

VIRGINIA

MECKLENBURG Home Demonstration Agent Annual Report 1939
County

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REPORT FILES
EXTENSION WORK

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

MECKLENBURG COUNTY
VIRGINIA

HOME DEM AGENT ANNUAL REPORT

1939

Miss Louise Morris

Home Demonstration Agent

December 1, 1938 - November 30, 1939

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III. SUMMARY OF INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

| | |
|---|--------|
| Days in field | 196½ |
| Days in office | 79½ |
| Days annual leave | 30 |
| Days sick leave | 0 |
| Days leave without pay | 0 |
| Legal holidays taken | 7 |
| Number home visits made (adult) | 535 |
| Number 4-H Club members visited | 173 |
| Total number different homes visited | 426 |
| Number office calls | 175 |
| Number telephone calls | 45 |
| Number news articles or stories published | 33 |
| Number individual letters written | 2045 |
| Number different circular letters written | 21 |
| Number meetings attended | 209 |
| Number miles traveled | 11,298 |

IV. THE COUNTY AND ITS PEOPLE

Mecklenburg County is situated in the south side of Virginia, about halfway between the Atlantic Coast and the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Piedmont Section of Virginia. Mecklenburg is bound by the Counties of Brunswick, Lunenburg, Charlotte and Halifax, and the southeast boundary is the State of North Carolina. The land is rolling and slightly hilly with sections of gray, red clay and sandy soil which is considered good land for producing bright tobacco. Much of the land is in forests of pine, oak and a variety of other good timber. The County is one of the largest in the State, stretching about thirty-six miles from East to West and twenty miles North to South. It contains 417,670 acres. The agricultural census of 1935 lists 4,252 farms, with an average size of 50.3 acres. The farm population per hundred acres of open land, according to the figures from the same source, is 19.3.

The white population of the County is of English descent. 5% of all farmers are tenants. Of the 2,243 tenant farmers 60% are colored. The population given by census is 32,622. This number is about equally divided between the white and colored people. Of the 16,000 women inhabitants 7,454 are white. The County has five small towns, the estimated population of these being approximately 5,500.

The source of income is from the money crops, tobacco, cotton and some peanuts. Tobacco is by far the principal source of income. The towns are supported by the surrounding communities. There are no industries of any great importance. The County is essentially rural and the main source of

income is derived from agriculture.

Throughout the County the two story wooden frame house is the most popular. Since most of these homes were built at the beginning of the century they are in constant need of repair. In the majority of the communities the homes have very few modern conveniences. However, the construction of 176 miles of rural electrification lines already serving approximately 475 families will provide conveniences for a number of homes in the near future. The large percent of homes occupied by tenants largely explains the lack of conveniences and physical care.

Electricity will mean a great deal to the women of the County since so many of the homes are built without modern conveniences. Even though there is a large percent of colored people in the County the majority of the women do their own work. There is a great need for home improvement. The grounds show that little thought has been given to simple beautification and upkeep. Because of the stress placed upon screening in the past years under the supervision of extension agents and health department, more has been accomplished along this line of home improvement than any other. Methods of sanitation have been given special attention, but there is a great deal yet to be done before a safe water supply and healthful sanitary conditions surround every farm home associated with extension work.

Home Demonstration Work has been conducted in this County for twenty-one years. A large number of these years have been devoted to the study of foods. Hence much work has been done along the line of food preservation and year around gardens. The agricultural census listed Mecklenburg as 41st in

evaluating the worth of the County gardens and stated that 15.5% of the farms had no gardens at all. It is evident that much work needs to be done along this line. Since the one-crop farming takes all the family into the tobacco field most of the other home activities are neglected.

Through extension work there has been created a consciousness of the need of improved surroundings as a means of enhancing property value and giving pleasure to the family. Hence much time has been given to yard improvement as a campaign.

The problem of clothing the family has been very well provided for through a study of this subject, although this phase of the live at home program has been neglected and a large percent of the clothing is bought ready made.

The women are very well prepared to meet the problems of house furnishings. Two years ago they devoted their project work to this study, and there is a consciousness of good taste in arrangement and color.

In mentioning the contribution of Extension work to this County we cannot fail to mention the number of 4-H Club girls who have associated themselves with the Extension Staff. There are six Virginia Agents from the County and three girls are now preparing to enter the work.

V. FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE WORK

The Board of Supervisors is composed of eight men, one representative elected from each of the magisterial districts. The appropriation of \$50.00 per month is made by the Board for Home Demonstration work.

VI. WOMEN'S WORK

1. Organization

a. The Homemaking Board of Mecklenburg is made up of the President of each of the fourteen Home Demonstration Clubs, the Home Economics teachers from the five high schools, the Farm Security Supervisor, county representatives at large from communities in which no extension organization exists, and the Home Demonstration Agent. Other county workers are called upon to act in an advisory capacity to the Board whenever they are needed.

