members completed the project, 32 place mats, 33 shoe bags, 10 laundry bags, 1 dustless dustcloth, were made by the members. Five older girls attempted rearranging the rooms for easier care.

3. Food Preparation

a. Objectives or work planned-The plan of the food preparation project was: (1) to teach the basic food groups (2) to teach the planning of well balanced meals (3) teach actual preparation of foods (4) teach them new foods to bring the new foods into the diet (5) teach proper setting of table and table service (6) to teach the fundamentals of giving demonstrations, leadership, and initiative.

b. Methods used-A 4-H leader workshop was held in March to train the leader in giving demonstrations and to thoroughly familiarize them with the project they would help with in the summer. All material needed was given them at this meeting and discussed and explained so there would be thorough understanding of the project. Demonstrations were given by leaders and agents on actual preparation, table setting and service, and discussions held at each meeting on the nutritional qualities of the foods prepared.

After such demonstrations by the agent or leader instructions were given out to the 4-H member so that she could give the same demonstration at the next meeting. The demonstrations included milk and egg cookery, vegetable cookery, and making desserts. The preparation of the above led to fulfilling the six minimum requirements.

c. The results obtained-Six clubs took the food preparation project. Twenty-six members completed the food preparation project with 309 dishes prepared by these 4-H'ers. Eight girls entered the county

contest for food demonstrations to compete for the county medals. The county food preparation award went to Jean Frank, but because of her age, and lack of records, Minerva Myers, who won the food preparation medal two years ago entered the District Contest and placed second in that contest.

4. Food Preservation

a. Objectives or work planned- The program for the food preservation project included:

1. Planning use of preserved vegetables and fruits for balance in the diet.
2. Preparation of canned foods for table use--characteristics of canned foods.
3. Selection of jars, different sealing methods and sterilization.
4. Selection of and preparation of fruits and vegetables for canning.
5. Methods of preserving: boiling water and steam pressure.
6. How to plan amounts needed for family use.
7. Practice actual preserving and demonstration techniques used.

b. Methods used-The first meeting of the food preservation project taken by only one club, Hickory Road, was spent in discussing the use of canned vegetables and fruits in the daily diet, making family plans of preserved foods, and learning to use the steam pressure canner. The second meeting was a demonstration of canning apple-sauce and dewberries. These two meetings were given by the assistant agent and home agent. The following meetings were held by the leader, Mrs. D. B. Perkinson in which the members did actual canning. Mrs. Perkinson, leader, aided her members whenever possible. She was always willing to help when asked.

c. Eight members took the food preservation project, with two completing it. There were 153 jars preserved by these members in the six weeks duration of the project. Rose Marie Currin won the county

edal in food preservation and entered the district contest.

5. Care of Clothing

a. Objectives or work planned-The Etrick, Sherbourne Heights, and Benlah 4-H Clu s requested Care of Clothing as their project.

The program was set up as follows: Wash and block a sweater, dye a garment, make a shoebag, make garment protector, and dry clean and press a garment. There were included in this project clothing construction, knitting, and crocheting, and care of the room. The above demonstrations were elected by the clubs as interest was shown by a large majority in these fields.

b. Methods Used-Demonstrations were given to the members by the agents and leaders on the subject for the day. The children then proceeded with their work. From the requirements listed at the beginning of the project the members selected those best suited to their wants or needs and fulfilled them.

c. Results obtained-There were six completions in the care of clothing project from twenty-one members. There were nine garments dyed, 15 sweaters washed, one garment dry cleaned, one garment remodeled and four members stored the winter woollens and their summer clothes.

B. Other Activities

1. 4-H Camp

Fifty-eight Chesterfield boys and girls attended the Jamestown 4-H Camp, July 18-23. Chesterfield carried away the honor of having two lesser chiefs and two lesser scribes elected from the group. The activities at camp consisted of: handicraft-the older boys learned rope tying, making halters. This was taught by Mr. Jack Waller. Folk games and folk songs were taught by the camp recreational director, Mrs. Williams. A group was selected for the Vesper Choir,

led by Chilton Ryburn and Stan Vassar. The vesper programs were excellent. The camp group enjoyed the play activities of softball, volley ball, and swimming in the afternoon and were entertained mightily during stunt and challenge night. The group also had the grand opportunity of seeing "The Common Glory" in Williamsburg. On Friday, July 22, the dedication ceremony was held for the new Jamestown Camp.

