

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

of

MRS. M. ALBERTA HARRIS,
HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT

GILA COUNTY

ARIZONA

From December 1, 1935 - November 30, 1936

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Annual Narrative Report
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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The accomplishments of the home demonstration agent in Gila County during the past year may be summed up under the five following heads: Rural Rehabilitation Activities with related instruction in Home Management and Home Accounts; organization for Health Instruction; assistance in co-operative food preservation; formation of 4-H clubs (where requested); and the development of an NYA Project.

Acting upon instruction from the state extension office, the agent gave to rural rehabilitation all the time needed, and this with the related work in home management and home accounts proved to be the major project. Assistance was given the social securities nurse in organizing three rural groups for health instruction. One 4-H club was organized and completed the work. Three NYA girls were engaged in a home economics project through the late winter, spring and early summer.

M. Alberta Harris, Gila County, Arizona. 1936.

ORGANIZATION

Policy

At present there is in Gila County no extension organization of women. The general policy of the home demonstration agent, as outlined for her by the state office, has been to carry out the rural rehabilitation program and to arrange to give extension work where requested.

Procedure

Visitation of rural rehabilitation clients and conferences with the one local committeewoman, have enabled the agent to become familiar with the needs of different communities. Where need of health instruction was expressed the agent conferred with a number of individuals or worked through the local church organization. Any interest in 4-H club work has usually been referred by the county agent to the home demonstration agent.

COUNTY PROGRAM OF WORK

Factors Considered in Determining Program of Work

The home demonstration agent, serving primarily as a home supervisor for rural rehabilitation, was by virtue of that fact placed in the county without local interest or request. In planning a program this background had to be taken into consideration. All development of extension work proper would necessarily be the more slow. As most of the rural communities are situated at great distances from any centers where medical attention or hospitalization can be secured, there was need of first aid instruction. The elevation of much of the county is the cause of cold winters, and the consequent necessity of preservation of farm produced food; centers for these would need to be located in the areas most productive agriculturally. Finally, conferences with the rehabilitation committeewoman in Tonto Basin made it apparent that general homemaker club work might there be greatly needed.

Project Activities and Results

Projects were originally planned in Rehabilitation, Homemaker Clubs, Food Preservation and Health and Sanitation for adults and in Health for juniors. To these were added, as opportunity became apparent, Home Management and Home Accounts with rural rehabilitation clients, and an NYA project in Globe.

Rehabilitation Work:

When the home demonstration agent came into the office there were three rehabilitation clients in the county. The making of new loans and the acceptance of emergency referrals from the welfare office brought the total load up to 19 in January. Emergency referrals were immediately investigated by the home demonstration agent, and conclusions reported to the farm supervisor. Grants were recommended where needed, and commodities requisitioned when advisable. As emergency referrals continued, the peak load was reached in April with a total load of 75 clients in ten communities.

Rehabilitation activities for the year may be totalled as follows: Emergency investigations, 45; co-operation in presentation of applications to committee which were passed, 12; grants recommended and allowed by the state office, 44; and commodities requisitioned for 31 clients on an average of four times for each

family.

At present supervision is provided for fourteen farm homes in eight communities. The scattered locations of these farms makes the possibility of including the clients in group extension work rather remote.

Home Management:

Rural Rehabilitation home management plans, or household budgets, were developed for 13 emergency clients, 6 of which were passed by the committee; and for 9 other applicants, 7 of which were passed. Three plans were made for standard clients. Seventeen subsequent visits were made to assist in the development of the plan. One plan was made for a supplemental loan.

Assistance will be given in preparing a new home plan each year of the life of the loan; for all new applicants recommended, and for each supplemental loan.

Home Accounts:

Eight standard rehabilitation clients were assisted in beginning the rehabilitation account books and help given in the accounts during subsequent visits where necessary. None of these books will be analyzed before January. In the meantime the accounts will have served an immediate purpose in keeping before the clients two of the main objectives in rural rehabilitation: (1) Spending according to a plan, and (2) making preparation to meet payments when due. In addition, familiarity with the accounts has enabled the home demonstration agent to assist four clients in plans for payment of store bills, which were a characteristic feature of the financial management of Gila County Rehabilitation Clients.

Clients who so desire will be given an opportunity next year to again carry home accounts as an extension project, using the book put out by the Bureau of Home Economics. Those clients also who prefer to use the book put out by the Rural Rehabilitation Administration will receive assistance from the home demonstration agent when they desire it.

