

Next year's work can be strengthened through the use of more publicity in the local newspapers explaining what the extension program offers and how it has helped homemakers. This will be especially helpful in unorganized communities. Also, a training program for 4-H and home demonstration committees would be helpful.

The most important things that need to be done are:

1. Continue to work together with Northampton county on various projects. Also continue to work on the Health Council, Roadside Development, Home and Community Beautification, Library and other projects to help strengthen the program and improve family living.
2. Encourage participation of adults in 4-H activities.
3. Find 4-H club leaders to help out with project work and other activities.
4. Work in unorganized communities.
5. Organize a county planning committee jointly with the county agent.
6. Work with families in the farm and home development program.
7. Continue to encourage participation in county activities, as well as district and state events.

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The agent has cooperated with the county board of supervisors, school officials, health department and other department workers to promote a better countywide program and to improve family living.

E. Commercial Interests.

The agent has cooperated with commercial interests and their representatives in any way possible to help improve family living in the county.

XI.

PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT

The agent has read professional publications, books and outlook material and subscribed to magazines sponsored by professional organizations. The agent is a member of the Virginia Home Demonstration Agents' Association and the Virginia Home Economics Association and has participated in activities of these groups whenever possible. She has attended workshops whenever given an opportunity to gain a broader knowledge in her field. She has not had any direct training in extension work since she attended summer school in Arkansas in 1954.

She is interested in a two-week's study of 4-H club work in another county in Virginia or in an adjoining state - possibly Worcester County in Maryland.

The agent has taken several educational trips sponsored by home demonstration clubs and other groups.

XII.

APPRAISAL OF YEAR'S WORK

The county extension program has grown a great deal this year. The leaders in the home demonstration club program have accepted their responsibilities more willingly in club and county activities. The County Home Demonstration Committee has functioned well. This is partially due to the very good leadership of the chairman. Accomack and Northampton counties have cooperated more closely and have become as "sister" counties. They have worked jointly on the Health Council, TOFS program and the Eastern Shore Library. Families are taking more interest in various programs.

The program of work chairmen and presidents have achieved much on the projects of Home and Community Beautification and Roadside Development. All these things and many more have helped with the progress of the extension program and its growth in leadership.

The 4-H program has helped members to be better leaders. They have participated in contests, camps, state events, etc., and have thus gained a broader knowledge of the opportunities around them. Their project work has helped them to have a better understanding of how to do a job well and to learn about homemaking projects and thus assume some of the responsibility in the home. Adult leadership is still needed for these 4-H club members.

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E. Significant Achievement: The Eastern Shore Library

The Eastern Shore Library project was started seven years ago in Northampton County and the home demonstration clubs in both Northampton and Accomack have worked hard on this project since that time. The objective was to have library facilities for the Eastern Shore people and to encourage them to read better books. Much interest has grown out of this project. The methods used to stimulate interest in the project were:

1. Clubs borrowed books from the State Lending Library in Richmond.
2. Panel discussions were held to arouse the interest of the people.
3. Surveys were made.
4. Meetings of homemakers with State Lending Library personnel were held.

As a result of these activities homemakers decided to take the final step in securing a library for the two counties. They went before the county boards of supervisors to request an appropriation for a demonstration library. Following the passing of a resolution by the boards for a demonstration library for two years an Advisory Council was appointed to make preparations for the library. Officers were elected and committees were appointed. A building has been located in the town of Accomack to house the books and all are busy getting things ready for the opening in early January.

The library has aroused such interest in the two counties and homemakers and their husbands are working together to make it a success. This has helped Accomack and Northampton counties to work together and become more interested in each other's problems.

It is hoped that at the end of the two-year demonstration period the county boards of supervisors will see fit to make this a permanent Eastern Shore Library.

X.

PUBLIC RELATIONS IN THE COUNTY

A. Co-workers.

The agent has cooperated with the county agent and assistant county agent on various projects in extension work. Conferences have been held periodically to discuss current plans and problems.

B. General Public.

The agent has cooperated with the three local newspapers in publicizing the extension program. Information on the extension program has been given to people through other organizations and home visits. Relations with the general public have been very good.

C. Other Professional Workers.

The agent has attended meetings and cooperated with other professional workers on various projects in order to promote a more friendly feeling.

