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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT  
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK  
PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

1948

(Mrs. ) Eva C. Rorer

Home Demonstration Agent

December 1, 1947 - October 31, 1948

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III. Scope of Work:

A. Home Demonstration Clubs

Number 16 Membership 364

Other women reached by Home Demonstration club members 220

B. 4-H Clubs

Number 21 Membership 454

C. Number reached through other groups by agent 172

D. Number families reached through neighborhood and community leaders 200

E. Other methods used to reach families, radio, publicity, office calls, fair and home visits 4500

F. Estimate total families reached 5000

Number farm families in county 692

#### IV. ADULT WORK

##### A. Home Demonstration Club Program

##### 1. Project Work

##### a. How Program Was Determined

To make new plans it is always necessary that we evaluate what has gone before, see what is needed to be done and then find a means of accomplishing the goals.

On April 13th a preplanning meeting was held. Those present at this meeting were the county home demonstration committee, the agent and Miss Lucy Blake, district agent at large. A check was made on the year's work as well as proposing adjustments for the rest of the year's work. Miss Blake lead us in a discussion of outlook for the coming year and gave suggestions for conducting planning meetings in the individual clubs.

At the May meetings of the Home Demonstration Clubs committees were appointed to study the needs of the communities. These committees reported at the June meetings and at the July meetings each club reported on the subjects that the club would request on the home demonstration calendar for the coming year.

On October 15th the planning meeting was held with seventeen women present. Those subjects which were most requested were slated for the next year's calendar.

##### b. Subject Matter Fields Requested

##### (1) Poultry

Maintaining home flocks and making them pay had been something of a problem, usually for the homemaker. There were a number of requests for poultry with the objective of making the farm flock pay.

##### (2) Clothing

How to be better groomed and acquire skill in tailoring was emphasized as well as the economic standpoint of making and renovating clothing in the home.

##### (3) Youth

Studies were made to determine one of those needs that was more or less intangible, that the women could work on that would do something which would be of lasting benefit to the county. Youth of the county was selected for this topic.

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(4) Housefurnishings

This was selected because the women wanted to make their homes as attractive as possible with what they had and a minimum amount of expenditure, and effort.

(5) Food and Nutrition

Always concerned with the family's welfare food preparation sometimes becomes a burden for the homemaker, especially in the summertime. This led them to emphasizing cool dishes for summer.

(6) Home Management

Learning to do the one hundred one things that are to be done in the home and on the farm and still have time for oneself seems to be a problem that many homemakers never solve. All the women were in favor of time management and learning more about business facts.

c. Project Development

1. Poultry

Poultry leaders were appointed in each of the home demonstration clubs and Mr. Harry L. Moore, poultry specialist from VPI held a leaders training meeting for them. The leaders and agent gave this information to the club members at the January meetings. One hundred thirty-six women attended were helped by this discussion which included selecting chicks and housing and feeding them through their productive years.

2. Clothing

a. Tailoring Finishes

The women were interested in giving the clothes they made at home that professional look and so they decided to devote two months, February and March, to those finishes which give that tailored look.

In February the women learned to make shoulder pads, the different types that are on the market, and to press. The importance of pressing was particularly stressed. Two hundred twenty-four women benefited from these demonstrations. Several of the clubs had an all-day meeting, combining the demonstrations, serving a "pot-luck" luncheon.

March was devoted to buttons, buttonholes and pockets. At these meetings the women practiced making the bound and worked buttonholes, and the different types of pockets.

b. Renovating Hats

Hats seem to be such an expensive item in a woman's clothing budget which never wear out, that renovating felt hats was chosen for the month of August.

Miss Iva Byrd Johnson, clothing specialist trained the leaders in May. The women were taught to clean their hats, make a block and restyle them in a becoming fashion, suited to the occasion and wardrobe of the individual. At the club meetings a part of the time was spent on analyzing facial proportions and how to emphasize good features and minimize less attractive ones.

The leaders took care of all except five of these club meetings.

