

ANNUAL REPORT

County Extension Work

1953



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Agent

ALLEGHENY
COUNTY

Asst. Agent

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III. COUNTY SITUATION

Allegheny County is an industrial County. Many of her people live in rural areas on farms, but very few gain their living from the farm. A three-month long strike at one of the leading industries crippled the ability of many of the people to do the things they had planned for this year.

There have been many people "laid-off" their jobs - and some have moved or are working away from home.

This County has been hit by a drought which will, no doubt, affect the people and the Extension program for some time to come.

There has appeared to be a steady increase in interest in the Home Demonstration Club program, which has helped make a better program this year.

IV. CONTRIBUTIONS OF 1953 PROGRAM TO BETTER FAMILY LIVING

Leaders have done good jobs in Home Demonstration Clubs this year. Project leaders have given 94 demonstrations, which is about the same number given last year. These demonstrations have been very well given. The Club officers, with a few exceptions, have carried out their duties much better than in former years.

The Foods demonstrations made the greatest contributions in interest and usefulness according to Club members' reports. Eighty-five percent of Club member reports show the use of recipes and ideas given in Foods demonstrations.

Very close behind the interest in Foods was interest in the House Furnishings and Home Management parts of the program. Clothing was also mentioned as contributing much.

Sixty-six new members have been added to Home Demonstration Club rolls this year, and three new Clubs have been organized. A fourth Club is being organized this month, which will add approximately twenty more members.

V. ADULT WORK

A. Project Work

1. Foods and Nutrition

The objective of Meat Substitutes and Pies and Pie Mixes was to give variety to meals at a low cost. Leaders were trained by the Foods and Nutrition Specialists at an all-day meeting. Each Club leader was responsible for the demonstration for her Club. The food prepared was served for lunch or for refreshments at Club meetings.

Approximately 285 Club women use recipes and information received at Foods demonstrations.

2. Clothing

The Clothing demonstrations were planned to help women learn to make safe, convenient, easily cared for work aprons and belts, buttons, and buckles which help make home-made garments look more professional without costing much money.

Leaders were trained by the sewing instructor of a local sewing machine company to make belts, buttons, and buckles. Printed material and apron patterns were given to leaders by the Agent to prepare them for the demonstration on the work apron. Each leader made an apron, and asked other Club members to bring work aprons for display. One Club had an apron fashion show, another had an apron sale.

Over 600 aprons have been made this year and over 800 belts, buttons, and buckles have been made as a result of the Clothing demonstrations.

3. House Furnishings

The House Furnishings program was planned to give help in buying to get good quality and, thus, save money. Another objective was to bring more beauty into the homes through color and through the use of pictures.

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Leaders were trained in Buying Bedding and Color Schemes for the Bedroom by the House Furnishings Specialist. Four demonstration kits on color schemes with fabric swatches, wall colors, and rug samples were made up by the Home Agent for the use of the leaders. These kits were passed from one leader to another. Slides from the State Office were also used by some Clubs.

Leaders were given training in Framing, Arranging, and Hanging Pictures by the Home Agent.

About 225 women reported receiving helpful information on Bedding. About 210 articles of bedding were made this year by members.

Approximately 210 women received help in planning color schemes. About 670 pictures have been improved as a result of these demonstrations.

4. Home Management

The main objectives of the Home Management programs were to save time and energy for the homemaker.

The Home Agent trained the leaders for the demonstration on Floor Finishes for Easy Care in a leader-training meeting. The Home Management Specialist trained leaders in Saving Time and Energy in the Family Wash and Ironing.

An exhibit of floor finishing materials was borrowed from a local hardware store for the leader-training meeting by the Home Agent. Leaders then borrowed from their choice of hardware stores for their own Club meetings.

An exhibit of washing materials available was used in this meeting plus demonstration of some techniques.

Leaders demonstrated how to sprinkle, and how to iron a man's shirt, using an adjustable ironing board and sitting to iron. How to fold the shirt was also demonstrated.

Approximately 265 women reported receiving help from the laundry demonstration. The Agent arranged with a local store to order adjustable ironing board for Club members at wholesale price. Thirteen women ordered ironing boards.

A full report is not available on floor finishes, since many Clubs have not received this demonstration at this report. To date over 200 floors have been refinished.