D. Elected Representatives.

has been the most active county chairman Accomack has ever had. She has plenty of time, interest and enthusiasm. She has helped a great deal with home demonstration projects and activities. She has helped in the Parkley club with the town park, has served as a member of the Health Council and has attended home demonstration club and county meetings. She has helped other clubs by visiting them and giving demonstrations on many projects. She has been serving as a 4-H club leader and a member of the Adult 4-H Advisory Committee. She attended Conservation Camp with the Accomack delegates. She accepted her duties at camp and had a wonderful time with the 4-H club members and leaders. She has given helpful information to promote 4-H and home demonstration programs. She is active in her church and other civic organizations and has helped these organizations with their projects. She has certainly been an asset to both the home demonstration and 4-H clubs programs in 1956 and will add much to the progress of these programs in the county.

A. Jay Beebe has been president of the senior 4-H club on Chincoteague Island for the past three years. He has also served as a junior 4-H leader. In 1955 he was initiated into the All Stars. Since then he has served as an organizational leader for the five clubs on Chincoteague. He attended all 4-H club meetings on Chincoteague and all county 4-H meetings. He has helped out on various committees and is president of the County 4-H Council. He has helped 4-H club members in showing them how to work together on all projects and is always striving to "make the best better."

D. Outstanding Accomplishment of Clubs.

The Home Demonstration Club Tour was begun in October 1950 as a part of the county Achievement Day. Twenty-five people went on the tour that year. In 1951 the home demonstration committee decided that the tour should be a part of the National H.D. Club Week observance. There were 53 on the tour that year. They visited projects of homemakers throughout the county and noted progress being made in remodeling, building, landscaping, etc. Each year attendance has grown and homemakers have enjoyed the fellowship and seeing the achievements of other homemakers. There have been some outstanding accomplishments for the homemakers to see on the tour. Result demonstrations have been visited in housing, landscaping, gardens and similar projects. Many improvements were noted in remodeling old homes and building new ones. Clubs have exhibited various articles made during the year. The last county tour was held in 1955 when 108 homemakers attended.

In 1956 the home demonstration committee felt that a change would be of more interest to homemakers, so in April they chartered two buses and took a trip to Longwood Gardens, near Wilmington, Delaware. There were 51 homemakers on the tour. It was most interesting to the homemakers to see the different varieties of flowers and the lovely colors at that time. They all decided that it was a perfect day. The clubs have decided that they will continue the county tour in 1957 as a part of National H.D. Club week. Many things have been accomplished in the county this year which should be of much interest to the homemakers in the county.

The county tour has been publicized in the county and has helped to make county people aware of the Extension program throughout the county. Homemakers are closely associated and visit from one club to another and make home visits outside their own group. The public has been interested by the accomplishments of these homemakers.

3. Subject Matter Leaders.

All leaders have been encouraged to send leaders to leader-training meetings, but only about 95 percent attended and gave demonstrations. These leaders have been trained during the year by specialists and the agent. They have arranged for meeting places and equipment needed and have passed information to many homemakers who are not members of home demonstration clubs.

B. Growth of Leadership.

H.H. Club Project Leadership	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
No. project leaders (subject matter)	135	146	96	130	96
No. Federation program chairmen	10	9	9	9	10
No. program development leaders	10	10	9	10	10
No. result demonstrators	11	11	17	14	15
No. training meetings by specialists	11	8	5	5	5
by district agents	1	0	0	0	1
by agent	3	2	2	3	2
Attendance at all training meetings	182	137	72	137	156
No. meetings without an agent	90	95	73	70	76
No. meetings leaders assisted	30	38	40	40	86
Demonstrations by leaders	95	95	98	110	90
Talks and discussions by leaders	500	500	425	326	472

A-H Club Project Leadership	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
No. club officers	94	110	112	196	168
No. adult project leaders	17	10	8	5	5
No. junior project leaders	7	37	26	44	24
No. result demonstrations		None			
No. training meetings held by specialists	1	0	1	0	0
by agent	2	4	2	3	3
by district agt.		None			
by members of club dept.	1	0	0	1	0
by others	0	0	0	1	0
Total attendance at leader training meetings	13	22	76	39	29
No. A-H leaders trained individually	4	25	4	10	5
No. club meetings held by leader without agent	87	50	59	34	50
No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	32	78	20	63	35
No. demonstrations given by adult leaders	65	50	56	34	24
by junior leaders	20	45	152	50	96

C. Outstanding Leaders.

Mrs. Mark Lewis has been a home demonstration club member for four years and has served as county Home Demonstration Committee chairman only one year, but she

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E. Adult 4-H Advisory Committee.

This committee has met four times this year to make plans for providing transportation to 4-H events, raising money, providing chaperones, and preparing for county contests. This fall they have made every effort to find 4-H adult leaders and to assist when project leaders could not be found.

