

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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HOME DEMONSTRATION **Agent**

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1958

MECKLENBURG

County

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT
MECKLENBURG COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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Miss Daisy Howerton, Home Demonstration Agent

December 1, 1957 - November 30, 1958

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I Highlights of The 1958 Program.

Mecklenburg County's program of work for 1958, comprised of a variety of topics including foods, clothing, yard improvement, management, socials and picnics made an interesting year. In spite of the fact that the home agent was out of the county three months during the year, the enrollment of home demonstration and 4-H members remained approximately the same as the previous year.

Even though approximately half of the home demonstration membership are women who are employed outside of their homes and find it difficult to participate in all home demonstration activities, the agent feels that the program has rendered services to them. The subject matter fields mentioned above have aided in better home making and rural living. The 4-H Parade provided excellent opportunities for county people to know each other better and cooperate more closely which always improves people and provides better community life.

More 4-H Clubs met in the classrooms than had done so in the past years. This enabled the clubs to have less confusion in their meetings and provided opportunities for better instructions. The annual 4-H picnic held at Pine Lake at South Hill was an enjoyable occasion for all who attended, which was more than in past years. The afternoon was a perfect one for picnicking and swimming.

Participation in the County Fair was greater than in the past and the quality improved. The quality of baked foods was very good. In spite of the fact that the majority of clothing exhibits in the 4-H department were those of eleven and twelve year olds, the judges again stated that the quality of work in the 4-H department was superior to that in the Future Homemaker's Department.

II The County Situation at the Time the Program Was Planned.

Mecklenburg County has an area of 669 square miles which is divided into eight (8) magisterial districts, with a population of 33,497, of which 6,883 live in the towns and 26,614 in rural areas. The 3,783 farms in the county have a population of 20,810, while the non-farm population in rural areas numbers 5,804. Fifty-two (52) percent of the total population is non-white.

Mecklenburg County is situated in the bright tobacco belt, with tobacco being the chief source of farm income. Thus the economic and social life of the county centers largely around the growing, harvesting and selling of the tobacco crop. During the winter months the home demonstration members attend the home demonstration meetings and take an active part in their functioning. However during the late spring, summer and into autumn, the tobacco crops occupy the attention of the entire family.

For several years the Bug's Island Dam Project which is located in the county has provided a supplemental income to many families. This project has been completed and the income from it has ceased. During the summers of 1952, 1953 and 1954, the drought seriously affected the tobacco crops and thus the income of the county families. With slightly more rainfall in 1955 and 1956 the crops were better and the income somewhat increased. The more favorable weather conditions during this year have aided considerably in the increased production on the farms.

A new garment factory opened in Chase City and the increased number of employees in other factories in the county have supplemented the farm incomes in many rural homes.

With farm/families having an increase in income from both farm and industry, the total income has been considerably increased for many families. Indications are that many debts are being paid, and there is money for more necessities.

We do recognize, however, that in many instances the woman of the house is away from home during the day contributing her efforts to her family's income. Therefore, it is more important than ever that her work methods and equipment be improved, so that she can complete her house work in a much shorter time. Because more other people are also working in these mills help on the farm is more difficult to obtain.

Practically all families appear to be endeavoring to maintain a higher standard of living, thus they work harder and longer, which makes time saving methods more important than ever before for them.

With incomes increased somewhat, another factor of importance that was considered in working out the program of work was the need for improving home grounds. Therefore Home and Community Beautification was selected by the County Home Demonstration Committee as their program of work for 1958.

The long time goals set for Mecklenburg County included the following:

1. To make the county more attractive by improving home grounds, home entrances and public property.
2. To acquaint the majority of the homemakers in the county of the need to improve the families' diets and to have some improvements made in eating habits.
3. To provide assistance to homemakers in lower income brackets who are not being reached by the Extension program at present, as well as those families already being reached, with information on selection of fabrics, ready made garments and how to do some home sewing.

Immediate goals set for the county included the following:

1. To improve entrances to homes.
2. To have more bulbs planted for early spring blooming.
3. To identify farm homes located off the highway.
4. To have more planned flower borders.
5. To make screen plantings where needed.
6. To have more gardens grown in the county.
7. To have more food conserved for winter use.
8. To make homemakers more conscious of the importance of good eating habits for their families.
9. To have families improve their eating habits.
10. To teach women the importance of reading labels before purchasing clothing.
11. To give more homemakers in the county an opportunity to learn more about planning wisely the family's clothing needs - what to look for when purchasing ready-made clothing and fabrics by the yard.

III County Extension Program - Adult

A. Organization.

The County Agricultural Extension Service Board, which to this date has not met as an organized board will be composed of the Agricultural

and Home Economics Councils. The Home Economics Council is composed of a general interest committee on home grounds beautification and two home economics committees - Food and Clothing - and the County Home Demonstration Committee. The Agricultural committees will be discussed by the County Agent in his report.

1. General Interest Committee.

A. Home Grounds Beautification.

1. Goals set.

- (a) To improve entrances to homes.
- (b) To stress planting of bulbs for early spring blooming.
- (c) To identify farm homes located off the highway with names posted by the highway.
- (d) Plan flower borders.
- (e) Encourage screen plantings where needed.

2. Procedures followed in trying to meet these goals:

- (a) Two (2) news articles were printed in each of the three (3) county papers.
- (b) Radio programs were given over Crewe and South Hill radio stations.
- (c) The committee chairman sent monthly suggestions for work to be done to each home demonstration club.

3. Results Obtained.

- (a) Noticeable improvements have been made in yards including improved entrances, names on mail boxes, farm names, blooming flower borders and better lawns.

2. County Home Economics Committees.

The two (2) home economics committees in Mecklenburg County are Clothing and Foods with nine members on each who represent the various sections of the county, low, medium and high income levels, and where interests are varied.

1. The Clothing Committee.

A. Goals set to be met by 1960.

1. To try to give all homemakers in the county an opportunity to learn more about planning the family's clothing needs. What to look for when purchasing ready made clothing and fabrics by the yard.
2. To try to teach women to read labels before purchasing.