B. Other Activities

1. Outstanding Family

One of the outstanding families that might be written into this report is the Robert M. Loving, Jr., family. Mr. Loving is principal of Falling Spring School. He and Mrs. Loving bought an old farm with an equally old house in the Natural Well community. Pete and Betty were both reared in the town of Covington. They have one child about three years old. They completely remodeled the old house inside into a very attractive home. They took out partitions, refinished floors and built in some partitions to make two bedrooms, living-dining room, kitchen, bathroom, and screened in back porch. They plan to re-model the upstairs soon into two rooms which they can use for guests. Their prize piece of furniture is an antique walnut chest of drawers which they refinished themselves. Betty put it in front of the front door so, she says, it will make a good impression.

Betty Loving is good in her roll of home-maker. She enjoys living in the country, loves her home and helps look after their chickens and other animals. She is president of the new Falling Spring Home Demonstration Club, which she and several other women helped organize this year. Under the leadership of Betty, this Club promises to be one of the outstanding Clubs in the County next year.

Pete Loving is trying to build up the land on his farm. He is participating in the Soil Conservation program and asks advice of the Extension Service. People in Natural Well and Falling Spring consider the young Lovings quite an asset to their community. They are active in the Natural Well Church, which added Sunday School rooms last year.

2. Community Project of the South Covington Club

The South Covington Home Demonstration Club has been struggling for a year or more. They were having trouble keeping good attendance and getting active project leaders and officers. This Club undertook to purchase for the church a Worship Center costing \$135.00. They held a ham dinner in the church basement, a bake sale at the store, and sold dish cloths all during the year. Several of the members and others in the community donated money for the Worship Center and the debt has now been paid in full. The Club is ready to start a new year with a new slate of willing officers and leaders and several new members and several old members back on roll. The Club and the church are proud of the new Worship Center.

3. Community Improvement Work

Community Improvement work in Alleghany County is difficult because of the limited amount of farming done. Much of the interest is in town where the people work. However, three communities have had a successful year. Improvements in the homes have been noteworthy - many bathrooms installed, kitchens remodeled with running water and electrical appliances. There has been a good bit of remodeling and refinishing done, too.

4. Federation Goal

Home and Community Beautification has been the Federation Goal this year. It was decided that the main emphasis would be placed on flowers and shrubs in and around the home. A leaders' training meeting was held at the beginning of the year. Mrs. J. E. Steely, local garden club judge and authority on flower arrangements, gave half a day on simple flower arrangements, how to condition flowers, containers, etc. Mr. Ray Webber, local florist, gave half a day on potted plants, soil mixtures, care, etc. He also taught leaders how to make corsages. Fifteen corsages were made from orchids, grown by Mr. Webber, and garden flowers which women did not have to buy. These corsages were drawn by those present and, of course, the lucky ones were delighted.

In addition to the leaders' training meeting, the Agent ordered "The Flower Lover's Guidebook" for the use of leaders. Five or ten minutes were set aside at the beginning of each Club meeting for the Federation Goal Chairman. The topics for each meeting were planned at the planning meeting and were in the Year Book. All women seemed to enjoy the Federation Goal this year.

Approximately 140 reported planning flower borders, 140 made forced flower arrangements, 210 made corsages, 215 pruned shrubs, 95 made church arrangements, 185 improved their outdoor living areas, 105 improved their rural mailbox, 100 made winter bouquets, and 90 made fruit and vegetable arrangements as a result of the Federation Goal programs at Club meetings.

5. County Objectives

One objective this year was to conduct special interest groups in crafts. This was done with aluminum trays, stenciling cloth hooked rugs, etc. The women liked this procedure for crafts.

Another objective was to hold officers' training school. Officers who attended the County Planning Meeting received training and each Club at the beginning of the Club year held a short training program for the officers. This has helped new Clubs especially.

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Each Club was asked to have one recreational meeting. This objective was carried out in all Clubs, in fact most Clubs had two or more recreational meetings during the year.

The final objective was to support 4-H Club work. The County Home Demonstration Committee gave a scholarship to State Short Course. The Indian Draft Home Demonstration Club organized and furnished leaders for a community 4-H Club in their community.

6. Result Demonstrations

No new result demonstrations were started this year. However, the two existing House Furnishings result demonstrations are being continued and used.

VI. 4-H CLUB WORK

A. Project Work

1. Clothing

Looking Your Best was chosen by school clubs because of the limited time, space, and facilities. Also, because of the girls' interest in Good Grooming.

Demonstrations were given at club meetings by the Agent and by the junior leaders.

Of the 220 enrolled, 214 completed this project. There were 1,178 improvements made and 3,056 articles made or jobs done in the project.