A spring meeting of the Homemaking Board was called. In addition to the members of this Board the Farm Agent, County Health Doctor, County Nurse representing the Tuberculosis Association, and a representative of the WPA State School Lunch Program were asked to meet with the Board members. Each department's representatives were asked to explain the county's needs in their particular field as they saw it. The Home Agent presented the Outlook material for the year. Following this the District Agent explained the procedure to follow in arriving at the 1940 program. The Chairmen of the Home Demonstration Clubs took the summary of this material to their local club meetings and presented it as a basis for determining a county program based on the local needs. With these county needs as a basis for work, a suggested county program was made by the local women in a discussion group. The choice of each group was carried by the President to the Advisory Committee meeting in June and a county program was set up.

In the fall the second Homemaking Board meeting was called and the county plan for the year was adopted by the Homemaking Board. The county campaign was chosen from the needs that seemed most imperative and at the

December meeting definite plans for the carrying out of the campaign were made. The Home Economics teachers and the Farm Security Supervisor aided in making these plans, and, of course, pledged their support in carrying them out. The Board is acting as a clearing house through which all county-wide home economics programs may be formulated.

b. County Home Demonstration Committee

The County Home Demonstration Club Committee is composed of the Presidents of each of the fourteen Home Demonstration Clubs and the Home Agent, who acts in an advisory capacity. This Board has had two meetings this year.

Following the meeting of the Homemaking Board the President carried to their local clubs the summary of the county needs expressed by the county workers at their meeting. The individuals were asked to discuss the county needs with particular reference to their individual community. After some discussion the individuals of the group were asked to write upon a piece of paper the needs they felt applied to their community. A vote was taken and the opinion of the group was derived. In addition, each individual was asked to think in terms of club program and select three topics they felt could be profitably discussed in their club meeting for 1940 in view of local needs and bring their suggestions to the May meeting. The county and local needs were discussed in April meetings of the clubs and the home economics program was suggested in the May meeting of the clubs. The Home Economics program was chosen in view of the county and local needs also.

With the club presidents acting as discussion leader the same procedure was followed in the local clubs in arriving at a suggested Home Economics

program from each club. In June the first of the two meetings of the Home Demonstration Committee was called. The club presidents brought to the meeting the first, second and third choice in topic for the Home Economics program and for county campaign, as were expressed by the local women. All of the suggestions were considered, discussed, and finally a vote was taken and the majority of the women chose house furnishing as their home economics project, and environmental sanitation as the most imperative need of our county for combined efforts of all agencies. The county official representative was chosen. The suggested program was set up and the official delegate presented it at our State meeting in Blacksburg.

In September the second meeting of the Home Demonstration Committee was called. The Home Improvement Specialist met with the Committee and set up the suggested program in monthly demonstrations. The program was approved by the Committee.

Our Federation Goal is youth, and since only one year had been devoted to this topic we felt it would be wise to continue this goal for the second year.

Again in December the County Homemaking Board will be called together to adopt the plan of work for 1940 and set up definite campaign goals.

Program of Work for 1939

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Dec.---- Minor Project | Christmas gifts, socials |
| Jan.---- Major Project | Meal Planning |
| Feb.---- Campaign | Yard and Roadside Development |
| Mar.---- Major Project | Quick Meals for Busy Days |

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Apr. --- Major Project | Jelly, Jam and Preserves |
| May --- Major Project | Table Service |
| June --- Major Project | Butter Making |
| July --- Federation Goal | Youth Survey |
| Aug. --- Major Project | Outdoor Meals |
| Sept. -- Minor Project | Canning Judging |
| Oct. | Minor |
| Nov. | Reorganization, Christmas Suggestions |

In determining the results of the 1939 program the figures quoted are taken from the approximately two hundred adult reports secured.

Following the demonstration on "Meal Planning" one hundred and eleven families have reported improved methods of meal planning. Seventy-two families have inculcated the menus and recipes on quick meals. The demonstrations on "Jelly, Jams and Preserves" showed that fifty-six have tried these new suggestions, and fourteen women secured the jellymeter. One Hundred and thirty-three women have reported having used the suggested recipes given on this demonstration. The reports show that seventy-six families have improved methods in table service. One hundred and fifty-eight table mats have been made as a result of this demonstration.

In carrying out the program with the women there have been seventy-three⁹ demonstrations given by leaders with 991 women attending; forty-six⁴ demonstrations given by the Agent with 647 women attending, and thirteen¹³ demonstrations have been given by the specialist with 242 women attending.

It is hoped that the program has reached much further since the newspapers, circular letters and mimeographed materials have been sent to many homes not represented at our club meetings.

Although the 1939 program has no food preservation demonstration included it seems well to mention that sixty-four families have completed their canning plan. There were 32,399 quarts of food canned valued at \$7,283.90 reported by the county's club members.

Since the four demonstrations given by the specialist on Butter Making the following results have been obtained: thirty-five women have made butter from sweet cream, and thirty women report having improved their own methods of making butter.

The demonstration on "Outdoor Meals" has as a result eighteen families having entertained in this suggested way.

c. Home Demonstration Clubs

In each community where there is an interest in organized Extension Work the women organize themselves as Home Demonstration Clubs to carry on a program of work under the direction of the Home Demonstration Agent. The program is made, planned and executed by the group.

