

ANNUAL

NARRATIVE REPORT

of

Linda H. Barter

Home Agent-at-Large

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SITUATION

The Home Agent-at-Large has a standing assignment in Gila County, serving the Homemaker and 4-H Clubs in cooperation with the County Agricultural Agent. Other assignments include working in any county in the state when a vacancy occurs or when special assistance is needed. All scheduling is done through the State Home Economics Leader.

During the past year the Agent has worked primarily in Gila, Pima, Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties. The report of the Gila and Pima County activities have been included in the annual narratives of each respective county.

IN-SERVICE TRAINING

4-H - February

Situation:

The agent attended a four-day workshop held in Holbrook, given by the foods, clothing and 4-H specialists. The training had been requested by newer agents, and was to cover the project materials, teaching methods, demonstrations and judging, and 4-H in general.

Evaluation:

The agent was very grateful to receive "first hand" information concerning the 4-H projects of foods and clothing. The training in demonstrations and judging was essential for the coming activities of the agent, particularly in the area of foods. One of the most interesting topics discussed was that concerning the teenage nutrition project. The new ideas and activities presented served to broaden one's scope when considering the entire range of events possible in the 4-H program.

In preparation of and during the workshops, demonstration materials in clothing were prepared: sewing box, apron, draw-string bag, and blouses.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE - January

The agent attended the Extension Service Annual Conference, participating in the family living, youth and community improvement and resource development discussion groups. In evaluating the conference, it is felt that the greatest benefit was derived from the sessions on the current developments in the role of Cooperative Extension in the areas of (1) public affairs; (2) youth programs for those outside of 4-H; and (3) general extension education.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Town and Country Life Conference - June

The theme of the 15th Town and Country Life Conference was "The Family Meets the Challenge of the Changing World". The program and organization were outstanding, and it gave the agent a first-hand opportunity to observe the women's enthusiasm for this form of adult education.

COCHISE COUNTY

ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM PLANNING

4-H-Home Economics Leader Training - January

Situation: The Home Agent-at-Large visited the county January 23-28 to assist the home agent in the 4-H program. With over twenty clubs in the county, it was felt that the agent's time would best be spent in visiting as many community and home economics leaders as possible in order to give the home agent a current picture of the progress and needs of the clubs and leaders.

Objectives:

1. To determine for the Cochise home agent the current 4-H situation and progress taking place in the county.
2. To determine the current needs of the leaders.
3. To provide training for the new project leaders in foods, clothing and room improvement.

Method: Home visits were made to 23 leaders - 7 community, 5 foods, 10 clothing, 1 room improvement - and materials were left for 5 other leaders.

A tentative outline of a home visit to a project leader is as follows:

1. Discussion of what club has done and plans for the coming year.
2. Discussion of common concerns, as methods of holding meetings, attendance, programs, coordinating activities with the community club.
3. Discussion of project book and examination of articles or products to be made (particularly with new leaders.)
4. Discussion of use of judging and demonstrations.
5. Discussion of leader aids, training meetings, and help needed from county office.

Evaluation: The agent found the leaders on the whole quite interested in 4-H and willing to put forth an effort to learn more about the program and about improving their clubs.

1. Visiting so many leaders in such a short time raises the doubt that much actual learning took place.
2. Perhaps the real value of the visits is to be found in the moral boosts given the leaders through:
 - a. Contact with someone from the county office.
 - b. Opportunity to air their views, problems, and needs.
3. Several homes visited gave little indication of "having been touched" by the principles of the 4-H projects in the areas of cleanliness, sanitation, and pleasing surroundings. This observation might suggest that a 4-H leader may be trained in a project but it does not necessarily mean she has become educated or developed a deepened understanding of the objectives of the project.

4-H - Leader Training Meetings - March and April

Situation: Through the use of questionnaires it was determined that the leaders were interested in receiving training in program planning and record keeping. At their request, five area leader training meetings were scheduled. The agent-at-large participated in three of these sessions, working with the 4-H County Agent.

