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VIRGINIA

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

MECKLENBURG

COUNTY

1950

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III Contributions of the 1950 Program to Better Family Living.

It is hard when one is engrossed with the details of a program or project, to rise above the day's activities and get a "bird's eye view" of the work for a year past, and be able to pick out those details that tie in and show an over-all picture of the contributions and improvements throughout a given area, and to show the trend of thinking and the progress made.

During 1950 the Home Demonstration Clubs were increased from ten (10) to thirteen (13); the enrollment going up accordingly from 258 to 293, an increase of thirteen plus percent (13 $\frac{1}{2}$ %). There were 278 girls enrolled in fifteen (15) clubs, 145 young men and women enrolled in three (3) youth groups.

Home Demonstration Club members gave information directly to 1113 other people. Family recreation, which was one of the county goals, was enjoyed by club members 1293 times. Following a furniture refinishing workshop in the county, there were 84 pieces of furniture refinished. As a result of the December demonstration of "Table Service for Special Occasions; Courtesy to House Guests," 2343 guests were entertained for special occasions.

The greatest emphasis has probably been on housing. Twelve (12) families have been helped in construction of new dwellings and fifteen (15) have been given assistance in the remodeling of old ones. Forty-two (42) people have received help in re-arranging

and improving their kitchens. Seventeen (17) home demonstration club members have put running water in their homes during the past year, and eleven (11) have installed bath rooms during the same time.

In 1946, there were eleven (11) home demonstration clubs with 193 members; there were thirteen (13) 4-H Clubs with an enrollment of 178 girls. There were six (6) home demonstration members who installed water systems during that same year, and thirty-three (33) rearranged or improved their kitchens.

One of the long time goals that was set up for the county for 1950 was "More Telephone Service." Much progress has been made in that field. There have been several mass meetings held in the interest of forming a cooperative telephone organization. At the last meeting, it was found that the number who had "signed up" for telephones had gone over the goal that had been set for beginning the organization of such a company to furnish rural telephones, where the independent companies had so far failed to service the people.

The temporary board and chairman were authorized to proceed with plans for obtaining a Charter and forming a permanent organization. The Home Demonstration women have worked long and faithfully to accomplish this.

Another goal that has almost reached fulfillment is the establishment of a community hospital. Funds have been raised, and here, too, the organization is being completed for the building of such a structure.

Family recreation being another county goal, the Achievement Day has been planned on that theme; to be carried out jointly with the adult clubs and the 4-H Clubs. Since the county Fair is a means of exhibiting the work of the Home Demonstration Clubs and the 4-H Clubs, it is not thought by the county committee, to be necessary to have another exhibition of their work for achievement day.

The County committee, feeling that more could be accomplished if more funds were available, decided to have a food concession at the Fair. All of the clubs were called on to help and all responded with splendid cooperation. The result was that \$271.72 was cleared, and turned over to the county treasurer. Part of this amount will be used to complete payments on an electric stove that has been bought for the home demonstration office.

The house furnishings programs have received much interest. The demonstrations have been ably handled by leaders, who were trained by specialists and the agent. Help has been given numerous times on refinishing floors, making slip covers, draperies, and other phases of the program. The women of the home demonstration clubs and many outside the club have evidenced a greater awareness of the appearance of their homes, both inside and out-of-doors. This indicates a healthy trend, for with increased interest in

their homes, will come more conveniences, and greater comfort. This in turn benefits the family.

The part that leaders have played in the Extension work in the county is impossible to evaluate. They have come to the training meetings and carried back with them to their clubs, the training that they have received. It is rare indeed, that the agent or the assistant agent has to conduct a demonstration. The value of this leadership has many angles: first, the club benefits. Then the leaders, themselves, are helped by becoming more confident and more willing to do the job the second time. Many consider it a privilege to be leaders, for they feel that they benefit more by attending the training meetings than they could otherwise. Ultimately, the community and the county are strengthened by the training that these leaders receive, for they thereby make more useful citizens.