3. Youth

April was devoted to youth, which was also the federation goal. A training meeting was held of the youth leaders on March 12th. This was somewhat late but bad weather had prevented its being earlier. Eighteen women attended this meeting and the county youth chairman. The April meetings consisted of various topics related to the subject. The plans and accomplishments will be discussed under federation goal.

4. Housefurnishings

a. Slip cover Clinic

There seems to always be interest in slip covers. A clinic was held at one of the churches. The women brought their furniture which included 1 divan, 1 wing chair and seven chairs. Miss Ruth Jamison directed the clinic assisted by the home agent. The owner and an assistant worked on each piece.

b. Arrangement of Furniture

Miss Ruth Jamison, Housefurnishings specialist trained the leaders for this meeting. It was held at the home of Mrs. Arthur Conner, a new member of the Oak Grove home demonstration club. Twenty-five women from twelve of the clubs attended this meeting. These women took the information back to their clubs, and two hundred two women benefited by it.

c. Chair Seating

Stretching the household dollar was the object in selecting this topic. Many of the women had chairs that were not in use. The agent trained the women for this job. Forty-two have been done and still others are in the process. Now that the women know the procedure they can do their own and teach the neighbors.

## 5. Food and Nutrition

### a. Refrigerator Desserts

Many of the women had gotten refrigerators and wanted to get the maximum use from them. They selected June as the month for refrigerator desserts because they know nothing pleases the hard working men-folks like a good dessert at the end of a wholesome meal. These desserts could be prepared ahead and help prevent that last minute rush. The food specialist sent material to the agent who held the leaders training meeting in May. The agent was out of the county and the leaders took care of eight or one half of the demonstrations. A total of two hundred fifteen attended these meetings, and enjoyed the desserts. After a sample, many asked questions with a renewed interest.

### b. Salads

In any foods demonstration the nutrition side should always be emphasized and certainly salads give a grand opportunity for this. Salads were chosen for the July demonstrations. The training meeting for this was held on the same day as for the previous demonstration.

There is a salad to meet almost every demand and so basic salads with variations were stressed. The techniques of mixing, preparing ingredients for the salad and setting up for appetizing appeal were demonstrated and stressed as well as the nutrition side. All members enjoyed tasting. One hundred thirty-five received help from this demonstration.

### c. Producing Food for Health

With the food prices still high (or higher) the women felt a need for continuing their efforts in providing as much food as possible for their families. Each club appointed a garden leader who reported and gave current suggestions at each club meeting.

## 5. Home Management

### a. Insurance

Often times farm families have bought insurance from a high pressured salesman without knowing whether that was the type they should have, or really what it would do for them in time of need. An attempt was made to give the women some basic facts that would help them in selecting a policy that would fit their needs. The little booklet "Farm Women Asked Us," a publication of the Woman's Division of the Institute of Life Insurance proved to be a great help in explaining the women's questions. Miss Helen Alverson, home management specialist trained the women for this demonstration, and they took care of all the demonstrations which came in the month of October.

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b. Time Schedules

A time and work plan is necessary in every home, says Miss Helen Alverson, Home Management specialist. Many homemakers still do not ask themselves "What are the essential jobs to be done today, and who should do them?"

November was chosen for time schedules to help the women get off to a good start in the new club year. Miss Alverson trained the leaders in July and they are taking care of all of the November meetings in the absence of the agent. They learned the steps in making a workable plan to fit the needs of the family. They were also told the most important method of controlling time and energy was a fair division of labor among family members. Each woman was given suggestions for improving her working conditions, and then suggestions for speeding up her jobs. She was asked to try these out and present all of this along with her own new schedule to her club.

2. Federation Goal

Youth was chosen as the new federation goal for 1948, at the program planning meeting; as the women felt there was a real need for this and that they could cooperate with the other agencies in really making worthwhile accomplishments.

Each home demonstration club appointed a youth leader and Mrs. F. A. Farmer of the Keeling club was made county youth chairman. A meeting was called of all of these leaders and definite goals set up for the year.

