

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

of

BARBARA L. FREESE
ASSISTANT HOME AGENT

in

MARICOPA COUNTY

From December 1, 1956 to June 30, 1957

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HIGHLIGHTS

Annual Conference

December 4 - 7, 1956 Assistant Freese attended the annual Extension Service Conference in Tucson.

One of the highlights of the conference was the talk and informal discussion held by Irene Fagin, Extension Agent from California. Many of the problems she had in California are similar to those in Maricopa County.

Other speeches that were particularly helpful were those pertaining to getting our information out to the people. Both help in speech and teaching methods were very useful.

Assistant Freese felt the most important part of the conference was meeting and getting to know better, other members of the Extension Service, both state office and county.

Career Class

Another highlight of the year for Assistant Freese, was when she was asked to talk to the career class in Home Economics at Arizona State College on the advantages of working as a home agent with the Extension Service.

She explained to the girls what the extension service was and what some of the responsibilities of the job were. The girls were very receptive and a very good question-answer period followed.

COUNTY SITUATION

Assistant Freese found the 4-H food situation in Maricopa County much as she had expected, except for one thing. That was food preservation. There were only 7 girls in the whole county that enrolled in the project. The trouble seems to be lack of home gardens, and therefore a plentiful supply of food to preserve is not available.

ORGANIZATION AND PLANNING

Home Visits in 4-H Club Program

Home visits were the most enjoyable part of the job as Assistant Home Agent. It gave the chance to get out into the county and really get to know the people she was working with.

It also gave an opportunity to see what conditions the 4-H'ers were working under. Assistant Freese made many home visits to the Liberty and Gilbert areas where 4-H has been on the down grade. She was accompanied by the community leader who gave her an introduction into the home and also explained a bit of its history before the visit.

It was surprising to find that many of our very active 4-H'ers came from homes that had an environment that was anything but conducive to completing a 4-H project.

In many cases the homes did not have the simple equipment, such as measuring utensils, required to carry on the projects. This was by no means found out by "snooping." The parents offered the information during the process of the visit, and I am sure they had no idea I was purposely trying to get the information.

Another use of home visits was to try to organize clubs in areas that had none.

In Sunnyslope Assistant Freese made home visits to several people who had indicated an interest in 4-H. A group of children had formed a "Club" and the parents thought that 4-H might be the answer. After talking with the people, it was quite clear that this group would not fit into the 4-H pattern. They were not interested in any project, but only in a social gathering and dancing, etc. Assistant Freese explained to them that 4-H offered many social opportunities, but the main object was to teach practices in home economics and agriculture.

Another visit was to Kachina School, where there were rumors that 4-H might start. The principal was friendly enough, but made it quite clear that he felt that the children had too many activities all ready such as Scouts, etc. and at the time 4-H was not needed.

Another very good use for home visits was to get the parents and leaders opinion on county activities. Food judging in this county has not created much interest in the past so Assistant Freese spent time in visiting to see why. The lack of interest was mostly due to the fact that leaders did not like to judge themselves, so in turn, they had not encouraged the 4-H'ers to do so.

Home visits were also used to "pep up the leaders" when she was discouraged. In many cases parent support was so low that the leader felt it was useless to go on when she had to do all the work and no one seemed to care what happened. Sometimes Assistant Freese was able to offer suggestions that were helpful, but for others she had no good answer.

LEADERSHIP IN 4-H WORK

Assistant Freese spent considerable time with new leaders in the Gilbert, Maryvale, Liberty, Washington and Cashion areas getting them orientated into 4-H club work. The biggest problem seemed to be how to teach the girls through demonstrations. The leaders didn't feel they had the ability to put on demonstrations or teach the 4-H'ers to do so. The work put in with them payed off because at county demonstration day, the new clubs at Cashion, Gilbert, Maryvale, and Washington all had winners in the contest.

The Higley area has been without a club and Assistant Freese made home visits in the area to try to find leadership with no success. There were several girls in the area who wanted to keep up with their 4-H work so they joined the Gilbert club which was not far away.