During the past year, 197 subject matter leaders have been trained by the home agent and specialists. 218 demonstrations and talks have been given by them. In some instances where the leaders of a club have found it impossible to attend a training meeting, leaders from other clubs have volunteered and have given the demonstrations. This shows a healthy trend both in cooperation and in leadership.

The Federation Goal this year was "Art In Daily Living."

This did much to awaken the women to a realization of the beauty round about them. Each club had a federation goal chairman.

They prepared very original and interesting short programs on some phase of art, for each regular home demonstration club meeting.

In the joint meetings of the 4-H Club boys and girls, the programs for the past year have been on the theme "As Others See You." These programs have aroused some very interesting questions and discussions, showing a keen interest on the part of the boys and girls, and a healthy trend.

IV Adult

A. Project Work

1. Again, house furnishings was the most important subject of the home demonstration clubs.

a. Objectives

1. The chief objective was to create more comfortable and attractive homes in order that the various members of the family might be attracted to their homes and enjoy a richer, fuller family life.

2. Another objective in these programs was to have a home to which friends could be invited with pride and pleasure.

b. Methods.

1. The subject of selecting and buying furniture created much interest among the club women and non-club women throughout the county. The leaders for this demonstration were trained by the specialist, and did a commendable job in presenting it to their clubs.

2. Arrangement of furniture was presented by the leaders, who had been trained by the specialist. In most instances, a room was cleared of furniture and then the leader rearranged the furniture, explaining the principle involved in each case.

3 & 4. Selecting materials and designs for etched trays, were the subjects that were taken up at club meetings for two (2) months. The agent gave the training to leaders in these subjects. Many unusual, original designs were created and many commendable trays were made.

5. There is a definite fondness for house plants in this county, so the leader training meeting for this subject was able conducted by a club member. For the demonstration, members were told to bring specimen of their plants. Their culture, and remedies for their diseases and pests were discussed, and cuttings were exchanged among the club members.

6. The agent prepared a paper on the drying of flowers for winter bouquets. Copies were sent to each club member well in advance of the month set for the demonstration of preparing winter bouquets. The number who gathered material and made these arrangements was gratifying. Two (2) Clubs used this as the theme for their booths at the County Fair, and the results were exceedingly good, signifying an appreciation of the aesthetic side of house furnishing.

7. Refinishing floors was given as a special interest meeting. A representative of the floor sanding machine factory came to the county, and the floor of the home agent's office was sanded. All the ladies who were present, took part in the sanding. Many of them have in turn, helped others and several have held floor sanding demonstrations in their homes and have invited others to see them. Much skill has been acquired, and homes have thereby been improved and money saved by doing the job themselves.

8. Miss Ruth Jamison held a furniture repairing and refinishing workshop. All those present brought either one or more pieces of furniture to be worked on. The entire process was demonstrated and explained. One of those leaders trained, has held a demonstration for her club since then.

This was the subject for the Clarksville Club booth, which won the blue ribbon at the County Fair.

9. Though the making of slip covers and draperies was not one of the subjects for a demonstration this past year, the agent has been called on many times to help with these two (2) important details of house furnishing. Many demonstrations have been held in the homes with neighborhood groups.

c. Results.

1. Recommendations were applied in selecting and buying furniture 147 times.

2. Furniture was arranged according to standards set up at the demonstration 141 times.

3 & 4 Thirty (30) original designs were used in making 161 trays.

5. Healthier house plants are displayed more pleasingly in the homes.

6. Many homes are brightened by the use of more colorful winter bouquets.

7. Forty-eight (48) floors have been refinished in the homes in the county by the members.

8. Since the demonstration on repairing and refinishing furniture, 84 pieces have been done.

9. Many draperies and slip covers have been made and many color schemes worked out - thus making more pleasing and attractive rooms for the families.

2. Foods.

a. Objectives.

1. In the study of "foods" the main objective in any homemaker's mind is first and foremost, to improve the family's health, by serving more nutritious foods.