Mr. Ashton Dovell, former speaker of House of Delegates, Williamsburg, spoke at the ceremony. Our group felt highly honored that this outstanding event should come during our week at camp.

2. Rural Life Sunday

May 22 was celebrated as Rural Life Sunday in Chesterfield County. Hickory Road, Chester, Beulah, and Chesterfield 4-H Clubs had special Rural Life Programs at the church in their community. The other clubs in the county have fairly scattered membership and could not all come to one church, so agreed to observe this special day by going to the church of their choice.

3. Achievement Day

The Achievement Day program was held Monday night, October 24, in the Thomas Dale High School. Mr. B. L. Murrell, Extension Sociologist gave a most interesting report to the boys and girls of his trip to Europe. Awards were made to the following:

- Rose Marie Currin- Canning
- Jean Teresa Frank- Food Preparation
- Joan Dunnavant- Clothing

The clubs gave a report of their activities for the year and recognition was made of the 1949 all stars and the club leaders.

4. National 4-H Week.

Two clubs planned exhibits in observance of National 4-H Club Week. Posters were exhibited in the store windows and in schools announcing the week. A radio program on the meaning of 4-H was broadcast from U.M.B.C.,

on Thursday, of the week with Judith Calder, George Wilson, and Jean Wyman participating. Articles were also sent to the newspapers.

5. Chesterfield County Fair

The Chesterfield County Fair was one of the most outstanding events for the club members for the year. There were not as many individual exhibits as we had expected for this fair. It may have been due to transportation; of that, we are not sure. Ten clubs put up booths on some phase of the work they had done this year. The subjects of their booths were:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Setting the table properly | Kingsland |
| 2. 4-H Club Members Farm | Chesterfield |
| 3. Jamestown 4-H Camp | Midlothian |
| 4. Model Kitchen | Matoaca |
| 5. Style Show of 4-H Fashions | Chester |
| 6. A Tidy House and A Tidy Barn- Show | |
| Progress on Any Farm | Grange Hall |
| 7. Points to Success in Sewing | Beulah |
| 8. Vegetables Grown by 4-H Boys | |
| Vegetables Canned by 4-H Girls | Hickory Road |
| 9. Steps in Making a 4-H Cotton Dress | Etrick |
| 10. Building a Good Life Through 4-H Work | Elkhardt |

The individual exhibits consisted of cotton dresses, skirts, and blouses, shoe bags, place mats, and canned foods.

VI Older Youth Program

A. Project Work

The two older youth groups in Chesterfield County are composed of younger homemakers in the communities of Chester and Drewry's Bluff.

They do not belong to the Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs and have not participated in the county committee meetings.

They plan their own programs, adopting any part of the adult program they feel they want and need. The program of the Derry's Bluff group is as follows:

December- Christmas Cookery

January- Cheaper Cuts of Meat in the Diet

February- Packed lunches

March- Cleaning and adjusting Machines

April- Demonstration on Use of Sewing Machine Attachments

May-June- Finishing and Rushing Hickory Stool

July- Selection of pictures

August- Converting Lamps

September (

October (Metal Work- etching copper and aluminum trays

November (

The results of this program are as follows:

December- Christmas Cookery-In conjunction with their annual Christmas party, the Derry's Bluff Junior Homemakers decided that each member should bring with her, her favorite Christmas cookie or candy recipe and a sample of the product. This plan brought forth an assortment of foods and recipes which were tasted and exchanged with interest. They adopted each others suggestions and thereby varied their Christmas foods with new candies and cookies.

At this time also, these young women brought a donation of canned food or a toy to put in a Christmas box which was presented to Sheltering Arms Hospital. Attendance at this meeting-18.

January- Cheaper Cuts of Meat in the Diet- The home agent presented this demonstration to the members attending this meeting.