F. Civic Organizations.

Organizations have assisted in the 4-H program by giving scholarships to deserving members who were unable to attend camp or the State 4-H Short Course. The agents and All Stars help to select these winners.

IX.

LEADERSHIP

A. Contributions of Leaders to the Program.

1. Organizational Leaders.

The adult organizational leaders have grown in leadership by presiding at monthly meetings, serving on committees and helping out with county and district activities. They have cooperated with groups in all clubs. They have passed information to farm and non-farm homemakers and have assisted other organizations in projects. They have encouraged club members to work toward a home demonstration pin, visit other clubs in the county and help out with 4-H activities and find 4-H leaders. They have planned county events, tours, exhibits and yearbooks, judged contests, and worked toward a health council and the Eastern Shore Library. They go ahead with their responsibilities and do not depend on the agent. It is a pleasure to work with them.

The 4-H organizational leaders are not as active as the adult leaders, but they have arranged for monthly meetings, helped to check club activities and gave a few demonstrations. The junior 4-H leaders have grown in leadership and have helped to conduct meetings, helped other 4-H club members keep records, given demonstrations and made home visits with the agent.

2. Program Development Leaders.

Vice-presidents of the home demonstration clubs have served as program development leaders and check on the county program from time to time. They were trained by the district agent this year. They have worked with individual clubs each month in checking on the program and asking for suggestions to help improve the program. The program chairmen of the 4-H clubs encourage members to follow the county program set up at the county council meeting. They also check on the program from time to time during the year.

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B. Methods Used to Increase Scope of Work and Publicize Work.

County leader-training meetings, tours, special interest meetings and achievement day have all added to the interest of the people in the county. Leaders have become more active and have accepted their responsibilities more readily. Publicity has been given on home demonstration activities and accomplishments in the weekly newspapers with pictures of outstanding accomplishments.

VIII.

ORGANIZATIONS

A. County Home Demonstration Committee.

This committee is composed of the presidents of the nine home demonstration clubs, representatives from each of the five magisterial districts in the county and other key homemakers, making a total of 22 members. The committee is used primarily to execute the business of the home demonstration program, to set up the county program and to make plans for carrying out the program. It appoints committees, promotes different county programs and checks the progress of the programs during the year.

B. County 4-H Council.

This council is composed of officers of the 24 4-H clubs, All Stars, leaders and sponsors. The council with approximately 168 members, meets three times a year and makes plans for the county 4-H program. This year, the public speaking, essay, project and talent contests were sponsored by the county 4-H council. Other activities included sponsoring a float for the Delmarva Chicken Festival parade, Electric Congress exhibit, highway welcome signs and selecting delegates to attend Jamestown 4-H Camp and State 4-H Short Course. They gave awards to club members and leaders and a cup to the club winning the National 4-H Club Week exhibit.

C. County All Stars.

There is no county All Star organization. The agent and two All Stars have made several attempts to arouse the interest of all stars but have not succeeded. Many are in college or in service. However, the 1955-56 All Stars have been most helpful in the 4-H club program. One All Star from Goodland County who is making his home in Accomack, has assisted on various occasions with the 4-H club program. He is now working with the Wachapreague Sr. 4-H club as an adult leader.

D. County Honor Club.

We are in the process of organizing a County Honor Club. This is being sponsored by the Adult 4-H Advisory Committee for the promotion of leadership among elder boys and girls. The initiation ceremony will take place in December.

6. State 4-H Short Course. Four girls and two boys attended the State 4-H Short Course with the agent. The group was able to travel by bus with the Norfolk and Princess Anne Groups. One girl was initiated into the State All Star organization. Two All Star boys and the girl remained over for the All Star Conference.
7. Delmarva Chicken Festival. Several meetings of 4-H members and leaders were called in planning the float for the Delmarva Chicken Festival parade held at Ocean City, Maryland, on June 22. Even though the agent was out of the county at State Short Course at the time of the parade, the plans were carried out and the float won a \$25 first prize and a trophy. The members were well pleased with their award. Parents assisted the members in getting the float to Ocean City and assembling it for the parade.
8. Electric Congress. One girl and one boy and the county agent attended the Electric Congress in Richmond with three representatives of the local electric co-op. The delegates worked hard on the educational exhibit and Accomack won one of the blue ribbon awards and \$20 for their exhibit.
9. 4-H Achievement Day. The Achievement Day was held in November with 175 members, leaders and guests attending. Following a meeting of the county 4-H Council an interesting program was presented. Ribbons and medals were presented to outstanding club members. The Chincoteague Sr. 4-H club won the County Banner.