These goals were:

1. Organize child study group
2. Make a survey of the age groups in each club area.
3. Have at least one social for the young people.
4. Develop leadership
5. Have community singing
6. Sponsor 4-H clubs and Girl Scouts

The clubs made an excellent beginning in meeting these goals and have voted to carry youth again for the following year. Some of the outstanding accomplishments were:

1. An outside guest speaker on Child Behavior, group discussions of good books on the subject.
2. All clubs had one social and in one it proved so successful that it was made a monthly affair. They have really developed leadership among the young people as well as in themselves.
3. The clubs cooperated with the churches in promoting vacation Bible Schools and regular choir practices.
4. Two clubs sponsored Girl Scouts and eight of the 4-H

clubs have leaders that are home demonstration members.

### 3. County-Wide Activities

#### a. Board of Supervisors Luncheon

A luncheon was given for the old and new Board of Supervisors on Monday January 5th, in the county Home Demonstration kitchen. The whole menu was planned by a committee and then each club furnished a portion of the lunch. At this time the county H. D. committee chairman gave a report on the Home Demonstration work of the past year and the home agent reported on the A-M club activities. This has proved to be a good means of keeping the supervisors acquainted with the activities of the clubs.

#### b. Cancer Drive

The home demonstration clubs were asked to assist with the cancer drive. They contributed \$60.15, which was a sizable amount considering the drives that had gone before.

#### c. National H. D. Week

National Home Demonstration week was observed by two radio broadcasts, by the home agent and five H. D. members, news articles in the newspapers in the county and by observing open house in the clubs during the month of May.

Ten of the county women attended the District Home Demonstration Federation meeting which was held in Blackstone at the Memorial Center on May 4th of H. D. Week.

#### d. School Lunch Program

Where it was advisable the clubs have done what they could to contribute to the school lunch program. One club contributed \$50.00 to help pay for new equipment. Others helped with canning food for them and another worked on the project until their school has one for the first time this year.

#### e. Housing Tour

A housing tour was conducted on July 7th of several new and remodeled homes of members in the county. Nearly all the clubs were represented by the fifty people who attended. The homes were selected with a specific purpose in mind, one because of its model kitchen, others for the good planning of the whole house, and an old home that had been remodeled for convenience and beauty.

The tour was concluded with a picnic at our Pittsylvania Nayside Park.

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f. Institute of Rural Affairs

The county chairman federation goal chairman, a member and the agent attended the state federation of Home Demonstration clubs and Institute of Rural Affairs held at Blacksburg in July.

g. Community House

The Mt. Cross Home Demonstration club is raising funds for their community house. They had an exhibit at the Berville Fair for which they got \$25.00 served the Lions club a banquet and to date have raised approximately \$2000.00.

h. Landscape Work

Mrs. Mary McBryde, Landscape Specialist from WPI assisted 27 families with their landscape problems, and assisted four families with landscape plans for their entire lawn. These projects are to be carried on as result demonstrations.

4. Leadership ●

There are 48 officers in the Home Demonstration clubs in the county, 16 federation goal chairman, 112 subject matter leaders and 16 devotional leaders.

Mrs. W. E. Lewis has served in various capacities from the time the Mount Cross club was organized. She has been a whole hearted supporter of anything that was for the good of the community and her club. At present she is chairman of the county Home Demonstration Committee and was reelected for the following year. She served as secretary of the district federation for the past two years and was president of her club for four years. She has helped it to grow to the point that it is almost too large to meet in the homes. She has developed a way of working with people that they can accept responsibility and perform their duties in an exceptional manner.

At the October county committee meeting the presidents were given training in the performance of their duties, and urged to check with the other officers to see that they understood their duties.

Leaders training meetings were held, one for poultry, two for home management, one for housefurnishings, and one for clothing by the specialists. The agent held the other meetings ● to train the leaders for clothing and foods.

One of the goals for the clubs was to have leaders give five demonstrations during the year for their club. Several clubs did this and others did not reach the goal. A total of 64 were given, making an average of four. Approximately 360 days were devoted to club work by officers and leaders during the year.