The Make or Remake Clothing Project was carried by 5 girls in a community club.

They were aided by the Agent and their two club adult leaders. Each girl completed the project with a total of 15 garments made.

The Learn to Sew Project was carried by 100 young girls in school clubs. There were 77 completions with 301 articles being made and 42 garments.

2. Foods

Food for Pep was chosen by girls in school clubs who wanted something in Foods.

Demonstrations were given by the Agent and by junior leaders. The junior leaders were responsible for having materials ready for demonstration.

Of the 141 girls enrolled, 116 completed the project. They served 22,117 dishes and lunches.

Meal Preparation was carried by 3 club members in a community club. These girls wanted to learn to cook well. They all completed the project.

Each girl assumed part responsibility for cooking duties at home. They prepared 3,310 dishes and prepared and served 245 meals.

B. Other Activities

1. 4-H Club Camp

Twenty-nine girls attended 4-H Club Camp this year. There were also two women leaders and the nurse from Alleghany County. Club members participated very well in all camp activities.

2. Achievement Day

Alleghany County Club members exhibited their achievements at the Alleghany County Fair and received free tickets. The exhibits were more numerous than for the past several years.

3. 4-H Club Radio Broadcast - "4-H'ers On The Air"

This has been the third year for the half-hour Saturday radio broadcast. With only a very few exceptions, each club and its leaders, sponsors or parents have arranged transportation, arranged special music, etc., without any special effort on the part of the Extension Agents.

The Agents use this broadcast to accomplish a variety of things. The leaders are recognized for good work done. Outstanding boys and girls and individual clubs are recognized for work done. The program helps familiarize many parents with the work their children do in 4-H. The Quiz part of the program helps school students learn. The special music part of the

program helps youngsters have a chance to perform and to lose much of the shyness and fright many have. There is a genuine interest in the 4-H Radio Programs on the part of club members, parents, schools, and citizens of the County.

VII. YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN'S WORK

The Home Agent has appeared on the program of the Covington Jr. Woman's Club and the Clifton Forge Jr. Woman's Club, also the Young Women's Circle of the Clifton Forge Christian Church. These organizations wanted some phase of homemaking demonstrated at their meetings.

VIII. SCOPE OF WORK

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
No. H. D. Clubs or Groups	13	13	15	18	19
Membership	190	236	280	350	398
No. 4-H Clubs	16	22	23	22	22
Membership	320	350	397	410	469
No. YMW Groups	-	1	1	1	1
Membership	-	21	22	23	25
No. other families reached	500	964	980	550	675
No. of different families reached	900	1,571	1,657	900	1,300
No. Community Clubs	-	-	-	3	3
Membership	-	-	-	66	220

IX. STATEMENT OF FUNCTION OF ORGANIZATIONS IN 1953 PROGRAM

A. County Home Demonstration Committee

This Committee, composed of the President and Program Development Chairman from each of the 19 Clubs, planned the year's program for Home Demonstration Clubs. They arranged for the printing of Year Books for the Club members. They also arranged for and helped carry out the Annual Achievement Day Program. This Program consisted of a one-act play, "Among Us Girls," a devotional program, a poem written and read by a Home Demonstration Club member about being a H. D. Club member. Also, a square dance figure by 5 members of the Low Moor Club. The flower arrangements, refreshments, programs, etc., were taken care of by committees from various Clubs. The Achievement Day Program was said by several Club members to be the thing they enjoyed most about the Home Demonstration Program this year.

The Home Demonstration Committee paid for demonstration materials used in County leader-training meetings.

B. County Chapter of All-Stars

The County All-Star Chapter has the aim of supporting 4-H Club work in the County. They carry on the Margaret King Memorial Fund and give the interest from this Fund as scholarships to State 4-H Short Course. They hold bi-monthly meetings. Willie Francis attended the All-Star Conference and State Short Course. Vivian Stull McGuire attended 4-H Club Camp as camp nurse. The All-Stars paid one scholarship to Short Course and a leader for 4-H Club Camp.

X. LEADERSHIP

A. Volunteer Leaders

1. Organizational

Organizational leaders this year have done a very good job of conducting club meetings, club business, and seeing that club members assumed their responsibilities. Attendance at County-wide meetings has improved. Club officers, in most cases, have assumed the responsibility for seeing that their Clubs are successful. In the past, these officers have not done this.