Homemaker Clubs:

Final analysis of the needs of the Tonto Basin community, for

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whom both homemaker club work and work in health and sanitation were originally proposed, prompted the recommendation that the health work be first developed, with homemaker club work to follow. Consequently no club work has as yet been developed there.

It is the opinion of the agent that immediate steps might well be taken toward forming a homemaker club in that location. Gisela Basin and Claypool also offer promising locations for homemaker clubs. In Gisela Basin there has been evidence of interest in extension work; and the Rural Rehabilitation Supervisor has recommended that such an organization be effected in Claypool.

Health and Sanitation:

The Gila County Health Unit established under the Social Securities Act, upon completing a health survey of Gila County school children, was glad to co-operate with the extension service in organizing rural groups for health work, as the staff considered there was great need of instruction in both first aid and home hygiene. One trip was made by a nurse from the staff to Pine and Payson with the agent, and arrangements made for group meetings in five centers. In three of these, namely Pine, Gisela and Roosevelt, semi-permanent organizations resulted and groups met regularly with the nurse for health instruction throughout the summer. Meetings and attendance are recorded as follows:

	Roosevelt	Tonto	Pine	Gisela
				16
School Health Problems				(2 meetings)
Health Questions and Answers		5	15	
First Aid Instruction	14		8	9
First Aid Demonstration: Bandaging	18			6
Bandaging Wounds and Treatment	12			
First Aid Review			9	7
	44	5	32	38

12 meetings, total attendance 119

During September a change in personnel brought a new nurse into the staff, who asked for similar co-operation. Unfortunately as travel allocations for the home demonstration agent have been cut,* her travel has been limited since that date. It will be the policy of the home demonstration agent, however, to give all the assistance possible in promoting health instruction in these remote communities. This can be done without abridging the extension work that time and

*By the Resettlement Administration in October

circumstance will permit the agent to undertake.

Food Preservation:

An effort to organize a co-operative cannery in Gisela Basin proved abortive. This failure may have been caused by the county agricultural agent's expressed distrust of co-operatives; on the other hand the families in the Basin may have a good deal to learn about working together co-operatively.

As an alternative, one of the cookers from the resettlement canning unit provided for the Casa Grande office was loaned to a family in the valley for the latter part of the summer. A sudden death in this home has caused delay in securing records of the work, and a definite total of canning done is not at present available.

At the request of one of the ranch families near Young a demonstration was planned for that community in August. This was postponed for the convenience of those requesting it, and has not yet been given. Individual assistance was given to one family.

The plan of giving canning demonstrations in Tonto Basin was not carried out.

It is the opinion of the agent that a program of canning demonstrations in Tonto Basin and all centers north might profitably be scheduled if local interest justifies it.

4-H Club Work:

A 4-H Health club with eight members was organized in the Gisela Basin school in January. Three of the club members moved away. The remaining five completed the work.

As the result of limitations on travel the home demonstration agent has not been in Gisela Basin since school opened. She anticipates that the group will want to continue.

Two 4-H health clubs have this fall been organized in Globe.

The home demonstration agent will organize girls' clubs or health clubs of mixed membership wherever desired.

NYA:

A home economics project for two girls was sponsored by the agent from February to August. The girls maintained an office for the agent during her field trips in Gila County. One of the girls was qualified to handle the small amount of clerical work required. Both worked on the project which consisted of the preparation of demonstration material for 4-H Garment Making Clubs.

The girl who handled the clerical work continued until the termination of the project, and at its close went immediately to a full time job in the Gila County assessor's office. Two girls in sequence were her companions; the first one quit to go out on her father's ranch; the second one at the termination of the project was assigned to another NYA project.

The primary purpose of carrying an NYA project was the maintenance of an office during the peak of the emergency load. This need is now past, and there is no plan for a repetition or continuation of the project next year.

