

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, ARIZONA

ANNUAL REPORT

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HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT

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OUTLOOK

It has been difficult to organize extension clubs in Santa Cruz County. Homemakers in the Patagonia area have asked for a continuation of the extension service as indicated here. The 4-H Club program is included.

	<u>Adult</u>	<u>4-H Club Projects and Activities</u>
January	Clothing - Complete better dresses project	4-H Club Leader Training Meeting - Clothing
February	Home Management - How to Iron a Shirt	4-H Club Leader Training Meeting - Demonstration
March	Home Home Management - Cleaning, Upholstering and Rugs	4-H Club Leader Training- Judging
April	Grooming	4-H Club County Fair
May	Optional	4-H Club Achievement
June		4-H Club Roundup
August		4-H Club Camp 4-H Club Leaders Training Conference
September	Tailoring	4-H Club Reorganization 4-H Training Club pro- cedures
October	Tailoring	4-H Club Leader Training Meeting- Clothing
November	Holiday Treats from the Kitchen	4-H Club Officers' Training
December	Optional	4-H Club Fall Party

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ORGANIZATION AND PLANNING

There is no system of planning. The women make their requests for help as the need arises. There is only one extension demonstration group in the county. Ranch women come to the demonstrations. Twenty-nine miles is the longest distance that any of the women has to travel.

Mrs. Robert Haverty, a 4-H Club leader, has assumed the task of getting information to women living away from Patagonia. She is also a leader among the women. Having been 4-H Club clothing leader for two years, she has received training in clothing construction. The women recognize her ability and go to her for help with their clothing problems.

There has been very little work done in the Santa Cruz valley, where an extension homemakers club did exist. More than 75% of the club members have, however, moved away over a two-year period. Mrs. Edward Clark, who is an adult leader as well as a 4-H Club leader, may be able to reorganize the club. The Sopori Homemakers Club membership was made up of Pima and Santa Cruz County women.

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CLOTHING

MEN'S SHIRTS

Three homemakers, members of the Sopori Club, attended the shirt-making demonstrations held in Tucson, Arizona. They all started the project, however one of them did not return for the second meeting in order to complete the shirt she had started. The two women who did complete the project made beautiful dress shirts.

A demonstration meeting was planned for the community. Those attending wanted help for certain definite things regarding the construction of a shirt. Most of these women make shirts for their husbands and sons. The problems they posed were how to make a collar with a permanent finish, to make pockets more durable, to get a better fit at the shoulders and sleeves, and how to make a well-fitting convertible collar on a sport shirt.

The agent tried to help them with their problems. She showed them how to use nurses' linen as a lining for the collar to get a permanent finish. It was necessary to demonstrate how to sew and trim the edges to insure a more professional-looking shirt. Nurses' linen was also used to re-enforce the hem on the pocket. Another aid in regards to the construction of a pocket was shown; that is, to slant the stitching line that sews down the pocket at either side of the opening rather than stitching it horizontally. A person's hand then slides into the pocket more easily. The strain put on the edges of the pocket by pens and pencils is eliminated by the slanted stitching.

How and where to alter a pattern was demonstrated for the sake of getting a better fit at shoulders and sleeves.

How to sew on a collar to make it fit well in front of the shirt was demonstrated. The collar from shoulder to front facing was larger than the neck on the shirt representing the same part of the shirt. Stay-stitching the curve of the neck helped as well as easing the fullness at that point.

Twelve women worked on twelve shirts at different stages of construction.

A brief summary shows that these women have used the improved practices on 56 shirts made since May 1951. This was the last project for this club in conjunction with the University of Arizona Extension Service.

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CLOTHING (continued)

BETTER DRESSES

Homemakers in Santa Cruz County decided that their greatest need was to learn how to make better dresses. They wanted help in clothing construction techniques. In working with them, it was found that they were eager to learn and that they really needed the help. There has been but one project in the Patagonia area, while there have been two attempts at better dresses.

One set of workshop demonstrations was held in the spring. The demonstrations were planned and spaced so that the garments could be finished in two months. The regular procedure of clothing construction was followed. At the first demonstration we discussed styles and pattern selection, with emphasis placed on having the correct measurements. Fabrics were discussed, too. At the second demonstration the women learned how to alter patterns, cut out the garments, and how to stay-stitch the curved and biased sections of the garment. Instructions for home work were given and the women were told how to put in darts, take care of other necessary details, and to prepare the garment for fitting.

Miss Helen Church, Extension Clothing Specialist, attended the fitting meeting and conducted the fitting demonstration. The women were found to be somewhat careless about the practices of clothing construction. They failed to press the garment in the process of sewing and did not mark properly the important details, an item which helps to make dress making a happier experience. At this meeting Miss Church also demonstrated finishes such as making the belts, putting in the hems and trims.

Ten dresses were completed. The women asked for a repetition of this project for the fall. They desired help with garments having more tailored details.

This project was started in October. The number present at the first meeting was disappointing, but at all the subsequent meetings we had better attendance. Twelve women made better dresses.

Only three women who attended in the spring participated in these demonstrations. Mrs. Robert Haverty is a 4-H Clothing leader and Mrs. Jesus Whalen is a mother of two 4-H Club girls. She never misses a 4-H leaders training meeting nor one of the adult classes. Mrs. Bill Stephens is also a 4-H Club leader.

The same procedure was used as in the spring project. Techniques such as bound button holes, putting in wider facings, tailored collars, and how to put in sleeves, all suitable for tailored dresses, were included. The fabrics were heavier and more difficult to work with.

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CLOTHING (continued)

BETTER DRESSES (continued)

It was necessary to stress stay-stitching, pressing, and how to make desirable seam finishes, especially on rayon and lightweight wool materials. Twelve dresses are being made.

This project has been more satisfactory in several ways. Where in the spring there was a lack of a concerted desire to attend demonstrations, the present project is marked by a more responsive attitude. The homemakers tackled more difficult dresses and, from all indications, the dresses are better made, bound button holes are to be found in all garments where suitable, and better looking finishes are evident. The agent sees real progress being made in clothing construction in the Patagonia area.

Extension Service clubs have been difficult to organize in the county. Homemakers do not cooperate in wanting the attend leaders training programs. They prefer having the demonstration presented by the agent each month. Under such a system there could be three demonstration clubs in the county: Santa Cruz Valley, Patagonia, and Sonoita-Elgin area. We hope for better things next year.