After observing some junior leaders in action, Assistant Freese was convinced that they play a large roll in 4-H. The girls took over the whole meeting in teaching the younger girls first and second year foods. They did a better job of getting the material across than any of the older leaders that were observed. It most likely was because they had had considerable experience in demonstrating through their former 4-H projects.

Junior leaders also came in very handy at the Fair and Roundup because they could take the responsibilities of such things as cleanup, and information booths which relieved the county staff of many worries.

LEADER TRAINING MEETINGS IN 4-H WORK

Assistant Freese had one leader training meeting on fourth year foods in the Cashion area. The main topic was angel food cakes.

Two leader training meetings were held on demonstration, one at the county office with 24 attending and one at Liberty with 10 attending. The Assistant Agent first went over the preparation of a demonstration and the various things to remember. She then went through a demonstration on a "Candle Salad" to show how the practices are put into effect. The meeting was very timely as County Demonstration Day was nearing and all the leaders were very interested.

Assistant Nelsen and Assistant Freese held a leader training meeting at Buckeye on how to judge foods and clothing. They explained how the rings were to be set up on the County and State levels, and gave the points to remember in judging. Work was also done on how to give oral and written reasons.

Local Club Meetings

Next to home visits, Assistant Freese enjoyed most meeting with the local clubs. It gave her a chance to get to know the 4-H'ers personally and find out what make them tick.

Assistant Freese was asked to many club meetings to explain various things to the members.

Some of the demonstrations she gave to the different clubs were on cream pies, making biscuits, care and sectioning of citrus fruit, cooked fruit, help with knitting a sweater, judging cakes, frying meat, and on giving demonstrations.

A very interesting evening was spent in Palo Verde in December when the community club put on a banquet honoring the Chicago and Washington trip winners from this county. This little community has more spirit than any other in the valley, and they really support their 4-H clubs all the way.

April, May, and June were loaded with 4-H achievement. Most of them started with a pot luck supper followed by a program demonstrations, entertainment and presenting awards.

Assistant Freese enjoyed the achievement at the Gila Crossing Indian School more than any other. She judged all the clothing they had made, then spent the rest of the day talking with 4-H'ers, Indian Service personnel and leaders, and watching the games and entertainment put on by the Indian children. The leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Shea, do a marvelous job in teaching these children.

4-H ACTIVITIES

A. Maricopa County Fair

In February, and March the final preparation for the county 4-H fair began with getting judges, leader help, locations, etc. all in order. Also going through the older fair book and revising it for this year's use.

A special meeting was called before the Fair for the Superintendents of the various home economics departments and their helpers (all leaders and junior leaders). Work schedules were made out and jobs assigned.

On April 2 a large group of the leaders arrived and started preparing the poultry building at the State Fairgrounds for our home economics building.

The 4-H leaders did a terrific job in cleaning and setting up the exhibits. In fact, at times they were falling over each other to get the jobs done, but they seemed to enjoy it very much. The new leaders were especially impressed with the cooperation of the group.

There were several minor mix-ups, as a plate of biscuits being misplaced and poster falling apart, but, most things went very smoothly;

There were 679 final foods entries in the foods division. Entries were released at 3:00 p.m., after the awards program. It took a little over an hour to clear the food out. A leader was stationed at each show case and it took very little time in this way.

Recommendations: There was some dissatisfaction in the Foods Division because we did not give out any big purple ribbons as they did for dress revue and in livestock. It was suggested that next year purple ribbons be given to the top exhibitor in each year, as to the girl who got the most points in first, second, etc. year of foods. It would be judged on the same system as the Kiwanis Award.

B. Demonstration Day

Assistant Freese spent much of March planning and carrying out the Foods Division of the 4-H Demonstration Day. Judges had to be arranged for, equipment gathered up and letters and contacts to leaders and members informing them of the day.

There were 49 demonstrations in the foods division. They were divided into three groups in separate rooms of the Riverside School. Six judges (2 in each room) went to work at 9:00 A.M., after a general assembly, and worked until about 3:30 P.M. to get through all of them. About 250 people attended demonstration day.

C. Judging Day

This was Assistant Freese's first introduction to food judging on a large scale. She set up her rings, as near as possible, as June Gibbs, Extension Nutritionist, had explained they would be set up for State Roundup.

