

VI. A. For Special Consideration

While the agent was away for almost two months this year home demonstration clubs and h-H clubs went on with their regular monthly meetings with the help of leaders, the county agent and office secretary, district agent, home demonstration agent-at-large and specialists from VPI. It is wonderful to work for an organization that everyone is so willing to help out in an emergency and that leaders have developed so that they will go on.

B. Public Relations In County Workers, General Public, Elected Representatives.

This continues to be good with all people in the County.

C. Professional Improvement

This year the agent was able to take part in only the special events arranged by Extension Service, such as communications school, district meetings and state agents conference, and special training by specialists, and read her professional magazines and keep up her membership in the two professional organizations - State and National Home Demonstration Agents Association and State and American Home Economics Association.

VII. The Look Ahead

This is the tenth year for home agents work in Bland County. Some sixty-five club members have been faithful for the entire ten years. They are the leaders now. Many of them have reached the age they would like to retire and turn their jobs over to others. We definitely need younger leadership. The economic condition in the county has taken younger families out, and given employment to potential club members. There is a need to reach these people and the young high school graduates who have stayed out of college to work in the factory and those who got homesick and came home. Maybe some special interest group of young homemakers would reach more where the need is the greatest.

3. 4-H Club Leadership

| | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| No. Club Officers | 44 | 54 | 70 | 77 | 80 |
| No. adult project leaders | 16 | 15 | 18 | 18 | 14 |
| No. Junior project leaders | 1 | 5 | 15 | 11 | 14 |
| No. result demonstrators | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No. training mtgs. by specialists | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No. training mtgs. by dist agents | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No. training meetings by agent | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 5 |
| No. Training mtgs. by members club department | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| No. training meetings by others | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total attendance atldr. tr. mtgs. | 9 | 12 | 12 | 99 | 106 |
| No. 4-H leaders trained individually | 12 | 101 | 80 | 96 | 112 |
| No. additional meetings at which leaders assisted | 30 | 56 | 15 | 56 | 104 |
| No. demonstrations given by adult leaders | 25 | 13 | 15 | 8 | 22 |
| No. demonstration given by Jr. ldrs. | 30 | 42 | 60 | 90 | 98 |

- B. Mrs. G. Wright Thompson has always been an enthusiastic home demonstration club member, having served from county committee chairman to the home and community work program chairman in the state federation. It is just this year that she has reached one of her goals in family living comfort - the installation of a hot water furnace fueled by oil in their home which is one of the show places in Bland County and over 100 years old. It was through her natural ability as a leader that she has so ably held these offices. She recognizes the value of Extension Service to the county and uses their methods on all occasions. She has especially learned on the home agent for suggestions in this remodeling job - which has been tremendous. The agent has made at least twelve home visits and had numerous telephone calls from her - for advise on window size and placement, selection of floor coverings and counter tops - wall finishes, swing of doors - placement of equipment and radiators - and all the color schemes and arrangements of new kitchen and utility room. Among the things the agent has accomplished with her is a new kitchen that scores 100% according to the approved kitchen score card, and convincing her she should move her laundry work into the utility room instead of continuing to go to an out building and heating water in a wash pot. She will proudly show her changes to all who come to see them. It will be a nice result demonstration.

Announcements of meetings and special reports of meetings in the county always receive a conspicuous spot in the Bland Messenger - the only county paper. A weekly schedule of adult and h-h meetings is carried in the paper. Sometimes there isn't space for the special articles prepared by the specialists and they do not get in the paper - they are always sent by the agent, however.

More now people are probably reached through home visits than any other way. Even though the agent goes in the interest of the h-h members, there is always some real homemaking problem that comes up that requires other consideration, and a second visit, a bulletin or letter follow up. The agent goes into the areas where there are no organized clubs at least once a year - this takes her into places like up Wolf Creek, down Wolf Creek, Laurel, and Dry Fork in the Rocky Gap district - Long Spur across the mountain, where there is a small one room school, and the people go out to Pulaski for shopping and supplies. The Foods and Nutrition and Housing Committees reach others as well as home demonstration club members carrying literature and information to their neighbors. The home agents in Wythe and Pulaski Counties reach a number of homemakers through their weekly radio program. Bland homemakers have become accustomed to tuning in at their regular times.