Mrs. P. A. Farmer was chosen as federation goal chairman which is youth. She has put a great deal of time and effort into her job as in all other club activities. (She helped her club grow under her leadership as president and served as vice-president of the county federation for two years.) She has a genuine interest in young people and their activities. She has vision and has a way of helping other people visualize her dreams. With the foundation laid the agent feels that the county will do a great deal to help the slogan in their efforts, "A Nation depends on its youth."

Each club had a devotional leader, who gave inspiring programs following the creed at each meeting. Even though the program was short, it set the members in the right frame of mind for work.

## B. Other Means of Reaching People

### 1. Board of Agriculture

The County Board of Agriculture was organized at the beginning of the war to carry throughout the county necessary programs for the war effort. It has functioned in connection with the Professional Worker's Council.

The county is divided into 14 communities and each community and each community into small neighborhoods. Each community has a man chairman and a woman co-chairman, and each neighborhood a man and woman leader.

An all-day meeting was held on January 16th in the county court house. This was called to help the farm people in setting up good workable plans to help them take care of the 25% cut in the tobacco crop. Present at the meeting were representatives of all the agricultural professional workers in the county in addition to the Board of Agriculture. The specialists attending the meeting were E. L. Bussel Extension Sociologist, and W. B. Sore in charge of Older Youth Work. Committees were appointed to work on different phases of the project. Reports were made by the committees and adopted by the group. Mr. R. B. Michael, editor of agricultural publications prepared these reports for publication. The local banks paid for printing 10,000 copies which were distributed to the people in the county.

Work with the County Board of Agriculture has been left to the Extension personnel, however through them we can determine a good many of the needs and get assistance in meeting them. More development in the strength of the organization is needed.

### 2. County Newspapers

There are two county newspapers; one with over 3000 subscribers. Both papers have been most cooperative with the home agent in publishing news articles of outstanding events and gave publicity to both Home Demonstration and 4-H club work.

### 3. Radio

There are two radio stations in Danville that are quite cooperative, however, there is not a regularly scheduled program. Six radio talks were broadcast and the farmcaster has been most cooperative in making announcements and giving timely information over the air.

### 4. Fair

It seems that just about everyone goes to the Danville Fair. Two counties participated in the home demonstration exhibits. This county showed different phases of their program in their three booths. The Mt. Cross Club - arrangement of furniture; which included slipcovers, oil lamps converted to electric, etc., first prize. The Glenwood Club, the work of the homemaker, third prize, and "Out of the Bag" second prize by the Keeling club. This exhibit included the many, many uses that can be made of the cotton bag.

### 5. Work With Youth

#### A. 4-H Clubs

##### 1. Organization

a. The county Council is composed of all the officers of each of the twenty-one clubs in the county. The council meets to plan the year's activities and how to accomplish them.

The Council met on January 31st and even though the weather was very unfavorable, there were forty-two present. The group elected new officers for the coming year; set up its goals and made plans for carrying them out. The goals were 80% completion of projects and to improve home grounds and along the highways of club members. All the projects are not in but 132 of the members did make improvements.

b. The Unity 4-H Club was organized in an elementary school. Mrs. Aggie G. Blair, who was principal of the school, also served as club leader. The meetings were conducted by the club officers. The secretary always had detailed minutes, which youngsters sometimes fail to do.

One of the outstanding features of each monthly meeting was the program. This was always timely or seasonal, and showed that such time and effort had been spent on it.

The girls in this club selected housekeeping for their project. There were 16 girls in the club and all of them completed their project.

These girls did the following work on their projects:

cared for their rooms	42 months
mended linens for	6 months
cleaned lamps for	16 months
cared for garbage for	6 months
set the table for	32 months
washed dishes for	28 months
brought fuel for	22 months
made 3 tool boxes, 20 sets of table mats, rearranged	

13 rooms for easier care; resoled 2 pieces of furniture,  
2 curtains, 5 pictures, and made 24 shoe and laundry bags.

As a community project the club has planned to do some work on their school grounds such as getting grass started and setting out dogwoods this fall.

Three of the members attended the A-H camp at Holiday Lake.

## 2. Project Work

### a. How Program was Determined

The agent checked on the past progress and discussed project selection with the leaders. She studied the '48 projects to see what would be available, and suggested to one that she felt would appeal to the club members in the different age groups. In most instances they accepted the leader and agent's suggestions.