The agent feels that all of these activities have contributed to the 4-H club program. Parents and adult leaders are becoming more interested in the program and it has also helped to develop fine boys and girls.

VI.

YOUNG MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WORK

There has been no definite program planned for this group. The agent and home demonstration club members have worked with these groups throughout the county by giving information, demonstrations and making home visits.

VII.

SCOPE OF WORK

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
No. N.D. clubs or groups	10	9	9	9	9
Membership	243	256	240	215	225
No. 4-H clubs	15	16	16	28	24
Membership	166	248	316	411	339
No. other families reached	1850	2050	2150	2250	1950
No. different families reached	2100	2350	2500	2550	2450

The five Chincoteague 4-H clubs held a dance in observance of National 4-H Club Week. A king and queen of 4-H were selected and crowned at the dance. They had an orchestra and invited 4-H leaders and the extension agents. This aroused much interest in the program.

News stories on activities and pictures of the window displays were carried in the local newspapers during National 4-H Club Week.

3. Contests. Essay, public speaking, talent and project contests were sponsored by the County 4-H Council to create interest among individual club members.
 - a. Essay. An essay contest on "What the 4-H Club Means to Me" was held in January and February. Twenty-five members entered the contest which was divided into junior and senior groups. Roberta Grisson, Chincoteague, won in the senior group and Leona Stadler, Chincoteague, won in the junior group. The senior winner received a week at Conservation Camp and the junior winner a week at Jamestown 4-H Camp. There was not as much interest shown in the contest this year as there was last year.
 - b. Public Speaking. Only one 4-H club member, John Agar, a Junior member of the Pungoteague club, entered the public speaking contest. He made an excellent speech on the U.S. Government and won a scholarship to Jamestown 4-H Camp for his efforts.
 - c. Talent. There were entrants from all clubs in the junior division of the talent contest, and four in the senior division. The senior winner, Janet Barnett, and the junior winner, Betty Jane Ayres, both played the piano. The senior winner received a scholarship to the State 4-H Short Course and the junior winner a week's trip to Jamestown 4-H Camp.
 - c. Project. Project contests were held in connection with the meeting of the County 4-H Council in May.

Publicity and pictures on the contests were given in the local newspapers. Much interest has been created among club members and parents through these contests.
4. Rural Life Sunday. Thirteen clubs observed Rural Life Sunday by helping with church services and many more attended church but not in a group.
5. Jamestown 4-H Camp and Conservation Camp. Fifty-four members went to Jamestown 4-H Camp in July with two women adult leaders, one man leader and the agents. Several of the members attended as club delegates and received \$5.00 toward their camp expenses. The Pungoteague Rural Life Club paid the expenses of one boy and the County 4-H Council sent a delegate. The club members enjoyed the fellowship with the boys and girls from other counties. One girl and two boys attended Conservation Camp with one adult leader. They reported a very successful week.

Contests were held in clubs to pick winners who entered the county 4-H contest in May. Judges were three home economists from the local electric power suppliers.

2. Clothing. Make or Remake and So You'd Like to Sew were projects taken by the girls this year. The agent trained three adult leaders in sewing projects and these with the junior leaders assisted the project groups. On various occasions the agent worked with the leaders. Twenty-nine members were enrolled in first-year sewing, but only 19 completed records. Eighty articles were made. Forty-four girls were enrolled in the Make or Remake project. Assistance was given by one leader and the agent, but in most instances by the mothers of the girls. Twenty-nine completed this project. Several completed only a part of a garment. Those completing exhibited their garments at the county contest in May. These girls showed outstanding achievement in their sewing project.
3. Room Improvement. This project served to interest girls in improving their rooms or other rooms in the house. Seventy-four were enrolled in this project with 45 members completing. The following articles were made: wastebaskets, dresser scarves, framed pictures, bulletin boards, dressing table skirts, and 18 lamps. Twenty-five remodeled and helped redecorate their rooms and 39 changed the furniture arrangement in their rooms. Others improved the lighting in rooms. Parents cooperated very well with their children in this project.
4. Other Projects. Girls were also enrolled in safety, electric, recreation, rural arts, home grounds beautification and garden projects. The assistant county agent worked with members on the electric, safety and garden projects until his resignation.