PROGRAM AS PLANNED AND ACHIEVED

in

Gila County

1935-1936

Project	: Home Makers Clubs	: Health and Sanitation	: 4-H Health Club	: Home Accounts
No. groups planned	: 1	: 1	: 1	:
Location	: Tonto Basin	: Tonto Basin	: Gisela Basin	:
No. groups achieved	: None	: 3	: 1	: 1
Location	:	: Gisela Roosevelt Pine	: Gisela	: County Wide
No. individuals enrolled	:	: 43	: 7	: 14
No. individuals completed	:	: 31	: 5	: Finish in December
Work accomplished	:	: 12 meetings : 3 demonstrations : 119 attendance	: 1 demonstration : 2 meetings	: 15 demonstrations

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PLAN OF HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK FOR 1937

BY PROJECTS AND COMMUNITIES

Gila County

1936

Project	Location	Time	No. of Demonstrations	Method of Procedure to be used	Goals
Rehabilitation	Wherever clients are found	as needed	as needed	Individual instruction supplemented where possible by group instruction in health nutrition home management	To improve health and standards of living in rehabilitation homes.
Home Maker Clubs (2)	Tonto Basin Gisela or Claypool	4 mo.	4 to each club	Monthly meetings. Demonstration of Improved Practices. Training of Leaders	Development of community co-operation. Development of community leadership. Adoption of one or more improved practices in every farm home represented in the attendance.
Home Accounts	For Rehabilitation clients; where needed	as needed	as needed	Individual Assistance	Planned spending Solvency
Home Furnishings	Pine + Payson or Star Valley	3 days to each	6 to each	August School, 1 day each week for each on three successive weeks; Specialist assistance	Maximum enrollment in Pine or Payson; minimum in Star Valley; 75% completions.

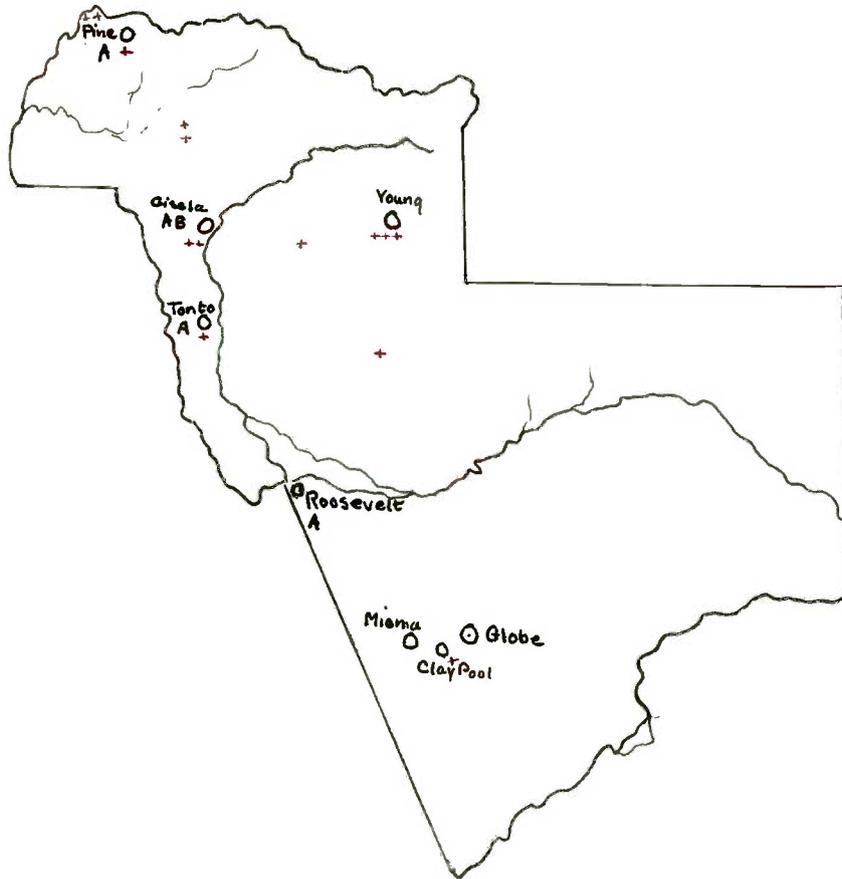
PLAN OF HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK FOR 1937

(Continued)

Project	Location	Time	No. of Demonstrations	Method of Procedure to be used	Goals
Clothing	Young	6 days	12	August School: 2 days each week for three successive weeks. Special ist assistance	Maximum enrollment; 65% completions.
4-H Health	Globe (2) Gisela	6 mo.	2 to each	Assist in organization: Train leaders. Assist in demonstrations:	65% completions. Achievement Exhibits

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MAP OF COUNTY SHOWING ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR



- A. Health Group
- B. 4-H Club
- + Rural Rehabilitation Family

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