V. Leadership

A. Growth of Leadership

1. Over-all Program Leaders

| | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 |
|--|------|------|------|
| a. County Agricultural Extension Service Board | 22 | 23 | 23 |
| b. Youth Council | 70 | 77 | 80 |
| c. Home Economics Council | 27 | 30 | 27 |

2. Home Demonstration Club Leadership

| | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| No. organizational leaders | 41 | 45 | 27 | 30 | 30 |
| No. project leaders (subject matter) | 95 | 101 | 75 | 62 | 63 |
| No. Federation Program of work chairmen | 15 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| No. program development leaders | 14 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| No. result demonstrators | 5 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 9 |
| No. training meetings by specialists | 12 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 3 |
| No. training meetings by dist. agents | 5 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| No. training meetings by agents | 4 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| No. training meetings by others | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Attendance at all training meetings | 282 | 224 | 135 | 51 | 111 |
| No. meetings held without agent | 27 | 18 | 29 | 23 | 24 |
| No. meetings leaders assisted | 66 | 64 | 65 | 63 | 62 |
| Demonstrations by leaders | 27 | 32 | 35 | 27 | 33 |
| Talks and Discussions by leaders | 491 | 415 | 270 | 224 | 378 |

Forty-two h-h club members made 245 entries in the F.H.A. - h-h department and received 33 first places, 30 second places and 24 third places - a total of \$39.75 in prize money. Which was slightly over half the entries and well over half of the prizes.

6. Contests

Canning and freezing girls competed for the privilege of representing the county in the district contest in August. Joyce Hayes came out first again in district in canning. Charlotte Caldwell received only a white ribbon. It was a good experience for her, as she had never given a public demonstration. Her parents took so much interest in her giving the demonstration. The real value was in what the child learned and the parents interest.

Others represented the county in the spring contest, including Nellie Pearl French - dairy foods, Mabel Pruitt - bread and Judith Gail Stowers - laundry.

7. Special Events

During the deep snow all it took was a telephone call to some of the county council members to get them out to practice and give a program at Kiwanis Club - which is always a special event during National h-h Week.

IV. Scope of Work

| | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| No. H. D. Clubs | 12 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Membership | 225 | 225 | 205 | 205 | 205 |
| No. H. D. Groups *(unorganized) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Membership | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No. h-h Clubs | 7 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 11 |
| Membership | 119 | 177 | 196 | 228 | 203 |
| No. 4-H Clubs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Membership | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No. Community Clubs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Membership | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No. Home Ec. Committees | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| No. General Interests Committees | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| No. Youth Committees | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| No. Other Organizations | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No. Farm & Home Dev. Families | 2 | 7 | 17 | 22 | 17 |
| No. Other Families Reached | 515 | 825 | 750 | 775 | 730 |
| No. Different Families Reached | 850 | 850 | 750 | 825 | 750 |

2. Camp

The new camp at Southwest Virginia h-h Center helped to create interest this year. Four senior girls and 19 juniors attended - nine more than ever - There wasn't a child from a single one of them. They liked everything about it. Not only did they like it, they took part in all activities and received recognition along with members from the other counties.

Helan Hanney went to Fontana Village for the Resources Development Camp, and Dollie Pearl French went alone to conservation camp at Virginia Beach, the first time for a girl from Blund to attend conservation camp. Two girls represented the district in canning and freezing demonstration contests at State Short Course - one other attended Short Course. h-h members going to work at Rastlan Sportsweat and the state F. H. A. meeting coming at the same time as short course kept us from filling our quota of five girls.

3. Rural Life Sunday

This day is observed in the churches. Committees were appointed in each club for each church. They along with their leaders contact their ministers and plan their program.

h. Achievement Day

This was observed in August in the form of a county wide meeting. Members made exhibits of their project work and were judged by the Danish system. Reports were heard from members taking part in the various special events, a picnic lunch was served and there was recreation in the afternoon. Forty-seven club members attended this event. County medals are given each year to the members who do the best work in their projects.

The medals serve as an incentive for members to complete their projects.

5. Fairs

It was the feeling of those working in the fair, that the h-h and F. H. A. department was the fairest ever. There were more exhibits in sewing, canning and yeast breads. A special cash prize of \$10.00 for the best yeast bread rolls or sweet rolls in either the adult or youth department created much interest and increased the number of exhibits. Jane Harvden a member of the Blund 6th and 7th grade h-h club was the proud winner of the cash, on a pan of yeast rolls. She has been making bread for four years and uses a wood range for baking. Her mother said "Jane did a better job than I did - she went and rode her pony and let horns rise, and I rushed mine".

projects, mainly those they have done in at home. They are encouraged to carry the same project or the same line of projects for a number of years, and are shown how, as they grow older there is always something new to learn in the project.