Objectives: The objectives of the training meeting were:

1. 4-H Leaders to develop an understanding of the purpose and value of program planning.
2. 4-H Leaders to gain ability in planning yearly and monthly programs.
3. 4-H Leaders to develop an understanding of the purpose and proper use of records and awards.
4. 4-H Leaders to gain knowledge concerning the keeping of records and use of project summary cards.

Methods: The outline of the meeting is as follows:

1. Discussion of importance of programming.
2. Demonstration of programming for the year.
3. Workshop sessions on planning project meetings.
4. Discussion of importance of records.
 - a. Records used in Cochise County
 - b. Other reports used in the county.
5. Demonstration of use of 4-H Summary Cards.
6. Discussion of County and State Awards.

Evaluation: The first meeting, in the Double Adobe area, involved some of the most experienced leaders in the county. Although interested in programming, most of them were using some method of planning which they had found successful through the years. They were primarily interested in records and award programs. Being quite familiar with the organizational aspects of 4-H, they wanted more and more information on details to help their members in the competitive events. The group was quite responsive and asked many questions, both of the agents and of other leaders.

The second meeting, in Benson, involved newer leaders. Most of the material discussed was new to them, and it is hoped that the program planning procedures presented will be of benefit in their local clubs. This group brought out several new and interesting ideas for club programs and projects, as they were not bound to any great extent by "what we did years ago", etc. As in the first meeting, the agents felt that much was gained through the sharing of ideas and experiences among the leaders present.

The Willcox meeting was quite low in attendance. The general attitude in this area seems to be, "4-H -- so what." It is hard to attract interested, responsible leaders for the Willcox clubs.

CLOTHING

4-H Clothing Day - June

Situation: The 4-H leaders had decided they wanted all clothing activities to take place on the same day. The agent-at-large aided the home agent in setting up the clothing rings and serving as judge.

Methods: An outline of the day is as follows:

1. Senior and Junior clothing judging rings.
2. Clothing demonstrations.
3. Judging of construction of garments.
4. Judging of Dress Revue entries.

Evaluation: In evaluating the day, it was felt that attendance was lower than expected in the judging and demonstration contests. The quality of demonstrations was good, although none was outstanding.

Construction found in most of the garments was of good quality (except for those "finished the night before".) The main problem was in the fit of the garment. This might suggest the direction of training needed by the older leaders.

FOODS AND NUTRITION

4-H Foods Day - April

Situation: The leaders of Cochise County had decided they wanted 4-H foods demonstrations and judging activities to take place on the same day. Therefore, the day was scheduled and the agent-at-large aided the Home Agent in setting up the foods rings and served as judge.

Methods: An outline of the day is as follows:

1. Judging of foods rings and discussion of rings.
2. Foods demonstrations.
3. Discussion of demonstration hints.

Evaluation: This was the agent's first such event. Several of the demonstrations were above average but it was felt that many of the girls had not had much experience in judging in their local clubs. It appeared to be connected to the age-old problem of members just concentrating on an activity for the purpose of the competitive event.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

CLOTHING - Home Economics

Labels Tell the Inside Story - March

Situation: The clothing workshops which had been scheduled for the spring months had to be postponed, due to the lack of a home agent stationed in the county. Club presidents were contacted, and the clothing demonstration of "Labels Tell the Inside Story" was approved by the women for the March meetings.

Objectives:

1. Homemakers to develop ability in using labels and advertisements in making wise selections of textiles and clothing.
2. Homemakers to gain a knowledge of the major federal acts that protect consumers of textiles and clothing.
3. Homemakers to gain an understanding of the characteristics of informative labeling.
4. Homemakers to develop an understanding of the characteristics of each generic group of fibers.