### b. Project Developments

#### (1). Bread

One club chose bread making as their project - this was a small club and could be managed. Demonstrations were given on the equipment needed and its use; measuring, and making biscuits. The following meeting the girls brought samples which were judged and a record kept of the score. The next demonstration was on corn breads, and the last was muffins; and their variations. Each time the girls brought samples of their bread to be judged. This was a junior club, the oldest members being in the sixth grade. There were ten of the girls and they made:

Biscuit	a total of 283 times
Corn bread	a total of 29 times
Muffins and other	45 times

#### (2) Canning

Canning was carried by ten girls as a special summer project. Many of the girls have to spend much of their time in the summer months in the tobacco field so only a few take summer projects. These girls can a total of 1912 quarts. This was not carried by any special club, but by the ten selected girls.

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(3) Clothing

Ten girls took care of clothing for their summer project. These girls darned, patched, dry cleaned their garments, washed sweaters and pressed their garments. They provided a shoe bag or rack for taking care of their shoes and stored their winter clothing.

(4) Garden

Pittsylvania took advantage of the Sears Garden project. Ten girls enrolled in this project. L. L. Reamer, garden specialist scored the gardens in June and again in September. Each girl canned from her project and made an exhibit at the Sears store in Danville of 5 cans of five different vegetables. Prizes totaling \$66.50 were awarded to the girls in the county, for their gardens and canning exhibit.

(5) Home Ground Beautification

This was a new project offered to the girls for the first time this year. They started it in the spring and carried it into fall. One hundred and thirty-two girls selected this project. This project helped the girls to see work on the laws that was needed, to plan walkways, keep grass cut and learn to care for the plants and shrubs. The agent stressed the use of native shrubs in their lawns.

3. Other Activities

4-8 Achievement Day was held October 30th with 135 members present. The program began by the singing of club songs under the direction of Faye Sours and Nancy Giles, county council song leaders. The invocation was given by Rev. W. R. Smith, Jr. and followed by the club pledge. Helen Sours, secretary, read minutes of last year's program and called the club roll. The members from each club stood as the roll was called.

Anne Reynolds who was the '48 girl 4-8 All-Star, made a talk on becoming an All-Star. She told of her work and the thrill she had experienced in seeing her 4-8 club projects develop.

The home agent gave a report on the girls' 4-8 club work. She told of the progress that had been made in the work and outstanding activities of clubs and individuals.

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Frank Fuller, Jr. gave a talk on "A Week at the State Short Course." The boys club agent spoke on the outstanding work that had been done by the boys.

The guest speaker was Earl J. Skillet, Assoc. Extension Sociologist of V. P. I. He made an inspiring talk on broadening one's horizons, or outlook.

Awards were made to the county winners in each contest.

The program adjourned with the singing of A-M Trail.

The Home Fair is a big event for the A-M club members. This was the first year that all the clubs had had an opportunity to participate in the exhibits. Previously they had drawn for an opportunity to exhibit. This year all exhibits were placed in one long booth. The individuals who made the best showing won prize money and those exhibits stacked up points for the club making it possible for the club to also win prize money. The clubs won a total of \$245 and the individuals, a total of \$155.

The club members take much interest in making the exhibits and the fair does a great deal to promote better A-M work.

A-M club members from three counties attended camp at Holiday Lake. Pittsylvania county had 46 members and three leaders to attend for the week of June 14 - 19. The plans for the week aimed at the healthful, social and development of new skills and habits in the members.

Five girls from the county attended the A-M State Short Course at V. P. I.

The Home A-M club made a tour of some of the places of interest in Danville on Thursday April 29th under the supervision of Mrs. C. E. Hubbard, local leader and the agents.

They stopped at the bakery where they saw bread mixed and made by large machinery. The prison farm was of interest to both boys and girls. They saw the laundry, rock quarry and one of the finest quarry hills in this section. Many of the children saw a large airplane for the first time at the municipal airport. The trip to the radio station W D V A was the climax of the tour. There they not only saw a broadcast but got recognition and sang the A-M Trail over the air.