Ten copies of the bulletin "Money Saving Main Dishes" were distributed. One young woman stated later that she had given the recipe for potato-burgers to nearly everyone in her community.

February- Packed Lunches- The home agent presented the discussion which included material on the selection of the lunch box, what the box should contain and how it should be planned to fit into the other two meals of the day. Each member also brought a suggestion--a dessert, a sandwich mix or a main dish, she had used and found successful.

March- Cleaning and Adjusting Sewing Machines- Agent conducted the demonstration. Ten women attended this meeting. 3 machines were cleaned. 15 bulletins were distributed.

April- Demonstration on Use of Machine Attachments- The demonstrator from the White Sewing Machine Department at Thalheimers explained and demonstrated the uses of the various attachments. She taught the women many tricks, short cuts, they could employ in clothing construction. 15 women attended this meeting.

May and June- Finishing and rushing Hickory stools. Two meetings were devoted to this project. The hickory stools were ordered unfinished. The home agent demonstrated sanding and how to apply finish. Fifteen women attended and 15 bulletins were distributed. Six stools were sandpapered and refinishing done at home in preparation for the meeting on rushing. The home agent demonstrated weaving the rush. Hong Kong grass was used. Six stools were finished and bottomed.

July- Selection of pictures
Three women attended this meeting. The home agent presented the discussion on selection of pictures, framing and hanging.

August- Converting Lamps
This was a leader demonstration meeting held in absence of agent. Ten women attended the meeting. The Appalachian Electric and Power Company bulletin was used as a guide. One lamp was converted.

September-October-November- Metal Work

The two leaders who presented the demonstration were trained by the leaders of the Dreyer's Bluff Home Demonstration Club. These leaders took charge of the three meetings on etching copper and aluminum trays.

A total of 40 women attended the three meetings and 41 trays were made.

The program of the Chester Junior Homemakers was planned to include:

December-Sponsor community Christmas tree and program

January-February-Making lamp shades

March-April-Textile painting-stenciling

May-June-Furniture refinishing

July-August- did not meet.

September-October-November-metal work-etching of aluminum and copper trays.

The result of these programs are as follows:

December-Sponsor a community Christmas tree and program. The Chester Junior Homemakers decided to establish the tradition of a community Christmas tree for the village of Chester. They planned to make this a yearly project as well as presenting a Christmas program. The project was very successful.

Other organizations contributed funds toward purchase of lights, etc., for the tree. In addition, to the program, the Junior Homemakers put on at the scene of the tree, programs were presented by the Woman's Club of Chester and the United Council of Church Women.

Those attending the programs enjoyed them very much. Many remarked that it helped establish a better community spirit and favored its continuation.

January-February- Making lampshades

This was offered in two leader demonstrations--the demonstrations being given by a leader from the Chester Home Demonstration Club. Ten demonstration consisted of replacing old lamp shades with new. Ten women attended these meetings and five lampshades were completed.

March-April- Stenciling

For the March meeting Mr. Lloyd Long of the J. C. Pence Co. in Richmond demonstrated stenciling to 20 members of the club. The group was extremely interested in stenciling and they devoted another meeting (April) to the work. Six women attended this meeting. The members of this group stenciled many articles: dresser scarfs, luncheon cloths, blouses, ties, etc.

May-June- Furniture Refinishing-

Fifteen women attended these two meetings. The home agent demonstrated methods of removing finish and discussed with the women the possible finishes. As a result of these two meetings, 17 pieces of furniture were refinished--among these were chairs, a washstand, a chest of drawers, and a vanity table.

July-August- Though meetings were scheduled for these two months, the group did not meet--due to so many being away on vacation and general disinclination to meet in such hot weather.

September-October-November- Metal work- Etching aluminum and copper trays. These months were to be devoted to metal work. In September 20 members of the group met and made their tray selections and the trays were ordered. Due to strikes the order did not arrive in time for the October meeting, so this was postponed. In November, 20 members of the group met and as a result of their work, 25 trays were finished.