2. The second objective is to save time in preparation in order to allow the homemaker more time for other activities.

3. The next objective is to fix more dainty and attractive foods for entertaining.

b. Methods.

1. "Preparing Tasty Foods From the Freezer" was the subject of the demonstration for one month. For this subject, leaders from the clubs were trained by the "foods" specialist. Much enthusiasm was manifested, for freezing of foods has become the chief methods of preservation in Mecklenburg County. Since this is a comparatively new field, the interest is keen among the homemakers in the best methods of using frozen foods.

2. "Time Saving Family Meals," was also a subject for which the leaders were trained by the specialist. Emphasis here was placed on the one dish meals and also on the making and using of "mixes." The leaders did a commendable job in presenting this subject to their clubs.

3. "Table Service for Special Occasions with Courtesy to House Guests" encouraged the women to bring out their "good" linen and silver and use them correctly. This will benefit the families in that they will thus acquire more poise by more knowledge in the correct usage of silver and the proper table settings.

4. In the subject "Refreshments for Special Occasions," emphasis was placed on daintiness, rather than quantity. Realizing that party refreshments are generally extras when it comes to the day's food, the leaders encouraged the club members to cut down in the quantity, but serve attractively. Most people profit by fewer calories, but one needs the social life that can be enjoyed over simple refreshments.

c. Results

1. Increased interest in freezing and serving frozen foods was the result of the demonstration on this subject. A poll of the club members showed that there are forty-eight (48) members who own home freezers and fifty-seven (57) who rent lockers from the two (2) frozen food locker plants in the county.

2. Time saving family meals was actually put into practice 1341 times by the home demonstration club members. The ultimate result of this would be hard to evaluate, for it is certain that the homemakers used the time thus saved in many ways.

3. Table service for Special Occasions with Courtesy to House Guests was applied 843 times, to entertain 2343 guests.

4. Refreshments for Special Occasions were served 749 times.

3. Family Recreation

a. Objectives.

1. The first and foremost objective in family recreation, is in making staying at home more pleasant for the various members of a family; thereby building more closely knit families, with more appreciation for each other among its members. In accomplishing this the communities will be made stronger and eventually the influence of this strength will be felt on beyond.

2. The second objective is to teach all members of a family to play and to encourage hobbies. For "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Most people reach the age when they are no longer able to carry a full load of work. Thus, hobbies

encouraged in youth, do much to alleviate unhappiness by feeling sorry for one's self when the age has been reached that one is no longer able to work regularly. Also, the ability to play, learned at an early age can keep a person's mind on an even keel when the burden of work, with no relaxation, can jeopardize one's mentality.

b. Methods.

1. The methods used to "put across" the subject were a paper prepared by the home agent and demonstrations in the clubs. In the paper various types of recreation were suggested and home-made games which could be made by members of the family.

2. The Achievement Day Program, which is to be held on December 2nd, is planned on the theme of "Family Recreation." The home demonstration clubs and the 4-H Clubs are combining the program this year into a night of fun and entertainment for all members of the families. Each club is responsible for ten minutes of some type of entertainment. Then, there will be square dancing, round dancing, card games, etc., for the adults, and games for the children, which will be directed by a committee of home demonstration women.

c. Results.

It is much too early to attempt to evaluate the results of this program, but in view of the interest that has been manifested, definite results are anticipated in time.

B. Other Activities.

1. Federation Goal, "Art In Daily Living."

a. The aim of this goal was to develop an appreciation of the beauties of country life that surround us at all times.

b. The methods used for achieving the goal were as follows:

1. Each club had a goal chairman who gave a short program on some phase pertaining to the subject, at each club meeting.

2. The chairmen gave very interesting and often original interpretations of the subject, in the form of talks, quizzes, contests, or poetry.

3. Exhibits in flower arrangements were made at the Fair.

4. Many worked on the landscaping of their yards, with the help of the specialist and the home agent.

5. Christmas decorations for the home exemplified the use of native shrubs, trees and berries.

6. Reading of good books was encouraged.

c. The result of the program on "Art In Daily Living," the club women became more aware of their surroundings, and more conscious of the beauty to be found in their everyday lives. They began more and more to see the beauty of the trees, the birds, the sunset, the growing fields and the contentment and happiness that can be gained by reading good books.