Each club has the privilege of selecting the group school projects, and individuals select different projects for home work, guided by their mothers, leaders and agents. The mothers receive help in working with their daughters through home visits by the agent and timely letters.

There were 221 girls enrolled in h-h this year. They carried a wide variety of projects including school projects in - housekeeping 75 enrolled; birds 39 enrolled; home ground beautification 28 enrolled; electricity 25 enrolled; and so you'd like to see 9 enrolled. The two senior clubs do not carry a school subject matter project, they work entirely on individual projects of their interests.

In the projects carried at home foods and clothing were outstanding with 190 projects in bread making, meal preparation and food preservation - canning and freezing - Then clothing came a close second with 105 enrolled in the two projects, so you'd like to see and make and remake.

There was much interest in the home garden with 51 enrolling. A trip to Elizabethtown for horticulture day interests h-h members, four went with the agent this year. The trip to Electric Congress keeps enrollment up in electricity with eleven girls enrolling. For the special summer electric project. One day in June is devoted to instructions on this project. The home demonstration club committee offers cash prizes and there are four county medals in home ground beautification - which stimulates interest in this project. The home demonstration club members assist the enrollees with this project. Laundry - washing and ironing had eleven enrollees this year. A number of the older girls whose mothers are working away from home assume the responsibility of the family laundry. They also assume the responsibility of housekeeping and meal preparation. It is difficult for one to put their finger on actual results, but h-h members do help out around the home.

C. Other Activities

1. Community

Body Gap School's three clubs combined to assist with the P.T.A. Halloween Carnival this year. Members mended the soft drink machine and contributed the profit to the general fund.

committee. She can be depended on to take any responsibility if she has transportation and can leave her home and farm duties. She feels it her responsibility to keep the home fires burning and do her share of the work. While Bobbie was away, she made a hand in the field at hay making and corn cutting time. She likes to learn new things that makes her homemaking easier, her food more attractive and taste better and her sewing more professional looking. She truly is a jewel, and strives for perfection in her homemaking duties.

The Bane's keep records, and try to have their family finances on a safe level, but seem to have a struggle because of debt for additional land, buildings, livestock and equipment, and the tight squeeze farmers are in - and the need for more land to make ends meet.

The land is high producing, and apparently the men make the best use of it - as Mrs. Bane does with the home. They have one of the best kept traditional homes in the county, attractive color scheme, good floors and furnishings - and comfort, with more comfortable living expected this winter from their new oil furnace, and the second bathroom installation for the newly marrieds.

They are well onto achieving their goals, their children are educated and have taken their places in civilization. They have beautiful rolling hills with fat cattle grazing, feed in , a cellar and freezer full of home produced food, and in sight of how they'll make ends meet.

III. The County Extension Program - Youth

A. Organization

There are two youth organizations in the county - County h-H Council and the All Stars. The County Council is made up of all h-H club officers. It meets twice during the year - one meeting was devoted to the training of officers and developing a calendar of work. They decide on projects and activities for the entire h-H club group.

The All Star organization is made up of All Star members in the county. They serve primarily to review h-H club records and to make recommendations for All Star membership. They also assist with special h-H club events.

B. h-H Project Work

h-H club members are encouraged to carry a wide variety of

They financed the purchase of:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 10 dozen dark cloths | \$14.00 |
| 6 dozen light weight brooms | 61.18 |
| 10 Revised Recipes from Old Virginia | 20.50 |

102.96

These are distributed to the clubs and they sell and keep the profit for their treasury - which gives them money for their current expenses. The three items the clubs sell are liked by those who use them, and rebuy brooms and dark cloths.

The profit from the food sale was \$78.25

D. Farm and Home Development

This family story goes back to the beginning of TVA with best demonstration farms, which was around 1924, when the Robert Rame's were a young married couple having their three children, Mackie, Barbara and Bobbie. They were and are a leading family in their community, intelligent, ambitious and proud of their 150 acre farm, one of the best in the county, with a good well built two story home, which they had inherited from Mr. Rame's grandparents. They wanted to be one of the first to sign up for all new agriculture programs and take advantage of all educational opportunities in agriculture, and to have the best of everything on the farm and in the home. They have probably come as near as any family in the county reaching that goal.

