

Miss Alice Grace Ryan, known throughout Arizona as Grace Ryan, died July 20, 1972, in Tucson where she lived after retirement in 1957 from the Cooperative Extension Service, University of Arizona. She retired after she served Arizonans 37 years on their farms and ranches throughout the state, a veteran home economist who gave so much to her friends and admirers. She placed in file at the University her own accounting of her life. For her friends, the words below will spring to life just as they have known Grace all these many years. Here are her words . . .

"Born at McCook, Nebraska, of American-Irish parentage, I am the second child and second daughter in a family of four children — two girls and two boys. The forebearers of both my parents left Ireland during a time of religious upheaval and sought homes in free America.

"The family of my father, Bernard John Ryan, settled first among relatives in Canada, but later moved to Michigan and then to Illinois.

"The family of my mother, Elizabeth Slattery, took lands in New York, but soon became discouraged with bleak and unproductive soil.

"Tales of rich farming land available to the 'West' led them, also, to Illinois where they cleared timberland and settled in Henderson Grove, a mere hamlet near Galesburg, Ill. There my father and mother were married. Six years later they moved to begin western life in McCook, Nebraska, a frontier village of homesteaders.

"From McCook, the family moved to O'Neill, Neb., a second pioneer outpost where rigorous living, with minimal comforts, was the rule for settlers. There my father, a merchant, served the little homesteading settlement; engaged in the cattle business with a ranch partner, and generally took active part in the vigorous life of the new village. A later move took the family to Neligh, Neb., in the heart of a rich farming area. There we remained until 1912, when my parents retired to a citrus acreage near San Diego, Calif.

"After graduating from Neligh, Neb., High School in 1905 I entered the University of Nebraska attracted by a new and definitely 'unproven' field known as Domestic Science.

"As a result of this venture (undertaken after much prayerful consider-



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ation on the part of my parents) I was graduated from the University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics, 1912.

"I was appointed supervisor of Home Economics in the secondary schools of Council Bluffs, Iowa. There I assumed responsibility for curriculum planning and teaching of 400 girls enrolled in homemaking courses. Then I served as instructor and department head of home economics at the University of Nebraska.

"In 1920 I accepted a teaching position in Home Economics department at Mesa, Arizona. I was the only instructor, and incidentally, one of two women in Arizona hired by the first Vocational Home Economics Supervisor for Arizona.

"From this assignment I was recruited to work with the Arizona Cooperative Extension Service. It happened because I had met two enterprising and interesting Extension staff members — Mrs. Mary Pritner Lockwood, State Home Demonstration Leader, and Miss Agnes Hunt (Mrs. Parks) State Club Leader.

"When I entered the Extension Service in Arizona, I found it satis-

fying, stimulating and fascinating. There began for me an intensive period of service — first as an Agent assigned to Graham, Greenlee and Cochise Counties; later, to be moved to Pinal and Cochise counties, and finally to Maricopa county. At Maricopa I served from 1923 to 1946 with the exception of a year devoted to sabbatical leave. In 1946 I was transferred to the Home Management division of the State Staff at the University of Arizona.

"The years have offered abundant opportunity for service to farm families in all financial and social brackets. I am convinced that my early life in rural communities, my close association with families reared on farms, and my basic training in pioneer home life and in formal courses in homemaking have all added to my continuing interest in the Extension program.

"There was much difficult and discouraging pioneer work to be done in the Arizona counties where I worked, but it has been leavened by rich personal contacts and friendships and by appreciation and cooperation. Believing that the program of Extension service for rural families should stem from the local groups and should reflect their wants, needs, interests and attitudes, it has been my desire to make a conscientious, sincere effort to ascertain these factors and meet them in a practical fashion. Always I have been aware that it is necessary to merit confidence and faith, as well.

"An overall objective for Extension work calls for a unified educational farm and home program for rural families with a basic goal of providing a farm income sufficient to insure a standard of living sound in several respects. This standard should provide a rural health program to meet family health needs as well as protective health measures relative to local community health problems. It should look toward the development of vocational interests and aptitudes; provide adequate housing for rural families, and seek desirable social and recreational contacts within the community itself.

"Personal compensations too numerous to mention have come with the years. Among them are the satisfactions which come from seeing enduring adult and youth groups form to produce leadership for all phases of the Extension and community programs." Grace Ryan.