2. County Fair.

1. Each year, as the Mecklenburg County Fair is held, the Home Agent works with the Fair Committee to set up the list of entries for the Fair book. Each home demonstration club has a booth, exhibiting some phase of home demonstration work. Below

is a description of the booths which were viewed by several thousand persons each day. The first prize went to the Clarksville Club for their excellent lesson in furniture refinishing. They showed the various steps in the process by four chairs of like design in different states of repair. The necessary materials for doing a successful refinishing job were displayed, with detailed directions for the use of each one. One feature that added much to the appearance of the booth, and to the lesson it taught, was a lovely little maple table which had been refinshed. On it was a green glass lamp which a club member re-converted from an old kerosene lamp.

The booth which won the red ribbon was on "Etching Trays" and it was done by the Buffalo Club. The lesson was taught here, by trays in the various stages of development; the round aluminum circle, the design ready to be transferred to the metal, the design painted on the metal, the edges crimped, the acid for etching, and finally numerous finished trays, in many sizes and varying designs. There were placards to explain each process and the necessary materials for the job.

The third prize, or the white ribbon, went to the Blueston Club for their booth on the United Nations Flag, which was not only interesting and unique in the way it was handled, but was very timely as well. The open Bible on the reading table showed the beginning of efforts for Peace and the rules for securing it. Then there were history books to show the progress of the world, and finally, geographies to show the Nations who belonged to the United Nations and the ones which have never joined with the forces

for peace. Altogether, it was a very impressive booth.

The Finchley Club had an excellent display entitled "Family Reading." It contained a picture of the Public Library, with a county map showing the route of the bookmobile. Then it had reading material suitable for the various members, both in fiction and specialized subjects. To illustrate the "specialty" books, there was a very attractive shelf of potted plants with suggested books on their care and culture. Besides these, there were current magazines. Thus the facilities of the Library were all suggested.

One of the goals of the Mecklenburg County Home Demonstration Clubs, "Family Recreation" was the subject for the booth arranged by the Skipwith Club. It was complete with the community house and a road with cars leading to it; a picnic ground, with the outdoor fireplace equipped with wood and a frying pan, and the picnic table spread with cloth and dishes; a swimming pool, with bath houses, bathers and a hot dog stand nearby; people in the act of folk dancing; little children with a sandpile and many other games. It made an interesting and very unique exhibit.

The Buckhorn Club and the Raynob Club, both chose for their subject, the October demonstration - Winter Bouquets. There were a number of arrangements of both dried material and green and berries. Among the most interesting of these arrangements, were an old pine knife box, filled with grasses, seed pods, cattails and other dried material; a tray of lovely, colorful vegetables; a brass bowl with numerous specimen of dried material; a low green bowl with fruit, berries, grapes and seed pods, and a beautiful old iron stove vegetable dish, filled with dried cockscomb, grasses and rabbit tobacco; and a wall basket of little gourds, ivy and berries.

The Chapel Club had a splendid exhibit on "Working With Feed Bags." The bag of feed, then the clean bags ripped open with the pattern laid on them, all the equipment and accessories necessary for completing a dress, and then the finished dress modeled. It was carefully worked out, exhibited and showed very well, what attractive garments can be made from the lowly feed bag.

The Boydton Club chose another demonstration of the past year for the subject of their booth - "Table Service for Special Occasions" by arranging a "Child's Birthday Party" table. The table was attractive and colorful, with a crepe paper cloth, napkins and plastic forks and spoons, and decorated paper plates. There was a birthday cake made to resemble a circus tent, a clown, with colored hair, horns for favors and colored candy, as well as many other details used to carry out the general idea.

Piney Grove had a booth of healthy and attractive potted plants. South Hill had filled their booth with handwork and the Wightman Club made their booth attractive with fresh flower arrangements.