VII Scope of Work

	1948	1949
Number Home Demonstration Clubs or Groups	18	22
Membership	360	477
Older Youth Groups	2	2
Membership	47	54
Number 4-H Groups	14	13
Membership (Girls)	192	168

Number of other families reached during 1948	1200	1949	4697
Total number families reached during 1948	1619	1949	5228

A second club was organized in Ettrick community in order to give women who work during the day an opportunity to belong to a home demonstration club.

This club meets at night.

The 4-H clubs in Chesterfield County have undergone a change in membership that is due to several causes. First, the Midlothian Club with around 40 members meeting in the school and havin a junior and senior club, has moved its meeting place from the school to the home of the leader. As a result of this change, the membership has dropped. Those who were only interested in getting out of class work no longer attend and we have those truly interested ones.

Second, two clubs have merged into one. The Sharbourne Heights Club on the Petersburg Pike had only two girls who were interested in the work. The others had so many outside interests that it was suggested that these two come to the Chester Club. This club is rapidly building its membership and will be sponsored this coming year by the Grange.

The Kingsland Club, composed of about 45 boys and girls and meeting during the school hours, has been divided into 2 clubs--Kingsland and Bellwood Manor--and they are both meeting after school in the homes of different club members. The smaller groups allow more individual help from the leader and agent.

Local leadership has been a problem also in keeping the interest of the members. Now, we do have one leader for every club and two or three for several. This helps in every way to keep up interest. One club disbanded entirely because of lack of leader. The mothers in this community could in no way be persuaded to take the leadership. This club was almost in the city limits of Richmond, where the many entertainments drew the children.

VIII Functions of Organizations

A. County Home Demonstration Club Committee

The 1949 program was planned by the members of the Chesterfield County

Home Demonstration Club Committee in August 1948. The members present were the club president's and the committee officers.

During 1949, the county committee held quarterly meetings. At these meetings plans were initiated to insure the successful outcome of the program.

At the November meeting, it was decided to appoint a program development chairman in each club. The function of this chairman was to acquaint herself with the needs and the desires of the club and the community with a view to help plan a better program for 1950. In January, the training meeting for this group took place under the direction of Miss Helen Riéks, District Agent. This Group did function well and helped markedly to plan the 1950 program.

The committee also sent a delegate, Mrs. J. E. Tribble, of Hallsboro club to Institute of Rural Affairs at Blacksburg in August. Mrs. Tribble attended the Institute in place of Miss Russell, committee chairman, who was unable to go.

Requests for assistance in regard to 4-H club leaders made at the county committee by the home agent resulted in the securing of leaders from several groups throughout the county.

In closing, the county committee has cooperated most closely with the Home Agent in an attempt to make the Home Demonstration and 4-H program as successful as possible. The group has been sincerely interested in and in sympathy with the plans to further the work in the county and has done much to insure the completion of a successful year.

B. County 4-H Council

The County 4-H Council is composed of the club officers--president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and song leaders and the adult leaders. Three meetings were held this year with around 35 of the 78 members present each time. Two of these meetings were work meetings where the goals

were set up, plans made for tours, Rally Day, camp and making money for Jamestown 4-H Camp. The business of the third meeting, held in November, was to elect new county council officers and to set up club goals and objectives of 1950. The officers for 1950 are:

- President-George Wilson, Ettrick Club
- Vice-president- A. D. Sheffield, Midlothian Club
- Secretary-Judith Calder, Chester club
- Treasurer-Mary Lou Jackson, Beulah club
- Reporter-Nancy Craig, Beulah Club

● The Council sponsored the Achievement Day program which was very successful with 10 clubs represented and a total attendance of 235.

C. 4-H Honor Clubs

There are no 4-H Honor Clubs in the county.

D. County Chapter of All Stars

● The County Chapter of All Stars had one meeting in January to elect the new 1949 All Stars. The ones recommended were: Bobby Currin of the Hickory Row Club and Joan Wyman of the Chester Club.

IX Summary of Activities of Leaders

● Volunteer leaders have contributed immeasurably to the success of the Home Demonstration program in the county.