The President of each club automatically becomes the official representative of that particular group to the Homemaking Board and County Home Demonstration Committee.

d. Scope of Work

1. There are 310 Homemakers in Mecklenburg County doing active work. Of these 2300 white homemakers in the County about 1302 benefit directly or indirectly by some phase of extension work.

2. Enrollment of Past Three Years

| <u>Year</u> | <u>No. Clubs</u> | <u>Membership</u> | <u>No. Reached Indirectly</u> |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1937 | 12 | 244 | 925 |
| 1938 | 14 | 275 | 920 |
| 1939 | 14 | 310 | 1,302 |

3. There are eight magisterial districts in the County. Below are listed the districts and the organized Home Demonstration Club in that district.

LaCrosse District - Two Home Demonstration Clubs

Bracey Home Demonstration Club
Marengo Home Demonstration Club

Palmer Springs District - Three Home Demonstration Clubs

Palmer Springs Home Demonstration Club
State Line Home Demonstration Club
Palmer Springs Junior Homemakers Club

Boynton District - Two Home Demonstration Clubs

Finchley Home Demonstration Club
Phillis Home Demonstration Club

Bluestone District - Two Home Demonstration Clubs

Jeffress Home Demonstration Club
Skipwith Home Demonstration Club

Chase City District - Three Home Demonstration Clubs

Hanford Home Demonstration Club
Scott's Cross Roads Home Demonstration Club
Chase City West End Home Demonstration Club

South Hill District - None

Backhorn District - One Home Demonstration Club

Wightman Home Demonstration Club

Clarksville District - One Home Demonstration Club

Clarksville District Home Demonstration Club

2. Project Work

a. Major

Food was chosen for the major study for 1959 with the women. The topic was selected again after giving one year to house furnishing. With such a large percent of our school children undernourished, appalling number of cases of tuberculosis, and other malnutrition diseases existing in the county, to spend time in meal planning and adequate preparation seemed advisable. Then, too, little money was circulating in the fall of 1958 to be spent on the other phases of home improvement or clothing.

The Homemaking Board considering the local suggestions chose six of the major demonstrations in food. They were: Meal Planning, Quick Meals for Easy

Days, Jelly, Jams and Preserves, Table Service, Making Butter from Sweet Cream and Outdoor Meals. All of these demonstrations were given in the fourteen clubs except the Butter Making demonstration, which was given in four central communities. All of the club women were invited to attend these demonstrations by the specialist.

b. Minors

The individual clubs were allowed to choose their own minors. They were:

| Subject of Minor | Number of Clubs Participating |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Canning Judging | 6 |
| Clothing | 1 |
| Chair Seating | 1 |
| Report of the (Associated County Women of the World) | 2 |
| The County Health Department | 1 |
| Preparation for the Winter | |
| Living Room | 1 |
| Our Dining Room | 1 |
| Thanksgiving Desserts | 1 |
| Flower Show | 1 |
| Flower Arrangements | 1 |
| Summer Picnics | 7 |
| Yard Inspection Four | 1 |
| Christmas Suggestions | 14 |
| Christmas Socials | 7 |

c. Community Projects

Aside from the surveys made of the Rural Youth and socials held for recreation of these youths under the Federation goal, the most outstanding work has been done in establishing points at which books may be secured from the County Library. Through the Library Board, groups of books may be taken to rural sections and kept for a period of a month. At the end of the time the books are then returned and renewed or new books secured. Two rural communities have made excellent use of the library in this manner. Books for both children and adults are secured. One club in the far end of the county is securing books from the State Library. Several small libraries have been sent during this year.

The Scott's Cross Roads Club has fed one of the undernourished children of the school for the past year.

Palmer Springs Junior Homemakers Club and Wightman Club have sponsored 4-H Club work for the children and have supplied active leaders for these clubs. The leaders were elected on the slate of Home Demonstration Clubs. It seems advisable to mention that these two clubs were the outstanding clubs in the County. The Palmer Springs Junior Woman's Club has attended one club meeting and has held two socials for the children.

Clarksville District Club sponsored a community flower show and an exhibit of canned fruits and vegetables. The entire community was invited and the activity was well supported by the club members and non club members.

The Bracey Club has established a custom of asking all county candidates to come and state their platform at a community meeting. The group arranges

to sell supper at this time as a means of replenishing their treasury. Some of the money has been used in providing clothing for less fortunate children.

3. Project Leadership

a. Plan for Training and Use of Leaders.

In 1939 there have been three leader training meetings held. These meetings have been very well attended. The Advisory Committee set as a County Goal five demonstrations to be given by the leader.

b. Results Obtained.

Five clubs attained this goal of having the leader put on all major demonstrations given in their club. The leaders put on seventy-four demonstrations and the Agent forty-five in the adult work. The leaders have been most cooperative and have done an excellent piece of work. The most worth while development has been with the leaders themselves, for they have come a long way in the development of leadership.

4. Other Activities.

a. Campaign.