The Juniors judged muffins, equipment for muffins, table setting and basic seven. The Seniors judged rolls, equipment for rolls, table setting and basic seven. Thirty-three 4-H'ers turned out to judge foods.

D. Roundup

4-H Roundup from June 4 - 8, 1957 was a very interesting and enlightening experience for Assistant Freese. She accompanied a bus load of 4-H'ers to Tucson. The group was in very high spirits and sang and joked all the way.

On arrival at Tucson, Assistant Freese set about getting the girls settled in their dormitory and again to answer a swarm of questions.

The next three days were spent in last minute coaching of demonstrations and judging teams and also watching the demonstrations from other counties.

The food demonstrations went off in fine shape. Out of the nine demonstrations, eight were blue ribbons and 1 a red ribbon. The senior Food Preparation team from Maricopa County won the plaque for the outstanding food preparation demonstration in the state.

The return trip to Phoenix on June 8 was a very different one from the one going. All the girls and Assistant Freese slept.

In-Service Training - Adult

January 30th - the Home Agents of Maricopa County and Mr. Bob Halvorson joined Home Agents from other areas of the state, the Specialists, State Leader and Information Specialists, Joe McClelland and Robert Doan in an Information Training Workshop and Instruction sessions.

Spread of information in counties was the theme of the conference, the following divisions of the subject were considered:

1. Purpose - Dissemination of information is important.
2. More information should go to various avenues - an obligation of Extension workers.
3. News Sources - abundant - select, sift, sort and say.
4. Types: News stories; feature articles; weekly column.
5. Personalize - activities relative to subject matter.
6. Use conversational type - easiest to read.
7. Use names for interest.

In-Service Training - 4-H

Objectives

To discuss 4-H organization and policy as it effects county and state 4-H program planning, to gain new ideas on methods of teaching, facts to improve county program and to discuss plans and program for 4-H camp.

Methods

1. "Tooling up for the Job" was the theme for the 4-H In-Service Training March 5, 6 and 7 and was attended by Assistant Agents Nelsen and Freese. General discussion led by Chairman Graham P. Wright brought out trends of family living, youth interest groups and basic needs of 4-H program.
2. Clothing and home management specialists instructed home agents on new phases of Roundup activities. The major part of time was spent in workshop activities.
3. Nutrition and clothing specialist present new data, available to home agents, which will be helpful in assisting 4-H leaders and laymen in the field.
4. One of the highlights of the conference was the information presented by Clinton Gaylord on the Inter National Farm Youth Exchange as related to the National 4-H Club Foundation. Since Arizona, presently, isn't taking part in the Inter National Farm Youth Exchange program, this opportunity gave all agents an additional program to interest persons on the local level.

5. Agents from Yuma and Maricopa Counties joined forces to discuss plans for 4-H camp to be held at Prescott, July 22 - 27, 1957. It was decided that each agent be responsible for checking various phases of program planning. Ray Weick, Yuma was selected overall chairman with following as assistants: Paul Hudson; general program, Beryl Burt; crafts, Barbara Freese, Foods; and Betty Nelsen, Recreation.

Results

In-Service Training for 4-H agents is an excellent opportunity to gain knowledge, become better acquainted with programs in other counties and realize the broad program on the whole.

Adult

The only work Assistant Freese did with the Maricopa County Homemakers was to attend some of their leader training meetings as the one on painting, casserole dishes, outdoor cookery. She also attended one Christmas party in Buckeye and Homemakers Rally Day.

News

Assistant Freese gathered material for various news articles as, use of dry milk, choosing the grade of canned food for your specific need, use of sour oranges, milk in your diet, egg cookery, various uses of citrus, and lining a skirt; and handed them in to Bob Halvorson to use as he saw fit.

Assistant Freese assisted June Gibbs in one television show on KTVK on Lenten dishes. A yeast riz crust and Humpty Dumpty filling was the main topic. This was Assistant Freese's first experience in television work and she found it very interesting, but would not like it for a steady diet.

She also did one radio broadcast on KPHO on the 4-H news in the valley.