3. Achievement Day Program.

1. This year the achievement day program was arranged around the subject of "Family Recreation" which was a county goal, as well as a monthly demonstration subject. Refer to section IV, A-5 under the heading of "methods" for a detailed description of this program.

4. Radio broadcasts furnish another means of carrying on the Extension work in the county. It furnishes a good medium for teaching and publicizing the work. Thursday is the day that Mecklenburg county has for a weekly broadcast over the station

at Crewe, Virginia; the farm and home agents taking turns in giving broadcasts.

5. National Home Demonstration Week was given recognition by a history and description of the work which was written by the home agent, and published in the three (3) county papers. A radio broadcast was also devoted to the subject.

6. The District Federation Meeting was held during National Home Demonstration week, at Charlotte Court House and was attended by the home agent and thirty (30) club women from Mecklenburg County.

7. Each year one of the home demonstration clubs is selected by the County Committee to get up the Year Book. This job entails financing the book, selecting songs, suggesting devotionals, hints on things to do each month and many other small details. For 1950 the contents of the year book were compiled by the Finchley Home Demonstration Club. The cost of the book, which was around \$80.00, was paid in full by Blue Cross, who sponsored it. This year book is used monthly by each home demonstration club member. A member knows by referring to her book what demonstration will be given, the date of meeting and in whose home the club will meet. In other words, it is her guide as to what to do next or what to plan for in the future. The whole year's program is outlined.

8. Seven (7) home demonstration club women and two (2) non-members, along with the home agent and the assistant agent, attended the Institute of Rural Affairs at Blacksburg in August.

9. During the past year emphasis has been placed on health, both of individuals and the county as a whole. Activities in regard to personal health were evidenced by the fact that 84 club members had complete physical "check-ups" this year. This was strongly advocated in the clubs through the entire year. Also, a prize was offered for the club having the largest percentage of its members take advantage of the Mass X-Ray survey when the State Health Department had the X-Ray truck in Mecklenburg County.

In regard to public health, the clubs as units, and individually, worked long and faithfully in the campaign to raise funds for a community hospital - a need that the club women have set as a county goal for several years. They were rewarded when the campaign went "over the top," and a community hospital is now assured. The Mecklenburg Home Demonstration Clubs pledged \$1280.00, to be paid in three (3) years. Most of the clubs have paid their first installment. One club has paid the pledge in full.

During the Cancer Fund campaign and the Christmas Seal Sale, the clubs take an active part in helping to raise the necessary funds.

One (1) goal that was set for the county this year, is community houses. There has been much thought and planning done on this subject, but so far there is no tangible progress. The Buffalo Club found a building in their community that had a "possibility." They had a community picnic to discuss plans, but nothing definite has yet been accomplished from this.

10. There is a very definite trend, and a healthy one it is, toward better housing. Much help has been given individually, both by the Home Agent and Specialists, in planning improvements in some phase of housing; be it new construction, the remodeling of old homes, the improvement of existing kitchens, the building of new ones, the installing of water systems, and any number of other details. There have been set up, eleven (11) result demonstrations in some phase of Better Housing. Definite progress has been made in six (6) of these.

V 4-H Club

A. Project Work

1. The Senior 4-H Club girls, during the past year, chose "Room Improvement" as their project.

a. The first objective in this program, is to teach the girls an awareness of their own responsibility in regard to their bed rooms. With the accomplishment of this they become increasingly eager to "fix up" their rooms, and take better care of them.

b. To accomplish the above objective, demonstrations were given on the following subjects:

1. The Inventory of the Room.
2. Room Accessories that Santa Might Bring.
3. Color plans for the Room.
4. Walls and Woodwork.
5. The Arrangement of Furniture.

Then plans were discussed for work to be done on this project during the summer.

A leader training meeting on this subject was held by Miss Ruth Jamison, at which the girls and the adult leaders were invited. These leaders worked with the individual girls and also with neighborhood groups.

Another method used was individual help given by the home Agent.