B. Methods Used.

1. Used news stories and radio programs to give information on clothing such as:
 - (a) What to look for when purchasing ready made clothing.
 - (b) What to look for when purchasing fabrics by the yard.
 - (c) Why it is important to read labels.
 - (d) Care required of various fabrics.
2. Furnished clothing suggestions and hints to home demonstration members.
3. Stressed to 4-H members taking clothing projects to plan their wardrobes, study fashions, read labels and to study care required of fabrics before making purchases.

C. Goals to be met during 1958.

1. To continue to try to make the entire county conscious of the need to plan their clothing more wisely, and to give all an opportunity to learn more about what to look for when making purchases.

D. Methods Used.

1. Published news articles in the county papers on what to look for when purchasing fabrics by the yard and ready mades, also why one should read labels.
2. Gave radio programs on clothing subjects of timely interest over WJWS, South Hill, and WEVS, Crewe.
3. Taught planning, selection and purchasing of clothing to 4-H'ers who took the 4-H clothing project, through discussions and demonstrations at regular 4-H project meetings.

E. Results Obtained.

1. Through direct contact two hundred and eight (208) families reported assistance with family clothing problems. It is believed that quite a number of others also received some assistance.

2. Food and Nutrition Committee.

A. Goals set to be reached by 1960.

1. To have more gardens grown in the county.
2. To have more food conserved at home for winter use.
3. To make homemakers more conscious of the importance of good eating habits for her family.
4. To have families improve their eating habits.

B. Methods Planned.

1. For nutrition committee members to talk to all elementary school principals and arrange to go into the schools and talk to the girls and boys in grades one through seven, explain the wheel of good health and the importance of good eating habits.
2. Show a movie on good nutrition to all boys and girls in the elementary schools.
3. Have spot announcements made over radio giving nutritional information.
4. Use news stories to get facts before people who read newspapers.
5. Teach some nutrition along with 4-H projects.
6. Get colorful seven basic food charts in the home of every boy and girl enrolled in the elementary schools in the county.
7. Furnish each child with a food chart and ask him or her to check it daily for at least six weeks.
8. Summarize information given on food charts checked by children and publish findings in county newspapers.

C. Goals set to be reached during 1958.

1. To have the majority of families throughout the county conscious of the need for improving their diets and to have more families begin making some improvements.

D. Methods Planned.

1. Show movie on good nutrition in elementary schools.
2. Put worthwhile nutrition facts before the people through the county newspapers.
3. Teach nutrition facts and the importance of good eating habits to 4-H Club members through discussions and demonstrations at 4-H Club meetings.
4. Get seven basic food chart in the home of every boy and girl enrolled in the county schools, grades one through seven.
5. Nutrition committee members get permission from elementary school principals to go into each school, discuss the importance of good food habits and give each child a seven basic food chart to take home.
6. Get all boys and girls in elementary schools to check food charts for six weeks in order to learn their eating habits.
7. Collect food charts and summarize findings.
8. Acquaint county people with findings through county newspapers and over radio.

E. Results Obtained.

1. Results of this committee have been very limited this year which is partly due to illness of County and Home Agents and partly to changes in Assistant County Agents. These handicaps made it seem necessary for the home agent to spend the most of her working time with the 4-H program and other activities of the Extension Program.

3. Home Demonstration Club Committee.

The County Home Demonstration Committee, which is composed of the president of each home demonstration club, the committee officers and the past county home demonstration committee presidents, is the county planning and executive body representing the Virginia Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs on a county level.

This committee was used to further the interests of home demonstration work in the county among adults and juniors and to advise and assist the agent in serving people. The committee also helped plan the following program:

December - Christmas Social
January - Fitting Patterns
February - Selecting and Making Hats
March - Pruning and Care of Shrubs
April - Planning Basic Wardrobe and Accessories
May - Understanding and Working With Fabrics
June - Meals for Hot Days
July - Doing Business at the Bank
August - Flower Arrangements
September - Care of Electrical Appliances
October - Indoor Plants and Planters
November - Herbs and Seasonings
Federation Program of Work - Home and Community Beautification

a. The County Home Demonstration Committee set the following objectives:

1. Each club appoint a program of work chairman and stress farm and community beautification.
2. Have all clubs represented at county and district meetings.
3. Get more young homemakers in Home Demonstration Work.
4. Each club promote 4-H Club work and each club president appoint a 4-H leader.

b. Procedures and results will be discussed under project work.

B. Project Work.

1. Clothing received major emphasis when the 1958 Home Demonstration Program was planned.

a. Objectives:

1. To assist women in selecting becoming hats.
2. To assist women in remodeling hats.
3. To teach women how to make hats.
4. To make women conscious of the many new fabric finishes.

5. To make woman conscious of the many advantages in the new finishes.
6. To help women to realize the need for reading labels.
7. To help women to study and to know the meanings of wording on labels.
8. To help to develop in the woman a desire to read labels on all fabrics by the yard and all ready made garments.
9. To teach women that labels furnish important information on care of fabrics which should be followed if one expects to get the best service from a purchase.
10. To teach women that wise wardrobe planning is essential if one wishes to be well groomed at moderate expenditure of money.
11. To teach club members that a wise choice of accessories is essential if an individual is to be well dressed at moderate cost.
12. To help women to realize that well fitted garments are essential to good grooming.
13. To teach women how to fit patterns before cutting a garment.

b. Methods Used.

1. The agent met all Home Demonstration Clubs and gave demonstrations on selecting becoming hat styles, remodeling and making hats.
2. Clothing specialist conducted a training meeting for home demonstration leaders and taught them that many fabrics have new finishes which have much value, that labels furnish important information, that one should understand the meaning of their wording, and read them carefully before a purchase is made.
3. Home demonstration leaders took the knowledge which they gained on fabric finishes to home demonstration clubs at their May meetings.
4. Clothing specialist conducted training meetings for home demonstration leaders and taught them wise wardrobe planning, including selection of accessories.

5. Home Demonstration leaders gave demonstrations to their clubs on wardrobe planning and wise choice and use of accessories.
6. Home Agent demonstrated to each home demonstration club how to fit patterns and discussed the importance of having properly fitted clothing.
7. Home Agent used clothing ideas in news stories.
8. Agent included clothing helps in radio stories.

c. Results Obtained.