Three children grown - Bobbie High school graduate, recently returned from two years in service, married to home economics teacher in Bland, living with father and mother, partner with father, raises purchased Hereford cattle and sheep - with plans for a new home sometime in the near future. Mackie a graduate of VT, with masters from N. C. Women's College, serving on the teaching staff while working on masters in art - now teaching art at Meredith College in Raleigh, N. C. - has received recognition for her sculpture and art work. Barbara - graduate of Madison College, teaching first grade in Richmond, served as hall-leader for Herd County at Junior camp for three years until this year, had full time employment in summer camp for retarded children near Washington.

Mr. Rame belongs to all agriculture committees and takes every opportunity for educational trips. Mrs. Rame belongs to home demonstration club and the housing home economics

4. County Fair

The Bland County Fair is a big event. If people cooperated with everything else as well as they do the women's department at the fair there would be no problems. Twenty-one homemakers are listed in the catalog as workers in the different departments - all of these except one showed up to do their share of the work entering exhibits, setting in the building, and assisting in taking down exhibits. People ask for a place on this committee when there is a vacancy. Thirteen are home demonstration club members. The fair association gives season passes to these workers.

5. Community Projects

Home demonstration clubs have carried community projects - Wessondouck improved mail boxes and added railing to church steps so folks will not fall. Bastian and Rocky Gap set shrubs at their school - Seddon and Crab Orchard club members planted and cared for flowers at the community building and post office.

There is a courthouse lawn committee that work in connection with the Federation Program of Work - Home and Community Beautification. Two large boxwoods were given to them for the moving and setting. The two county chairmen - Home Demonstration Club Committee and Federation Work Program chairman - worked together and found truck, wrecker to load and unload, and people around the courthouse to dig the holes. The two boxwoods were set at the front entrance to the courthouse in no time. There is a feeling that some people who have not been interested in the committee project will take more interest now that they have had a part in the setting of some plants.

The Bland-Giles Hereford sale is a big day for home demonstration members. It is the time they replenish their county treasury. This year fifty-four members furnished food and eighteen came out to assist in preparing and serving. Since the clubs have taken this money making project on - they have always had money to meet all current expenses. This is the way they spent their money this year.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Year book covers | \$6.41 |
| Home Ground Beautification 4-H Project prizes | 6.00 |
| Sponsor one district winner to Short Course | 10.00 |
| Coop House | 45.00 |

\$67.41

3. County Achievement Day

See newspaper clippings

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1960

Bland County H. D. Achievement Day Attract Many; Rated Very Successful

Home Demonstration Club Achievement Day Program

Bland County Home Demonstration Club will hold their annual achievement day program Friday, November 18th at 2:00 P. M. in the St. Matthews Lutheran Church, in Bland, with the Red Oak Home Demonstration Club serving as hostess. This is the tenth anniversary for home demonstration club work in the county—those people who have been members for ten years will be recognized.

Mr. Prince E. Thornton, Public Relation Assistant, for Appalachian Power Company, Roanoke will be guest speaker. Exhibits of the years work will be displayed and tea will be served in Miss Hagler's home. Everyone interested is invited, says Mrs. G. R. Repass, Bland County Home Demonstration Club Committee Chairman.

The Bland County Home Demonstration Club Achievement Day Program was held Friday, November 18th in the St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Bland with the Red Oak Home Demonstration Club as hostess. Prince E. Thornton, Public Relations Assistant with Appalachian Power Company, Roanoke, was guest speaker and held the audience spellbound with his illustrated flannelgraph talk on "The Earth is the Lord's" in which he brought out the necessity for conservation. Mrs. J. H. Gross served from an antique soup tureen with spiced oranges floating in it. An assortment of cakes, mints and nuts completed the refreshments. The center piece was a hand woven reed tray, arranged with small gourds, fruit in season, rose berries, artificial grapes and Japanese lanterns, belonging to Mrs. J. H. Gross.

Mrs. Woodrow Scott assisted seven 4-H club members from the Ceres Club in serving. Members of the Red Oak Club assisted in the home. Mrs. Leslie Umbarger, Mrs. Jennings Umbarger, and Mrs. Paul Barger had charge of the guest book. Mrs. John Barger, Mrs. Ethel Foglesong and Mrs. Grat Hayton received the guests and Mrs. Walter B. Gordon, Mrs. D. Woodrow Bird and Mrs. G. R. Repass presided.