1. The result was that out of 79 taking the project, there were forty (40) completions. Many girls are still carrying this in addition to another project that was set up for the group with the re-organization this fall.

2. The Junior girls chose "Looking Your Best," as their project for the past year.

a. The chief objective here was to make the girls more conscious of their appearance, and to teach them the importance of little details in keeping themselves neat and well groomed. Another objective that was stressed in this program was that of health, in connection with looking well groomed.

b. The methods used to put across this project were demonstrations on the following:

1. Quick Repairs. For this demonstration the girls were shown a complete sewing kit; the use of each item being explained. All of them responded by bringing a kit of their own to the next meeting.

2. Care of Feet and Shoes was demonstrated by a shoe kit, which contained the necessary materials and equipment for caring

for all the different colors of shoes that they had. Nearly all the girls fixed their individual kits and displayed them at their next meeting.

3. "Put In That Hem" was the next subject. The girls were shown the approved method for putting in a simple hem. They brought to the next meeting, samples of hems that they had fixed.

4. "Care of Your Skin" gave an opportunity to stress plenty of sleep, good nourishing food, outdoor exercise and above all, cleanliness.

5. "Care of Your Hair" was the subject next discussed. Each girl was taught how to care for her hair. Leaflets were given out showing the various steps in correctly shampooing the hair, and also how to choose the correct styling of the hair to suit individual types. To encourage shampooing, each girl was given a sample tube of shampoo.

c. The results of this project was that out of 194 girls who signed up, 142 completions were reported. The appearance of most of them was markedly improved and they keep their clothes in a better state of repair.

B. Other Activities.

1. Summer camps rate high in the life of all 4-H Club boys and girls. The group of fifteen (15) who went to Camp Farrar from Mecklenburg, were no exception to this rule in the summer of 1950. They held prominent places in the activities of the camp, as was evidenced by the fact that the Camp Governor was a Mecklenburg girl.

The Home Agent is currently serving on the board of directors of Camp Farrar.

2. Six (6) boys and girls went to the 4-H Club Short Course at V. P. I. Among the members, were two (2) of the most outstanding girls in the county, Ruby Hite and Doris Jones. Ruby was taken into the 4-H Club All Stars. She has been a club girl for the past nine (9) years and each year has been more and more outstanding in her project work and leadership. Doris Jones is also a very deserving girl, having graduated from Clarksville High School this year with an enviable record, in leadership, as well as in accomplishments. She was awarded the Elmira McGee Howerton Medal given by the Clarksville Home Demonstration Club in memory of one of their former members, for the most outstanding home economics student.

3. The annual 4-H Club Picnic was held this year at Pine lake. This is held purely for a good time and is looked forward to by all the county club members. This year was no exception in that all who went had plenty of fun and food.

4. On Sunday, May 14th, 1950, the Mecklenburg 4-H Clubs observed "Rural Life Sunday" with a union service at the LaCrosse Methodist Church. Special music was furnished by some of the Senior 4-H Club girls and a talk on "Parent's Part in 4-H Club Work" was given by Doris Jones of the Piney Grove Club.

5. The Achievement Day which has been described above, is to be held jointly with the home demonstration clubs on the "Family Recreation" theme.

6. Two (2) girls went to Petersburg to represent the county in the District 4-H Club Contest. Both of them made a good showing.

7. At the County Fair, many 4-H Club girls exhibited their handiwork. There were exhibits in canning, freezing, cooking, and various types of sewing, from needle cases and aprons to dresses.

VI Older Youth

A. Though there are three (3) organizations in this group, only one (1) can be considered active. The Wightman Club has a very active organization which meet with a degree of regularity. They have active leaders, among their own number, who plan and execute interesting and informative programs. Their project work has suffered somewhat since nearly all of the members are young married people with families, and their time is so full of other necessary things. However, the recreation which they enjoy together is a valuable outlet for young people, who work so hard. Their adult leaders are Mrs. R. H. Moss and Mrs. C. H. Crowder of the Wightman Home Demonstration Club.