2. Program Development

These leaders have been very successful in gathering information from club members to help improve the County Program. Most members seem to be well pleased with the program planned. This is the third year this County has used Program Development Chairmen and they have improved steadily.

3. Subject Matter

Subject matter leaders, with the exception of three clubs, have attended leader-training meetings and have given all demonstrations they have been asked to give. In case a leader misses a demonstration or cannot fulfill her obligation, the club invites a leader from another club to substitute for her.

Most leaders enjoy their jobs, they love to go to leader-training meetings. Most club members have learned to appreciate the leaders more than they once did, and have accepted the fact that it is the leaders' job, rather than the Agent's, to give demonstrations at the club meetings.

The Agent needs to work harder to bring the three clubs who do not have strong leadership up to the standards of the rest of the clubs in the County.

The Agent tries to start all new clubs out understanding their responsibilities.

4-H Club leadership has not improved greatly, it has not become worse. There is still much room for improvement.

E. Growth of Leadership

<u>H. D. Club Project Leadership</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
No. project leaders (subject matter)	26	25	34	66	144
No. goal chairmen	13	13	15	18	19
No. training meetings held by Specialist by Agent	2 -	8 3	4 5	5 8	5 2
Attendance at all training meetings	28	80	83	222	177
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present	47	61	33	96	94
No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	18	26	34	123	154
 <u>4-H Club Project Leadership</u>					
No. adult project leaders	11	11	9	18	18
No. junior project leaders	33	45	52	48	48
No. training meetings held by Specialist by Agent	- 1	1 3	1 -	- 1	- -
Attendance at leader training meeting	3	8	8	8	-
No. 4-H leaders trained individually	11	22	27	84	92
No. club meetings held by leader without agent present	26	33	25	43	17
No. of additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	75	100	180	104	177
No. demonstrations given by leaders by adults	101 35	126 36	330 150	379 79	549 194
by juniors	66	90	180	300	355

C. Outstanding Leader

Mrs. Lewis Burchette, All-Star and member of the Morris Hill Home Demonstration Club, has been project leader for the Clothing, House Furnishings, Home Management, and Foods programs for her Club this year. She has attended all leader-training meetings held, given or helped with all demonstrations for her Club and has given demonstrations for Gilmer, Mallow, Hematite, Falling Spring, Natural Well, Valley, and maybe other Clubs. She gives excellent demonstrations. In addition to her Home Demonstration Club leadership, she teaches the Beginners' Sunday School Class at her church, had charge of check sheets and conducted the judges' tour in the Community Improvement Club, is active in the County All-Star Chapter, and takes part in other activities in her community. Mr. and Mrs. Burchette remodeled the downstairs of their home themselves. They built a bathroom, refinished floors, built kitchen cabinets, painted and made new curtains, and laid linoleum.

The Agent has only to call her a few hours ahead in an emergency, and Mrs. Burchette will go to a 4-H or Home Demonstration Club meeting and put on a demonstration. She is a wonderful person and leader to have in any County.

XI. WORK IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

A. Red Cross

Home Demonstration Clubs have assisted the Red Cross by filling Christmas stockings for the Veterans' Hospital in Roanoke, serving dinners for the staff for the Bloodmobile visits, and many individuals have made articles and rolled bandages, etc. Various Home Demonstration members have assisted in getting Home Nursing Classes started and organized in communities.

B. County Fair Association

The Agent helped organize and arrange exhibits at the County Fair. Ten Home Demonstration Clubs put up educational booths, which added much to the attractiveness and educational value of the exhibit tents.

C. Humpback Bridge Restoration

Home Demonstration Clubs made money donations to the Fund to restore the Humpback Bridge. This bridge, built in 1834, is the only humpback bridge in the United States and one of two in the world. It is a historic landmark in the County. A roadside park is to be made there and the bridge is to be restored and made available to sight-seers and County people.

XII. APPRAISAL OF YEAR'S WORK

Alleghany County Home Demonstration work is growing. Its Club members are growing in leadership. There is plenty of room for growth still. However, the Agent feels that satisfactory progress has been made this year and that more progress will be made another year.

It is not felt that Alleghany County Home Demonstration and 4-H Clubs have done anything spectacular. The reason for this is that this was not their aim. It is felt that if the need arose, or a good reason came up, the Clubs would be in a position to do something spectacular.

The program this year contributed to better living and improved people because they enjoyed it, they used the information gained, and they got good results. Attendance at Club meetings and other Extension meetings this year increased 1,110 over last year.