5. FAMILY LIFE, CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND PARENT EDUCATION

Parents seem to feel they have not been successful in getting their children to assume the responsibility they should in the home. Grandmothers, childless married homemakers, and old maids made the greatest contribution to this discussion. If they could have heard the Eastian h-H club members tell the responsibilities they take in doing the housekeeping chores at home, since their mothers are working, they would have thought these children had assumed full responsibility of housekeeping, cooking, laundry and dishwashing - any way this monthly topic was approached in a deeper way on understanding the child and having the child understand the family situation so far as money, moral responsibilities and a family program of work is concerned. Planning together was stressed, and the importance of each child being given a responsibility by the family was discussed. We went further into what the parent could expect of the child at different age levels - and the child's interest at these age groups.

C. Other Activities

1. National Home Demonstration week was observed by seventeen members attending the District Federation in Blacksburg. Exhibits were placed in store windows.

2. The Home Demonstration Clubs motto and objectives were - "Give to the world the best you have and the best will come back to you".

- (1) Enlist new members - we added 3.
- (2) Continue to sponsor h-H clubs - All clubs worked with h-H members taking Home Ground Beautification project, and selected winners for their area for county medals and the Home Demonstration Club Committee's cash prizes.
- (3) Stress reports from project leaders at each club meeting - leaders are always called on for reports on their subjects, and respond about 50% of the time.
- (4) Have representative from each club at all leader training meetings - we have never reached the 100% mark on this one.
- (5) Encourage and promote a weekend camp at the Southwest Virginia h-H Center - Had representatives at both camps. The three homemakers that attended the one day camp were so impressed that they went back to the two day camp and took their families. At that camp there were 15 from Blaine County including five children and the home agent, who assisted with the craft program.

The afternoon was spent by two leaders who are experts showing how to remove the old finish and put the new finish on, and how to mend broken places with plastic wood. The home agent discussed methods of restyling - illustrated by pictures.

The group was thrilled with what they saw in the homes they visited and convinced that if they would do the hard work they could change some of their unattractive places to more livable places. Seeing something demonstrated and going home and doing it is becoming more popular in the county. Homemakers feel that after they have seen it done they can do a better job in their own homes with their own equipment. They do however, recognize the value of the home agent gathering up everything and having it ready to use in workshops.

3. CLOTHING

Handmade clothing is expensive, and homemakers have an opportunity to help their limited budget by saving on clothing by making their own during the long cold snow bound winter months. Shopping facilities are limited, so in many cases they depend on order books, this makes proper selection of becoming satisfactory clothing a real problem for the average homemaker. With this in their minds two months were planned to be devoted to the selection of dress designs, fabric and trims and construction of the better dress. The first month the dress was planned, according to good principles. The homemakers selected pattern, altered it and cut and fitted the garment. The second month she brought the garment to club meeting for help on special problems on construction and finishes. The heavy snows hampered the folks in and in many cases they were not able to get out to club meetings during February and March the months clothing was scheduled. However, many club members proudly wore dresses to club meetings that they had made during the time they were shut in.

4. SAFETY

During April the agent was away for the entire month. The demonstrations on Safety were very ably taken over by Martha Hopass, the county health nurse. Many members commented on how much they enjoyed her. Board leaders seem to feel a need for being prepared for an emergency. They show interest in First Aid and what to do in case of an accident. They had a better understanding of the county health nurse duties after having had her for one monthly meeting at each club.

needed repair". The group learned something on refinishing wood, and cleaning frames and pictures, how to mat, what pictures to mat and how to select and frame pictures for different uses. They learned to appreciate the proper size picture for the space to be used, and how to hang them to keep them straight on the wall. Extra seating space is always handy - So, old chair frames were made usable by being sorted with fiber cord. The participants were taught to appreciate a job well done.

People in Blant County are practical and like to go about obtaining furnishings for their homes in the most practical way - the reason for choosing the work shops - one on making dress drapes - and the other better use for old furniture.

For the drapes the agent was trained by the specialist to make a tailored drape by an approved method, which was very exact in every step. Then the agent trained three leaders who in turn assisted with the workshop. One panel was made by each person present to the last detail of putting in lining and attaching hardware. They also compared homemade and ready-made drapes as to quality, construction and suitability of materials. Short lengths of drapery fabrics were borrowed from a nearby department store, and used as illustrative and working materials for quality, design and suitability. Ten people learned to construct a piece of drapery by an approved satisfactory method. Less experienced seamstresses felt it was an excellent method of teaching accurate measurements and sewing techniques.