The campaign for the year was Yard and Roadside Development. Each club had a campaign chairman in charge of the local club activities. In January a meeting was called of the group and a speaker gave the chairmen some material to be used in their club meeting in February. There were short topics given to be discussed by the chairmen at each club meeting from February to June. Forms were made of possible improvements and each family was asked to check what it wanted to do, and in the fall each person re-checked the items they

had actually accomplished. The Home Economics teachers and the Farm Security Supervisor aided in carrying out the program. The Agent was able to offer specialist help to them.

The following results were reported:

- 196 native shrubs set out
- 27 broken fences repaired
- 24 rehung gates
- 15 outhouses repainted
- 15 painted fences
- 25 built fences where needed
- 22 terraced and sodded yards
- 87 grouped flower beds in side and back yards
- 47 created outdoor living interest
- 19 improved the entrance to the house
- 159 homes painted their mail boxes and put names on them

There was one flower exchange sponsored by the Chase City Club.

b. Recreation

This large county has many isolated communities. It has been the policy of the Agents to encourage some form of community entertainment for the clubs and their families. There were seven Christmas socials sponsored by the clubs during December, and in addition each of the thirteen clubs held some type of outdoor cooking as a suggested form of recreation. One community had three such functions. The month of August is usually set

aside for social programs since it is hard to get women to the meetings for many of them help with the money crop. This form of activity is the only one in which the men and children participate. It has proven instrumental in securing the support of the men. To secure the approbation of the family head is one of the most difficult obstacles to overcome in this county. So far, family recreation seems to be the only solution to the problem.

c. County Meetings

1. Fairs

The 1939 County Fair was not a financial success, since the tobacco market had closed and the farmers had had no opportunity to market their money crop. So far as the exhibits were concerned it was most successful. Through the cooperation of the Fair Association and a committee from the Homemaking Board the revision of the catalogue was made. For the third year the Association sent a truck to collect and return exhibits to points designated by the committee. This method of securing exhibits from rural sections has proven most successful.

The Fair Association reorganized the Woman's Building and provided spaces for eight educational booths to be put up by the women's clubs. Plans for these booths were made by the local club committee and the Agent. The booths showed that much time and thought had been given to their construction. This year the Association gave a considerable increase in the award for booths. All booths were given ten dollars and they were

grouped according to classes. Each booth represented some demonstration of club activity carried out in 1939. In the foods department 29 club members entered 153 of the 412 exhibits. Their prizes amounted to \$25.25 out of the possible \$62.50 in awards.

The Fair was very well attended by club members. It is unquestionable that the club booths bring people to the Fair from remote sections of the county who would otherwise be uninterested. //

The Halifax County Home Demonstration Agent judged the products.

2. Achievement Days

The Home Demonstration Club Achievement Day was held in the Clarksville High School auditorium in Clarksville on October 7, 1939. The meeting was attended by about one hundred and seventy-five women from twelve clubs in the county.

The reports of the club work completed in the county during the year were given in the form of booths illustrating the demonstration and posters carrying the results secured. These were put on by the individual clubs as their contribution to the program. The guest speaker was one of the Virginia Supervisors of the National Youth Administration. It seemed wise to have her speak to the group since much of the interest of the women seemed to be in the youth work done throughout the county.

A plate lunch was served at noon time, after which the District Agent gave a most interesting account of her trip to Nova Scotia, with particular emphasis on the type of cooperation there. A style show was the last

feature of the day. The models were supplied by one of the clubs and the costumes by one of the local stores.

The canning exhibits were shown and judged. According to the District Agent the products were of excellent quality.

3. Other County Meetings

There has been one culling demonstration conducted in the county by the poultry specialist. The county people were invited to attend.

In two communities there were cheese demonstrations given. These were very well attended. Both demonstrations were given by a specialist.

The Singer Sewing Machine Company of Petersburg and Richmond have conducted three demonstrations in the county on the use of sewing machine appliances. This activity was sponsored by the county clubs, but the people of the community were invited. About fifty-four women attended these meetings throughout the county.

5. Participation in Federation

a. District

The district meeting was held in Roanoke. Due to the distance there were only ten members present from this county. These ten members represented four clubs. State and District meetings are always an inspiration for any group. However, our representation was so small that it is hard to determine the amount of carry over.

The greatest help secured at our district meeting was in having our Federation Goal Chairman present. Here she got some suggestions as to the

type of work other counties were doing in the youth work. It is regrettable that a larger number of our leading club members are unable to attend such meetings for they are always a great help in stimulating interest back home.

b. State

There were six women representing four clubs and the Advisory Committee, a student assistant, and the Agent attending the State Federation meeting at Blacksburg. The County Resettlement Supervisor was also present. The women who attended this meeting came back to their clubs with a great deal of information and enthusiasm. They were impressed with the opportunity to hear such outstanding speakers, and especially with their Federation. In those clubs having representation at Blacksburg there is a keener interest in state wide activities and real enthusiasm for the meeting next summer. They were all very much interested in the Agricultural College and the opportunities it offers young people.