● Subject Matter Leaders- The subject matter leaders in the majority of the clubs, selected from volunteers who professed a special interest in the particular phase of the work being undertaken. Thus, in the clothing project we had women who were skilled in sewing and who were interested in garment construction to come to the training meeting. The same was true of the leaders trained in the foods demonstrations, machine cleaning and adjusting, reupholstery, metal work and other phases of the program. These leaders gave willingly of their time and effort, not only to give the demonstrations, but in holding extra meetings and giving individual attention to their fellow club members. A total of ten leader training meetings were held during the year.

Organisational Leaders- club officers and the newly-appointed program development chairmen met for a training meeting with Miss Helen Ricks, District Agent, at Richmond, in January 1949. This meeting acquainted the officers with their duties and responsibilities. The majority of the officers fulfilled their tasks very satisfactorily. Club meetings were carried on in a fairly business-like manner and in cases where the meeting did not move along as smoothly as might be, it was the opinion of the home agent that the club members would benefit by training similar to that given their officers. The officers were interested in seeing that their part of the program was well done and they cooperated well with each other and with the home agent. Presidents and program development chairmen attended all county committee meetings and helped to carry out the program as outlined by that body. Goal chairmen brought reports and requests before their groups and assisted in carrying out their part of the work. The Library Chairmen did much in those clubs which obtained kits from the Virginia State Library. They made arrangements to secure the kits and acted as librarian for the books during the time the kits were in their keeping.

4-H Leaders- the leaders of the 4-H clubs held 34 meetings without the agent. During the summer project work, the meetings were held once a week and the agent was not able to attend all of these meetings. The leaders very capably took charge of these meetings. A training meeting was given the leaders before the summer project so they were familiar with every phase of the project. The leaders aid the officers in preparing for the meeting and assist them during the meeting in any way needed. They also help to make local arrangements for Rural Life Sunday, National 4-H Week, Rally Day, and any other activity in which they are needed. A meeting of the 4-H Club leaders was called for the same time as the November meeting of the Home Demonstration Committee in order that the new assistant agent might explain the work of the coming year to these leaders. The leaders, as a result of this, know what is expected of them at each club meeting, and they feel more sure of themselves.

X Significance of the Year's Work

In the opinion of the home agent, the 1949 program was a successful one. In the first place, the program was centered on three or four phases of home demonstration work and sufficient time was devoted to each phase to insure general understanding, participation and adoption of the methods and devices introduced.

The clothing program contributed in a number of ways to better homemaking, better rural living and improved people. Figures, taken from the reports which the women sent in, show an estimated money saving of \$1827.73. Women are able to make their own and their children's clothes at quite a saving. The time saved, cannot so easily be measured, but the use of the tracing wheel and tracing paper and the use of other time saving devices in the construction of garments, has, in the opinion of the home agent, saved many hours of time for the women. Time that can be spent with their families. The fact that a large number of the women bought tracing wheels is additional proof that the women also consider it a time saver. Satisfaction obtained cannot be measured either, but many expressed their appreciation at being able to make clothes that did not have that "homemade" look because the methods taught had helped them to get better fit, etc. The women took great pride in the work they did. Although it meant in many cases unlearning a skill in order to achieve a better result, they did it.

The foods program enabled a number of women to conserve on their food budgets while still being able to give their families the necessary food materials. 115 women stated that they improved their methods of preserving foods through the program. All of which goes to improve housekeeping and results in better living through better food preparation methods.

The special interest meetings on reupholstery, furniture refinishing, chair caning, and rugging, has helped to contribute to better living by improving the appearance and the comfort of the home; by the very real satisfaction the homemaker experienced in a job well done, and the appreciation the homemaker and her family have for a beautiful and useable article, and by a substantial

saving in money. Making something of nothing is always a reward in itself. And many of the articles the women undertook to refinish were not useable before the project was undertaken.

The Rural Arts Goal, metal work, was most successful. This work contributed its share toward better homemaking, better living. It too represents intangibles in the way of satisfactions, pride of accomplishment, as well as providing a pleasant outlet for the necessity we all feel for expressing ourselves in handiwork.