

NARRATIVE REPORT OF

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State Agent, 4-H Club Work

December 1, 1950 - August 1, 1951.

Due to ill health it was necessary for the Girls' Club Agent to resign on August 1, 1951, therefore, the following report covers her work for only eight months.

During this period many activities were engaged in to promote 4-H club work in the state. An earnest effort was made to follow the plan of work as outlined in the beginning of the year. In some instances it was necessary to change the original plan but as a whole the plan has remained in its original state.

Organization.

Individual clubs have been visited in every possible instance and all phases of club work studied with an idea of improving on our present methods. There is still a great need for more materials to work with and more time to devote to 4-H club work.

The State Agent in girls' club work attended four council meetings in 1951, in the following counties: Caldwell, Catawba, Carteret, and Gaston. In Carteret County the meeting was held in April for the purpose of organizing their girls' council and the club agent was asked to assist in this by the new home agent, Miss Virginia Sloan. Thirty enthusiastic girls were present for this meeting when the work of a council was outlined to them by the club agent and they were told that as leaders they could be of great assistance to their clubs and home agent.

There are thirty-three (33) junior councils and federations organized in North Carolina. The council serves as the advisory board to the county federation, and it is through the council that the year's work is planned. At the four council meetings attended by the state agent, she has given assistance in planning the year's programs for the different counties.

One federation meeting was attended. This was in Sampson County and the girls attending this meeting gave all indications of putting over a lively program for 1931.

The Agents' Conference.

During the entire time of the conference, the club agent held individual conferences with the home agents assisting them in planning their 4-H club work for the coming year. These were held following the general meetings.

One morning of the conference was given over to Miss Gertrude Warren of the Washington Office who discussed 4-H club work with the home demonstration agents. She again discussed this subject at a general meeting of farm and home agents.

At this conference cotton materials manufactured in North Carolina and suitable for a girl's club uniform were shown to the agents. From these samples the body of agents selected a very pretty green cotton material manufactured in Richmond County to be used for the North Carolina club girl's uniform. With the assistance of the club agent and clothing specialist a simple pattern was also selected.

It was decided at this conference that each club girl attending the 4-H short course the following summer would be required to wear the club uniform during the entire week.

Farming To Make A Living in 1931.

Early in January the plans were made for the Farming to Make A Living in 1931 campaign. Posters and charts were made, bulletins collected, and instructions given, in other words the necessary preparation for such a campaign.

Five teams launched the campaign, starting in the eastern part of the state. Each team was composed of a man and a woman. The man was provided with charts showing how much food and feed are grown in that particular county and how much more they needed to grow to be a self sustaining county. Each woman was provided with a large chart showing the daily food essentials to keep the body in good health; also, canning budgets showing the amount of canned food one person should consume in a year. Of course, these budgets could be multiplied by the number of members in any family and the necessary amount of canned products for this family to have be obtained.

The club agent was sent into the following counties to represent the women's work: Bladen, Brunswick, Cabarrus, Caswell, Columbus, Granville, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, New Hanover, Pender, Person, Rockingham, Stanly, and Stokes. The response in nearly all of the counties, as far as audiences were concerned, was good. In Stanly County eighty people were present in spite of the rapidly falling snow which made the roads hard to travel. Congressman Lambeth of the 7th district attended some of these farming for a living meetings of business men and farmers. He heartily endorsed the campaign and offered suggestions to further it.

Subject Matter Assistance.

The club agent spent from three to five days in each of the following counties: Alexander, Catawba, Davidson, Edgecombe, Gaston, Polk, Hertford, and Wayne counties. As each home agent attended her various club meetings, she was accompanied by the club agent who gave assistance in the junior homemaker's project, the foods project, the clothing project, and room improvement project, as well as assisting with the recreational part of the programs. Upon return to the county seat, the project work was discussed from every angle and all available material which would prove helpful to her was given to the home agent. In Edgecombe County conferences regarding the work were held with both the farm and the home agent, as their particular difficulty has been the large 4-H enrollment, making it difficult to carry on club work. Plans for "weeding out" all members not especially interested in club work were made that the active and interested members might have more time and help from the agents.

All of the clubs were met in Polk County. The farm agent could not attend these meetings, as he was detained in town because of the drought relief applications with which he had to assist and which were being filled out in his office. According to the home agent this was the first time the farm agent had ever missed a joint club meeting.

The club agent planned to give subject matter assistance to various home agents at their summer encampments, but due to illness was unable to carry out these plans.

Health Work.

In the interest of promoting health work among 4-H club members, the club agent visited Davidson, Edgecombe, Gaston, Pitt, and Scotland counties to assist the home agents in planning and putting on health programs in their counties. In both Pitt and Scotland counties I attended the May Day health program. In Pitt I assisted with the examinations and in both counties the ceremony of crowning the king and queen of health for the county was carried out. I spoke on the Health H in Club Work at these meetings, leading the groups in the recreational part of the program in conclusion.

The State Health Contest was conducted as in 1930. Each county selected their boy and girl and in many instances honored these health winners at a county celebration. Each district held a health contest at which time a boy and girl were selected to represent that district in the State Health Contest during the 4-H Short Course. As in 1930, Dr. Campbell, State College physician, and a corps of specialists did the final scoring and selected Annie Ruth Raper of Davidson County as Queen of Health with a score of 96.5 per cent, and George Howard Moose, Jr. of Catawba County with a score of 95.4 per cent, as King of Health. Honoring these health winners, an elaborate health pageant was staged during the short course at which time they were crowned King and Queen of Health among North Carolina 4-H club members.

Recreational Work.