1. Majority of home demonstration members gained some knowledge in regard to selecting becoming hat styles, remodeling and making them, also the importance of reading labels, new fabric finishes, wise wardrobe planning including accessories and the importance of having properly fitted clothing. Reports show that 414 families received some assistance.
2. The subject of Foods is always interesting to homemakers and demonstrations for two (2) months were devoted to that subject.
 - a. Objectives:
 1. To teach women how to prepare simple and nutritious meals for hot days.
 2. To teach women new ways of using herbs in seasoning foods.
 - b. Methods Used.
 1. Food and nutrition specialist conducted a training meeting for club leaders on the preparation of meals for hot days.
 2. Club leaders demonstrated the preparation of meals for hot days to club members.
 3. Food and Nutrition specialist taught women new ways of using herbs in seasoning foods.
 4. Club leaders demonstrated to members seasoning foods with herbs.
 5. In radio programs the home agent discussed cooking with herbs.
 6. Information on seasoning with herbs was given in newspaper articles.
 7. Meals for hot days were discussed on radio programs.
 8. Meals for hot days were discussed in newspaper articles.

c. Results Obtained.

1. All clubs had demonstrations on "Meals for Hot Days" and "Herbs and Seasonings." Members reported having used this information themselves and shared it with a total of more than one thousand families.
3. Management received attention at two (2) club meetings in 1958. They included "Doing Business at the Bank and the "Care of Electrical Appliances."

a. Objectives:

1. To teach women more about how to do business at the Bank.
2. To teach women how to care for electrical appliances correctly.

b. Methods Used.

1. Each club secured a qualified person to speak to their group on how to do business at the Bank.
2. The talk was followed with a discussion period to give members an opportunity to have questions answered.
3. Home Economist from VEPCO and Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative demonstrated the proper care of electrical appliances at each Home Demonstration Club.
4. A talk on the care of electrical appliances was used for radio programs.

c. Results Obtained.

Quite a number of women showed much interest in the discussions their clubs had on "Doing Business at the Bank" and the "Proper Care of Electrical Appliances" and expressed a very keen interest in both topics. According to their statements a great deal of helpful information was gained. Reports indicate that one hundred and fifty four (154) were helped, however, the agent feels that these figures are not complete.

4. Care of Shrubs and Plants.

a. Objectives:

1. To teach club members how to care for shrubs.
2. To teach when to prune shrubs.
3. To teach women how to prune shrubs.

4. To teach women what plants are suitable for indoor growth.

5. To teach women how to care for indoor plants.

b. Methods Used.

1. The State Extension Horticulturist trained leaders how to prune and care for shrubs.
2. Leaders taught club members how to prune and care for shrubs.
3. Agent gave hints on pruning and care of shrubs in radio programs.
4. Newspaper articles furnished timely information on pruning and care of shrubs.
5. Agent gave one radio program on selection and care of houseplants.

c. Results Obtained.

Leaders were pleased with the training given by the State Extension Horticulturist, and reports show that approximately one hundred and eighty (180) yards had some improvements made as a result of this information gained.

5. Special Interest Meetings - Christmas Decorations for the Home and Rug Braiding.

a. Objectives:

1. To have women learn how to make attractive, simple and inexpensive decorations for the home.
2. To have women learn how to make decorations for her home that conform to the five art principles - balance, rhythm, color, design and proportion.
3. For members to learn how to select colors and plan a rug.
4. For club members to learn how to braid rugs.
5. To have women learn how to lace the braids together and make a rug.
6. For women to learn to appreciate a job of work well done.

b. Methods Used.

1. Extension specialist held a special interest meeting and taught women how to select good colors for rugs.
2. Specialist taught women how to plan a rug.
3. Specialist taught women how to braid rugs.
4. Specialist taught club members how to lace braids into a rug.
5. Agent furnished information on rug braiding to county people through newspaper articles.
6. Agent used radio programs to give county women information concerning rug braiding.
7. Agent held two (2) special interest meetings and demonstrated the making of a variety of Christmas decorations for doors, mantles, tables, hallways, etc.
8. Agent used native greens in making some decorations.
9. Agent used painted materials to make some decorations.
10. Agent sent letters to Home Demonstration members and invited them to go and take their friends to see the demonstration.
11. Agent gave newspaper publicity to the Christmas decoration demonstration.
12. Radio publicity furnished information to county women concerning the Christmas decorations demonstration.

c. Results Obtained.

Many women, club members and non-club members, expressed very great interest in seeing the demonstration on Christmas Decorations for the Home. The agent made careful preparation and expected an attendance of approximately one hundred persons. The day proved to be a very cold, windy, snowy day which resulted in an attendance of approximately twenty (20) persons for the afternoon demonstration and seventeen (17) for the evening demonstration. Those present gave glowing reports of variety, beauty and simplicity of the demonstrations. Since the preparations required much time and some expense, the agent made color slides of the decorations made in order to use them at some future date rather than making all decorations for a future demonstration.

C. Federation Program of Work - Home Grounds Beautification.

1. Plans for aiding clubs in carrying out their program.

- a. The County Home Demonstration Committee selected Home and Community Beautification as their program of work for 1958, which was the same one selected for 1957. Their aim for the year is "To See Ourselves as Others See Us." To make Virginia homes more attractive and useful while conserving wisely and well our natural resources and set the following goals:

1. Improve entrances to homes.
2. Stress planting of bulbs for early spring flowers.
3. Identify farm homes located off the highway.
4. Plan flower borders.
5. Encourage screen plantings to be made where needed.

The County had a Program of Work Chairman who planned the program of work for the county and for each club. She mailed monthly suggestions of timely information to each club chairman who presented it to her club members. She was also asked to check with her members, learn what progress they had made and report to the county chairman. Some club chairmen did this, others did not follow through as accurately. The report was not a complete one, but approximately one hundred and fifty (150) reported progress made.