VII Scope of Work	1948	1949	1950
Number Home Demonstration Clubs or Groups	11	10	15
Membership	261	253	295
No. 4-H Clubs	15	15	15
Membership	266	263	276 (Girls Only)
Number Older Youth Groups	1	3	3
Membership	20	116	146 (Men & Women)

VIII How Other Organizations Functioned in the 1950 Program.

1. County Board of Agriculture.

There is in Mecklenburg County a County Board of Agriculture. This organization is the over-all planning group sponsored by the Extension Service. However, in Mecklenburg, it is only active as a planning agency for the men's program and indirectly for women. There are twenty (20) women members representing ten (10) communities.

The Home Agent is serving on a committee of the County Board of Agriculture, to assist the County Draft Board.

2. The County Home Demonstration Committee is composed of the president of each club, plus five (5) county officers and other cooperating key individuals. This committee meets three (3) or four (4) times a year. When this group meets they plan, with help from others, such as the club women and the Program Development Leaders, the next year's program. This committee functions as the governing body with the State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs. The committee also conducts the business of their own organization. When the need arises they raise funds for expenses of delegates to conferences, camps, etc. This committee also checks progress and results of their programs and its various phases. They are also responsible for committees for achievement programs, the year book and the Federation Goal.

This year, to raise funds, the County Committee had a food concession at the county Fair. There was splendid cooperation among the home demonstration club women from the entire county, and they succeeded in clearing a total of \$271.72.

They also bought an electric stove and installed it in the

demonstration office. This has been a great help, for now the leader training meetings in foods can be held here, as well as serving lunches when there are other meetings. In May, the committee prepared and served a delicious dinner to the County Board of Supervisors, using the new stove for the first time.

3. The County 4-H Council, which is composed of the officers and leaders of the fifteen (15) county clubs meets twice each year. They plan the year's program of subjects for the joint club meetings of the boys and girls. They plan the date and the type of achievement program. The County Council plans and assists with county picnics, with money raising needs, with the County Fair. The County Council secures new club members for the 4-H Clubs, they secure leaders and prizes for contests and achievement day. They report on results of accomplishments and help with getting in late record books.
4. The County 4-H Honor Club is composed of outstanding 4-H members. The membership is limited to fifteen (15) new members each year. The Honor Club has set up their own requirements for membership.
5. There is no county chapter of All Stars.
6. Professional Workers Council.

The Council is composed of all white and negro professional agriculture and home economic workers in the county. The Council meets on a quarterly basis with certain individuals designated by the chairman to be in charge of the program. The attendance is excellent and the programs have been interesting.

IX Activities of Volunteer Leaders.

A. The objectives in encouraging volunteer leadership are to create a feeling of confidence in the minds of the leaders, themselves; to develop better community leadership, and thereby stronger communities; to train the individual leaders in subject matter; to help them to think independently, and thus be able to see the outstanding needs and opportunities in their communities and ultimately their county and so on.

B. The methods of achieving the above objectives have been leader training meetings by specialists, and the home agent; after that is accomplished, to encourage them to pass on the information thus acquired to their clubs in the demonstration.

C. The results of the efforts in leader training have been very gratifying. Many communities stand out in the county as up-to-date, and independent, because of leadership that has been developed in past years.

Many leaders consider it a privilege to be allowed to attend the leader training meetings. Numbers of women have said to the home agent that in being a subject matter leader was the way to get the most good from the home demonstration club work.

I consider the leadership in this county in the home demonstration clubs to be very outstanding. With the excellent organizational and subject matter leadership that is available, the home agent is able to devote more time to county planning and to personal contacts.

<u>Growth of Home Demonstration Club Project Leadership</u>		<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
No. Project leaders and goal chairmen		180	187	218
No. training meetings held	By Specialist	17	8	9
	By Agent	127	67	8
Attendance at all training meetings		962	817	197
No. Club meetings held by leaders without agent present		33	36	56
No. Club meetings at which leaders assisted		59	64	104

<u>Growth of 4-H Club Project Leadership</u>		<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
No. adult project leaders		76	89	21
No. junior project leaders		76	78	7
No. training meetings held	By Specialist	3	2	2
	By Agent	105	63	1
Attendance at leader training meetings		340	291	20
No. 4-H leaders trained individually		21	30	4
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present		7	27	20
No. club meetings at which leaders assisted		78	82	37
No. demonstrations given	By Leaders	47	51	20
	By Adult	38	43	10
	By junior	9	8	10

X Work In Cooperation with Other Agencies.