Due to the season of the year it will always be a difficult problem to get a large representation at this meeting.

c. Work on State Federation Goal

In setting up our program of work it was evident that the women were conscious of the young people in the communities and the inadequate social and economical opportunities afforded them. In view of this fact the women chose youth as their Federation Goal for 1939. A County Chairman was appointed by the Homemaking Board. In the spring a meeting was called of all the local club chairmen. At this meeting the Girls' State 4-H Club Agent and the State Supervisor of the National Youth Administration were present. After some valuable information was given as a background, it was decided that it would

be wise to make a survey of the county's youth. One meeting of the clubs was given to this activity and ten of the clubs participated in making this survey. Two communities where clubs were not organized also helped. Only one of these summaries from the non-club community has been added to the club summary. There were four hundred and ninety-five young people surveyed between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four.

The following findings were obtained:

Number of children 495
 Number of children married 50

EDUCATION

| 1 - 4 | 5 - 7 | 8 - 10 | 11 | High School Graduates | College |
|-------|-------|--------|----|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 6 | 37 | 93 | 46 | None | 3 In School |
| 28 | 49 | 59 | 6 | 146 | 16 Stopped School |

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

| Agriculture | Home Economics | 4-H Club | Other |
|-------------|----------------|----------|-------|
| 53 | 97 | 157 | 45 |

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Living with parents | 411 |
| Not living with parents | 53 |
| Not reporting | 39 |
| In School | 2 |
| Total | 505 |
| Working at home | 350 |
| Away from home | 99 (Full time) |
| | 79 (Part time) |
| Total | 428 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Contributing to family income: | | |
| | Yes | 109 |
| | No | <u>198</u> |
| Total | | 307 |
| Paid for home work: | | |
| | Yes | 177 |
| | No | 101 |
| | Not reporting | <u>227</u> |
| Total | | 505 |
| Satisfied with present employment: | | |
| | Yes | 216 |
| | No | <u>153</u> |
| Total | | 369 |

6. Story of Achievement by Club Carrying the Best Program

For three years in succession Skipwith has been chosen as the outstanding club in the county. The location of this little village is in one of the best tobacco sections of the county. The members of the club have taken advantage of their opportunities in developing leadership. Most of the members of the group have had some college training.

Program of The Best Club

| Month | Program | By Whom | Attendance |
|-----------|---|---------------------|------------|
| December | Christmas Party | Committee in Charge | 14 |
| January | Meal Planning | Leader | 31 |
| February | Campaign - Yard Improvement | Campaign Leader | 24 |
| March | Quick Meals | Leader | 20 |
| April | Preserves, Jelly & Jam | Leader | 28 |
| May | Table Service | Leader | 20 |
| June | Federation Goal | Chairman | 22 |
| August | Picnic | Committee | 46 |
| September | Check up on report | | 21 |
| October | Report on the meeting of Associated County Women of the World | | 15 |
| November | Reorganization | | 22 |

Among the other club activities, Skipwith sponsored a Singer Sewing Machine School in their community and it was well attended. The group petitioned the State Highway Commission for an improved highway to Chase City. The road was secured with the assistance of other influential people and organizations.

This group made one of the best surveys of young people in the county. Most of the club members assisted with this. The local chairman did an excellent piece of work in presenting the background material and organizing the community to be surveyed.

The members of this group gave their support to both community demonstrations given by the specialist. These demonstrations were Cheese making and Butter making.

Two of the club members entered the Poultry Improvement contest and the majority of the homes made some improvement in their yard improvement campaign.

This group assisted in the Achievement Day by putting up a booth to illustrate one of the county wide demonstrations. This booth on Outdoor Meals was taken to the Fair and received placing in the first class.

There was a representative present at both the State and District meetings held this year from this club.

The interest of cooperation which is always shown by this group is second to none in the county. Any activity undertaken by them is completed in a creditable style. Because of the whole-hearted individual and group activity this organization propells itself with very little assistance

from the Agent. They weigh suggestions from the Agent and undertake what they can complete. The dependable cooperation and enthusiasm in executing the Extension Program is one that any county should be justly proud. The interest of the group is unselfish, for they are constantly giving to their community their time and energy.

7. Story of Outstanding Achievement by Individual

In making this choice of an outstanding individual in Home Demonstration Work, it seems advisable to consider the contributions in the field of leadership and project work activity. Mrs. Willie Owen of State Line Club has given unselfishly of her time and energy to her club work.

Mrs. Owen is a tenant farm wife with five children. For the past two years she has served as her club president. In the absence of the club leader she came to the leader training meeting and put on the demonstration in the local club. Mrs. Owen has been present at each club meeting this year and conducts her meetings in a creditable way. The enthusiasm and interest she has shown has been found also in her club members. She has missed only one of the county advisory meetings during the year, although this club is over thirty miles from the county seat. Mrs. Owen has supported the county activities and entered the Kerr Canning Contest. Since she was a winner in the 1938 Ball Contest she was not eligible in that contest, but she placed among the winners in the 1939 Kerr Contest. Her canning budget was completed. In addition, she enrolled in the poultry flock improvement contest and has done some creditable work.

This member was the county's official delegate at the Federation of

Women's Clubs at Blacksburg. Her report of the Federation meeting at Achievement Day Program was one of the most interesting events of the program.