D. Other Activities.

1. National Home Demonstration Week.

a. Early in the year some plans were made to observe National Home Demonstration Week and further acquaint county people with the home demonstration program and what it has to offer. From April 1 through June 30th, the agent was out from work because of illness. Mrs. A. D. Hart, County Home Demonstration Committee Chairman, followed through with the plans previously made.

All clubs in the county furnished flowers and reading materials to all patients in the Community Memorial Hospital at South Hill on six (6) different days. Some clubs put displays in local store windows. Two club members gave radio programs during the week. A copy of Mrs. Hart's is attached. (Exhibit 1) Several ladies wrote news articles for county papers that week, one of which is attached. (Exhibit No. 2)

2. Achievement Program.

The county home demonstration club achievement program was held in the Boydton School Auditorium on Friday night, October 24th. Thirty-four (34) reading certificates were awarded to the club members who had read five or more books from the good reading list. The enclosed news story and program will describe the Achievement Program. (Exhibits Nos. 3 and 4)

Radio Script of Program of Mrs. A. D. Hart
For National Home Demonstration Week

I am Mrs. A. D. Hart, Chairmen of the Mecklenburg County Council of Home Demonstration Clubs.

Virginia's home demonstration club women are observing their National Home Demonstration Week, beginning May 4th through 10th, using the theme - "Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World."

Almost 40,000 women in Virginia will join in the observance, which aims at further acquainting the public with the Agricultural Extension Service and its home demonstration program.

Home demonstration work is an educational program aimed at helping women become more efficient homemakers and more effective citizens. Throughout Virginia, tours, achievement days and demonstrations will be arranged by county home demonstration agents and local leaders as part of the national observance.

In Mecklenburg County one can see this week, store window displays of work done by the club members. Each club in the county is furnishing flowers for the patients' rooms in the Community Memorial Hospital in South Hill according to the following schedule: Clarksville and Finchley - May 5th; Buckhorn and South Hill - May 7th; Buffalo and Piney Grove - May 10th; Chase City, May 12th and Wightman and Skipwith, May 14th.

At V. F. I., Miss Maude E. Wallace, Assistant Director of the Extension Service, notes that organized home demonstration work is carried out in 94 counties and two cities in Virginia, and that 164 home demonstration agents and assistants are employed to carry out the program. She estimates that in the state last year a total of 174,414 families were assisted in making home economics improvements, as compared to 103,146 families ten years ago.

Last year there were 38,612 members of home demonstration clubs, working in such fields as foods and nutrition, clothing, furnishings and equipment, home management, family economics, family life, health, safety and arts and crafts. The selection, training, and use of local leaders continued to be a major objective last year. A total of 19,202 local leaders helped with adult home demonstration work in 1957-- as compared to 11,230 a decade ago.

We believe that women are willing to work hard for anything they believe will help their families; they are not afraid to undertake any project if it is something they want very much for their families; if necessary they are willing to start in a small way but their eyes never leave the ultimate goal - and they have patience and determination to keep pegging away at their undertaking until that goal is reached. These characteristics can mean a great deal for a rural family or community if properly focused to attain a higher standard of living for rural Virginia.

I am sure no one in this audience questions the influence of the homemaker in her home. While caring for the everyday needs of her family, she helps to mold their attitude toward a way of life - which is even more important. In a recent study it was found that over 50% of our members have children. Today's homemakers are more and more recognizing their responsibilities to their families and communities and are anxious to learn how to meet them.

This desire on the part of our members offers a real challenge to the Federation to provide the kind of program that will help them to learn how to accept and meet responsibility.

As homemakers we will strive to: Have our organization foster highest ideals in home, church, school and public life. Have our homes reach out in service to the community and help unite the people. Have cooperation and progress the leading forces in our communities. Study the best ways to do everyday work that we may find joy in common tasks well done. Be kind beyond standards of charity, avoid thoughts and words that condemn; be more thoughtful than love requires; maintain highest ideals of Christian life.

As you can see, our objectives are very broad and our aim is high. We want rural Virginia homemakers to know how to do their daily work more efficiently so they will have more time for self improvement, more time to work, play and worship with their families and to have time to serve their communities.

Miss Wallace points to increasing urbanization as one of the most noteworthy trends in Virginia home demonstration work. Much has been done to meet the demands of urbanization, she says. With the rise in number of homemakers employed, there have been increased requests for night meetings and for information on management of money, time and energy.

Specialists in many home economics fields are employed at V. F. I. to help with the home demonstration program throughout the state, and specialists in other areas help with the work upon request--particularly in home grounds beautification, gardening, poultry, small fruits. During the war years the horizons of rural women stretched out across both oceans as they followed their sons in thought and through letters into many foreign countries. Without realizing how or why, they became interested in these far away places and wanted to know more about them and the people who lived there. This interest continued to grow. Last year our Virginia homemakers contributed over \$1100 for "Pennies for Friendship." This fund goes to support the Associated Country Women of the World. We are very proud to be affiliated with this organization, for it is building "bridges of friendship among rural women throughout the world."

As homemakers we will endeavor to work for a better world through better family life. Learning to live together as a family in harmony prepares us for bridging our differences in larger circles of human contact that now is one world. It has been said that "Democracy is based upon not only recognizing but capitalizing on our differences" and that "Peace is not the absence of conflict but a positive dynamic living with differences in harmony." We feel there is no better laboratory for working this kind of dynamic peace than in our own families.

The Virginia Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs has a glorious heritage of achievement of which we are justly proud. However, we cannot rest on the laurels already won but must ever press on to higher ideals and greater achievement. Only in this way can we be a force for good in our community and raise the standard for those who follow in our footsteps.

WHAT THE HOME DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM HAS TO OFFER

By: Mrs. James N. Sheppard, Buffalo H. D. Club

Do you find homemaking a joy? Or do you let housekeeping become dull, hard work? Many women have the challenge of being housewives and mothers and have been richly awarded. They have become active participants in Home Demonstration Clubs. They have found opportunities thru Home Demonstration Club work to serve their communities and to be real homemakers.

The Home Demonstration program offers rural women needed social contacts, the chance to become leaders, the opportunity to learn first-hand knowledge and skills from its well trained Home Demonstration Agents, and it provides the stimulus for home and community progress.