B. Other Activities.

1. Community Projects. Each 4-H club selected three members as community project leaders. Some of the projects chosen by the clubs were providing clothing and food to underprivileged families, making favors and get-well baskets for the sick, sending scrap books and magazines to the hospital, and providing trash cans and other needed articles for the schools. They also planted shrubs and flowers on the school grounds. The county 4-H council, with the help of the agents, made two 4-H club signs of welcome for the highway. This project has encouraged 4-H club members to care for and improve their schools and communities. By cooperating and working together to do good they are learning to be better citizens.
2. National 4-H Club Week. The objective was to observe National 4-H Club Week by each club in the county having an educational exhibit in a local store window. There were fourteen clubs with window displays. The Chincoteague Sr. club won first prize and the Chincoteague Jr. 7C club won first in the junior division. The Wachapreague and Chincoteague Jr. 7R clubs won honorable mention in the junior division. Cups were awarded to the two winning clubs by the County 4-H Council.

IV.

FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

No work had been done this year by the agent on the farm and home development phase of the program.

V.

4-H CLUB WORK

A. Project Work.

There was a total of 24 clubs with a membership of 587. Of this total there were 339 girls and 248 boys. The 4-H club program was set up by the junior 4-H club leaders, officers and adult leaders. Both boys and girls were enrolled in the following projects: Electric, Food Preparation, Safety, Entomology, Garden, Home Beautification, Livestock and Room Improvement. The Assistant County Agent assisted with the boys' projects until his resignation in April. The Adult 4-H Advisory Committee has assisted in trying to find leaders to help with various activities and projects.

1. Food and Nutrition. There were four projects carried under this heading - meal preparation, breadmaking, dairy foods, and freezing.

The objective of the meal preparation project was to encourage members to eat well balanced meals and to learn to cook so they could assume some of the home responsibility. This was the main project carried by the girls this year. Several boys took this project and did excellent work. There were 230 enrolled in this project with 208 completions. Some handed in record sheets but have not completed their projects. The agent and leaders trained by the agent assisted the girls. Junior 4-H leaders have been a great help.

The breadmaking project encouraged 4-H members to help their mothers with the breadmaking at home. Seventy-two members took this project this year with 60 completing the project. The agent gave demonstrations to the girls at school when they were unable to use the lunchroom at school the girls brought their finished products to be judged.

Only two girls carried the dairy foods project in connection with the meal preparation project.

Thirteen girls carried the food preservation project, but only eight handed in record sheets. The record sheets show that these girls have helped their families save a lot of food.

The agent gave most of the demonstrations. Most of the time there were no cooking facilities at school so the agent gave the demonstration and then showed the finished product. The girls seemed to gain a good deal from these food projects. Mothers have often commented on their progress and interest.

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In April fifty-one homemakers enjoyed a bus trip to Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania, and a Wilmington, Delaware, shopping center, instead of the annual county tour. They felt that this trip was very successful and were full of plans for another trip in the future.

Nine home demonstration club members and the agent attended the District Federation meeting at Jamestown Camp. The homemakers were interested in seeing the progress that had been made at the camp in five years. They also enjoyed the interesting program and other activities.

2. Achievement Day.

A committee was appointed to work on the program for the countywide Achievement Day and they planned a very interesting program. Seventy homemakers attended the meeting in October. Exhibits of crafts, Christmas ideas, good reading materials, etc., were shown. The program was on better reading. A local minister's wife gave an interesting book review. The bookmobile and the Eastern Shore Library were discussed. H.D. pins were awarded to 12 homemakers in the county for outstanding work and reports were given on the accomplishments in 1956. The home demonstration clubs gave a donation for draperies for the Eastern Shore Library.

3. Miscellaneous Activities.

All clubs paid their Federation dues and eight of the clubs paid their county expenses. Ninety-five percent of the leaders trained gave the demonstrations for which they were trained. The club members have helped with the clinics at the Health Center. The movie projector and screen which the clubs presented to the Health Department has helped a great deal in the showing of films to various groups.

Not much progress has been made on the landscaping and housing result demonstrations in the county. The agent and the county agent have worked with homemakers on various problems and have given helpful information whenever called on.

Home demonstration club members have been encouraged to visit non-club members and have assisted unorganized groups in many projects. As a result a new club has been organized at Greenbackville with 12 members. Another group on Chincoteague Island is considering organization of a club but this has not been completed as yet. The 4-H club work on Chincoteague has helped to arouse interest in the Extension program. The agent is working in other unorganized communities and it is hoped that other groups will be interested in organizing a home demonstration club.

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library for two years. Plans were then underway. The Accomack Town Council gave the Community Hall rent free for the library. Miss Florence Yoder, Head of the Extension Division of the Virginia State Library, met with the group of interested homemakers from both counties to decide on things needed to get the building ready for the library.