The club agent gave recreational work in the following counties: Alexander, Anson, Carteret, Catawba, Davidson, Gaston, Iredell, Orange, Polk, and Wayne counties.

The outstanding work in recreation was done in Iredell and Wayne counties where intensive schools were held. These were conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Stewart Knapp and Mr. and Mrs. John Bradford of the National Playground and Recreational Association of America. These schools continued for four days including two meetings a day. The afternoon programs consisted of community singing, quiet and active games, folk dances and the like; the evening programs were composed of folk dances, stunts, and plays, including how to use make-up, etc. This was the fifth recreational school to be held in Iredell County and there one will find that these leaders are certainly "on their toes" in recreational work. The work given in Wayne county was much the same as that given in Iredell, but as this was the first recreational school to be held in that county, it was of course more elementary. The group was made up of younger boys and girls and the response to this work was very good indeed.

In the other counties the recreational work was given by the club agent at the regular club meetings in the counties. These programs consisted of songs; games for large and small groups, young and old.

Training of Leaders.

The 4-H Club Short Course held at State College August 3-8, 1931 was the important piece of leadership training done during the year. Plans were begun for this in April in conference with the State Home Agent, Boys' Club Leader, Girls' Club Agent, district agents, and specialists. Courses in the following subjects were planned: art appreciation, good manners, parliamentary law, music appreciation, living with each other, grooming, afternoon teas, and beautifying yards for the girls; the wild flowers in North Carolina, crop insects, plant diseases, good seed and selecting an exhibit, feeding care and judging of livestock, culling poultry for profit, disease and parasite control, building up the poultry flock, and feeding the farm flock for the boys. Also, a special course in recreation leadership, advanced swimming and life-saving was offered for a group of selected leaders.

4-H Honor Club.

For the first time in North Carolina club history, an organization made up of the outstanding club members in the State was organized during the short course, being called the 4-H Honor Club. The club has for its purpose the further promotion of 4-H Club Work, and is composed of outstanding 4-H club boys and girls such as those who have represented the state at national meetings, state-wide meetings, etc. and those who are outstanding in their own counties.

Vesper Service.

A new plan for vesper services was begun this year.

Rather than having a local minister talk to the group, special counties were asked to dramatize Bible stories for our vesper programs. This change it was felt added much to the short course program.

The Crowning of the King and Queen of Health for North Carolina and the Candle Lighting Ceremony were other outstanding events of the week.

Six hundred boys and girls were in attendance at the short course and forty-two farm and home agents and club leaders. These boys and girls were selected to represent their clubs because of their ability as leaders. This placed a responsibility on these club members to their clubs at home which they seemed to realize, for they were most responsive in all phases of club work undertaken at the short course.

It was a keen disappointment to the club agent not to be able to carry out in person the plans for the short course, but due to illness this was impossible. Miss Myrtie Keller, home agent of Wayne County was placed in charge of the short course in her place by Mrs. Jane S. McKimmon, assistant director of extension and state home demonstration agent.

Following is the complete program for the week of the 1931 State Short Course for 4-H Club Boys and Girls.

National Encampment.

Delegates were sent again from North Carolina to the 4-H National Encampment in Washington, D. C. These boys and girls selected for their very outstanding work and records in 4-H Club Work were: Louise Elliott of Stanly County, Olive Jackson of Pitt County, Ralph Suggs of Gaston County, and Boyce Brooks of Duplin County.

At the encampment there were four conferences daily with sightseeing trips and recreational programs. The entire group, delegates and state leaders, met each morning and evening. The state leaders met separately each morning and afternoon and by the end of the encampment left for their various home states filled with inspiration and new ideas for Club Work. That the subject matter of these conferences might be digested and studied, mimeographed copies of the thoughts of the conferences were given to each leader to take home with him.

During one of the evening recreational programs North Carolina contributed a mountain folk play, "The Mountain Wedding," which was coached by Mr. Jack Steward Knapp while conducting schools in recreation in North Carolina and during the National Encampment.

The trip of one girl and one boy to this encampment was financed by the Atlantic Coast Line Railway as is their custom each year. The trip of the other girl and boy was financed by the Extension Division, the girls' club agent driving these two delegates to and from Washington in her car.

Local Leaders - Orange County.

The girls of Orange County were not satisfied that the boys there should have so many more advantages than they since there was a farm agent and no home agent for the county. They went to Mr. Don Matheson, farm agent, and asked that he give them project work. Not feeling that he had been trained sufficiently to give home making projects he appealed to some of the best housewives of the county to serve as local leaders and through them is carrying on the girls' work.

A request came to the girls' club agent from Mr. Matheson for assistance in training these local leaders, so two visits were made to his county. Subject matter assistance was given these leaders through the discussion of project work and the best methods of procedure. To each leader was given an outline of foods work as prepared by the Extension Nutritionist and the Club Agent and the foods bulletin written by the former.

Publicity.

Articles regarding girls' club work, plans and activities, were written from time to time for the newspapers and farm magazines, that the public may know something of what our 4-H club girls are doing. Eleven such articles were written by the girls' club agent during her eight months' work and these were given wide publicity.

"Tar Heel Club News" is the daily campus newspaper during the week of the 4-H Short Course. Editors and reporters are selected from the boys and girls and they are assisted in publishing this paper by the Extension Editor.

Miscellaneous.

The agent for girls' club work was asked to judge at cotton style shows held in Anson County and in Stanly County. Very attractive cotton dresses made by the club women and girls were displayed at these meetings.

North Carolina was allowed to enter one girl as competitor for the Payne Fellowship Fund. May Swan of Cumberland County and a student at N. C. C. W. was given this honor and with the assistance of the girls' club agent compiled her 4-H club record and her scholastic record which were necessary to enter the contest.