Each year the county Home Demonstration Clubs plan programs that best meet the needs of its members. Leaders attend training meetings to learn new homemaking skills and the best ways of doing things. At monthly meetings, clubs throughout the county meet to learn from their trained leaders and from their Home Demonstration Agents, to share ideas with their neighbors, and to carry out plans for home and community improvement.

The subjects that interest Home Demonstration Club women are numerous and varied. They include: All phases of sewing, the use and care of new fabrics, pattern fitting, dress finishes, wardrobe planning, hat making and selection, and the selection of children's clothing.

In the fields of foods Home Demonstration Club women may learn: To use herbs and seasonings, to prepare meals for hot days, to plan menus and diets, to freeze, can and conserve surplus foods, to prepare meats properly, and to make snacks, quick refreshments and a variety of party foods.

Many women are interested in making the interiors of their homes more attractive and comfortable. They want instruction in: Making slipcovers, curtains and draperies, providing adequate lighting, closet and storage improvement, furniture refinishing, rug braiding and hooking, basketry, picture hanging, wall treatments and flower arrangements.

Home improvements go outside the home to include: Care and pruning of shrubbery, bulb planting, planning of flower borders, planting screens and entrances and driveway improvements.

Home Demonstration Club women are happy, friendly women who make good neighbors. They are civic minded, alert and interested in the growth of their homes, churches and schools. They will welcome you into their midst. You can enjoy the advantages and privileges of the Home Demonstration Club just by joining and actively participating in its broad program. In Mecklenburg County there are nine organized clubs. Join the club that serves your particular community. New members are an asset and an inspiration to club women everywhere.

HOME DEMONSTRATION ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM IN
BOYDTON FRIDAY NIGHT

The Mecklenburg County Home Demonstration Achievement Program will be held in the Boydton School Auditorium on Friday night, October 24th, beginning at 7:45.

Mrs. A. D. Hart, County Home Demonstration Committee Chairman, will preside, following group singing and devotionals.

The Chairman will recognize the club having the highest percent of members present; the clubs having the largest number of members with perfect attendance; the clubs receiving the largest number of reading certificates and the members having perfect attendance during the year.

Each club president will respond to roll call with a report of her club's activities during the year.

The main feature of the entertainment will be a dress revue and fashion show. This will climax topics studied during the year on selecting and fitting clothing, planning the basic wardrobe and its accessories, studying new fabrics, and selecting and making hats. The revue will be given by representatives from each Home Demonstration Club in the County, displaying garments made by club members.

Members of the Chase City Home Demonstration Club are making plans to stage a fashion show, featuring fall fashions in ready made clothing.

Refreshments will be served during the social hour and the public is invited to attend.

HOMEMAKER'S CREED

As Homemakers We Will Strive To:

Have our organization foster the highest ideals in home, church, school and public life.

Have our homes reach out in service to the community and help unite the people.

Have cooperation and progress the leading forces in our communities.

Study the best ways to do everyday work that we may find joy in common tasks well done.

Be kind beyond standards of charity; avoid thoughts and words that condemn; be more thoughtful than love requires; maintain the highest ideals of Christian life.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mrs. C. H. Crowder, Wightman
Mrs. R. H. Moss, Wightman
Mrs. J. C. Jeffress, Finchley
Mrs. Millard Stimpson, Clarksville

FASHION SHOW DIRECTOR

Mrs. R. L. Andrews, Chase City

Exhibit No. 4

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

OF

HECKLENBURG COUNTY

HOME

DEMONSTRATION

CLUBS



BOYDTON SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

OCTOBER 24, 1958

7:30 P. M.

AMERICA

My country 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing; Land where my fathers died, Land
of the Pilgrims' pride, From every mountain side
Let freedom ring.

Let music swell the breeze, And ring thru all the
trees Sweet freedom's song; Let mortal tongues
awake; Let all that breathe partake; Let rocks
their silence break, The sound prolong.

LONG, LONG AGO

Tell me the tales that to me were so dear, Long,
long ago, Long, long ago.
Sing me the songs I delighted to hear, Long long ago
long ago.

Now you are come all my grief is removed,
Let me forget that so long you have rov'd,
Let me believe that you love as you loved,
Long, long ago, long ago.

Do you remember the path where we met, long, long
ago, long, long ago?

Ah, yes you told me you ne'er would forget, Long
long ago, long ago.

Then, to all others, my smile you preferr'd,
Love when you spoke, gave a charm to each word,
Still my heart treasures the praises, I heard,
Long, long ago, long ago.

Tho' by your kindness my fond hopes were raised, long,
long ago, Long, long ago.

You by more eloquent lips have been prais'd, Long,
long ago long ago.

But by long absence your truth has been tried,
Still to your accents I listen with pride,

Blest as I was when I sat by your side,
Long, long ago, long ago.

PROGRAM

Mrs. A. D. Hart, County Home Demonstration
Committee Chairman, presiding.

Group Singing.

Devotionals: Mrs. A. D. Hart.

Roll Call by Clubs: Mrs. J. Clifton Jeffress
County Secretary.

Recognitions of Achievement: Mrs. Hart

Dress Revue: Representatives from all Clubs.

Fashion Show: Chase City Club

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

Faith of our fathers! living still

In spite of dungeon fire and sword;

O how our hearts beat high with joy

Whene'er we hear that glorious word.

Refrain

Faith of our fathers! holy faith!

We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers! we will love

Both friend and foe in all our strife;

And preach thee, too, as love knows how,

By kindly words and virtuous life:

Refrain

Faith of our fathers! holy faith!

We will be true to thee till death.

IV County Extension Program - Youth.

A. Organization.

1. County Youth Council and Project Planning Committee.

a. The County Youth Committee and Project Planning Committee is composed of the Executive Board of the County 4-H Council and some of the 4-H leaders. This committee met with the agents, discussed the 4-H work, selected a county wide 4-H project and set goals to promote better 4-H Club work and to increase project completions.