In August an advisory committee was appointed and approved by the boards of supervisors. In October this committee met and elected officers and discussed plans for the library. The president appointed a program committee for the opening and a decorating and housing committee. The opening date has been set for January 6.

3. Health Council.

The home demonstration clubs of Accomack and Northampton counties and representatives of various organizations met in January at the Health Center at Massawadox to discuss a Health Council. Dr. Frits, Director of Health of the two counties, was elected temporary chairman. The group did not seem too interested in organizing such a council until they had discussed it more fully with their organizations. The second meeting was held in March at which time there seemed to be more enthusiasm and interest among the group. The most pressing problems seemed to be the health situation of migratory laborers on the Shore during harvesting season. Treatment for TB and VD and hospital services for the migratory labor was costing the Shore \$10,000 a year. Plans were made to find out the cost of hospital group insurance and to meet with the labor officials in Florida to work out a plan for insurance for these migratory workers. Officers were elected and committees appointed. Plans were for the council to meet four to six times a year. At the fall meeting a report was given on the insurance program for migratory workers. Other reports were also heard. The director was asked to find out about funds for a home for the aged which is a problem.

© It is felt that the Health Council, sponsored by the home demonstration clubs of the two counties, has brought about much public interest for the good of the Shore as a whole. Publicity on the work of the council has been given in the Eastern Shore newspapers.

C. Other Activities.

1. National Home Demonstration Club Week.

One of the county objectives was to observe National Home Demonstration Club Week by having a countywide tour and attending the District Federation meeting of Home Demonstration Clubs.

There was no county tour held this year due to the fact that members felt there were not enough interesting places and things to visit which had not been visited before. The group has had a county tour for the past five years and the tour committee felt that a change would add interest.

- 6. Garden and Landscaping. Four homemakers have carried garden projects. Reports on the gardens were given at club meetings each month. Garden information has been given to homemakers through news releases and bulletins.

A few landscaping results demonstrations are still being conducted but there is no progress to report this year.

- 7. Home Management. A leader training meeting on control of insects and household pests was held in February by Dr. Rowell and Mr. Amos from VPI. Sixteen leaders attended with 8 clubs represented. The specialists showed slides and gave information to leaders for their demonstrations. These leaders carried the information back to their clubs and showed slides on pest control, distributed bulletins, etc. Publicity on this project was given in local newspapers.

B. Outstanding Home Demonstration Club Projects.

1. Home and Community Beautification has been the 1956 program of work for the county. The agent and leaders have assisted approximately 270 families with suggestions for improvements in home grounds and mail box improvement. As a result, 25 mailboxes have been improved, 125 lawns, 30 driveways and walks, 50 flower borders and outbuildings have been improved. Ten outdoor fireplaces have been built.

The Parkesley H.O. club with 30 members, has taken as their community project the town park. All local people have shown much interest in this project. A local nursery donated 10 azalea plants and homemakers have donated dogwood and crepe myrtle trees. Sandboxes, a merry-go-round, horseshoe game, volley ball and other sports equipment have been given by local stores. An outdoor fireplace has been built by the Parkesley High School boys. The Electric Co-op improved the lighting and donated trash cans. This club has achieved much in this project and plans are being made to improve tennis courts and other play areas for the children. The park will be a decided asset to the community.

Roadside development projects are underway. Not much work has been done as yet since this is a new project. Clubs are encouraging the public to put their litter in trash cans or a bag in the car instead of scattering it along the highway. Newspaper articles, pictures and signs have been used to bring this to the attention of the general public.

2. Library.

The home demonstration club members have been working toward securing a bookmobile and the Eastern Shore library for the past seven years. In the beginning clubs ordered books from the library in Richmond until postage rates were increased, then this was discontinued. In July of this year the Boards of Supervisors of Accomack and Northampton Counties passed a resolution for a demonstration

There has been no project work done on water systems this year other than giving publicity in the local newspapers. It is hoped that through publicity enough interest will be aroused to cause farmers to install more water systems. This will depend somewhat on the outcome of their crops. After the good prices received for the potato crop this year several farmers have installed water systems in tenant houses. The 1955 census showed that only 793 farm homes have running water, which is still a low percentage.