4-H club work was observed by two radio broadcasts, one by the agents and Miss Mary Noortman, home demonstration agent at large, and one by ten club members.

A. Leadership

There were twenty-one 4-H clubs in the county. Six of these were senior clubs and the rest were junior people. Each of these clubs had five officers, making a total of 105. These boys and girls were trained to carry out their duties in an efficient manner. Some have been quite outstanding.

There are fourteen adult leaders. These leaders have proved a valuable asset to the clubs. The quality of work reflected shows how much better the work is in the clubs which have had adult leaders over a period of years.

Mrs. E. C. Calvert is a typical example of a good 4-H club leader. She is a mother of two 4-H club girls and of course is interested from that standpoint; but she is also interested in the clubs and community. She acted as leader of the two Brookville 4-H clubs. She held meetings at her home, went to the schools to carry additional information to the members, that the agent did not have the time to provide and helped the club win first prize for the best exhibits at the Spville Fair.

Bela Bennett was one of our outstanding leaders. She was president of her local club, San River Senior and vice-president of the county council. She was always present for the meetings and presided in an efficient manner. She assisted her fellow members with records, announced meetings and did many things to help make club work a success.

B. Older Youth

A strong attempt was made to organize and work with the Older Youth in the county. The first meeting was held on January 20th in the Chatham Trial Justice Court Room at 7:30 P.M. After considerable discussion, a motion was made to organize and elect officers for a temporary period of three months. The motion was carried.

The next meeting was set for February 26th at the same place. The topic for the meeting chosen was "The Privileges of Young Citizens in this County." Carrington Thompson, our Commonwealth Attorney led an excellent discussion on the topic.

Other themes used were "Politics and You," and the making of records and transcriptions. At the end of four meetings the group decided to postpone the meetings through the busy summer season. The home agent has resigned upon the advice of her physician and it does not seem that it will be reorganized at the present time due to many conflicting conditions.

#### VI. Work With Other Agencies

##### 1. Public Health

The home agent cooperated as far as possible with the activities of the health department in announcing clinics to the clubs, attending some of the planning meetings, etc. She also helped the T. B. association and Cancer Foundations by helping to obtain volunteers to assist with giving information and drives.

##### 2. U. S. D. A. Council

The USDA Council meets once each month. The council is made up of representatives from various agricultural agencies. Current topics are taken up and county wide programs are promoted. The home agent met with the group whenever possible and assisted in promoting programs of interest to the women of the county.

##### 3. Home Economics Teachers

The home agent is interested in promoting good relationships with the home economics teachers in the county. They were invited to the leaders training meetings and several of them did attend. The agent was called on for information which she provided whenever possible.

#### VII. Evaluation of the 1948 Program

Dollars and cents cannot value the total worth of the home demonstration and 4-H club work in Pittsylvania County. In the discussion of project work the agent tried to tell of some of the tangible accomplishments of the program. The women learned to save money by making the slip covers, making their own chairs, preparing better meals, making their own suits, redecoration of their year before hats. It is hard to estimate the immediate value of such training and then their in the potential ability which doubtlessly will be drawn upon many times.

The girls in 4-H club work have seen that they could save by using food bags to make almost accessories and have also developed skill in their many activities.

It would seem that five thousand dollars is a conservative estimate, on the amount saved by the program.

Now for some of the things they have money value cannot be placed upon. Many families have learned to work as a unit through the program. They have learned the scientific way of doing things and realize the value of seeking knowledge. Many people have realized the joy that comes with a job well done.

There is another side to this picture. There are people who are poorly housed, undernourished and who do not buy wisely. Prices are high and there's plenty work yet to be done. Just as a healthy mind and body go, together so do necessities of life and happiness. In view of this fact the home demonstration clubs set up the following for the '49 program:

Yeast Breads, the preparation of Frozen Foods, Rug Making, Remodeling clothing, Darning, Mending, Patching and care of clothes, Refinishing Furniture, Landscaping and Breakfasts; with youth as their federation goal.

The women plan to carry on this program with training from specialists until a home agent is available.