2. County 4-H Council.

The County 4-H Council is composed of the officers of each 4-H Club in the county and transacted the county wide business of all clubs at its two annual meetings. The Council also planned for such extra activities as observance of National 4-H Club Week, 4-H Rural Life Sunday, County 4-H Picnic, made plans for and arranged to collect 4-H project records and have a larger number of completions of records in 1958 than in previous years.

One or two members in each club was appointed to collect records and turn them in to the agents. This showed a considerable increase in records turned in over previous years. Clubs in the elementary schools did an excellent job. The total percentage of increase in the county was good. Eighty-seven (87) percent of completions indicated a big improvement over completions in any recent year.

3. Project Planning Committee.

The County Project Planning Committee planned the county wide 4-H project, "Looking Your Best" and assisted with planning the program for a county wide observance of 4-H Sunday.

B. 4-H Project Work.

1. "Looking Your Best" was selected by the committee for the county wide project for 1958 to be taken by both girls and boys.

a. Objectives:

1. To make boys and girls conscious of the need for good grooming.
2. To create in the club members a desire to groom themselves well.
3. To teach girls and boys how to take care of their feet and shoes.

4. To teach members how to give their skin the proper care.
5. To teach members how to launder sweaters properly.
6. To teach members how to give proper care to other garments.
7. To teach members the importance of keeping records of 4-H work done.
8. To teach 4-H'ers how to keep records.

b. Methods Used.

1. Agents discussed with each 4-H club the proper care of feet.
2. The agents demonstrated to each club how to polish shoes.
3. Agent discussed skin care with members.
4. Agent demonstrated to club members the proper method of laundering a sweater.
5. Agent discussed the proper care of other garments.
6. The agent discussed the importance of good posture.
7. The agent demonstrated good posture.
8. The agent discussed the advantages of having a pleasant voice and how to develop it.
9. The agent explained the importance of keeping good 4-H records.
10. The agent tried to teach club members how to keep their records.

c. Results.

All 4-H members in the county were given information on the above mentioned project, in the forms of printed materials, talks, demonstrations, discussions and slides, at their monthly meetings. The percentage of project completions was raised from seventy-seven (77) percent to eighty-seven (87) percent.

2. Foods.

A. Foods projects were planned for girls who wished to take breadmaking, meal planning, food preparation, freezing foods and canning with instructions to be given to community groups by leaders.

1. Objectives:

1. To teach girls to enjoy the preparation of foods and to have a desire to make an art of it.
2. To teach girls to plan well balanced meals.
3. To teach girls how to make food plans to meet the family's needs.
4. To teach the necessity for conserving foods for winter use.
5. To teach girls correct table service.

2. Methods Used.

1. Trained some 4-H leaders to teach 4-H members correct table service.
2. 4-H leaders taught 4-H'ers correct table service.
3. Trained some leaders to conduct the meal planning and food preparation projects for their groups.
4. Leaders instructed the 4-H'ers in her group to plan, prepare and serve well balanced meals.

3. Results.

All leaders were not trained because of agent's illness and all the community project groups did not follow through on their work as was expected. Completions were low.

3. Clothing.

A. Clothing projects were planned for girls who wished to take clothing Units II and III.

a. Objectives.

1. To teach girls to look their best by planning for the best use of clothing on hand and those to be added.
2. To teach girls to choose becoming clothing, both ready to wear and homemade.

3. To help girls learn to cut accurately, to make some decorative stitches and to combine colors.
4. To teach girls to learn to stitch on the sewing machine.
5. To teach 4-H'ers to draw a thread and cut fabric straight.
6. To teach girls how to lay patterns.
7. To teach girls to cut by patterns.
8. To teach girls to baste evenly.
9. To teach girls proper pressing methods.
10. To teach girls to judge quality in fabric and workmanship.
11. To help girls to develop skill in making alterations in ready to wear patterns.
12. To help girls to learn to make new garments and to remake garments on hand.
13. To help girls develop a creative hobby.
14. To help girls learn to use clothing money wisely.

B. Methods Used.

1. Leaders gave demonstrations in the "So You'd Like To Sew" project to two community groups.
2. Leaders assisted 4-H'ers with record keeping.
3. Leaders collected records and turned in to agent's office.

C. Results Obtained.

Two (2) community groups took the "So You's Like To Sew" projects. Several older girls took the "Make or Remake" project with little assistance from agent or leaders.

C. Other Activities.

1. Camp.

During the absence of the home agent the county agent and assistant county agent planned to take and took twenty (20) girls and twenty (20) boys to 4-H Camp Farrar at Virginia Beach in July, which was the county's quota.

They also filled the county's quota at State 4-H Short Course at Blacksburg in June.

2. Rural Life Sunday.

Rural Life Sunday was planned for by the Assistant County Agent and some local leaders while the agent was absent. This was to have been a county wide program in the form of a Vesper service on the shores of Bugg's Island Lake. Because of rain it was cancelled.

3. County 4-H Picnic.

The annual 4-H picnic was held on July 16th at Pine Lake near South Hill. Club members and parents assembled between two and three o'clock, went for a swim and enjoyed a picnic supper about 6:30 P. M. It was a perfect afternoon for swimming and the supper was bountiful and delicious. Besides club members and parents, County Agent, Assistant County Agent and Home Agent attended.

4. National 4-H Club Week.

The Mecklenburg County 4-H Clubs held a county Share-The-Fun Contest in March. Judges selected the first, second and third places in both senior and junior groups to which prizes of \$15.00, \$10.00 and \$5.00 were awarded each group. The winners participated in a Share-The-Fun Contest between Brunswick, Lunenburg, Nottoway, Amelia, Dinwiddie and Powhatan Counties the same week.

The Seven County 4-H Parade was held in Crewe in May. The judges chose the Mecklenburg County float as most outstanding one in the parade.

5. Christmas Parties.

Each 4-H Club had a Christmas Party in December planned by members themselves. All had games and refreshments. Some clubs also had Christmas Programs.