5. Rural Arts. The objective was to interest homemakers in making articles that show good workmanship and are useful in the home to make it look more attractive.
 - a. The specialist and agent held a leader training meeting on hammered metal work. Sixteen leaders attended representing eight clubs. Sixteen hammered bowls were made. These leaders thought the results were not worth the effort expended in making the bowls. However, they put on the demonstration in local clubs and three clubs held special meetings for making bowls. Around 35 bowls and plates were completed.
 - b. Corsage Making. Demonstrations on this were given by two local leaders who have assisted in florist shops. Four clubs had demonstrations in corsage making and approximately 125 corsages have been made by individuals for parties, dances, etc.
 - c. Recreation has been included in the program at Christmas parties, the county picnic and several clubs have had progress on recreation during club choice months. Around 65 homemakers and a few husbands enjoyed the county picnic held at the Accomack Wayside Park in July. Homemakers led the group in songs, games and relays. In August and September eight clubs held picnics for club members and their families. The groups enjoyed the fellowship and recreation.
 - d. Other projects in the Rural Arts program that homemakers are still enjoying are leatherwork, painting, stenciling, making candles, reseating chairs, etc. As a result of these projects there have been 100 chairs and stools reseated, 75 articles painted, and 125 billfolds and belts, 65 hand tooled leather pocketbooks, 50 aluminum trays, 30 copper bowls and 25 articles in woodcraft have been completed. Two homemakers are making their leathercraft hobby pay off. They are making and selling handbags and hand tooled billfolds and belts.

The Rural Arts program has created much interest in the H.D. program and has caused the growth of membership in the clubs. Many of the articles were on display at the Achievement Day.

3. House Furnishings. The objective was to encourage homemakers to improve the appearance of their homes by learning to make wiser choices in buying house furnishings.

A local furniture dealer assisted with this project by showing two movies on how furniture is constructed and periods of furniture. He also gave the homemakers pointers on buying furniture. This was a special interest meeting with approximately 65 homemakers attending.

The same dealer gave a rug demonstration in the fall. A rug company representative showed a movie on how rugs are made and a discussion period was held following the movie on buying and care of rugs. Only twelve homemakers attended this meeting so it appeared that not too many were interested in rugs. Illustrative material on rug care was distributed in clubs.

Other projects in house furnishings continued from past years were furniture arrangement, color schemes, upholstering, slip covering, draperies and refinishing furniture. As a result furniture was rearranged in 300 rooms, 75 slip covers made, color schemes planned in 200 rooms, new curtains and draperies in 120 rooms and 75 pieces of furniture refinished, 25 floors sanded, 100 chairs oiled and flaged and 35 rugs braided and hooked.

Homemakers have been very interested in improving their homes for better family living. Homemakers trained as leaders have helped other homemakers in the county. Several are doing house furnishing projects at home to bring in extra money and many husbands have been assisting their wives with various projects. Quality of the product has improved. Many new club members have asked for similar projects for 1957 and leaders who have been trained will teach others at special meetings. The homemakers exhibited their house furnishing accomplishments at the county Achievement Day. Pictures and publicity on the house furnishing project have been given in the three local newspapers.

4. Housing. The objective was to encourage homemakers to have more convenient homes.

Miss Mary Settle, housing specialist, gave a very interesting demonstration to 15 leaders from seven clubs on household storage. Leaders gave the demonstration in their clubs and in other groups which did not have a leader at the training meeting. Slides on improved storage were shown and illustrative material used. The meetings were very interesting to the homemakers. As an outgrowth 33 families have improved storage units. Improvements have been made in clothes closets, sewing units, pantries, recreation rooms and attics. Several more are making plans for other improvements. Projects continued from last year are household mechanics and improving electrical equipment.

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As a result of projects carried in recent years homemakers have continued to prepare broiler, buffet and pressure saucepan meals. They are using homemade mixes, cooking the cheaper cuts of meat, using information on buying meats, etc. For the 1957 program homemakers have asked for projects on spending the food dollar more wisely, time-saving meals, planning weekly menus, etc.

It is felt that the food projects have been very successful in the county. Attendance at food leader training meetings has been larger than at other training meetings because of the homemakers' interest in learning newer methods of preparing and serving foods to the family.

2. Clothing. The objective of this project was to teach homemakers simple sewing techniques, knitting, tailoring and buying wisely.
 - a. Simple Sewing. A leader training meeting was held by Miss Akers where 13 homemakers from five clubs were trained in taking body measurements and altering patterns. These leaders have given demonstrations in local clubs and in three other clubs that did not send leaders. The majority of the homemakers enjoyed the demonstration; however, others are just not interested in sewing.
 - b. Knitting. Demonstrations on knitting were given in clubs by members. Around 85 homemakers learned to knit sweaters, socks, suits, afghans, hats, scarves and other articles.
 - c. Tailoring. Several homemakers who were advanced in sewing requested help on tailoring suits and coats. Plans were made for a tailoring class in November, conducted by Miss Akers. Ten women from Accomack County and two from nearby Northampton met with the agent in October to make plans for the class. Patterns, materials, color, design and styles were discussed. The homemakers took body measurements and chose their patterns. The patterns were fitted and altered by the homemakers and checked by the agent at the second meeting. The class began on November 26 and Miss Akers showed the women how to make suits and coats. Eight suits and four coats were completed. These women will assist others with their tailoring problems.