Methods: Each clothing project leader was sent a copy of a "pre-test" on labeling, which she was to give to the members at the club meeting. Also, each club member was asked to bring some labels with them. An outline of the meeting is as follows:

1. "What's Your Label I.Q. Today?"-pre-test given by clothing project leader.
2. Why Do We Need Labels?
 - a. Group discussion of fiber content of fabric samples.
 - b. Group discussion of importance of fiber content on wearability, care required, and end use.

3. What Do We Want in a Label?

- a. Group discussion of items desired on an informative label.
- b. Examination of garments and labels showing the benefits of an informative label, and discussion of experiences women have had in these areas, as colorfastness, shrinkage, care, etc.
- c. Examination of labels brought by women to see how they measured up to the standards set for an informative label.

4. What Do We Have?

- a. Presentation of background and purpose of Textile Products Fiber Identification Act.
- b. Discussion of what the law requires, covers, and exempts.
 - Family Tree Kit
 - Common characteristics of members of more popular families.
 - Examination of sample labels and labels brought by women
- c. Discussion of Labeling Act in relation to advertising.

5. What Can We Do?

- a. 122 standards
- b. Discussion of actions women have taken in the past, and what they might do in the future under the new Labeling Act.
- c. Women to report at next meeting local labeling practices.

6. Pre-test given by clothing leader followed by discussion of answers.

Evaluation: In general the women quite actively participated in the discussions.

In several clubs the women, when correcting the true-false quiz after the meeting would say, "It's false, but it certainly should be true!", and one woman after a meeting showed the agent fabric she had just purchased, saying, "I'm going right back to that store to see what I bought!"

At the April meetings, when asked for comments about labeling practices they had observed since the March lesson, most of the women had something to say. Some reported not buying garments because they were not properly labeled, while one woman refused to buy until the manager put in writing that the garment was guaranteed washable.

The Shopper Meets Some Finishes - April

Situation: During March questionnaires were sent to all Homemaker Club members to determine the specific topics to be covered in the April meeting, "Be Wise With Your Clothing Buys." The results indicated that the women were most interested in yard goods, knits, and woolens. In order to select a demonstration which would appeal to those who buy ready to wear as well as to those who buy yard goods and make most of their clothing, it was decided that the emphasis would be placed on the finishes found on fabrics, particularly those used for shrink and stretch control, colorfastness, and wash-and-wear qualities.

Objectives:

1. Homemakers to develop an understanding of the common finishing processes used on fabrics to achieve shrinkage and stretch control, colorfastness, and wash-and-wear characteristics.

2. Homemakers to gain an understanding of problems created by certain finishes.
3. Homemakers to develop ability in selecting fiber finishes best suited for their particular end use.

Methods: A lesson pamphlet was prepared entitled, "The Shopper Meets Some Finishes". An outline of the lesson is as follows:

1. Discussion of exhibit of fabrics, "From Gray Goods to the Consumer", including the basic finishes.
2. Discussion of new special finishes and examination of sample garments.
3. Shrinkage and Stretch Control finishes.
4. Colorfastness.
 - a. Problems of women.
 - b. Fastness and method of application of color.
 - c. Fastness and type of dye used.
5. Wash-and-Wear Finishes.
 - a. Discussion of what consumer wants and doesn't want in Wash-and-Wear.
 - b. Discussion of construction, blends, and resin finishes.
 - c. Problems due to finishes.
6. Discussion of cost in relation to selecting finish for end use.

Evaluation: The excitement created by the labeling lesson in March seemed to have carried over into these meetings. On this lesson of finishes the majority of women brought up problems concerning crease-resistant and wash-and-wear fabrics. This seemed to be what they were spending their money for but had little concept of just what the finish was or how it was achieved. After the series of lessons several women reported that they had learned things about which they had never thought before. Perhaps this is the clue to the interest which developed during the lessons. The materials were all commonplace, things with which they had had experience, but now they gained new information, and they were able to apply it immediately.

LHB:es
6/29/61