The home account records were considered by the Farm Security Supervisor as the most complete of any woman contacted by her. Her poultry flock records are equally accurate.

Mrs. Owen is a real leader in her community, but the fact that she has well distributed her time between her home and community makes her more outstanding. She is a fine mother, a good wife, a neat housekeeper, a willing worker and a real asset to any community.

VII. 4-H CLUB WORK

1. Organization

a. County Council

This Council is composed of the officers of the 4-H Clubs and the leaders. This group is called twice a year to plan county wide activities.

The Mecklenburg County Council met last December. At this time Council officers for the year were elected and the committees for Achievement Day, County Picnic, 4-H Club Camp and Short Courses and Banquet were appointed. These committees met and set up definite recommendations which were accepted by the Council. These committees acted in carrying out these plans. The leaders acted in an advisory capacity to the committees. The group was shown how to make a club plan of work. After several contests the group adjourned to meet again in the spring.

The second meeting of the Council was a banquet. This meeting was made possible through the cooperation of one of the Home Economics teachers and her class. This group prepared and served the meal. There was a planned program and a social hour following the meal. The District Agent and one of the Council have been exceptionally well attended. At both meetings we had nine of the eleven clubs represented. With such a large county and little means of transportation the Agents were well pleased with the attendance as well as the carry over of the meeting.

b. 4-H Clubs

There were eleven 4-H Clubs organized last fall. In the summer the twelfth club was organized and it promises to continue regular work. Only two of these clubs meet jointly with the boys and their Agent. Because it is difficult to find meeting places for large groups and the time is limited, it seems advisable to keep the groups separate.

| <u>No. Clubs</u> | <u>Meeting Place</u> | <u>Time of Meeting</u> | <u>Length of Time</u> |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 | Homes | Night | Unlimited (about 2 hours) |
| 1 | Homes | Saturday afternoon | Unlimited (about 2 hours) |
| 4 | Two room school | | |
| | Junior High School | In School Time | One hour (longer if needed) |
| 4 | High Schools | In School Time | One Hour |

The club program with the Home and Assistant Farm Agent is very easily worked out since so few of our clubs meet together. The leader usually plans the program if there is any to be given jointly by boys and girls. The Assistant Agent supervises those officers who are boys, and the Home Agent and leaders the offices filled by girls. When the meetings are held during school

hours the Agents usually conduct the project work. The leaders do this in the absence of the Agent and also during the summer months.

The problem of securing efficient local leaders who will assume responsibility is quite an undertaking. We have been able to obtain leaders for all but two clubs. However, several of them have no means of transportation and it is difficult to get them to attend county wide meetings and assume responsibility in their clubs.

The organized clubs in this county are primarily among the children who have had little opportunity to develop leadership. Although it offers a greater challenge to extension workers it also gives them less machinery with which to work.

2. Project Work

The Family Activities Program places major emphasis on home and family living. There is a suggested program from the State. Last fall the leaders met and went over this program and set up a county plan of work. To this county plan of work the individual clubs make their local contributions and set up a program for the individual club. This program is set up with the idea of making the home activities more interesting and develop a feeling of responsibility toward the home work.

These home activities, according to monthly club reports, were carried out with the majority of club members. However, it is found that the most of the completions are with the younger club members.

The 1932 4-H Club Program

| | |
|-----------|--|
| December | Christmas Suggestions |
| January | Table Linens |
| February | Table Service and Courtesies |
| March | Check on Food Score |
| April | Canning Budget and Family Meals |
| May | What to Include in Three Meals a Day |
| June | 1. Plan and Help Serve at Least Three Family Meals 2. Suggested Breakfast |
| July | 1. Family Supper Preparing and Serving 2. Dinner |
| August | Outdoor Cooking |
| September | Check up |
| October | Reports and Achievement Day |

Results of the program obtained from reports are as follows:

- 129 Keeping food scores consistently
- 157 Keeping Clothing account
- 103 Club Members learned to eat a new food
- 416 Meals planned and served by club members
- 150 Dishes prepared at home were demonstrated at club meeting
- 374 Table mats made by club members

There were 305 girls enrolled last winter in 4-H Club work and 175 handed in reports.

The number of reports secured in proportion to the number enrolled seems small. However, the moving of tenant farmers and the consolidated high schools taking the graded children makes the securing of the final reports most difficult.

a. Story of Best Project Work by Individual

In choosing the outstanding 4-H club member for her project activity Ruby Paschall from Palmer Springs seems to have completed the most accurate report. She carried her clothing account for eight months and kept her food score for one month. Ruby attended fourteen of the fifteen meetings held in her club. She had a creditable notebook and received checks for nearly all of the club activities.

Her report shows that she prepared five of the dishes demonstrated and served three meals alone. Ruby assisted in three of the club meeting demonstrations and acted as member leader, and attended both Leader Training Meetings. The report shows that she canned twenty-five quarts alone and assisted with three hundred and fifty. Ruby made a table cloth and napkins as a part of her club work. She also exhibited her work at the County Fair.