A class on tailoring a dress was scheduled for this year but was postponed and will be included in the 1957 program.

Local department stores assisted in giving demonstrations to homemakers on buying clothes wisely and correct foundation garments. These demonstrations were very helpful to the homemakers, especially those in the TOPS class. Publicity on all clothing projects has been given in the local county newspapers from time to time.

III.

ADULT WORK

A. Project Work.

1. Food and Nutrition. The objective of this project was to interest homemakers in preparing well balanced meals for their families and to spend their food dollars more wisely.
 - a. TOPS Program. Eleven homemakers enrolled in the TOPS club to "take off pounds safely." Interesting meetings were held to help the overweight homemakers with their problem. The following topics were selected by homemakers for their program: Planning low calorie meals with the necessary food value, Hair styling, Clothes to improve the appearance, Posture and Foundation garments, Low calorie desserts, etc. Only five of the homemakers completed the class and received certificates and these are still working on their diets. The others dropped out due to lack of interest. Demonstrations were given by the health director of the county, local stores, specialists and the agent. Much interest was aroused throughout the county by this project. Many have asked for the program again next year. Publicity on the program was given in local newspapers and through personal contacts.
 - b. Low Calorie Desserts. This was held in connection with the TOPS program but all homemakers in the county became interested in low calorie desserts. Homemakers seem to be aware of the obesity problem. Leaders from nine clubs attended a leader training meeting on this project and gave the demonstration in their clubs. The homemakers enjoyed the simple desserts for summer meals.
 - c. Outdoor Cookery. This was a favorite project among the homemakers. Eight clubs sent leaders to the training meeting and these leaders gave demonstrations in nine clubs. The club members have enjoyed many outdoor meals with their families and friends. This has added much interest in the county program because most of the people enjoy picnics. Mrs. Mary Thompson gave the leader training with the help of the agent.
 - d. Canning and Freezing projects were carried by local homemakers. There were no freezing demonstrations given this year since two were held last year. Information on canning and freezing has been published in the local newspapers and bulletins and other materials have been distributed to those requesting information. Freezing seems to be the most popular form of food preservation and many home freezers have been purchased recently. To show the progress in this there were only 187 families with a freezer in 1950 while in 1955 there were 442 in the county.

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II.

COUNTY SITUATION

Accomack County is situated between Northampton County and the Maryland line and has an area of 470 square miles with approximately 80,000 acres of top notch flat farm land. It is mainly an agricultural county. The soils are ideal for growing truck crops. Small grain crops are grown to some extent and poultry and livestock have increased in production over the past few years. Farm income during the past year has been fair. Prices for Irish potatoes were very good and those farmers who had a good crop of potatoes received a good income.

The population in the county is 33,832 with approximately 25 percent of these living on farms and the remainder living in the many small towns scattered throughout the county. According to the 1955 Census there are 1,069 farms in the county, averaging 117.6 acres. The trend is toward fewer farms with a larger acreage. There are 5,095 boys and girls between 10 and 19 years of age in the county. Many young married couples have started farming in the past few years.

Farm buildings are adequate and in good condition generally. The 1955 Census shows that 722 farms have telephones, 1,043 have electricity, 793 have water systems and 442 have home freezers. Those who do not have a home deep freezer have access to the locker plants in adjoining counties. A large percentage of the farm people have gardens and those who do not, use the vegetables grown in the field for market. The average farm has a flock of chickens and hogs for their home use. Those who do not have a cow for the family milk supply obtain it from local dairies which sell grade A milk. There are not sufficient dairies to supply milk to the county and some is shipped in from outside sources. Also dried milk is being used to advantage.

The county health situation has improved somewhat but there is still a high rate of disease in the county, especially among the migratory labor which comes in during the harvesting season. The County Board of Supervisors has appropriated the necessary county funds for an \$85,000 health center for the county. The town of Accomac has given the site for the center and plans are being made to start the building soon after the first of next year.

Very little progress has been made in recreation facilities. Several of the churches have built educational buildings and these are being used more and more. One of the home demonstrations clubs has taken on the improvement of a town park for a playground and recreation center for the young people of the area.

There is an increasing number of homemakers working out of the home due to the high cost of living. This calls for an adjustment in home management.

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