A. All of the home demonstration club women, as well as the home agent, work with the other Federal and County Agencies, whenever it is necessary.

The success of the Hospital Drive and the drive to organize a Telephone Cooperative are evidences of this. Also, there is always a spirit of cooperation between the Health Department and the Extension Service. The home agents help in every way possible, to further the Mass Chest X-Ray, the Christmas seal Sale, the Cancer Fund Drive, Home Nursing Courses, and any other phases of the Health program.

As stated above, the Home Agent is on a U. S. D. A. Committee that has been organized to assist the local draft board in dealing with farm boys who are requesting deferment.

The local garden clubs, and other civic organizations, frequently call on the Home Agent for assistance, either in giving programs or for necessary advice or data. This is given whenever possible.

The Home Agent made a Recreational Survey for the State Division of Planning and Economic Development under the Department of Conservation and Development. This was for the purpose of making adequate planning and laws in regard to the recreational expansion which will follow the completion of the Duggs Island Dam, and the subsequent filling of the lake.

All of the County Extension personnel cooperate with the Guernsey Breeders Association in helping with the Guernsey Field Day. At the event during 1950, there were many contestants among the 4-H Club boys and girls. One of the boys from the Boydton Senior 4-H Club

won grand championship with his Guernsey cow for both years, 1949 and 1950.

XI Significance of the Year's Work.

The 1950 program of the Extension Service in Mecklenburg County can be said to have been a success, if it has aroused the citizens to the need of better living conditions, and a broader mental outlook on life in general with a keener sense of responsibility toward their government. Never can one truthfully say that the job is done, for there is no end to progress. When people arrive at one goal, there is always another one waiting to be attained.

I shall cite a few reasons why I feel that Mecklenburg County and its citizens have profited by the program of the past year's work: Increasingly more and more people are calling for assistance in improving their standards of living. Realizing that the research of experts and specialists is theirs for the asking, they are asking, and receiving. They have reached this conclusion because of evidences of how the program has helped others.

Another reason is the increased interest from communities that heretofore have not been organized for Extension work. Coming together with people from other sections of the county and discussing their problems and exchanging ideas, is helpful to all. It spurs on those who feel that they are lagging behind.

The encouragement to read more and better books gives people a more alert mental attitude, and a greater awareness of the world situations, both politically and economically.

Also, an outstanding contribution of the year's work, is the leaders who have gained knowledge and confidence through their participation in the home demonstration work. Each family and each community who is fortunate enough to have one of these leaders in their midst, will be helped to attain a better way of life.

Through the program, the women have learned to see beauty in the everyday things around them. Beauty is food for the Soul, so none could fail to benefit thereby.

Encouraging the youth is making better homemakers and citizens for tomorrow. It is oftentimes hard to see tangible progress in working with young people. However, it is hoped that in years to come some small seed that is sown now and is lying dormant, may sprout into a live and growing thing. To illustrate this point, since I have been in the county, three (3) women who are contributing much in three (3) very different ways, to the betterment of Mecklenburg County, have told me that they received inspiration to strive to be better homemakers and citizens by the encouragement of their efforts in 4-H Clubs when they were children. One woman still cherishes the first piece of needlework which though crude, was her best effort when she was young. Her agent was wise in giving her praise and help. Although, she is not a home demonstration club member, she came back this year for help in remodeling a simple little place on the farm, into a more comfortable and attractive home. Her daughter is an active 4-H Clubber today. That story may seem to have no bearing on the 1950 program, but maybe it shows something of the progress that will be made in 1970, because of the work of the year 1960.