In addition, she had a flower garden which furnished cut flowers for the house. This is Ruby's fourth year in club work and she is fourteen years old.

5. Community Activities

a. Community Projects

Here again the lack of efficient local adult leaders and older children trained for leadership have prevented any worth while contributions to their communities.

b. Recreation (Home and Community)

Some form of recreation has been undertaken in each of the groups during the summer meetings. In all of the summer meetings games were played as a source of recreation. The Outdoor Meal demonstration was used as a means of bringing recreation into the program of ten of the clubs. The Nelson 4-H Club entertained their parents at a club tea. Palmer Springs 4-H Club asked the Junior Woman's Club members to attend their game party program. They had been entertained twice by the adult group.

The three clubs that meet in the homes always have some planned recreation.

c. Raising Money for Club Activities

The money raised by the club has been done by giving community parties, securing musicians to entertain groups, amateur programs, selling flavoring and individual club members paying five cent dues. The entire amount raised in the county amounted to about \$52.00. Four delegates were sent from a local club to camps and short courses with part of expenses paid. Each club was to pay one dollar for each twenty members to the council, to pay expenses of the council and county delegate's expenses in the correct dress contest at the state meeting.

One club took the entire club to a state park for a day's outing. Their money was spent for food and transportation for the group.

4. Local Leadership

a. Plan for Training and Use of Leaders.

Here the county has made more progress than in any other way in 4-H Club work. As was stated previously, all the clubs, with the exception of two, have local leaders. Some of these are not as efficient as the ideal organization would prefer, but at least most of them have attended the leader training meeting and supervised some of the demonstrations.

This year the Agent invited two girls in addition to the leader to attend the leader training meeting. This proved most successful since the girls were often able to provide the transportation and they helped a great deal in carrying out the program in the clubs. In addition to the planning meeting there were two training meetings held.

b. Results Obtained

The two 4-H Leader Training meetings had the attendance of forty-three over the 1938 attendance of four. The leaders put on thirty-four demonstrations, of which the most of them were given during the months of June, July and August. There are fourteen 4-H leaders in the county for 1939.

5. Other Activities

a. Camps

This county sent two girls with student assistant to Jamestown. Eight girls, one 4-H leader and the Home Agent attended the Blacksburg 4-H Short Course. The girls were delighted with both the short course and camp.

b. County Meetings

1. Achievement Day

This annual celebration was held for the first time on Saturday. This

out down our attendance considerably, but the Agents were pleased with the day's program. There were about one hundred children leaders and leaders present. A few of the parents attended.

The program consisted of reports, short readings, moving pictures and a talk by one of Virginia's outstanding 4-H club members. Recognition was given to outstanding club boys and girls and the banner awarded to the best club. Picnic lunch was served while the group enjoyed the music of one of Virginia's 4-H Club pianists.

In June a Demonstration Day was held in one of the local swimming pools. The morning program included songs, skits, dress review, roll call and a picnic lunch. Here the county representative in the state dress contest was held. In the afternoon the children enjoyed swimming. A number of the parents and leaders were present.

The Fair booth was a representative exhibit of the children's work. There were one hundred and thirty-four exhibits made in foods, canned foods, notebooks and table linens. In most cases these exhibits represented the club's best exhibits.

6. Story of Achievement of Your Best Club

Over a period of years Palmer Springs 4-H Club has been chosen as the county's most active junior organization. This group is one of the two where boys and girls are organized together under a 4-H club leader and mother and a teacher sponsor.

This group was represented at both meetings of the County Council, county planning meeting and 4-H leader meetings.

A local club program was made and adhered to. In most cases this club has some form of planned program other than regular business and project activity.

There were eighteen members on roll who carried active club project work. During the spring unfortunately a number of the children moved from the community and a change in the schools resulted in a summarized report which did not do the club justice.

However, this club held two socials during the year, held five meetings during the summer, paid their County Council dues and sent a representative to the State meeting.

According to the report there were seventy-two meals planned and several alone. Thirty-seven of the dishes served at club meetings were planned and served at home. Twenty-seven new foods were included in their meal planning and one hundred and ninety-six containers canned alone, 2,050 quarts were canned at home and the club members aided.

This group is so interested in their work that it is refreshing. The children are quite capable and the parents lend the much needed assistance to the support of club work.

VIII. OLDER YOUTH

Although surveys have been made of communities where there are a number of young people, there has been no definite club organized. Finchley Home Demonstration Club sponsored three socials for their young people and had about eighteen to enroll. However, this organization had most of its members return to schools and there was not enough people for a worth while

organization during the winter. Here again it is difficult to secure leaders who will take the responsibility of these groups.

IX. PROGRESS MADE DURING THE YEAR

There is a very slight increase in the number of Home Demonstration Club members enrolled in 1939 over 1938.

In mentioning the progress of the year one cannot fail to mention the active part the leaders have taken in carrying out their program. It seems well to mention that the Campaign Chairman and the Federation Goal Chairman have contributed to a great deal of leadership in their particular field. If these leaders will continue in giving their support to the work, greater will be the scope of extension work here. It is evident that in this county some of the strongest supporters of the work are from the tenant class of people. Through their clubs they will find some outlet for their development and find a more satisfactory living. The difficulty lies in the fact that this population moves so often.