Blant homemakers like to do simple jobs, that are not too time consuming, but when it comes to long all day meetings they are just not interested. In fact in many instances they have grown to like to see the other person work and not do so much themselves. So, the workshop on Putting Old Furniture to Better Use, took an entirely different angle than that originally planned. First to give those interested an idea of what was meant by putting old furniture to better use, four homes were visited in the morning for the group to see what these homemakers had done, including cut down headboards on beds, removal of ginger bread work, conversion of a piece of furniture from one thing to another more useful, and the different finishes used. At twelve o'clock the group assembled for their school girl lunch and coffee. People came until after lunch - and not a single person left until the day was over. Some thirty in all attended - the biggest group that has been together for an adult group this year. Seven homemakers from the "Grand" Cores club came. They came because they have furniture use problems - and were interested in learning how to make their discarded furniture useful.

At the proper time following the garden demonstration new ways of preparing vegetables were taught at regular monthly club meetings. This was done by the home agent, showing ways of improving flavor and how to conserve food value. This was again "The proof of the pudding is in the eating". The prepared vegetables were used as refreshments and the quality of the different dishes was appraised by the participants. Leaflets were distributed for reference in preparing vegetables, and their value as a food.

Everyone makes pickles - but not all pickles are of the best quality. So, Eland homemakers were interested in improving the quality of the finished product, and finding ways of using their surplus vegetables suitable for pickles. A leaflet containing a number of tested recipes was prepared by the Extension Service Food and Nutrition Specialist and used in the demonstration. Food leaders assisted the agent by collecting material and supplies and having pickles ready for different stages of development on the club meeting day. Members especially liked a beet relish made from fresh beets, cabbage and celery. That was something new for them. Among the things taught were how to make pickles crisp, and to keep them crisp. The proper brining solution and proper utensils for pickle making were shown. Lively discussions were held by members on different ways that they have found to make pickles.

2. HOUSE, SURROUNDINGS, FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT was taught in three regular monthly meetings and two special interest meetings, including monthly meetings on -

Trees and shrubs suitable to our area.

How to frame pictures

Reseating chairs and stools

Special interest meetings -

How to make draw drapes.

Better use for old furniture.

Home and community beautification has been the Federation Work Program for the past four years. Trees and shrubs suitable to this area had not been studied as such by the group. They did not recognize the native plants - so the desire to recognize and learn how to use the many lovely plants seen in the mountains to beautify home grounds caused this topic to be selected. Federation work program leaders were trained and in turn did the demonstration. Federation work program leaders have taken time at each club meeting to promote their federation goals on Home and Community Beautification. Through this program, carried for several years, interest has been created among club members and outsiders to improve their home surroundings and keep them neat and attractive, with some flowers and plants growing and blooming.

It has always appeared there is an interest in club members actually making something, the reason for framing pictures and reseating chairs and stools. Old materials were on hand - others

two special interest committees - food and nutrition and housing fell in line and assisted with this program. Emphasis was also given to this program and other phases of home economics by leaders and the home agents on home visits to homemakers in the county.

1. FOOD AND NUTRITION was taught in four monthly topics -

How to have a year around garden.

Food for older people.

New ways of preparing vegetables.

How to make pickles.

Bland being a rural county with practically every family having a garden interested the people in learning results of research and putting them into practice in order to have a year around supply of vegetables. It was natural to follow through with ways of preparing vegetables and use the surplus for pickles. The number of older people in the county is increasing and very little had been done to make young and old realize that food habits should change for better health of the individual.

The garden demonstration was given at nine home demonstration clubs by leaders and the agent after having been trained by VPI specialist - Monthly Garden letters prepared by specialist were distributed to club members and outsiders, bringing out good timely practices. Emphasis was placed on better care and variety and cutting down on size of the garden plot to make it more productive and require less time and effort to produce the family vegetable supply. This was a new trend for Bland County. People in Bland County continued to have gardens and to can and store for the winter - some on the basis to keep it from going to waste, rather than planned according to need.

Food for older people received much comment - "I liked that fluffy omelet made with cottage cheese", "That was the best hamburger I ever ate, it was so tender and juicy, she used milk in it". "That custard was so good". One person said she had an opportunity to have lunch at the Hotel Rossmore and selected the custard baked in a skillet like they had had in the demonstration and that it wasn't any better than that she had made for the club demonstration. One Foods leader made it and took it to all her neighbors. This demonstration was done by leaders and the home agent-at-large.