6. Mecklenburg County Fair.

Mecklenburg County 4-H members participated in the County Fair which was held the week of October 6th through 11th. Entries were made by members from all sections of the county. The classes included food, clothing and crafts. On Tuesday, which was school children's day at the Fair, was a perfectly beautiful day and the attendance was excellent. Members themselves, other boys and girls and adults viewed the exhibits continuously all day. Even though the prizes were very small - \$1.00 first and 0.50¢ second - some members received more than \$20.00 in prizes that week.

V Scope of Work

A.

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
No. H.D. Clubs or Groups	13	12	11	9	9
Membership	257	248	248	248	236
No. 4-H Clubs	18	18	22	25	26
Membership	266	258	298	382	332
No. YMW Clubs	-	-	-	-	-
Membership	-	-	-	-	-
No. Community Clubs	-	-	-	-	-
Membership	-	-	-	-	-
No. Home Ec. Committees	-	-	2	2	2
No. General Interest Committees	-	-	-	2	2
No. Youth Committees	-	-	-	1	1
No. other organizations	-	-	-	-	-
No. Farm & Home Dev. Families	-	-	-	-	-
No. other families reached	2065	2000	2300	2690	2525
No. different families reached	2848	2258	2450	2725	2650

B. What was Done to Increase Scope of Work and Inform the Public about Home Demonstration Work.

Newspaper and radio publicity was used by the agent continuously throughout the entire year. Special publicity is always used during National Home Demonstration Week. This year, because the agent was ill at that time, Mrs. A. D. Hart, County Home Demonstration Committee Chairman, took charge of the entire observance of National Home Demonstration Week. She gave radio and newspaper publicity to the program - one of each is enclosed under Section III-C. In the same section information is furnished concerning flowers and reading materials donated to the Community Memorial Hospital in South Hill and the display of work done by club members in store windows.

Newspaper publicity was given to the Fair and especially to the Home Demonstration Clubs' educational displays which were very good.

Publicity was also given to the special interest meeting on Christmas Decorations for the Home which created a great deal of interest.

VI Leadership.

A. Contributions of Volunteer Leaders to the Program.

1. Organizational .

The thirty-six (36) organizational leaders carry on the business of the clubs. The president presides, calls extra meetings when it appears wise, makes necessary contacts with women between meetings which often requires a great deal of her time, in making telephone calls when possible, and even a great deal more of her time is required in areas where there are no telephones. This means contacts at church, stores, through school children and by mail. The president appoints committees for carrying on club activities, serves with them, serves on County Home Demonstration Committee, assists in making the program calendar, collects information from club members, leads club discussions and makes reports on accomplishments.

The vice president assists the president and presides in her absence. The Secretary keeps records of attendance at meetings, all activities of the club and does the necessary correspondence for the club. The Treasurer has charge of all the money in the clubs' treasury and furnishes a monthly report to the members.

2. Program Development Leaders.

The nine Program Development leaders had a county wide training meeting early in the year at which time they were informed of their duties to their clubs and given more background information that would be helpful in making plans for the coming year. Each program development leader was asked to lead discussions in her club two months, at which time it was suggested that she use the background information received at the training meeting. After members had given some thought to the information they had and the community and county needs, they were asked to be prepared to hold another discussion at a later date and offer suggestions for planning a home demonstration program of work for the coming year that would meet the needs of the county people as well as those of club members. When the latter discussion was held each program development leader assembled suggestions offered by her members for the coming year's program of work. In July the program development leaders and County Home Demonstration Committee members were asked to meet together, at which time they planned the program calendar. These leaders took to their clubs a copy of the program and presented it for their approval.

3. Subject Matter Leaders.

The seventy-two (72) project leaders attended twenty-one (21) training meetings with an attendance of one hundred and twenty-nine (129). They held seventy-two (72) meetings without the agent's presence to an attendance of six hundred ninety-three (693).

4. Federation Program of Work Chairman.

The Federation Program of Work Chairman took the goals set for the year by the county home demonstration committee at the planning meeting, and made monthly programs for the clubs. At the beginning of each month a copy of monthly suggestions was sent each club, which if followed would have met all county goals by the end of the year. Mrs. Propst, the chairman, did a very good job of planning but club chairmen and members failed to carry through as thoroughly as might have been possible.

Reports show one hundred and eighty (180) families helped with yard improvement ideas, fifty-four (54) planned and had bulbs for early spring blooming, and thirty-six (36) planned flower borders.

B. Growth of Leadership.

	No. 1957	No. 1958
1. Overall Program Leaders (organizational leaders for County Ext. Service Board)	33	33

2. Home Demonstration Club Leadership.

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
No. organizational leaders	39	36	33	33	33
No. project leaders (subject matter)	63	27	57	66	72
No. Fed. Program of work chairmen	14	12	11	11	9
No. program development leaders	13	12	11	11	9
No. result demonstrators	24	13	6	26	7
No. training meetings by specialists	13	2	7	5	5
No. training meetings by dist. agents	3	1	0	1	0
No. training meetings by agent	3	0	3	4	1
No. training meetings by others	0	0	0	4	0
Attendance at all training meetings	286	27	128	248	129
No. meetings held without an agent	101	21	59	62	72
No. meetings leaders assisted	18	3	5	5	0
Demonstrations by leaders	120	29	49	62	45
Talks and discussions by leaders	468	12	15	32	26

3. Overall Youth Leaders No. 1957 No. 1958
 (Org. leaders for County Youth Council) 8 11

4. 4-H Club Leadership

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
No. Club Officers	58	80	153	175	175
No. adult project leaders	8	2	26	14	8
No. junior project leaders	0	2	3	6	9
No. result demonstrators	12	0	4	14	26
No. training meetings by specialists	0	1	0	0	0
No. training meetings by dist. agent	0	1	0	0	0
No. training meetings by agent	0	0	2	2	3
No. training mtgs. by members club dept.	0	1	0	0	0
No. training meetings by others	0	0	1	2	0
Total attendance at ldr. training mtgs.	20	21	24	21	8
No. 4-H leaders trained individually	8	1	4	3	6
No. club mtgs. held by ldr. w/out agt.	42	0	67	33	26
No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	51	0	0	11	0
No. demonstrations given by adult ldrs.	35	0	67	49	42
No. demons. given by junior leaders	56	0	16	22	0

C. Activities and Accomplishments of an Outstanding Leader.

Mrs. A. D. Hart, County Home Demonstration Committee Chairman, is one of the most outstanding leaders in her community and county. During the time the agent was out of the county this year, Mrs. Hart took charge of arranging for specialists to conduct leader's training meetings, took charge of the observance of National Home Demonstration Week for the county, and all publicity for it.