The new method of planning club work is and will continue to be a great asset to the work.

The actual work done in foods has been gratifying. It seems that the women are making a conscious effort to improve their methods of meal planning and they have enjoyed the suggested new dishes.

The Home Demonstration workers as a whole have a happy outlook in regard to their clubs and give as much of their time as they feel they can to the organization. In most cases the organizations that have reorganized for 1940 have done so with expectations of doing better work.

The progress in 4-H Club leadership will have to be mentioned in one of the outstanding contributions of the year. The groups for the most part have met the county obligations by attending the meetings and making an effort to execute the plan of work.

So far as the women's work and its contributions to the County Fair are concerned it was certainly successful. The educational booths were very good and considered by many the most educational feature at the Fair.

The Home Agent has had the assistance and the responsibility of training two NYA girls. These girls have been a great help in executing the office work. In addition, they have received some valuable training.

X. HISTORY AND APPRAISAL OF HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK IN COUNTY

Mecklenburg County - 1939

Home Demonstration work was started in Mecklenburg County in 1917, with Miss Mabel Massey as Home Agent. The work at this time was chiefly tomato and sewing clubs with girls and unorganized production and conservation work with women. Miss Florence Lewis followed Miss Massey for a very short time in the county and was succeeded by Miss Anne Jones, who served about a year as agent. Work was then discontinued for two years, from 1920 until 1922. In the latter year Miss Helen Ricks, a native of the county, was made Agent for about three years.

Miss Ricks put on a most successful kitchen improvement campaign, and worked with the Farm Agent on a live-at-home program for the county. In 1925 Miss Courtney Farrar, another native of Mecklenburg County, was made Agent and

served two years stressing poultry and 4-H Club work chiefly. In 1928 Miss Iris Ritenour went as Agent to this county. She added five new home demonstration clubs, developed enthusiastic 4-H Club work, and improved the organization of all the work greatly.

From 1922 to 1929 the county appropriation was made by the School Board, but in 1929 it was taken over by the Board of Supervisors. It is one of the smallest in the district - only \$600.00.

In 1930 Miss India Miller was Agent in this county. She was there during the depression years, and helped farm women to meet this disaster in the best ways possible. Canning, renovation and living-at-home were the main things stressed. Miss Miller was much beloved. She died in service in Amelia County soon after leaving Mecklenburg in 1934.

In the fall of 1934 Miss Elephare Hood took over the work in Mecklenburg County and worked there until the spring of 1938. During this period of service there was a reorganization of the Advisory Board, and the county was transferred from Eastern Virginia to Central Virginia District for supervision. Several new clubs were organized and a little more responsibility was taken by local groups.

In the spring of 1939 Miss Louise Morris succeeded Miss Hood. This county still lacks leadership and women are rather indifferent about the work, but they have shown some improvement.

Although the work here has not been connected with the most outstanding county leaders, it supplies a great need to a number of communities and it has afforded the only means of developing the leadership so badly needed.

The women consider that the club affords them an opportunity for social contact which is needed in this rural life.

In view of the lack of enthusiasm for the program in some of the communities there is not a single home that has been contacted by the program in which you cannot find some concrete evidence of assistance. In most cases the lack of income has influenced people to become satisfied with what they have and destroyed the hope of building a well organized community. It is believed that the lack of understanding of land owners and tenant is largely responsible for this condition. It is certainly the aim of this organization to bring about a better understanding between the two.

The program has made many contributions to the county, but the county as a whole will have to develop a broader viewpoint of women's extension work before it will be the organized force it is in a number of Virginia counties.

XI. PLANS AND GOALS FOR 1940

Last spring the women began making their plans for the coming year. The evident need for home improvement suggested the topic. There are hardly any homes in which there are not some very valuable pieces of furniture. Unfortunately many of these have passed out of the homes for very small sums. In view of this it seemed advisable to spend some time in teaching the appreciation of such pieces of furniture and to create in every home one piece of interesting and attractive furniture. In an effort to reach the interest of as many as possible the following program was set up:

The Possibilities of Refinishing Furniture

The Furniture Clinic

Environmental Sanitation

Walls and Their Finishes

Dyeing Fabrics for Handicraft

Rug Making

(Electric Appliances) optional
Family Council

At the spring meeting of the Board the County Health Doctor made it quite evident the need for improved sanitary conditions in the county. For this reason the clubs with the cooperation of the Farm Security Supervisor and the Home Economics teachers made out a plan of work for the County Campaign in cooperation with the Sanitation Officer. Throughout the spring those homes interested in improving the conditions will be visited by the Sanitation Officer and the necessary assistance given. The clubs and Home Economics classes will teach a correlated program.

The youth problem facing the county is one that demands the attention of the thinking people. With the help of the National Youth Supervisor located in the County, it is hoped some satisfactory solution will be reached. A club meeting in each community will be given to this study again this year under the direction of the local chairman.

Much time and thought has been given to the making of this program. It is to be hoped that it will meet the interest and support of the county people.