Emphasis was placed on the changing food needs - simple preparation for older people including milk and eggs, and easily digested foods. Recipes were distributed, club members have given evidence of their using them and becoming more interested in feeding their families right.

the Inter-Mountain system in Wytheville has added a new dial system and has a total of 265 telephones. Work is in the process of liquidating its private system and changing over to Inter-Mountain dial system. Electric power reaches all sections of the county except Poor Valley, where there are three families living and some few remote sections that don't have it installed.

People in Blant are great lovers of the outdoors, they enjoy working out in the open, hunting and fishing, especially hunting deer and bear. They have very little recreation outside of the school and church activities.

There is one doctor in the county, who is faithful and serves his people well. There is a county health department staffed with a full time nurse and secretary services once a week. The county doctor and sanitarian are shared with Wythe and Pulaski Counties.

Except for county organized markets like the Blant-Olas Hereford Association, the wool pool and milk routes, livestock and livestock products and crops are marketed outside the county. There is some trading among farmers, and carrying eggs to the store. A lot of the home produced food is sold in Bluefield, W. Va. Different individuals have their regular customers that they take produce to regularly, including vegetables, hams, eggs, fresh meats, and dressed poultry.

II. County Extension Program - Adult

A. Organizations

There are a number of organizations and committees which function in Blant County to develop the Extension Home Economics Program. The Agricultural Extension Service Board was organized in 1925 as a pilot county to develop the over-all program. All other committees come under it. They are - two special home economy committees - Housing and Food and Nutrition; The Home Economics Council; the County Home Demonstration Club Committee; and two special interests committees - Lighting and Water Systems.

B. Subject Matter and Special Emphasis Areas

The planned adult program placed first emphasis on Food and Nutrition, followed in the order of importance by House Surroundings Furnishings and Equipment; Clothing Safety and Family Life, Child Development, Parent Education. This program was planned by the County Home Demonstration Club Committee and carried on in their twelve monthly meetings, through demonstrations by leaders and the home agent. The

I. County Situation as It Affects the Program

Bland County lies in the Appalachian Mountain range of Southwest Virginia. It has an area of 360 square miles or 236,160 acres with approximately half of the land in farms. The land is rolling with three mountain ranges. The tops of East River on the East and Big Walker on the West mark the county lines. Brushy Mountain splits the county through the middle. The people live in the valleys and use the sides of the mountains for grazing.

There has been a shift from farm population to non-farm - in the age group 5 to 34 - which makes up 3263 whites and 91 colored people - with 7.2% more non-farm white people and 58.2% more non-farm colored people than farm. It was noted that the age groups from 10 to 19 contained 72 more farm youths than non-farm youths but all other groups contained more non-farm people than farm, which indicates farmers have larger families and young families are leaving the farm.

Bland is considered largely an agriculture county with general farming, livestock and dairy predominating. The chief crops are pasture and hay with very small acreage of cash crops. Sharon District grows tobacco - a small acreage 37.29 acres with 79 farmers participating. The farmers take great pride in their purebred Hereford and Angus herds and their high producing dairy herds. There are no participants in the soil bank.

More industry is needed in the county. The Eastian Sportswear gives employment to 430 men and women. Bland Hosiery Mill is closed and has caused its employees to seek work elsewhere. The Bland Correctional Farm employs 70 people. In fact the penal institutions in the state have given employment to a number of citizens, taking them to various sections of the state. These people are buying homes in their new locations. Four lumber mills keep laborers working and the highway gives employment to other laborers. A number of people living in the Rocky Gap district have employment in Bluefield, West Virginia - businesses, railroads and telephone company. There is also a number of summer homes and cottages in that area owned by people outside the county.

There are three high schools combined with elementary schools that accommodate the 1292 pupils. The 1960 enrollment is off some fifty pupils from 1959.

Families continue to make improvements in family living - central heating systems and bathrooms have been added. Telephone service has been improved throughout the county - Rocky Gap, through Bluefield, W. Va. has brought its number up to 165. Bland and Eastian served by

The two most outstanding contributions made to family living are more 4-H club members took part in more 4-H club activities and leaders assumed responsibility with the assistance of the home agent-at-large in the agents absence.

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

Mary E. Hagler
Name
Home Demonstration Agent
Title

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent



1960

Bland
County