

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY

VIRGINIA

JUNE 4, 1945--NOVEMBER 30, 1945

Miss Clarice A. Pretlow
Home Demonstration Agent

SUMMARY OF INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

Days in office----- 37
Days in field----- 109
Days devoted to adult work----- 91
Days devoted to 4-H club work----- 55
Number of home visits made----- 125
Miles traveled-----5260

FOREWORD

My work as a home demonstration agent began June fourth in Brunswick County observing and working with Miss Sara M. Harrison. The experience gained there helped me greatly in planning and organizing my work which I assumed in Isle of Wight County June fifteenth. Since that time I have had varied experiences, pioneering as a Home Demonstration agent in this county.

Work done and groups organized by the emergency worker of Isle of Wight and Nansemond counties, Mrs. Alice M. Jacobs and the assistance of the Farm Agent of the county, Mr. Woodrow Odom and the instructor of Home Economics in the Isle of Wight County Training School, Miss Edna Jefferson have greatly aided in my adjustment to the position I now hold.

Women's Work

1. Visiting Homes

In the community visitation I went into a number of homes near meal time. In addition to seeing meals prepared with unbalanced diets, there were a number of kitchens disorderly. This of course made me aware of the need of groups study menu planning and orderliness.

2. Organization of Clubs

After studying the county, its needs, the people, groups that were once organized, possible communities for organization and key persons clubs were organized. Demonstrations were given in eight different communities in the county. These demonstrations resulted in the organizing of six clubs in the following communities: Livy Neck, Rushmere, Windsor, Central Hill, Trinity, and Rescue.

Scope of Work

Teaching in the county for several years made me aware of the fact that children came to school with inadequate lunches, or no lunches at all. Most of the communities in which I have worked have studied what a good lunch consists of and during the summer and early fall months did canning for lunches.

A number of canning demonstrations have been held. For the most part, vegetables and meats were canned by the pressure cooker method. As a result of such demonstration, fifteen pressure cookers have been purchased and are now in use by housewives of this county.

Cheese-making has been quite popular and several demonstrations have been given in the same. As a result of our cheese making demonstrations, five dairy thermometers have been purchased.

The house had a place in our study. As a result of our consideration of house repairs, two bath rooms have been installed. In our study of house safety, we took under consideration fire dangers, their causes and preventions. A group of ladies enjoyed a tour with me studying fire danger.

Our clothing unit in one of our communities took a missionary spirit. Ladies gathered old clothing, altered them and gave them to a needy family. This enabled 12 children to remain in school.

We have done our bit in connection with the War Fund drive.

Home Demonstration Committee

Representatives from the communities of the organized clubs and a few from other communities met at the Isle of Wight County Training School, Smithfield, Virginia, in October and organized themselves into a county Home Demonstration Committee. They worked out with the assistance of the District Agent, Miss Blanche D. Harrison, a program for a year's work for 1946.

Agents Meeting

The meeting of the Farm and Home Demonstration Agents at Virginia State College and my continued study of the needs of this county have made me aware of the program that is needed and can be carried out. As I move forward with this challenging piece of work, I shall strive to give our groups a deeper insight into enduring values--Home, Food, Clothing, etc.

4-H CLUB

The 4-H Club work has not been as successful as I had hoped. I worked with children who had never done 4-H work before. The program was explained to them. Demonstrations in foods and clothing were given them. We also discussed house keeping problems. As a result of my work with these children, I believe they are 4-H conscious and will be ready for the 1946 program of work.

For KING GEORGE COUNTY

see STAFFORD COUNTY and WESTMORELAND COUNTY

1945