Mrs. Hart attended the district and state Home Demonstration Federation meetings, is quite active in school and community affairs. Mrs. Hart is most active in her church, is a Sunday School teacher and attends regularly along with her husband, son and daughter. Besides helping to take care of her aged Mother this year, she has had the first floor of her spacious country home redecorated after considerable planning and discussion with the home agent. She is always busy but has time to lend a helping hand to others, and is looked to by all who know her as a leader.

D. Activities and Accomplishments of an Outstanding Family.

The A. D. Hart family is truly one of the most outstanding in this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Hart have three very fine children, a son, Arthur, who graduated from V. P. I. last June and is now employed by the Department of Agriculture in Richmond, a son, Edgar, in high school and a ten year old daughter, Judy, in the fifth grade. Arthur was a club member through elementary and high school and college. He took a variety of good projects and was a district winner in the 4-H Electric project once. Edgar, too, has had quite a number of good projects and is still a good club member. Judy, a very enthusiastic and energetic little girl is beginning in club work now.

The Harts own one of the best farms in the county where he does general farming. The ancestral home is appreciated, well kept and their pleasures in it are shared with community friends.

In spite of the fact that all members of the family are active in school, community and church activities, the family finds time for enjoyable vacations such as camping trips, scenic trips and visits to relatives who live distances of several hundred miles. This is truly a splendid family!

VII A Brief Description of Cooperative Work Done by Agent with Other Agencies.

The agent has cooperated with all agencies to the best of her knowledge - with the Health Department regarding county work and has announced the Mass Chest X-Ray Clinics in meetings throughout the county; with the Welfare Department, the Soil Conservation Service; the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and Production Credit Association in discussions regarding their programs and services to the people in attempting to better understand the county in order to be able to furnish accurate information when needed.

The agent has cooperated with garden clubs and woman's clubs and given talks to both during the year.

VIII Progress in Developing Good Public Relations in the County with the following:

A. Co-Workers.

This agent feels that she has made every attempt to develop good public relations with co-workers that she knows how. She also feels that some progress has been made during the year, but not as much as she had hoped to attain.

B. General Public.

As this agent has stated before, she feels that the Extension Service has so much to offer people that the job of Extension employees is to acquaint the general public with the services available to them through it and that the public relations will be good. The agent attempts to do this through newspaper articles, radio talks, at group meetings of various kinds and through individual contacts.

C. Elected Representatives.

All contacts with elected representatives have been quite pleasant. The chairman of the Board of Supervisors visits the agent's office occasionally and several times has mentioned the need for an assistant home agent.

D. Commercial Interests.

Relationships with businesses in the county have been excellent. The five (5) Banks in the county sponsored the County Share-The-Fun Contest again this year. Four donated fifteen dollars (\$15.00) each and the other donated ten dollars (\$10.00) which was used for prizes.

The Coca Cola Bottling Company donated Coca Colas to be used as refreshments at 4-H Club meetings.

Businesses cooperated wonderfully by furnishing necessary "Ads" for the newspaper that was published preceeding the Seven County 4-H Parade. Boys and girls were given the amount needed in "Ads" to print the paper which was \$380.00. When the members met to summarize their efforts, they found themselves having gone \$100.00 over that amount.

Leggetts, Oakley and Averette and Peables Department Stores cooperate in every possible way with the Extension program in lending any merchandise the members wish to borrow for use in demonstrations.

Pauline's, a dress shop in Chase City, furnished all the clothing needed for a fashion show given by the Chase City Club at the Home Demonstration Achievement Program in October.

E. Other Professional Workers.

Relationships with other professional workers appear to be good. Principals give agents an hour for all 4-H Club meetings in the schools.

When thinking it might be wise to meet the high school 4-H members out of school hours, the agents discussed this with the high school principals. In both instances they advised the agents to meet these clubs in school during school hours.

Home Economists and Engineers from the Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative in Chase City and those from the Virginia Electric and Power Company in South Boston and Lawrenceville, cooperate with our Extension program every time they are invited and always do an excellent job. They are truly a pleasure to work with at all times.

Relationships with all professional workers have been most pleasant.

IX Professional Improvement.

A. To improve herself professionally, the agent has read all subject matter materials furnished her by the specialists on subjects being studied during the year. She also reads parts of such publications as Extension Service Review, Daily Newspapers, County Newspapers, Extension Division News, Forecast, What's New in Home Economics, Southern Planter, Progressive Farmer, Farm Journal, Better Homes and Gardens, McCall's, National 4-H News, House and Gardens, House Beautiful, American Home, Vogue, Charm, Reader's Digest and Horticulture.

The agent has made a few visits to managers and buyers in clothing and house furnishings departments in stores in the county and in Richmond. She discusses with them fabrics, new finishes and fabrics, their care, and new trends in furnishings.

The agent took an art course offered in the county by the University of Virginia and did an oil painting.

Truly believing that no individual is capable of doing her best as a leader without recognizing the presence and power of God and devoting a part of her time toward trying to improve herself and others spiritually, this agent attends church, serves on many committees, belongs to the Women's Society of Christian Service, participates in various other ways and teaches the Men's Bible Class in Sunday School.

X What has been Done to Improve Office and Working Conditions.

A. The agent has tried to keep the files up to date and in good working condition. The district agent helped to make working conditions more pleasant by having the state office furnish a good desk lamp. Some of the existing conditions are not desirable but are beyond the control of the agent. The building is old and difficult to keep clean and comfortable. In summer it is unusually hot and in winter not well heated.

XI The Look Ahead.

A. This agent truly feels that there is a great need for a stronger Extension program in this very large county, and that the program could be greatly strengthened if her duties could be narrowed so that she could have the time to do a more thorough job of all the activities planned.